

By ROBERT PIERCE

• Daily Leader

Spring will spring this weekend, and city administrators in a small Oklahoma community are hoping to finish a new recreational area in that town by the end of May – just in time for summer.

In January, park officials in Hooker, Okla., began working on a new sports park in the Texas County community.



According to Hooker Parks board member Duane Theiner, the new park will have sand volleyball and horse shoe pits, along with a basketball half court and a skate board park.

“We’re putting it right up against the baseball park,” said parks board president Marlene Mitchell. “It goes all down one side of the baseball park.”

Theiner said the project when done will cost a total of \$78,000. As it stands now, all of that money has been raised except for the skate board park.

“We’re about \$36,000 away from our goal of \$78,000,” he said.

Theiner said with much in the way of playground equipment located in parks throughout Hooker, the parks board wanted to target older kids for this project.

Mitchell said while much money has been raised, more still needs to be received. She agreed with Theiner, saying something needed to be done for older children.

“We’re hoping to put a skate park in, and it would go in over next to the tennis court,” she said. “It’s really hard to raise money for a skate board park.”

The parks board did receive some good news, as Mitchell said the skate board portion of the park could be put in place for less money than thought.

“That helped a bunch,” she said.

Donations can be made at Hooker City Hall. Those donations need to be marked for the sports park project.

“They need a 501(c),” Mitchell said. “We have an address for that for them too.”

To get that address, call (580) 461-3132. Mitchell said the parks board is working to keep Hooker’s park in good shape, and any donations to help with that would do so significantly.

“Right now, we’re targeting most of our stuff towards the skate board park,” she said.

Mitchell said the parks board has items such as a shotgun and a Tony Hawk skate board, but nothing has been decided as to how to raise money with those items.

“We don’t know whether we’re going to sell tickets or what else,” she said. “We haven’t really decided on anything else on how to raise the money for it.”

Two anonymous donations of \$23,000 and \$1,500 were given to the project recently. Those helped with the basketball court portion.

Mitchell said donations can also be made through the Guymon Community Enrichment Foundation. These donations would be tax deductible.

People can send those donations to the Guymon Community Enrichment Foundation, c/o Dianne Roberts, P.O. Box 481, Guymon, OK 73942-0481.

Mitchell said a member of Boy Scout Troop 264, Nate House, has also been helping with construction of the park.

“He’s raised a couple hundred for us. He’s gotta be out here whenever the work’s going on and direct them on that.”

House’s mother, Audrey, who is also his scoutmaster, said he is doing the project as part of his community service requirements for his Eagle badge.

“He is basically coordinating the sand volleyball part of the park and any other help they might need for the rest of it,” she said. “He’s not taking charge of it, but he’s bringing volunteers out to

help if needed.”

Mitchell said the City of Hooker would like to have the park done before the start of summer, but with the current money situation, that timeline may be a little early.

“I think we’re going to have everything ready except for the skate board park by the end of May,” she said.