Tuesday, October 13, 2026

City officials and members of the Boone Park Commission cut the ribbon on the updated Larrew Park playground. Pictured above, left to right are, Fourth Ward Councilman Terry Moorman, Parks Director Mike Cornelis, Park Commissioner members Kevin Pearson and Dave Sherry, Mayor Dave Casotti and City Administrator Ondrea Elmquist.

Park Commissioners, City Leaders Cut Ribbon on Larrew Park Upgrade

City officials celebrated the completion of a $35,000 playground improvement project at Larrew Park with a Friday morning ribbon cutting.

The ribbon cutting marked the official completion of the project, which included new playground equipment, professional installation and approximately 10 inches of engineered wood fiber to help protect children from injuries caused by falls.

Located at 1129 Harrison Street, just north of the Boone & Scenic Valley Railroad Museum, Larrew Park is a small but well-used neighborhood park that is especially popular with families with young children. The park also includes a small shelter house with two picnic tables.

The new, brightly colored play structure features slides, a small bridge and a child-sized climbing wall. Swings are located next to the main play structure. The equipment was selected to fit the park's relatively compact playground area and primarily serve toddlers and children under age 6.

The previous playground equipment had served the neighborhood for nearly four decades. However, the manufacturer no longer supplied replacement parts.

“Safety is always our number one priority,” Boone Parks Superintendent Mike Cornelis said. “Before we reached the point where too much of the playground had to be taken away, we felt this was a good time to replace it.”

The engineered wood fiber surrounding the new equipment provides cushioning in the event of a fall. The required depth of the material was determined by the height of the playground’s tallest accessible point.

The equipment was installed by a professional playground company to ensure that it met applicable safety requirements and to reduce the City’s potential liability. The total project cost included the equipment, installation labor and protective surface material.

Larrew Park is one of several Boone parks to receive new playground equipment and improvements in recent years. Cornelis thanked the city council for dedicating approximately $135,000 to such upgrades during that period. Previous projects included improvements at Milwaukee Park and Franklin Park, where grant funding helped match the City’s investment.

“The parks department and commission have done a great job the last few years. They really have. And this project is an example of moving things forward,” said Fourth Ward Councilman Terry Moorman.

The Larrew Park property itself has a special history. After a house on the site was destroyed by fire in the late 1980s, the property was donated to the City of Boone. The original playground was installed shortly thereafter, transforming the former residential lot into a neighborhood gathering place.

As the City plans future park improvements, officials will continue evaluating playgrounds with aging or obsolete equipment. The condition and safety of the equipment, the location of each park and the number of families it serves will help determine which playgrounds receive priority.

Mayor Dave Casotti noted that today’s playground structures designed for greater safety also come with a higher price tag. But, Cornelis, Casotti and parks commissions Kevin Pearson and Dave Sherry agree they will continue seeking equipment that provides children with safe and enjoyable recreational opportunities while making responsible use of taxpayer dollars.

The completion of the Larrew Park project ensures that a small neighborhood park with nearly four decades of history will continue serving Boone children and families for years to come.

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