

TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
Rural Access to Health and Healthy Active Built Environments

LAUREL RUN PARK PLAYGROUND PROJECT

Hawkins County operates Laurel Run Park, a nature park that encourages walking, hiking, foot races, mountain biking, and sports such as softball, tennis, volley ball, basketball, and disk golf, as well as a children's playground.

Part of our mission is to create fun, healthy and safe play spaces for children while honoring the natural environment. Through a **Rural Access to Health and Healthy Active Built Environments** grant from the Tennessee Department of Health, Hawkins County was able to enhance and expand the playground to include a broader age range of children with equipment that will allow them to be more physically active, will inspire learning, have fun, and to become more social by making friends.

This project included an expansion of the playground area and added playground equipment for children ages 2 years to 12 years. The new equipment is designed to be fun and active in addition to being safe and durable. The focus was on choosing equipment that is the best value for the playground and the neighborhood. Enhancing the playground will encourage younger children to become more physically fit in order to be able to participate in other activities as age and physical ability allows. Hawkins County consulted with a certified playground designer in choosing playground equipment that will provide incentive for people to come to the park and to be more active.

Our thanks to Tennessee Department of Health who provided the Rural Access to Health and Healthy Active Built Environments grant funds for this project, to Goshen Valley Ruritan who made a donation to this project, to scout troops and friends of the park who volunteered their time to participate in this project, and to the Park staff for their efforts in expanding the playground and installing the equipment.