

Kidsburg construction expected to begin April 30

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Lots of volunteers needed for effort

BLOOMSBURG — The committee pushing to build a new Kidsburg has a date when it wants to build the playground at Town Park — all it needs now is thousands of volunteers.

Council voted unanimously Monday to allow the group planning the playground to begin construction April 30.

If all goes well, the new area should be complete by May 4.

So far, organizers have raised \$235,000 of the \$250,000 the playground is expected to cost, said **Deb Huckans**, leader of the effort.

And last night, council got a glimpse of what that money will buy.

Huckans and other organizers showed off a final, wheelchair-accessible design that includes a fire truck,

clubhouse and pirate ship.

It also features plenty of bars to swing from, slides to slide down and balance beams to walk.

'Want your help'

The area is divided into a playground for toddlers ages 2-5 and one for children 5 to 12. The plan calls for swings around the playground's perimeter.

Unlike the previous Kidsburg's castle-like enclosed structure, the new design is more open, so children are almost always within their parents' view, Huckans said.

To build the new Kidsburg, the committee will need thousands of volunteers from April 30 to May 4, said Huckans and Town Park Improvement Association President **Chuck Wagner**.

People can sign up at www.kidsburg.org/volunteer.

They need skilled and unskilled workers.

"If you can use a power tool safely, we want your help," Wagner said.

They also need more skilled workers to act as crew leaders, and volunteers to help provide child care while parents are working, said Huckans.

Some have already begun to line up: A council of Methodist churches has agreed to feed the crews.

And a contractor from Millville, **Jim Spangenberg** of CHNE Contractors North Branch, is keeping track of required materials.

Less vulnerable

While Huckans and Wagner said the group will be able to build the playground with the \$235,000 raised so far, it would like to top its \$250,000 goal. That way, it can add

more equipment, like musical instruments near the entrance and fancier climbing gear that also spins.

They're also hoping companies may be able to donate mulch, lumber or concrete work so more of the money can go toward equipment.

Kidsburg 2.0 will be built on the east side of Market Street, on high ground where old tennis courts now sit. It's a less flood-prone site than the old Kidsburg on the west side of Market.

"It's about 4 to 5 feet higher than the previous Kidsburg," Wagner said. "We should be able to avoid any nuisance flooding."

Huckans said www.kidsburg.org will be updated in the next few weeks to give people more information on how they can help.

"Right now, we're just hoping that people can sign up to be there," Huckans said.