SEN. WILLIAMS ANNOUNCES FUNDING FOR BOUNDLESS PLAYGROUND IN KILLINGLY

Hartford- State Senator Donald E. Williams, Jr. (D-Brooklyn) today joined with members of the Killingly Boards of Education and Recreation and the Killingly Town Council, as well as representatives from Bryant University and Boundless Playgrounds, Inc., to announce a $75,000 grant from the State of Connecticut awarded to Boundless Playgrounds and allocated by the non-profit organization to the Town of Killingly. This catalyst grant will help fund the construction of a Boundless Playground, a uniquely configured environment to provide for inclusive play without barriers that limit childhood exploration and development.

“This is the type of project that every community should strive to become a part of,” Sen. Williams said. “It allows children of all ages and all ability levels to play together and encourages the adults in their lives to interact together, as well. Early childhood play helps children to develop language skills, decision-making abilities and social interaction strategies – this playground will help so many children in northeastern Connecticut.”

Killingly’s Boundless Playground will be erected in Owen Bell Park, located near both Rhode Island and Massachusetts and easily accessible from all of northeastern Connecticut. This grant and project represents the first bi-state, joint collaboration for Boundless Playgrounds, utilizing adults and students working together to enhance the quality of life of the Killingly community and its neighbors. Students from Bryant University in Rhode Island have been instrumental in securing additional funding and grants for the project, under the direction of Professor Chris Roethlein.

“Engaging students in a project that involves two or three states, industrial and residential communities, local children, college students, academics and working professionals is pretty exciting,” explained Roethlein. “Bryant University students are presently involved in writing grants and will eventually organize efforts on both corporate and local levels. I want to provide a learning experience that benefits both Bryant students and all children, both children with and without disabilities. Our mission is to promote closer affiliation
between the business world and students by providing a hands-on learning experience that promotes an attitude of giving back to the community, specifically benefiting children with and without disabilities.”

“Senator Williams has been a strong advocate of opportunities for children with and without disabilities to learn essential skills for life through playing together,” said Amy Jaffe Barzach, co-founder of Boundless Playgrounds. “We are thrilled to be participating with Senator Williams and the entire Killingly community in this first-ever project that brings together college students at Bryant University, the parks and recreation department and local citizens to create this unique, barrier-free playground,” Barzach said. “It will surely have a lasting impact for many years on all children and their families who enjoy it together.”

“The collaboration between the Town of Killingly, Bryant University and Boundless Playgrounds is a first-of-its kind collaboration and I know the results will benefit our community as a whole, as well as those people who work on this project,” Sen. Williams said.

According to Roethlein, groundbreaking for the project will begin in the late fall or next spring, when additional funding has been secured for the playground.