



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Gene McGee, Mayor

601.856.7113

Mayor.McGee@RidgelandMS.org

Ridgeland receives 2013 Innovation Award for Universal Design playground

(Ridgeland, Mississippi – Dec. 6, 2013) The National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) bestowed a 2013 Innovation Award to the Central Mississippi Planning and Development District (CMPDD) and the City of Ridgeland for the City of Ridgeland Universal Play Area. Known as the Adam's Project Universal Design Playground, this innovative playground located at Freedom Ridge Park in Ridgeland, Mississippi provides an area for play that allows accessibility and the opportunity for full participation for the physically-challenged and disabled. Fundraising by Adam's Project Inc. and a matching Community Development Block Grant administered by CMPDD enabled the City to complete the project in November, 2012.

As stated on NADO's website, "NADO congratulates the 2013 Innovation Award-winning projects. This annual awards program acknowledges creative approaches to regional community and economic development throughout the nation. The winning projects represent the innovative and strategic approaches that regional councils are employing to strengthen and enhance their regions."

"Adam's Project Universal Design Playground is another example of Ridgeland seeking innovative ways to meet all of our citizens' needs and enhance their quality of life," said Gene McGee, Mayor of Ridgeland. "We are honored to be recognized by NADO, and we are pleased to be able to provide this playground to families with and without special needs."

mailing address: p.o. box 217 • ridgeland, ms 39158
street address: 304 highway 51 • ridgeland, ms 39157
ph: 601.856.7113 • www.ridgelandms.org

Gene F. McGee, cmo - mayor • Paula W. Tierce, phr - city clerk / human resources director

board of aldermen: D.I. Smith - at-large • Ken Heard, cmo, mayor pro tempore - ward 1 • Chuck Gautier, cmo - ward 2
Kevin Holder, cmo - ward 3 • Brian P. Ramsey, cmo - ward 4 • Scott Jones, cmo - ward 5 • Wesley Hamlin, cmo - ward 6



“Recognition needs to go to Adam’s Project Inc. and all the donors and community volunteers who initiated the project with the City of Ridgeland. The vision of our Recreation and Parks Department includes serving persons of all ability levels, and we have won numerous awards for programs that meet the needs of the physically challenged and disabled. Working with the CMPDD to get the matching grant was the final piece needed to make the project a reality. So, this was a winning combination from the start.”

Adam’s Project Universal Design Playground is open to children ages 2-12. Children of all ability levels can play together. Adam’s Project Inc. founded by Angela and Drew Malone was based on a dream that no child would feel left out while playing. Their son Adam has Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy.

Adam’s Project Universal Design Playground is located at Freedom Ridge Park, 235 West School Street, Ridgeland, Mississippi.

###

mailing address: p.o. box 217 • ridgeland, ms 39158
street address: 304 highway 51 • ridgeland, ms 39157
ph: 601.856.7113 • www.ridgelandms.org

Gene F. McGee, cmo - mayor • Paula W. Tierce, phr - city clerk / human resources director

board of aldermen: D.I. Smith - at-large • Ken Heard, cmo, mayor pro tempore - ward 1 • Chuck Gautier, cmo - ward 2
Kevin Holder, cmo - ward 3 • Brian P. Ramsey, cmo - ward 4 • Scott Jones, cmo - ward 5 • Wesley Hamlin, cmo - ward 6