

Kid's Towne Park to reopen May 22

Special to The Clinton Courier

The Clinton Parks and Recreation Department has been working diligently to complete the new playground at Kid's Towne Park. Delayed by rain twice and then by the Coronavirus shutdown, Parks and Recreation Officials hope to have the playground and park back open to the public on May 22.

Kid's Towne Park is located at 915 Old Vicksburg Road in Clinton.

Renovation of the park highlights the City of Clinton's commitment

to preserving and enhancing the legacy of the 23-year-old community-built park. The upgrade of the park to a new state-of-the-art play-on-play structure is designed to remind residents of the significant contributions of those who worked diligently to make the park a reality over two decades ago.

Kid's Towne Park is the second public Playcore Play On! Promoting Physical Activity National Demonstration Site in the state of Mississippi. The first was the new playground at Clinton's Robinson Park.

"Achieving this designation as the first and second play structure of its kind at a public park in the State of Mississippi is a noteworthy achievement by our Parks and Recreation Department," said Clinton Mayor Phil Fisher.

The National Demonstration Site is built towards allowing children to exercise while playing on the playground equipment. While childhood obesity is continually becoming a problem, these

playgrounds allow a child to play and exercise at the same time.

The playground structure will have six key play elements that promote fitness – balancing, brachiating, climbing, spinning, sliding and swinging. Children exercise in different ways than adults, focusing more on short bursts and using their bodies in different directions. The elements from the Kids Towne playground structure will provide that ability for children.

Parks and Recreation Director Adam Wade said that the playground elements are designed to stimulate the mind and

imagination, as well as provide physical activity.

"While a child uses the playground for exercise, they are also being challenged mentally and socially through the interactive elements now being designed into playgrounds. Clinton Parks and Recreation are excited to be the first park in Mississippi to achieve this designation."

City officials say Kid's Towne Park's new playground will feature better sight lines and enhanced play elements for interactive play, as well as a natural tree shade canopy to shelter users from the elements.

Parks and Recreation officials plan to add new swing sets and an upgraded one-mile walking trail to connect the Bark Park and Kid's Towne Park to additional fitness opportunities.

Finally, new security systems will be installed at the park to monitor activity in the hours that the park is closed.



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Clinton High students receive band scholarships

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Seventeen Clinton High School band seniors recently received scholarship offers for band to Hinds Community College, the University of Mississippi, Jones County Community College, Mississippi College, Mississippi State University, and the University of Southern Mississippi.

The seventeen students accepting band scholarships are: Abby Simpson, Alaina Roberts, Caitlin Carter, Corterius Bennett, Darius Curry, Emily Ford, Erin Bynum, Jady Nash, Jake McGuire, Jayla Palmer, Josie Tripp, Kenyon Holmes, Kyndal Nash, Macey Greco, Maddie Gray Bralley, Morgan Craft and Yuexin Xu.

Band Director Gavin McAdams said he was not surprised at the seniors' success. "This is a hardworking and talented group of students," he said.

To qualify for a scholarship, students had to audition in front of judges at each

of the colleges they applied to, maintain a certain grade point average and other criteria, he said.

This year, the school's band program includes two hundred members, from grades nine to twelve. Band is almost a year-long commitment for the students, McAdams said. During the fall, the marching band performs at football games, regional and national competitions, and in the winter and spring, members participate in local and regional competitions, concerts and parades.

The Clinton Band is waiting to begin its audition process for the 2020-2021 season and is looking forward to having the opportunity to get together again as a band family when schools open.

"We certainly miss making music together," says McAdams.

For more information on Clinton High School's band, visit www.clintonbands.org.



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