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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Playground Ribbon Cutting Today

After more than 1,000 volunteers within a 5 day period the Rotary Adventure Playground will open with a race to the slides, swings and more today, May 23, 2010 at 6pm. Everyone is invited to come play tonight! The playground is located within Freedom Park at Terry's Corner on Camano Island. Exit 212 on I-5 and 12 minutes west.

"It is a humbling thing to see so many people take time from work, to bring their entire family, to work a 3 or 4 hour shift," explained project coordinator Greg Gilday. "So many people have come back a second or third time." Many people simply saw the effort as they drove by and pulled over to lend a hand. Photos of the build process are available on-line at www.iHeartParks.org.

The Rotary Adventure Playground is a destination quality playground meaning that it is so large, of such high quality and diverse in components and designed for all ages. "Similar playgrounds attract families from 50 to 60 miles away just because the kids and parents enjoy it so much."

The playground began as a concept by Gilday after visiting a similar playground. "I thought, this is really cool, why don't we have something like this in our community," he said. After forming a small group of community members the fundraising efforts began. In less than 10 months more than \$200,000 had been raised for the materials and even more had been graciously donated as in-kind support.

The playground was designed and construction overseen by Leathers and Associates which builds playgrounds around the world. "No two are alike," explained Gilday, "they work with community kids to develop the imagination behind the components." From canoes, Viking ships, tree houses, tractors, airplanes and the always required slides and swings to even more the imaginations are youth a everywhere within the playground. A covered pavilion is located at the entrance and benches are within the playground for ever watchful parents to have a place to enjoy the view.

Throughout the build area restaurants and businesses donated meals for volunteers while those driving by honked in support of the project. "Every time I looked up it seemed something new had been built," said one volunteer. "We just could not have done it without the support of the community," said Gilday, "Thank you just doesn't seem enough for everyone you lent a hand, tools, equipment and support."

The Playground will be closed on Monday May 24, 2010 during the day for its final inspection from Leathers and Associates.

The Rotary Adventure Playground is a community effort. Donations are what made this playground a reality for our children. All funds collected beyond the construction costs are being placed in an endowment for on-going maintenance to make this Playground a community treasure in perpetuity. Donations may be made to the Stanwood Camano Area Foundation on behalf of the project. More information is available at www.iHeartParks.org or by calling 360-629-2900.

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