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PRESS RELEASE

Sumner to Dedicate Rainier View Park

Sumner, WA—On July 1, 2007, the City of Sumner will dedicate Rainier View Park. A public dedication ceremony at 1 pm will be followed at 2 pm by a special performance of the popular outdoor concert series, Music Off Main with Touch of Class performing big band music.

Rainier View Park adds to Sumner's park system a resource to serve the neighborhoods on the east side of the city. At the beginning of the park's design in 2003, the City of Sumner asked school children, senior citizens and citizens of all ages to describe their perfect park. Suggestions ranged from laser tag to swimming pools complete with bathing suit rentals!

However, many of the things that kept appearing over and over in the visions were used by park architects Duane Dietz and Kristin Levar to design Rainier View Park. Much of the children's suggestions could be captured with the word, *whimsy*, so the architects used that whimsical theme throughout the park. Such resources as grassy hills, basketball court, picnic shelter and barbecues, playground equipment, children's climbing wall and gathering spaces are in Rainier View because of the public's vision for their park.

For the park's entry plaza, the Sumner Arts Commission worked with artists Bruce & Shannon Andersen and Renee O'Connor to cover the plaza with mosaics. O'Connor completed the more formal central medallion while the Andersens worked on the "furniture" and entry signs. The Andersens also included the creativity of Sumner students at Daffodil Valley Elementary and Maple Lawn Elementary. They went to the schools and worked with students to make the mosaic pieces that are now part of their artwork in the park.

Individual donors also helped make the park possible, giving over \$15,000 to help build the park. The lead donor, Rotary Club of Sumner, gave \$13,000 for such amenities as the entry sign and picnic shelter. "This park will be something special," said Sumner Mayor Dave Enslow. "And, I think it's because of all the people who made it happen—from the citizens who told us what they wanted to the volunteers who shaped it through the Parks Commission and the Forestry Commission to the staff who made sure it got built."

Mayor Enslow believes the park is already a hit. "We've seen all ages using it throughout the day, from adults walking through it to children playing on the equipment. This is exactly what we wanted: for the citizens to take it as their park to use and enjoy."

Rainier View Park is located at 15601 Meade McCumber Road East, Sumner WA 98390, which is the corner of Parker Road and Meade-McCumber Road. After the July 1 concert, the Music Off Main series returns to its normal location in Downtown Sumner's Heritage Park.

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