In the left photo taken Tuesday, a barren field in Gaylord Tiffany Park in Winsted awaits community volunteers to build a playscape. By yes finished and swarming wit

By RICHARD RANGOON
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WINSTED — When the Nader Trust put up $20,000 for a community playscape last summer, no one could have predicted the final result Saturday afternoon: 165 volunteers working side by side to complete a state-of-the art playground containing 45 different structures for children to play on.

The grand opening was yesterday — following some finishing touches and a complete safety check — but Saturday was the nine-month project's final thrust.

Some workers came to Gaylord-Tiffany Park as early as 7 a.m. Saturday and many volunteers stayed until 5 p.m.

Some workers were so busy with their sawing and drilling that Saturday afternoon's downpours didn't seem to distract them from their work — even though their clothes were saturated with rainwater.

"I never saw anyone standing with their hands in their pockets," materials coordinator for the project Marty Echentile said.

The Winsted Community Playscape Committee organized the huge project by breaking the work down into specific categories and putting volunteers in charge, he said.

Each of the 45 different structures on the playscape had its own team assigned to it and the more experienced builders helped the less experienced do what needed to be done, Echentile said.

As the person in charge of procuring materials, Echentile helped bring in three large dump trucks full of old tires, eight trucks of wood chips, and 10 trucks of sand, he said.

These materials, combined with at least 500 pounds of nails and screws, and an amount of lumber so large that Echentile refused to put an estimate on it — were all donated by local businesspeople.

All the food was donated too. Most was donated by local supermarkets and restaurants, but some individuals donated home made fare as well.

Sandy LeBlanc joined the food committee after reading in the newspaper that the playscape project was looking for volunteers. But organizers soon saw a need for LeBlanc's talents at the tool truck behind the food service area.



Bill Bodenbeck / Staff Photographer
Adam Piechowski climbs up a wall yesterday that his dad helped to build.

'I never saw anyo hands in their po

Her identification tag w changed from "Food" to "Fo and Tools" — and finally, "Tools."

"I've heard them talking abo me," she confided, pausing as burly man handed her a pow router.

She placed the router with oth ers of its kind in the tool-fille trailer.

Many of the volunteers workin on the project were either built ers or had some construction ex perience, and most professional brought all the tools they neede themselves and more besides.

They knew they didn't need t worry if someone had an acciden with a piece of their equipmen because organizers guarantee that it would be replaced, Le Blanc's co-worker in the too trailer, Pam Fritz, explained.

The committee could not afford the cost of replacing broken tools along with the many other mis cellaneous expenses that come up in such a large scale project, an the $20,000 donated by the Nader Trust alone.

The committee had raised an additional $30,000 through fund raising and donations, and this provided for any additional ex penses needed to complete the project, Team Captain Coordina tor Greg Cross said.