

# New playground coming to civic center

KP Parks and the civic center have partnered to bring a new play structure for children ages 2 to 12. It will be unlike any other playground on the Key Peninsula.

By Karen Lovett, KP News

Families will have another option for outdoor play this spring. In a partnership between the Key Peninsula Civic Center and the KP Metropolitan Park District, a new playground will be installed on civic center property in April.

KP Parks provided funding through money that was saved from the budget and set aside for the past three years. A small percentage of money will come from the shared revenue with Point Defiance and Northwest Trek, and user fees from activities such as Little League. The majority of the money is coming from Key Peninsula property taxes.

The joint committee is governed by Bill Trandum, vice president of KP Parks; Phil Bauer, KPCCA board member; and James Allyn, KPCCA caretaker and maintenance employee. Those three walked the grounds and reviewed plans and supplies. The new facilities will not duplicate the types available at other nearby parks.

"Two equipment sections will be installed," Trandum said. "One is for kids 2 to 5, and a larger section is for kids 6 to 12. They say the 6 to 12 equipment is sturdy enough to support a 70-year-old 240 pound Grandpa. It will be tested."

About a dozen vendors made equipment proposals. Three were invited to make presentations.

"The playground committee plus the two organization presidents and the parks director sat in on the presentations," Trandum said.

Landscape Structures, Inc. of Delano, Minn. was chosen to manufacture the Playcreations Playbooster. Started in 1971 by Barb and Steve King, virtually everything manufactured by the employee-owned company meet Park and Recreation safety standards and are made of environmentally preferable products including recycled permalene panels, he said. "They like to say their products are good for a generation."

The project is expected to take three years to complete, with phases scheduled each year.

"Year one is playground, year two is picnic shelter (similar to Home Park) and year three is vault toilets if we jointly decide they are needed," Trandum said. "The Park District foots the bills, the KPCCA puts up the land including parking and interim restroom use

and takes care of any permits needed. Both work at supplying volunteers to help with installation and maintenance. Parks make sure equipment and installation meet applicable public use safety standards."

Volunteers are needed:

Demolition Day, April 14th, 8:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m., 5 volunteers will be needed to dismantle the existing equipment. April 17 – 18 new concrete footings will be poured. Installation Day, April 28th 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., 25 - 30 volunteers will be needed to erect the new structure. If work is not finished that day, it will continue the next day. Workers willing to haul wheelbarrows of wood chips and anyone capable of turning a wrench are all the skills necessary to assist with the project.

Contact Scott Gallacher at the KP Park office or James Allyn at the civic center to volunteer.

The Grand Opening is scheduled for May 12 at the Livable Community Fair.

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