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**NEWS RELEASE**

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**Downtown Creswell Playground Opens at Last!**

*Creswell's Harry Holt Memorial Park takes on new life with scores of laughing kids!*

CRESWELL, OR —The playground that Project Playground's four moms have been planning for two-and-a-half years has finally found a home at the center of Creswell's Harry Holt Memorial Park. Before January 25, the acre-square park was comprised of mostly grass, with a few aging pieces of playground equipment. Now, the old merry-go-round, which used to be the centerpiece, is "old news."

The new park sports an attractive, earth-toned combination of new equipment, designed for fun for all ages, with increased safety and accessibility. The new centerpiece is an impressive-looking 8-foot-tall play structure with two towers and two slides, an assortment of climbing elements for children of varying abilities, a moving bridge, a play niche beneath, and a cool new element called "The Accelerator," which a child spins by using his or her body weight.

Next door is a 12-foot-tall PlayNet climbing structure, another relatively new play element rarely seen in other parks, which is receiving rave reviews. A popular six-foot rock climbing wall also sits nearby.

For the younger yet, a colorful train engine and "dining car" attachment offer gentle climbing fun. A "Buckabout" replaces the old teeter-totter, providing bouncy fun for 1 to 4 children. Two more bouncers—a realistic-looking dinosaur and a two-seater plane—are also proving very popular. New, safer tot swings complete the play repertoire for little ones.

"It's so exciting to drive by and see what used to be a very mundane, underused space is now a dynamic, vibrant park!" says Deb Jolda, PP mom. "What a wild ride!"

The group of four moms with seven kids (Juli McLennan, Monica Marquess, Heidi Wegand, and Deb Jolda) started from scratch in 2004 when they grew frustrated with driving to other cities so their kids could play. When they learned that the city had no parks budget, the group set to work, learning all about play equipment and safety, how to build budgets, how to write grants, and how to plan fundraisers. For example, from a humble pie auction to start the process, the group successfully planned and executed Creswell's Run for the Park fundraiser two years in a row, raising nearly \$20,000 from the two events. The group hopes the event will continue to raise money for Creswell's kids through a local runners group, with sponsorship from the Creswell Kiwanis Club.

Visit [home.centurytel.net/playground](http://home.centurytel.net/playground) for more information, including photos, or email [playground@centurytel.net](mailto:playground@centurytel.net), or call 895-5609.

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