



News Release

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New Playground Helps Strengthen Bonds, Promotes Community Unity *Inclusive playground opens in Dare County*

NAGS HEAD, NC —The new, all-inclusive playground at Dowdy Park opened today with a ribbon cutting ceremony. Equipment includes a Liberty Swing (for children and adults who use wheel chairs), sensory integrative activities throughout the park, music equipment, sensory slides, and quiet areas --accommodations that provide an opportunity for individuals of all ages and abilities to play together outside.

The funding for the playground is a result of Trillium's ability to effectively and efficiently manage Medicaid services on a local level, ultimately providing an opportunity to reinvest savings into the communities in which it operates.

"Trillium is so excited to officially open the playground in Nags Head and continue making a positive impact on the community," says Leza Wainwright, CEO of Trillium. "With these new updates, children of all abilities can better enjoy play time with their peers, and family members who use mobility devices can participate in outside play together. We strive to strengthen the bonds within the community, and this park helps reinforce our similarities rather than highlight our differences."

As part of the "Play Together Construction Grant for Accessible Playgrounds," Trillium supplied \$750,000 to the Town of Nags Head for the playground at Dowdy Park. Towns and counties across eastern North Carolina applied for these grants for playground updates or to build brand new playgrounds. Grants were awarded in 2015 and playgrounds have opened throughout 2016 and 2017. Each location received a grant amount appropriate for the scope of work and land space allocated for developing or updating a playground.

Grants were awarded in the following 30 locations: Beaufort, Bertie, Brunswick, Camden, Carteret (Emerald Isle and Morehead City), Chowan, Craven (New Bern, Havelock and Dover), Currituck (Barco and Point Harbor), Dare, Gates, Hertford, Martin, New Hanover (Wilmington and Wrightsville Beach), Northampton, Onslow (Jacksonville and Swansboro), Pamlico, Pasquotank, Pender (Hampstead and Burgaw), Perquimans, Pitt (Greenville and Ayden), Tyrell and Washington.

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ABOUT TRILLIUM HEALTH RESOURCES

Trillium Health Resources is a leading specialty care manager (LME/MCO) for individuals with substance use, mental illness and intellectual/developmental disabilities in 24 counties in eastern North Carolina. Trillium's mission is to transform the lives of people in need by providing them with ready access to quality care. We take a person-centered approach to health and wellbeing, coordinating care across multiple systems to achieve improved health outcomes, quality of care and efficient use of resources. Trillium is investing in innovation to meet the unique needs of the individuals and communities we serve, and remains focused on delivering the right services, in the right amount, at the right time. For more information, visit www.TrilliumHealthResources.org.

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