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For Immediate Release

Milwaukee County Parks Celebrate New Washington Park Playground and Play Trail *Two Innovative Play Concepts Introduced – First Play Trail in Wisconsin*

Milwaukee, WI (October 8, 2012) Milwaukee County Parks, in partnership with GameTime®, announces a ribbon cutting at the new Washington Park Playground and Play Trail at 1859 N. 40 St., Wednesday, October 10, at 4 p.m. GameTime® is a Playcore Company that provided financial assistance through grants and donations.

“The new Playground and Play Trail is a unique concept in our park system and will be a true asset to the community that surrounds Washington Park,” County Executive Chris Abele said. “Both the *Tree for All* Playground and the *Play Pod Trail* introduce the latest in play technology—promoting the bonding of families as they play together, getting fit, healthy and active.”

The 9,000-square-foot *Tree for All* playground was designed to inspire children’s imaginations. The realistic centerpiece is a “tree” made of glass-fiber reinforced concrete (GFRC). It is wheelchair-accessible and features slides, ropes, and climbing, spinning, and moveable components. Play elements are age-appropriate for both 2- to 5-year-olds and 6- to 12-year-olds. Beneath the play area is a multi-colored, poured-in-place resilient rubber surface. The *Tree for All* playground is located near Lisbon Avenue and Lloyd Street.

Supervisor Russell Stamper II, District 5, who oversees the Washington Park area, said, “The new Washington Park playground and play trail are a wonderful addition to our beautiful Washington Park. I’m delighted at the renewed opportunity for families and children to engage in fun activity.”

The *Play Pod Trail* is the first of its kind in Wisconsin. The trail is composed of six “play pods,” or activity components, interwoven with a meandering trail amid mature trees. Each play pod has a nature theme along with interpretive signage to help visitors understand the natural world around them. Themes include trees, leaves, mushrooms, bees, butterflies, and pond life. Each play pod is set upon a poured-in-place resilient rubber surface that mimics the green grass surrounding the play trail. Both children and adults are immersed in nature as they walk along the trail to discover the next play pod. The *Play Pod Trail* offers families the opportunity to be active together, to socialize, and to have fun learning. The trail is located at 40 Street and Vliet Street (near the pool parking lot).

For more information on Milwaukee County Playground locations please go to countyparks.com and search “Tot Lots” or <http://county.milwaukee.gov/ParksandPublicInfras7720/TotLots.htm>.

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