



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Cincinnati Nature Center Announces the Groundbreaking of the Marge and Charles Schott Nature Playscape

CNC will host the groundbreaking of the Marge and Charles Schott Nature Playscape, the first nature playscape in Greater Cincinnati, on August 24th, at 10 a.m. at the Rowe Woods location in Milford, OH. Along with being the **first nature playscape** in Greater Cincinnati, CNC's Nature Playscape will be one of the largest in the country.

"Part of our mission is to 'inspire passion for nature.' By building a nature playscape, the Cincinnati Nature Center is taking an invaluable step toward strengthening the connection between children and nature," says Bill Hopple, executive director of the Cincinnati Nature Center. "Research indicates that unstructured play in nature increases self-esteem, motor skills, fitness and academic performance. However due to a number of reasons, today's children are spending significantly less time playing in nature than any other generation," stated Hopple.

Hopple and Dr. Victoria Carr, associate professor and director of Arlitt Child and Family Research and Education Center at University of Cincinnati, will be giving keynote speeches. As special guests, children will be participating in the groundbreaking event with their own tools and hardhats.

The nature playscape is designed to provide children with opportunities for unstructured play in a resilient version of local natural habitats. A natural playscape is made up of native plants, fallen logs, boulders, rocks, water and soil to create a forest and field habitat for children to explore. Research shows that a child who is exposed to the outdoor world earlier will develop a lifelong commitment and appreciation for nature.

For more information, attend the ground breaking ceremony August 24, 2010 at 10:00 AM or visit www.CincyNature.org/playscape.html. Cincinnati Nature Center's Rowe Woods is located at 4949 Tealtown Road, Milford, OH 45150.

Cincinnati Nature Center is a non-profit, environmental education organization. Their mission is to inspire passion for nature and promote environmentally responsible choices through experience, education and stewardship to ensure a sustainable future.

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