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## **Sarasota County receives first “PerfectPlayground”**

Playing safe in the shade is the new direction for Sarasota County Parks and Recreation as officials dedicated the first “PerfectPlayground” at Longwood Park, 6050 Longwood Blvd., Sarasota on Tuesday, May 19. Sarasota County Commissioner Carolyn Mason helped cut the ribbon on what, according to the manufacturer, is the first playground of its kind in the United States.

Manufactured by Sarasota-based Apollo Sunguard Systems in cooperation with Henderson Recreational Equipment, Sofsurfaces Inc., Christensen Systems Inc. and Safety Play LLC., the “PerfectPlayground” provides a patented soft tile outdoor flooring system, custom-built recreational equipment and a patented sunshade structure that keeps all surfaces cool to the touch and protects children from the harmful effects of the sun. Apollo Sunguard and its partners donated the entire playground valued at more than \$40,000.

“PerfectPlayground is the first system of its kind in the nation and we believe it will be the new gold standard for American playgrounds, because kids know it is fun and moms know it is safe,” said Kevin Connelly, president of Apollo Sunguard. “We’re proud to say it was developed in Sarasota County and we’re pleased to be able to donate it to our home county thanks to the generosity of our partners.”

First opened in 1988, Longwood Park and Recreation Center provides residents and visitors with amenities including a gymnasium, lighted outdoor basketball and tennis courts, a picnic pavilion with grills, meeting rooms, a kitchen and more. The facility is available for rent for private parties.

For more information contact the Sarasota County Call Center at 941-861-5000 or visit [www.scgov.net](http://www.scgov.net) and ask about Longwood Park.