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Connerton Residents Open Their One-of-a-Kind Playground

Connerton residents celebrate grand opening of Connerton Cove Saturday, Jan. 12

TAMPA, Fla. (January 11, 2008) – Connerton Cove, a one-of-a-kind playground built and designed by Connerton residents, will officially open with a pirate party at 3 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 12 in Connerton. Residents and volunteers used donated materials to construct the unique playground they helped design.

Located in the open green field next to the Rose Cottage Welcome Center, Connerton Cove marks a very personal addition to the community.

“The playground fits into Connerton’s unique, natural motif,” said resident Joe Hartman, who helped build the playground. “That the playground was built, not just bought, makes it more special.” Vinny Breault, another resident volunteer, said he enjoyed getting to know his neighbors while creating this state-of-the-art playground that will be used by Connerton families to come.

Connerton parents and kids helped design their custom Learning Structures playground, adding unique touches like telescopes and portholes to go along with a pirate-theme. Learning Structures, a company specializing in community-built playgrounds, coordinated volunteers and helped them complete the project.

Pete Costanza from Costanza Homes, one of Connerton’s homebuilders, recommended Connerton pair up with Learning Structures to build a playground. “Connerton is very family oriented and building a Learning Structures playground seemed like a great activity for the community,” he said.

Building Connerton Cove was also a chance for the community to express its originality. According to Bryan Gifford, the project’s resident community chair and a volunteer builder, “the playground demonstrates how unique living in Connerton is.” He felt rewarded as a school bus drove by and the children inside cheered at the sight of the playground being erected.

Connerton provides many other community activities for all members of the family, such as wine tasting events and walking clubs for adults and the Connerton Kid’s program for children. Jon Liles, Connerton’s activities director, organizes various events to keep the whole community

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engaged. The community-built playground is one such activity that will also become an enjoyable amenity for Connerton's families and future residents. The Connerton Cove site will be used for themed parties, arts and crafts, and other community events, especially for Connerton's younger children.

Publix and Smith Family Homes each provided a team of volunteers to help build the playground. Publix, Hungry Harry's and Christo's Restaurant also donated food to the volunteers.

The following vendors donated supplies, materials and/or labor at reduced prices for the build:

- Home Depot
- H.D. Supply
- IM Connectors
- Keys Concrete
- Sherwin Williams
- Acker Tire Service
- Highwoods Contracting
- Heidt & Associates
- MEI
- WTS International
- Costanza Homes
- Smith Family Homes
- WREC
- Rentalex
- Florida's Mulch Express
- Landscape Creations
- Greenacre Properties
- Sunrise Landscape
- Connerton, LLC and Connerton residents

About Learning Structures, Inc.

Learning Structures specializes in designing and developing accessible, cost-effective, and unique community-built playgrounds. The company pioneered the community-built approach 35 years ago and has completed more than 750 playgrounds with more than 100,000 volunteers in 35 states. All playgrounds meet or exceed all safety guidelines for public playground safety. Learning Structures features children's design ideas and artwork in one-of-a-kind playgrounds built with local materials and which are accessible for all physical abilities. For more information on Learning Structures visit www.learningstructures.com or contact Kelli Magowan at (603) 664-5490 or kelli@learningstructures.com.

About Connerton

Connerton is a 4,800-acre mixed-use master planned community in central Pasco County and the only "New Town" currently under construction in the greater Tampa Bay area. In total, approximately 8,500 residential units are planned with more than 3 million square feet of commercial space for office, retail and industrial uses. The Arbors, the first village in Connerton, is nearly sold out. Village Two, The Gardens, is now selling.

The community currently features amenities including a Village Center with a Publix Super Market, banks and other convenient shops and services; and walking trails, boardwalks, neighborhood parks and conservation areas. A fitness and aquatics complex, an amphitheatre and parks are under development; and a hospital, medical offices, a regional park and three schools and a town center are also planned.

For more information on Connerton, call (813) 995-2460 or visit www.connerton.com.

**Editor's Note: photos of residents/volunteers building playground available upon request*