



Parks Foundation Calgary, City of Calgary Parks Partner to Rebuild Calgary’s Aging Playgrounds

Calgary, Alberta (October 2nd, 2009)- Parks Foundation Calgary will officially celebrate the Building Playgrounds and Communities Grant program today in Forest Heights at 3rd Avenue and 43rd Street S.E. at 10:00 A.M. The grant program is designed to help communities in need in Calgary replace their unsafe and underused playgrounds. The grant program gives communities the opportunity to apply for up to \$25,000 towards funding their playground project.

Thanks to the Building Playgrounds and Communities Grant program, four playgrounds will be completed by October 6th in Forest Lawn, Forest Heights (where today’s press conference is being held), Falconridge and Albert Park. Two more playgrounds funded in part through the Grant program have already been completed at Our Lady Peace School and Fish Creek School. Myrna Dubé, President of Parks Foundation Calgary believes the grant program will make a lasting difference in the lives of Calgary’s children. “Playgrounds are places where children and adults from all backgrounds can meet and play. They enrich neighborhoods and add value to communities. Through our partnership with City of Calgary Parks, we are strengthening communities, one playground at a time”.

Parks Foundation Calgary has partnered with City of Calgary Parks, who adds additional funding for those communities who receive grants plus the invaluable support of their staff. “The Building Playgrounds and Communities Grant program is another example of how Parks Foundation Calgary is working with the City to help create a greater Calgary. City of Calgary Parks is excited to continue to build playgrounds through this partnership”, Anne Charlton, Director, City of Calgary Parks says.

Four of the playgrounds made possible through the grant program are being built by corporate teams working through the United Way of Calgary and Area’s Days of Caring™ Campaign. “It is incredible to see so many people come together to make a difference in children’s lives. United Way is focused on helping kids grow up great and these Days of Caring™ are great examples of how people can give back to improve the lives of children across our city,” Ruth Ramsden-Wood, President of United Way of Calgary and Area says.

Community support for the grant program has been great. “Parks Foundation Calgary not only helped us fund our playground through the grant program, but they supported us throughout the whole process. Now we will have a playground that our kids can enjoy safely, a playground that our community can be proud of”, Gary Ursu of Forest Heights Community Association says. “We could not have built it without the help of Parks Foundation Calgary”.