

Linn Grove long-time dream becomes a reality

A long-time dream of Linn Grove residents finally took shape. On June 24, several local volunteers gathered and erected playground equipment in the City of Linn Grove to give the town a park once again.

"It's been more than 20 years since there has been a park in town," Mayor Ronda Ellis stated.

A red, blue, green and yellow playground structure now stands on the corner lot of Broadway and Westerville in Linn Grove, which is across the street from the old school gym and gazebo. The playground equipment that now stands completed the first phase of a

three-phase project that is being planned by the city.

Volunteers on site to install the playground equipment included Stuart Genson, Ryan Rusk, Quentin Sundberg, Bernard Nelson, Jesse Ingwersen, Dylan Ingwersen, Tom Schueder, Frank Halverson, Paul Krause, Kris Hartfield, Dennis Graesing, Marlin Weier, Ronda Ellis, Kari Graesing and Landon Graesing. Bill Pospichal from Outdoor Recreation Products led the team and supervised the installation.

Prior to constructing the structure, Dennis Graesing and Jud Graesing with Graesing Backhoe Service did the dirt work and leveled the area

needed for the park, Marlin Weier helped with clean-up of the site and Todd Reiling dug the holes needed for the poles.

Volunteers were provided lunch by Ellis, as well as cookies and beverages provided by Ellis, Becky Jessen and Diane Lindahl.

The first phase is the most expensive part of the project. It is the plan to complete a phase each fiscal year and have it done within the next two years. Phase II planning and fundraising have already begun and includes the purchase of swings and playground equipment that attaches and expands on the current structure, as well as spring bobbleriders.

Volunteers, donors and local

grant programs made this project possible. The City of Linn Grove can't thank these individuals and groups enough for their time and generosity. Numerous hours were spent fundraising for this project by several residents and members of the Linn Grove Community Enhancement Foundation. A large local grant of \$11,500 was received from the Buena Vista County Community Foundation that allowed for a larger playground structure to be purchased on a much faster timeline. A grant in the amount of \$500 was received from Alliant Energy. There were also several individual donors that have given along the way.