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State Rep. Esther Helton-Haynes secures \$250K for inclusive playground at Jack Benson Heritage Park

NASHVILLE, Tenn. – **State Rep. Esther Helton-Haynes**, R-East Ridge, has secured \$250,000 in state funding for an inclusive playground at the Jack Benson Heritage Park.

The money will be used by the Kiwanis Club of East Brainerd to build the 15,000-square-foot playground to provide opportunities for children of all abilities to experience sensory-rich play.

“Every child deserves to have access to quality recreational opportunities in our community,” Helton-Haynes said. “This remarkable new playground will be a place that everyone, including those with a disability, can enjoy and build memories together. I appreciate my colleagues in the General Assembly for their support of this worthy investment.”

The new playground, located in the East Brainerd community, will feature a variety of accessible amenities including musical, climbing and sliding activities along with shade and seating options, parking and restrooms. The total estimated cost of the project is \$2 million.

The appropriated funds are part of a \$52.8 billion balanced budget that was passed by the General Assembly in April. Republican priorities included making significant investments in education, public safety and health care while also providing \$400 million in additional tax cuts to support Tennessee’s economy.

State Rep. Esther Helton-Haynes represents House District 30, which includes part of Hamilton County. She serves as chair of the Insurance Subcommittee and is also a member of the Health Committee, Insurance Committee, Local Government Committee, Elections and Campaign Finance Subcommittee and the Population Health Subcommittee.