

BIG FLATS

# New playground to be set up today



**Big Flats Town Supervisor Ed Fairbrother puts together a slide for the new playground in the Community Park Extension Friday afternoon.** ERIC WENSEL/THE LEADER

## New playground in the Community Park Extension

**By James Post**  
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**BIG FLATS** | A large recreation and sports complex off State Route 352 in Big Flats is getting a boost with the installation of a new

playground.

Town Supervisor Ed Fairbrother said the walking trail and sports facilities at the park, next to Winters Road, get a lot of use, but there weren't activities for younger children available.

Friday, work continued to prepare for the installation of the playground equipment near the park's pavilion.

Today, volunteers will gather to do the final

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## If you go

**What** | Volunteer installation of new playground equipment  
**Where** | Park at State Route 352 and Winters Road (turn onto Registro Way and follow to pavilion area)  
**When** | 8 a.m.-4 p.m. today



Vito Peritore looks on as Andrew Payne attaches a piece of the new playground in Big Flats Friday afternoon. ERIC WENSEL/THE LEADER

## PLAYGROUND

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assembly of the equipment. Fairbrother said volunteers from the Lions Club and Parks Committee, along with the general public, have already helped on the project.

"The community really has come out" to help with the playground, he said.

In addition, Hunt Engineers put together the layout for the playground equipment.

Fairbrother himself was working to bolt together a large, green plastic slide Friday afternoon at the site.

He said they went with a simple brown-and-green color scheme for the equipment to match the park area, rather than any "flashy colors."

The town paid about \$63,000 for the equipment from the Alabama-based GameTime company, Fairbrother said.

The setup accommodates a wide range of ages and is compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Safe, rubber-based mulch to cover the ground in the area will be provided by funds raised during Big Flats Community Days, Fairbrother said.

The town has 17 parks covering approximately

300 acres, he said, and the town government, along with a newly reorganized Parks Committee, is looking ahead to updating them as funding allows.

Much of the equipment is outdated, and doesn't meet the ADA requirements.

The new playground "will be utilized very heavily for our summer parks program," Fairbrother said.

That program, which is free to town residents, will be 60 years old in 2016.

Another reason for going with the GameTime equipment is that it can be easily added on to if they wish to expand the playground in the future.

"It's all modular," Fairbrother said.

He said officials are already looking for grant funding to make those additions.

Concrete will be poured on Monday to set in place the equipment being installed today.

It will likely be the end of next week before the rubber mulch is delivered and in place.

"We're going to open it when it's done," Fairbrother said.

A more formal grand opening of the playground is slated for Sept. 19.

"We're very excited," Fairbrother said.