

MEDFORD PARKS & RECREATION FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

HEALTHY LIVES | HAPPY PEOPLE | STRONG COMMUNITY

October 8, 2018

To Medford Citizens, Volunteers, Staff, and Project Supporters,

Here is a status update on the Olsrud Family Community Playground project following last week's magnificent "community build" phase.

Thanks to the incredible productivity of hundreds of volunteers along with Parks and Recreation staff, the playground is approximately 70 percent complete. This is a remarkable accomplishment considering the rainy conditions last week.

Department staff are now working on miscellaneous follow-up items while we await the arrival of several key playground parts and components, most notably the Spider Bouncer, the Liberty Swing, and plastic slides that were delayed in production and are projected to arrive by the end of October.

The final major time-consuming undertaking is installation of 4,000 soft rubber surface tiles on the 18,000-square-foot concrete playground deck that contains 290 poles and posts. Fortunately, the majority of tiles can be installed while we wait for the missing parts and features to arrive. Surface installation will take up to two weeks and possibly longer depending on the technical complexity of fitting saw-cut tiles.

There will be a need for additional assistance from volunteers, and particularly from construction captains (the "yellow shirts"), to complete installation. The specific days, times and personnel needs are not yet determined, but the most likely timeframe is the last weekend of October or the first weekend of November, after all remaining materials arrive.

Our goal -- barring unexpected delays or surprises -- is to have a ribbon-cutting ceremony and the grand opening as soon as possible in November.



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A heartfelt THANK YOU to the volunteers, project donors and staff for helping Medford's greatest playground come to fruition for the benefit of multiple generations of kids and families. I especially want to commend project manager Tim Stevens and our parks maintenance staff for their hard work and dedication.

For those who loaned tools for the community build, these items may be claimed at the playground site in Bear Creek Park during weekday daytime hours.

Finally, project fundraising is not over. It is still possible to purchase personalized fence pickets and to sponsor particular playground features by visiting the project web page at playmedford.com.

Gratefully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rich Rosenthal". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Rich" and last name "Rosenthal" clearly legible.

Rich Rosenthal
Parks, Recreation and Facilities Director
City of Medford (Ore.)
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