



Media Contact:
James McCafferty
360-548-8048

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 11, 2009

Community Playground to be Designed by Area Youth

Children in Stanwood and Camano Island will have their say in a new playground to be built at Freedom Park at Terry's Corner on Camano Island. "On Design Day – May 22nd – local kids get to work with the designer to decide what the playground will actually look like," explained Greg Gilday, the project's coordinator.

Similar community playgrounds have been designed by youth in Oak Harbor, Anacortes and Lynden. "This is a true community effort," explained Gilday, "people of all ages and abilities come together and donate the time, effort and materials needed to create the dreams of our children." Every item in the community playground has the opportunity to have sponsor's names or words – from fence pickets to slides to playhouse structures.

Design Day will involve all Stanwood Camano youth from Kindergarten to fifth grade. Local elementary schools will receive the blank planning sheets for youth to draw their ideal playground. The playground's designer from Leathers and Associates will meet with youth from Cedarhome and Utsalady Elementary to hear first-hand the magic behind the drawings. The day culminates in a public debut of the final design that evening at 6:30pm at a community celebration at the Camano Community and Senior Center.

"The playground is a blank slate right up to the public announcement," explained Gilday. "Each park designed by Leathers and Associates is unique and reflects the local community." The company began Community Playgrounds in 1971 offering design assistance to support community build projects. The company has designed playgrounds in all 50 states and in 7 other countries.

The Stanwood Camano Community Playground is a community effort. Volunteers and donations are what will make this playground a reality for our children. Donations may be made to the Stanwood Camano Area Foundation on behalf of the project. Please join us for our Kick-off Party being held at the Camano Community and Senior Center on May 22 at 6:30 to learn more about our playground. More information is available at iHeartParks.org or by calling 360-629-2900.

###