

Grand River Village's Merrick Hutchinson Memorial Park debuts

SUBMITTED The newly developed Merrick Hutchinson Memorial Park at 512 River St. in Grand River Village officially opened last week.

By [Chad Felton](#), *The News-Herald*

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SUBMITTED Grand River Village Council President Jennifer Hood, left, stands with state Rep. John Rogers, D-Mentor-on-the-Lake, and Sen. Kenny Yuko, D-Richmond Heights, during the Annual Grand River Picnic last week.

Merrick Hutchinson Memorial Park in [Grand River Village](#) is now officially open.



The park, named for the first Grand River Village enlistee to die in World War I, served as the site for the Annual Grand River Picnic last week.

The signature event has been taking place for 50-plus years at the property, located at 512 River St., but this year, attendees got to see the new pavilion and playground equipment, thanks to a \$100,000 capital improvements grant secured from the state last year.

State Rep. John Rogers, D-Mentor-on-the-Lake, was recognized by Mayor Christopher Conley for assisting the village in obtaining not only the capital grant, but also a grant from the Lake County Reutilization Corp., better known as the Lake County Land Bank, to aid in the demolition of the old Merrick Hutchinson School building.

Grand River Village purchased the land from Riverside Local Schools in 2012 and tore down Merrick Hutchinson Elementary School in 2014.

Local companies helping to make the transformation possible, Carmuese Lime & Stone and Osborne Concrete, in addition to the Painesville Township trustees, were also acknowledged for their contributions to the park, according to a news release.

“State and local government, along with the hard work and dedication of the Grand River Village Council, in addition to Mayor Conley, have helped to make this beautiful park a reality for many years to come,” said Council President Jennifer Hood, adding that the entire project is yet to be completed, as other amenities and aesthetic enhancements are planned.

“Having a safe place for our children to get together and play boosts our strength as a village. We are very blessed to have strong support in Grand River, and we are so very grateful.”