



*The* **DAHLIA**  
**PLAYGROUND**

A HOPE INCLUDED PROJECT



# Meet Dahlia Mae "Dollie"

This vibrant 6-year-old with Myelomeningocele Spina Bifida has nerve damage affecting her lower body and vital organs. She's already endured five surgeries, with more ahead. Despite using a wheelchair, she embraces school, playdates, and life with determination.

But outdoor play isn't easy. Mulch, railroad ties, steep slopes—barriers keep her from the simple joy of playing with friends.

Our dream? A space for all ages and abilities. A place where grandparents watch grandkids laugh, where Dollie moves freely—without limits.

## Let's make it happen.



An aerial photograph of a lush green park. A small stream flows through the center, surrounded by dense trees and grass. A paved path winds through the park. The scene is bright and sunny.

# PROPOSAL:

Work as a community to build an inclusive playground for all ages and abilities on Signal Mountain.





# SIMPLE GOALS:

## 1. Community Engagement:

Offer a space created by the community FOR the community to walk, rest, play, and gather TOGETHER

## 2. Inclusivity:

Create a sense of belonging for all ages, all demographics, all backgrounds, all abilities







“

Parks are for everyone—  
where abilities don't limit  
possibilities, and every child  
has the freedom to play,  
explore, and belong.

”

-Unknown



# QUALITY OF LIFE

## DID YOU KNOW??

Children with physical disabilities have a **4.5** times higher rate of physical inactivity compared to peers without disabilities.

Steele C.A., Kalins I.V., Rossen B.E., Biggar D.W., Bortolussi J.A., & Jutai J.W. (2004). Age-related health risk behaviors of adolescents with physical disabilities. *Soz-Praventivmed*, 49, 132-141.

# OBESITY

# WEAKENED

# INACTIVE SYSTEM

# INABILITY TO

# PAY ATTENTION

Scudder M.R., Federmeier K.D., Raine L.B., Direito A., Boyd J.K., Hillman C.H. The association between aerobic

[illegible]







# ADA vs INCLUSIVE



- Meets **legal accessibility** standards (ADA)
- **Accessible routes & surfaces**
- Some **accessible play components**
- **Focus: ACCESS**



- **Welcomes all abilities** (physical, sensory, cognitive)
- Designed for **participation + play together**
- Includes **sensory features, social play, quiet areas**
- **Focus: BELONGING**





# INTRODUCING



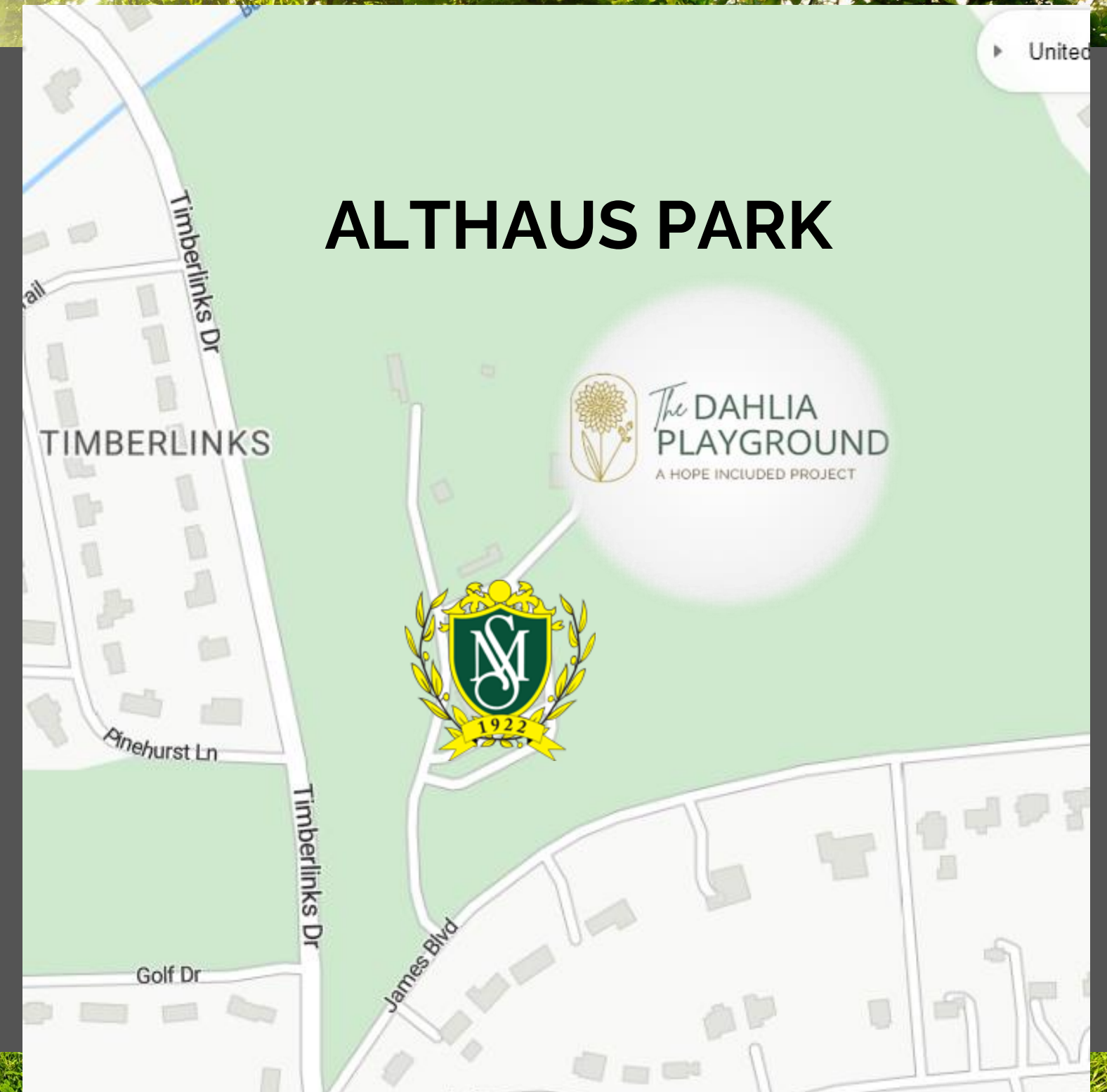
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## SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE



# LOCATION:

- Central location
- Established Park: Pickleball/ Tennis/ Softball / Golf
- Event Possibilities for Lions Club, SMGCC, Birthday parties
- Current equipment will be repurposed to update Timberlinks playground





# FUNDING

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## GRANT SUBMISSIONS:

- Lowe's Smalltown Grant
- T-Mobile Hometown Grant
- TN Office of Outdoor Recreation
- ARPA Flagship Grant

## FUTURE GRANTS:

- Department of disability and aging

GOAL: \$900,000







SPREAD  
the  
WORD

HOW CAN  
YOU HELP?





Every dollar gets us one  
step closer.





# THANK YOU

FOR BELIEVING IN A WORLD  
WHERE EVERYONE CAN PLAY



Let's build a space where joy  
knows no limits

Emily Harmon 423-834-2464  
Emilykharmon@gmail.com