

ROTARY CLUB NEWS: Rotary supports local playgrounds

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The Rotary Club of Lake Placid's Mill Pond Park cleanup crew. (Photo provided — Rotary Club of Lake Placid)

The Lake Placid area is fortunate to have several small playgrounds situated in or near neighborhoods. These include Jewtraw park on Station Street on the south side of Mill Pond, Mill Pond Park on Dow avenue on the north side of Mill Pond, McKinley Street park near the intersection of McKinley and Wesvalley Road, the Parkside Drive playground adjacent to the Mirror Lake public beach, and Teddy Bear Park near the north end of Hillcrest Avenue.

For many years, the Rotary Club of Lake Placid has contributed both funds and volunteer time to assist in establishing, maintaining and improving some of these parks. All of the parks are primarily maintained by the North Elba Parks District.

The Mill Pond Park playground actually consists of an open area with swing sets and a fenced in area for toddlers with several pieces of equipment. The fence was installed undoubtedly because the park sits right at the edge of the pond. Each year, the Rotary Club

spends a Saturday morning cleaning up the toddler area and weeding out the overgrowth of plantings on the fence perimeter. The remainder of the park is maintained by the North Elba Parks District.

The Rotary Club has been involved with the McKinley Park playground for many years.

In 2003, the club installed two park benches for parents. More recently, the North Elba Parks District obtained a LEAF grant for a major upgrade of the park, including playground equipment, landscaping and fencing. The Rotary Club's contribution to the grant was to pay for a colorful steel wheelchair accessible picnic table with attached benches and an Americans with Disabilities Act compliant swing for the nearby swing set.

The club has also approved funding for a future Communication Board to be installed in one of the parks similar to the board at the Mirror Lake Public Beach playground.

The primary source of funds the club contributes toward our community's parks is the annual Dam Duck Race, which will celebrate its 18th year on Sept. 23.

This exciting event will involve over 1,500 rubber ducks spilling over the Mill Pond Dam, with the finish line right next to the outdoor dining patio at Lisa G's.

Race festivities are scheduled to start at 5 p.m. with the actual race set to start by 6 p.m. Tickets to sponsor ducks will be available on the Rotary website (rotarylakeplacid.org) and prizes will be awarded for the top finishers. All of the net proceeds from this fund raiser go toward support of a variety of projects by local community and municipal organizations.