 Playground equipment at the intersection of Cottonwood and Florence Streets was replaced with new features last week. A gravel ramp allows for wheelchair access.

**Students create wood sculptures**

BY GRACE FREEMAN

Staff Reporter

Kirkville Parks and Recreation hired Barrel Playground Equipment to replace Memorial Park’s playground equipment last week. Construction and maintenance of the new playground cost the city around $50,000.

The old playground on the corner of Cottonwood and Florence Streets was dated and worn. Melanie Smith, Kirksville Assistant City Manager, said the playground had broken canopies and old impact material that met the safety standard but failed to meet handicap accessibility standards.

As part of the new playground’s construction, Smith and the Parks and Recreation Commission worked to find the best replacement impact material that is safer than wood gravel, which was used in the old playground. The new playground equipment is handicap-accessible so we want the engineered wood fiber material because it is more handicap-accessible,” Smith said.

The wood fiber material absorbs impact when someone falls, so if a child were to fall down, the impact would be much less severe.

Kirksville Parks and Recreation has poured sidewalks in the park, and a ramp will be added to the playground for better and safer accessibility, Smith said. “It is more handicap accessible,” Smith said.

The ribbon-cutting event is planned for the end of this past summer. Smith said the children of Kirksville were the ones making the steps they can make. “It’s great that they are making the playground for better and safer accessibility,” Smith said.

Kirksville Parks and Recreation hopes that this new playground will be utilized more often because there are more than 600 children with disabilities in Adair County. Walters said. “It does cost a little more to live here now, but there aren’t any solid panel systems, without traditional steps up to the playground itself.”

City crews removed the old playground equipment previously this month to prep the site for the new equipment. The construction took a little more than a week and the park was open for play in the spring, Smith said.

Kirksville Parks and Recreation hopes that the new playground will be utilized more often because there are more than 600 children with disabilities in Adair County. Walters said. “We wanted to be something special and we didn’t want it to be a rushed event,” Duckett said. “We wanted to be able to invite the community to come and see the new playground and staff and give us the opportunity to come through and see it before we open and filled with students.”

Kirksville Parks and Recreation installed new playground equipment this past summer to prep the site for the new equipment. The construction took a little more than a week and the park was open for play in the spring, Smith said. Ryle Hall cuts final ribbon

BY RYAN TRAN

Staff Reporter

A ribbon-cutting event at Ryle Hall is expected to be guided through by roommates who were guided through Ryle residents from 1:30 to 1:45 p.m.

“We really wanted this to be something special and we didn’t want it to be a rushed event,” Duckett said. “We wanted to be able to invite the community to come and see the new playground and staff and give us the opportunity to come through and see it before we open and filled with students.”

Ryan says this ribbon-cutting event is planned by students and staff and Duckett said it is a good time for students to get to know each other. He said they didn’t want to interfere with new events earlier in the fall.

Ryan student advisor Amy Golsch said the event is open to all Kirkville community members. The Ryle renovation project was led by Truman State $90 million renovation schedule. According to the brochures for the ribbon-cutting event, construction started with West Campus Suites in 2006. This was followed by the Blanton-Nason-Brewer residence hall in 2007 and 2008, respectively.

Ryle Hall Director Cat- herine Sherburne said there will be guided tours of Ryle residents from 1:30 to 1:45 p.m.

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