

COMMUNITY NEWS

Del Norte celebrates improvements to Voss Field

D Mountain Park and Recreation draws diverse support to fund project

by **The Citizen**

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In Del Norte’s D Mountain Park and Recreation you see a special parks and recreation district that thinks it can.

It came into existence as a **special park district** in 2014 – originally to develop a plan and funding for an indoor swimming and recreation facility, only to have an eventual feasibility study show the cost beyond

means of the little district.



So instead it began to collaborate on other community needs with the municipality and county governments and continued a push for funding through all means possible for special projects.

This week the first of those community recreation projects was celebrated with a ribbon cutting for the nearly \$103,000 in improvements made to Voss Field, a community ballfield near the Rio Grande. Surrounded by summer campers from High Valley Community Center, the D Mountain Park and Recreation board, with Patti Kelley as its president and founding member Grace Young as its inspiration, brought the community together as it always intended.

“We enjoyed collaborating on this project and making the dream come to life. We look forward to more projects throughout our wonderful community,” said Karie Lichtenfeld, vice president of the board who served as master of ceremonies.

The Voss Field improvements include a new ballfield fence, a redone infield and new bases, new dugouts complete with cubby holes built by the local high school woodshop class, and new bleachers. The Major League Baseball Youth Development Foundation, Rio Grande County, Town of Del Norte, the state's Department of Local Affairs all had skin in the funding game.

“We couldn't have done it without all of you,” Lichtenfeld said.

No sooner was the Voss Field ribbon cutting complete than the conversations turned to the next project and what it might be. Climbing rocks, a double zip line, pickleball and basketball courts, and a pump track were all identified as community wishes during meetings held by the D Mountain Park and Recreation District.

The special park district in Del Norte shows what you can do in a community when you think you can.