



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Groundbreaking Held for Adam's Project Universal Design Playground

(September 26, 2012 - Ridgeland, MS) – The City of Ridgeland hosted a groundbreaking ceremony for the Adam's Project Universal Design Playground at Freedom Ridge Park. It was held on Wednesday, September 26 at 10 a.m. near the M & F Soccer Stadium in Freedom Ridge Park, located at 235 West School Street in Ridgeland.

This universal design playground provides an area for play that allows accessibility and the opportunity for full participation for the physically-challenged and disabled. Adam's Project made the project possible through fundraising, awareness-building and the motivation to provide a playground for those with special needs. Various organizations, businesses and individuals have contributed to the project which was inspired by Ridgeland resident Adam Malone who suffers from Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy.

Drew Malone is the father of Adam, the namesake of the project. Malone created Adam's Project to meet a need in the community, a place to play for people like Adam. Drew Malone said, "We are so thankful for the support we have seen from the Mayor and the Board of Aldermen on this project. With the construction of this playground we hope to bring people of all abilities together to help end discrimination based upon a disability. Adam's Project looks forward to continue in our efforts to raise money for research in hopes of finding a cure for this horrible disease. I cannot praise Chris Chance and his staff enough for the support and leadership they have shown on making this park a reality. The entire community has come together to make this dream a reality."

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Gene F. McGee, cmo - mayor • Paula W. Tierce, phr – human resources director/city clerk

board of aldermen: D.I. Smith - at - large • Ken Heard, cmo - ward 1 • Chuck Gautier - ward 2 • Kevin Holder - ward 3
Brian P. Ramsey - ward 4 • Scott Jones, mayor pro tempore - ward 5 • Wesley Hamlin - ward 6



Chris Chance, Director of Recreation and Parks, City of Ridgeland said, “We are excited about the construction of the Universal Design playground at Freedom Ridge Park, and believe it will be a unique facility that will serve all populations and ages. We are also extremely grateful to Adam’s Project and all of the donors and volunteers who have worked so diligently to raise funds to make this project possible. Their fundraising and the Community Development Block Grant funds enabled us to move forward on this project years before we thought we’d be here. This playground will offer another great opportunity for families to enjoy their leisure time, no matter the age or ability level of the user.”

The City of Ridgeland invites the public to try out the new playground that is breaking boundaries for disabled individuals and their families. Construction is anticipated to be complete in November, 2012. For more information, contact the City of Ridgeland Recreation and Parks Department at 601.853.2011.

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