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WHAT A DIFFERENCE A DAY MAKES

Volunteers erect zoo playground in one day

By [CHRISTOPHER QUINN](#)

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Published on: 11/16/07

When the volunteers rolled in, there was empty ground and piles of lumber, plastic and steel.

By the end of the day, there was a 3,000-square-foot, \$104,000 playground.

More than 300 volunteers from Home Depot, Zoo Atlanta and the Grant Park community showed up at Zoo Atlanta on Thursday for a one-day playground miracle.

It is part of a \$25 million program by Home Depot and KaBoom, a national nonprofit, to build 1,000 community playgrounds in 1,000 days across the United States.

At the zoo, workers had removed aged equipment from a worn-out playground. Using pictures drawn by kids visiting the zoo of what a new playground should look like, KaBoom teams produced a design.

KaBoom coordinators lined up delivery of the materials and, starting at 9 a.m., volunteers unpacked, set up and screwed and hammered parts together. By 2:30 p.m., they were working out the last details.


Eleven playgrounds have been built in metro Atlanta under the program, and more than 900 have been finished nationwide.

Darell Hammond, the CEO and co-founder of KaBoom, said earlier this year that he expected more than 1 million hours of volunteer work to be donated during the 1,000-playground campaign.

Hammond said KaBoom also hopes to be involved in the development of the Beltline.

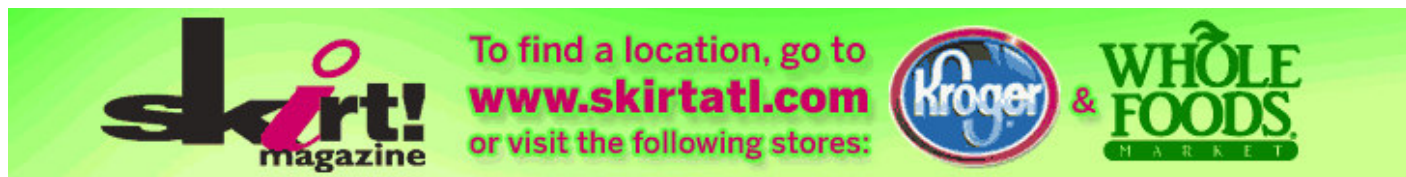
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