

Donations add to family appeal of Plymouth park

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PLYMOUTH - Parks and Recreation Director Michael Ganem is looking forward to the spring, when residents can fully enjoy Winfield Park's new swings and rope walk.

Winfield Park and its playscape, open year-round, are on Seymour Road. The new swings and rope walk were installed in October and families have already begun to use them.

"So far, the feedback from families is very positive," said Ganem. "We're looking forward to the warmer weather, when we expect they will see heavier use."



Brian M. Johnson | Staff The new "expression swings" at Winfield Park in Plymouth.

The donation of the swings was made last July by the Ives Family, in memory of Ken Miclowskey, who was killed in action on his 21st birthday while serving in Vietnam.

Ganem said they are "expression swings," which allow young children to sit in a bucket seat, facing their parents, who swing behind them. There is one expression swing designed for infants and another designed for toddlers sitting next to the existing swings at the playscape.

"My stepmother, Dorothy, made the donation in memory of her son," said Robert Ives. "She just wanted to do something that was good for the town. She thought that it was a good idea to have swings where parents can sit with their kids."

The rope walk was donated by Marcus Clayton at the Aetna Foundation and the Oasis Fund at the Main Street Community Foundation. It was donated in memory of Ganem's father and his three sisters.

"They were all big advocates for parks and recreation departments in the communities in which they lived," said Ganem.

The rope walk allows children to test their balance by walking on a thick rope that hangs taut just above the ground. A beam runs overhead for children to hold onto if they need to.

Both of these new additions to Winfield Park were installed courtesy of volunteer members of the Plymouth Parks and Recreation Commission, donations from local businesses and the support of the Friends of Lake Winfield.

Ganem said that these additions mark a series of improvements to the local park system in recent years.

The Plymouth Reservoir Recreation Area, a 160-acre park, was purchased by the town in 2012 and opened in 2014. A trail was added to the park in 2016.

American Legion Post 20 i donated a sign to Veterans Memorial Playground on East Orchard Street this past October. This park features a playscape and basketball courts, and Ganem said it is geared toward somewhat older children.

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