



NEWS RELEASE

Dare County Parks and Recreation: Contact Tim White, 252-475-5916
BCBSNC Media Line: (919) 765-3005
NCRPA Contact: Matt Carusona, (919)-832-5868

For Immediate Release: September 2, 2015

Colorful Playground Just a Hop, Skip and a Jump Away

Dare County awarded grant to update outdoor spaces and increase healthy activity

Kill Devil Hills, Dare County, N.C. – Dare County Parks and Recreation recently received a grant to transform a public area into an imaginative space for families to play and be active outdoors. Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina (BCBSNC) and the North Carolina Recreation and Park Association (NCRPA) are supporting healthier communities by installing PlayPrints across the state.

PlayPrints are ground markings, or colorful shapes and games that are painted on existing pavement. The bright colors and interactive designs are meant to encourage visitors to take part in more physical activity. Community agencies across North Carolina were invited to apply.

“Receiving a PlayPrints grant at [your location] is a helpful step as we continue to grow healthy and active opportunities in our community, said Tim White, Public Service Director. Park visitors will have new creative ways to engage with our public space and have fun participating in physical activity outdoors.”

The PlayPrints will be installed at the Family Recreation Park located at 602 Mustian Street, Kill Devil Hills. Family Recreation Park is a youth Center for all ages. Approximately 500 citizens visit the center daily. The outside activities will greatly increase with the installation of the five PlayPrints.

“We want to promote healthy habits at an early age and make it fun for North Carolinians to get outside and get active with their families,” said Kathy Higgins, vice president of corporate affairs at Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina. “PlayPrints are a simple way to take existing outdoor spaces in our communities and transform them into a center for healthy activity and imaginative play.”

Over the next two years, PlayPrints will be popping up at open play spaces as part of BCBSNC's Get Outside North Carolina! (GO NC!) program. Go NC! builds healthy and active lifestyles through the advancement of greenway systems, increased access to public bicycles and the overall promotion of outdoor physical activity.

"Providing fun and creative avenues to engage our communities by adding PlayPrints to our parks and greenways is an exciting way to encourage citizens of all ages to have a little fun while increasing physical activity," said Michelle Wells, executive director at NCRPA.

For a complete list of PlayPrints recipients and to follow progress as PlayPrints are installed throughout the state visit www.NCRPA.net/PlayPrints or follow @NCRPA @BCBSNC or #PlayPrints on Twitter and Facebook.

About Dare County Parks and Recreation:

Dare County Parks and Recreation is segmented into three divisions: Hatteras Island Division, Roanoke Island Division, and the North Beach Division. Dare County Parks and Recreation is vital to maintaining the quality of life in all communities, and ensuring the health of all citizens. Dare County Parks and Recreation offers programs year round to all ages.

About Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina:

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina improves the health and well-being of our customers and communities by providing innovative health care products, services and information to more than 3.91 million members, including approximately 1 million served on behalf of other Blue Plans. Since 1933, we have worked to make North Carolina a better place to live through our support of community organizations, programs and events that promote good health. We have been recognized as one of the World's Most Ethical Companies by Ethisphere Institute every year since 2012. Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina is an independent licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association. Visit BCBSNC online at bcbsnc.com. All other marks are the property of their respective owners.

About the North Carolina Recreation & Park Association:

Founded in 1944, the North Carolina Recreation & Park Association (NCRPA) is the premier nonprofit education and advocacy organization, dedicated to the advancement of the park, recreation and leisure professions in our state. NCRPA empowers park and recreation professionals and citizen board members through educational opportunities that enhance their ability to change lives and impact communities on a daily basis for the citizens of North Carolina. For an overview of the programs and services offered by the organization, visit www.ncrpa.net .

###