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Alderman at Large

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Rickey Authement
Alderman Ward 2

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Alderman Ward 3

Ken Papania
Alderman Ward 4

Robert Blackman
Alderman Ward 5

Michael (Mike) Impey, II
Alderman Ward 6

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Police Chief
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Public Works
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Community
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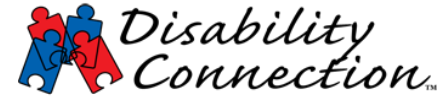
Parks and
Leisure Services
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City of Ocean Springs

Press Release

For details and information concerning this release, please contact Carolyn Martin, Planning and Grants Administrator, at 228-230-1969.



August 15, 2017 – for immediate release

Ocean Springs Receives \$30,000 ‘Meet Me at the Park’ Grant to Increase Access to Local Play Spaces Grant awarded by the National Recreation and Park Association and The Walt Disney Company

Ocean Springs, MS. – has been selected to receive a \$30,000 play space grant from the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) and The Walt Disney Company. This investment supports NRPA and Disney’s combined goal of providing one million kids and families with greater access to play.

Part of the national Meet Me at the Park healthy living program, park and recreation agencies across the country were invited to share their best ideas on increasing access to play spaces for children and families in their communities. Agencies with the most innovative and impactful project ideas were chosen to receive grants ranging from \$10,000–50,000 to build their projects.

The City of Ocean Springs is partnering with Disability Connection on this project and will use the \$30,000 grant to provide four fully accessible play structures in the Little Children’s Park. These structures provide opportunities for physical and sensory activity to children and adults of all physical abilities. The required matching funds will be provided through in-kind resources, donations, and volunteer efforts. Mayor Shea Dobson said, “The City of Ocean Springs is honored to receive these funds to promote healthy activity for people of all abilities and we look forward to a successful project partnering with Disability Connection.”

“NRPA is proud to collaborate with The Walt Disney Company to help more children and families experience the benefits of play,” said Kellie May, NRPA director of health and wellness. “By increasing access to play spaces, this program will also provide new activities that support healthy lifestyles in local communities.”

Janie O’Keefe, Executive Director of Disability Connection said, “Disability Connection is proud to be part of developing fully inclusive play spaces for kids and adults of all abilities in every community across South Mississippi.”

The Meet Me at the Park program includes an Earth Month campaign as well, where funding is awarded for local park improvement projects that connect kids to nature, inspire healthy living and provide access to sports. The campaign celebrates Earth Month and the importance of local parks.

For more information about this project, visit www.oceansprings-ms.gov/Parks or www.DisabilityConnection.org.

To learn more about Meet Me at the Park, visit www.nrpa.org/disney.