Binghamton U. students, volunteers give Rec Park field a facelift
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BINGHAMTON — Binghamton University students collaborated with the city, local businesses
and non-profit organizations to bring new life to Recreation Park that should have an impact
long after their graduation.

Students in the PricewaterhouseCoopers, or PwC, scholars program
spent Friday renovating the Little League field at Rec Park with help from the city Department
of Parks and Recreation and volunteers from Life is Washable Inc., a non-profit organization.
Those three groups comprise the OurSpace partnership that’s focused on improving
accessibility in the park.

New dugouts, fencing and paths were added to make the field more accessible
for anyone who may want to use it as part of the OurSpace initiative.

“There’s over 30,000 people in our local area that have a disability of one kind or another,” said
Jennifer O’Brien, the executive director of Life is Washable. “All the different components have a
multi-age, multi-ability thing going on.”

A total of $140,000 in improvements
to the baseball field are being made after nine months of planning.

The field surface was also improved
especially the dirt base paths, to make them more user-friendly for someone with a
wheelchair or walker. Not all the changes were structural, however, as volunteers painted a mural
on the maintenance shed near the park, constructed a new scoreboard and planted trees on the
hill overlooking the field.

Even the Rec Park carousel got some attention, with students polishing the horses and
sweeping up the space. New paint was applied to the lower sections of the bath house and the
“Boy with Fish” statue in the park received a spring cleaning.

Later in the summer, an electronic scoreboard and new fences will be installed at the larger
baseball field near the tennis courts.

David Schwartz, president of the PwC scholars program, said it was “amazing
” to know the work his group and the community had completed would have an impact. During
the work period, which began at 9 a.m. Friday and ran through 5 p.m., all 125 members of the
student organization were expected to participate.