

# Volunteers spruce up Oaklandon Play Park

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Oaklandon's play park has been given a face-lift by some local volunteers.

The park -- which includes a large wooden structure for children and a picnic area -- was installed in Lawrence on East 65th Street in 1990. It had fallen into disrepair, said Eric Martin, parks director.

"We received numerous complaints at the beginning of my term," said Mayor Paul Ricketts.

It took several days last month to clean up the park.

Upgrades included washing and repairing the structure, staining wood, replacing old tires, mulching and removing old shrubs from the area. With volunteer help, the upgrades cost about \$2,000, Ricketts estimated.

About 25 volunteers from Lawrence's Schneider Corp. helped. So did city employees and Scout troops.

"It was a lot of fun," said Kris Conover, senior vice president with Schneider. "One of our employees brought his young daughter who uses the playground."

The wooden play structure cost \$65,000 to \$70,000 when installed as a community project in 1990, Martin said.

After 18 years of use, it has become a tradition in the Lawrence area, he said.

"We've got kids playing whose parents might have played on it," Martin said. "It's unique in the fact that it's got tunnels through it . . . areas to crawl around and it's got big peaks where you can look over. The rest of the playground is kind of like a castle area."

Mia and Gregg Jones and their 2 1/2-year-old twins enjoyed the park Friday. It was the first time the Oaklandon residents had returned to the park following the upgrades.

"It looks really good," Mia Jones, 33, said. "My kids love it."

