



Salina Regional Health Foundation

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Grand Opening for Center Street Park planned June 7

(May 22, 2019) – The Salina Regional Health Foundation invites the public for a grand opening of the new Center Street Park featuring Olivia’s Playground at 10:30 a.m. Friday, June 7, at the park’s location at the intersection of Center and Fourth streets in central Salina.

In addition to the park’s opening, special remarks are planned at 10:45 a.m. followed by tours and demonstrations of the equipment. The Relish food truck also will be on site through the noon hour for those who want to purchase lunch.

Located alongside the Smoky Hill River Channel across from Oakdale Park, near many downtown attractions, Center Street Park provides an inclusive space for all ages and abilities to exercise and play together. Features include the multi-generational Olivia’s Playground, Yalp Sona Play Arch, Thrive 450 fitness structure and a quarter-mile walking/running path.

The commitment to establish Olivia’s Playground was sparked by Sid and Susy Reitz, Salina, whose granddaughter Olivia Bloomfield, Leawood, Kan., has used a motorized wheelchair since she was a toddler. After witnessing the sheer joy and excitement of Olivia and other children playing together at her hometown inclusive playground, the seed was planted and expanded upon to provide an inclusive playground in Salina specifically designed so that people of all ages and abilities have the opportunity to play, interact and have fun.

The Foundation formally announced its plans for the project in November 2018, along with a capital campaign to fund the \$1.246 million project.

“I’m pleased to report that the “All-In, Let’s Play” campaign has reached its goal,” said Tom Martin, executive director of the Foundation. “Once again the Salina community has stepped up to make this park and playground a reality.”

The 3.3 acre site for the park was already owned by the Foundation. The park will continue to be owned and maintained by the Foundation and open to the public.

The park is designated as a 7 Principles of Inclusive Playground Design® & Outdoor Adult Fitness National Demonstration Site, based on its design and usage best practices.

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