

Gushers grand opening

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After a lengthy process, Golden's spray park officially opened on August 6 with the new name Gushers Spray Park.

Children, their families, residents and Spray Park Committee members attended the celebration, that featured ice cream and burgers for everyone.

Joanne McCullough, committee chair thanked those in attendance for coming, saying that the project was well worth the wait after seeing how many children are enjoying the park over the summer months.

"This is exactly what we all envisioned from day one when we began this long journey," she said. "This park is a perfect example of teamwork and collaboration."

The idea for the park began in 2007 when McCullough and 16 other community members participated in a program called Leading Communities BC.

"From that, we learned that leadership is a quality that we all possess and we are able to create the changes we wish to see in our community," said McCullough.

Many people were involved in the inception of the spray park, starting with the community consultation that led to the location of Gushers. With support from the Golden Community Resources Society, the Town of Golden, the Early Childhood Development coalition, Child Care Resource and Referral and Focus Engineering, the committee gained financial support from the Town, CBT Community Initiatives program through the Golden and District Community Foundation.

"Next came the Federal government's Recreational Infrastructure (RINC) grant. They gave us a huge donation of \$101,000 which really allowed the park to finally make its next step," said McCullough.

The Columbia Valley Credit Union and the CSRD also made financial contributions toward the park.

Many local businesses contributed to the building of the spray park, including Absolutely Hammered and Blaeberry Plumbing, Lundstrom Contracting, Mountainside Gardens, Stuart Electrical, Focus Engineering

"We should be so proud of the local contractors in this community who gave a lot of their time [to build the project] for free."

McCullough said without the help of all those involved, the dream could not have been a reality.

At the celebration, Overwaitea, The Golden Taps and Patsi Cola provided all of the delicious treats for the crowd of happy residents.

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