

Greeley Tribune

Saturday, June 10 2023

New park will honor local dentist

By [GREELEY TRIBUNE](#) | citydesk@greeleytribune.com |

PUBLISHED: November 25, 2002 at 12:16 p.m. | UPDATED: May 13, 2020 at 7:53 a.m.

By fall, 23 families in northwest Greeley will have their run of a fully landscaped “pocket park” right in their back yard.

About 10 residents and the Greeley Kiwanis Club have been working more than a year to create Jimmy’s Park at the corner of 23rd Avenue and 4th Street, complete with greenery, a meandering path and benches. On Friday, it came a little closer to reality when the Greeley Parks and Recreation Board unanimously approved the plan. It goes to the city council next week.

The residents, working with the Weld County Dental Society and Kiwanis, plan to complete the family park in the Habitat for Humanity neighborhood Tiemann Village by summer’s end.

They need \$45,000 to do it; they’ve raised about \$8,000 so far. When it’s complete, they’ll donate it to the city in the name of Dr. James Huff, a Greeley dentist who died in September 1999.

“Six months after he passed away, people came forward to say so many people want to do something” in his honor, said his widow, Eileen Huff. “My husband would have been honored by the support and outpouring of people. A park in his name is fitting because he loved Greeley, and he loved kids.”

Dr. Huff was passionate about dental mission work.

Such volunteerism took him and his wife to Africa three times, and to Jamaica, Belize and Honduras to help local residents with their dental needs. He also was an avid Kiwanis member.

Four hours before he died of a heart arrhythmia, he was gleaning carrot and onion fields with Kiwanis members to donate to the Weld Food Bank.

“I felt like he was giving until the very end,” Eileen Huff said.

To help

– Members of the Jimmy’s Park committee are in need of donations, as well as labor and supplies to complete the park by summer’s end.

– Contributions should be made by May 15 to the Community Foundation for Jimmy’s Park in care of Rebecca Funderburk, 3400 W. 16th St., Suite H, Greeley, CO 80634. Call 330-7077 for more information.

Story by / Greeley Tribune