



June 10, 2013

***OPRA to Team with Columbus Blue Jackets Foundation, Columbus Recreation and Parks, and Playworld Midstates to Build East Columbus Playground***

Kids on the east side of Columbus will have a new, hockey themed playground as a result of a partnership announced Saturday between Ohio Parks and Recreation Association (OPRA), the Columbus Blue Jackets Foundation, the Columbus Recreation and Parks Department (CRPD) and Playworld Midstates.

“We are thrilled to be a part of this incredible opportunity,” said OPRA Executive Director Woody Woodward. “This partnership really began to take shape around the time of our Columbus conference in January. We are always looking for ways to give something back—especially in urban areas. Playworld Midstates and the Blue Jackets Foundation stepped forward with an innovative idea for a partnership and we’re really excited to play a small part in providing a great play structure for the kids of Columbus.”

The Blue Jackets Foundation is donating \$45,000 for the play structure, Playworld Systems significantly reduced their pricing on the equipment, CRPD will complete the site work and lead the logistics of the project, and OPRA will provide some volunteers for the playground build and has helped to coordinate the effort.

Located at Krumm Park, the uniquely designed Columbus Blue Jackets playground will sport hockey stick posts and climbing panels that feature pucks and a goalie. A penalty box panel and a Columbus Blue Jackets Emblem graphic panel will be included in this one-of-a-kind playground. The playground, which features equipment from Playworld Systems, will be divided into two areas—one for ages 2 – 5 and another one for ages 5 – 12. There are a variety of slides from 3’ to 9’ tall and climbers from 3’ to 8’ tall. The rock climbing tunnel and climbing grids will offer ground level activities.

There will also be a swing area offering a total of eight swing seats, four designated for toddlers. With a variety of slides, climbers and activities, the playground will offer something for everyone to enjoy.

“We are incredibly grateful for the commitment which the Blue Jackets Foundation has made to the quality of life of kids on the east side of Columbus,” said Alan McKnight, director of the Columbus Recreation and Parks Department. “Their generous support—along with the efforts made by OPRA, Playworld Midstates and Playworld Systems—will have a real impact on Krumm Park and the surrounding area.”

The playground build will occur on July 25. The prep day has been set for July 23. Volunteers from OPRA and the East Side Civic Association will be working alongside Blue Jackets staff to make the playground a reality.

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“The Columbus Blue Jackets Foundation’s mission is to help kids in central Ohio get healthy, play safely and stay active,” said Blue Jackets Foundation Executive Director Jen Bowden. “This playground project is a fun way for us to invest in the quality of life of kids in the Krumm Park neighborhood. We’re very excited about the opportunity to help these kids lead an active lifestyle through play.”

Blake Hobson, managing partner of Playworld Midstates added, “Together with Playworld Systems, we are thrilled to offer our services to create this engaging hockey-themed playground that is sure to bring the joy of play to children in this community. It’s been very rewarding to take part in this effort and we look forward to helping other OPRA members enrich their communities in a similar way.” See [www.PlayworldMidstates.com](http://www.PlayworldMidstates.com) for more information

OPRA members who wish to take part in the playground build on July 23 or 25 should watch their emails for further information and to sign up. To learn more about the Blue Jackets Foundation, visit [www.bluejacketsfoundation.org/](http://www.bluejacketsfoundation.org/)

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