

Career Tech Matters

by Dennis Franks • Nov. 13, 2015

It makes sense that a program that works to put children on the path to learning would want their foundation to be solid.

Last spring, Marty Lambert, Maintenance foreman, was involved in discussions about replacing the wood mulch in the preschool playground.

The wood mulch deteriorates and has to be renewed each year.

Marty sought bids on rubber mulch made from recycled tires and Detillion Landscaping in Chilli-cothe was able to quote the project for less than non-local competitors.

“The payback will be in about 10 years,” Marty said of the cost. “And the rubber mulch is permanent.”

In addition to providing a permanent base for the playground and a long-term financial savings, the mulch also provides a safer surface for children. Rubber mulch has a greater absorbency and is softer than wood mulch, both of which provide better protection for children.

A crew from Detillion was on campus in late October and removing the old mulch and installing the rubber mulch took about a week.



Marty said the project was completed quickly and he is happy with the way it turned out.

“This is a great project and I’m glad we were able to work with Detillion,” he said. “Not only do they do good work for us, they are great about customer service after the project is installed.”

Detillion is owned by Randy Detillion, who completed Pickaway-Ross’ Landscaping & Horticulture Technologies program in 1977.

While the project was under way, preschoolers weren’t able to play outside, so they were excited to get their playground back, said Betty Pettit, Early Childhood Education aide.

“They saw the excavation and we told them we were getting new playground mulch,” Betty said.

And now that the project is completed, Marty isn’t the only one appreciating the new mulch.

“The preschoolers like to pick it up and feel it,” Betty said of the recycled rubber tire pieces.

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FAR LEFT: Employees from Detillion Landscaping remove the mulch and prepare the ground for the new mulch in the playground late last month.

LEFT: The finished project has been put to use by preschoolers.