

County breaks ground for new park facilities

Written by Holyoke Enterprise
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Phillips County officially kicked off construction on the Homesteaders Park playground project at a groundbreaking ceremony Friday, Dec. 2. The Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) project includes a new universally accessible playground, an artificial turf field and a nine-hole Frisbee golf course.

Pictured from left are Marren, Max, Mylee and Brooke Dirks; Josie Schlachter; Phillips County commissioners Jerry Beavers and Joe Kinnie; Holyoke High School Penny Harvest representatives Summer Maloney, Jordan Zeiler, Emily Bradley and Alex Quintana; commissioner Bud Bieseimeier; Phillips County employees Jay John, David Salyards and Steve Triplette; Shannon Schlachter holding Eva Schlachter; Michelle Vieselmeyer; and Sarah and Lucas Schlachter. They stand on the site of the playground while the turf field is just behind them to the west at Phillips County Fairgrounds.

Organizing committee members Brooke Dirks, Shannon Schlachter, Michelle Vieselmeyer and Andrea McCallum were instrumental in bringing this unique playground to Phillips County and northeast Colorado.

Contractor for the project is Ryan Farney of Performance Surfacing & Recreation from Pueblo. He previously installed the wrought iron fence and playground surface for the Dragon's Wagon Preschool at the Phillips County Event Center. Playground materials have been delivered, and work on the GOCO project will continue from this point forward as weather permits. A poured-in-place safety surface under the new playground will complete the project.

Phillips County will soon be going to bid on the companion project, also located at the same Homesteaders Park site. This Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) Enhancement project will provide a parking lot, additional walking path, lighting, benches, drainage features, fencing and landscaping. This enhancement project will probably not begin until next spring.

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—Enterprise photo

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