

Goodbye Fort Miller

June 13th, 1987 – June 19th, 2023



On Monday June 19th we said goodbye to Fort Miller, the main play structure at Miller Park. Public Works staff spent the day slowly pulling the 36-year-old structure apart piece by piece. We had several visitors to the park to watch the action along with others watching the live cam feed as the crews went about their day. We took three separate dump truck loads and other smaller loads to the dump totaling 6,220 pounds of non-reusable play structure pieces.

Have no fear, we did not dispose of every piece of Fort Miller. We were able to salvage some items to reuse in other parks. Most notably the blue tire swing will be placed at Singing Pines Park. The hand craved 'Fort Miller' sign as well as the donation sign from the Florence Elks Lodge were set aside for safe keeping. As for the metal slides, we did save them and they will be up for sale during a public auction at a later date. We will be sure to let everyone know about the auction when it has been scheduled. We also set aside scrapes of wood in the iconic Fort Miller red, yellow, and blue that the City will have available for purchase at upcoming City events. All funds from the sale of Fort Miller keepsakes will go towards new park benches at the improved Miller Park playground.

After the tear down on Monday, Public Works Staff spent the rest of the week removing forty-three dump truck loads (approximately 473 cubic yards) of sand from the playground area. This is all in preparation for our contractor from Buell Recreation to install the new structure. Sadly, our contractor had a slight delay at their previous job in Coquille, OR. They should be here the week of the July 3rd to begin the installation of the new play structure and equipment. Even with this slight delay, we are still on schedule for a grand opening of the new playground on Tuesday, August 1st.

We have tentatively scheduled a volunteer activity to spread the engineered wood fiber chips at the playground on July 22nd during Power of Florence. This project is contingent upon the pour-in-place rubber surfacing material being in place prior to July 22nd. If the pour-in-place rubber surfacing material is not installed before July 22nd, we will need to schedule a different day for the community to help with spreading of the wood chips.

If you have any questions or are interested in the volunteer event call Public Works at 541-997-4106 or email randi.braaten@ci.florence.or.us

Miller Park live cam

<https://app.truelook.cloud/dashboard/14646/15981/live?code=2vs0csejfckn872qe8wgcgqry>