



Work starting on Cavallo Park in Lambertville (PHOTOS)

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LAMBERTVILLE — It was a gorgeous afternoon to be in a park yesterday, and hopes were high here as ground was broken on repairs and improvements to Cavallo Park.

Work is underway to remove tainted soil at the park, and that should be completed in September, Mayor David DelVecchio told a gathering as he stood in front of heavy machinery.

"The kids will like what's going to be here," he said. Playground equipment is already on order, he said, and delivery is planned so it can be installed once the ground is ready. They're looking at September for installation.

Plans include a new pavilion with barbecue, shaded picnic grove and bike and walking path, a fresh entry and more playground equipment. Sketches of what it will look like, completed by architect Michael Burns, were on display yesterday.

The park has been **closed since September 2013**, due to contamination of soil. The findings came to light after the city undertook a site assessment of the park before beginning planned improvements.

Kerri Cook, who with her husband Geoff donated funds for park improvements, drew the thanks of DelVecchio at yesterday's gathering, and she told the assemblage that they're grateful to be able to contribute to the park's renovation.

"Our daughters, and son too, have used the park in the past. It's always been a stop," she said. "I'm looking forward to being able to play with them outside here and have fun. Geoff and I are excited for the children of Lambertville."

DelVecchio thanked everyone who's been involved in the project so far, and said the park is "the most-used facility we have in the city.

"We're going to make it a park everyone can be proud of," he added. "Now let's break some ground."

Golden shovels in hand, officials, Cook and her daughters dug in.

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