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CITY OF MADISON
INTER-DEPARTMENTAL
CORRESPONDENCE

DATE: July 1, 2009

TO: Kevin Briski, Park Superintendent

FROM: Kay Rutledge, Park Planning and Development Manager *KHR*

SUBJECT: Born Learning Trail

The Parks Division has been approached by the United Way of Dane County to install *Born Learning Trails* in several of the City of Madison Parks as part of their "Days of Caring" volunteer effort scheduled for August 25, 27 and 28. The *Born Learning Trail* captures 10 fun outdoor games on engaging signs to help parents and caregivers create learning opportunities for a young child. With 42% of Madison children lacking the language and social skills they need to be prepared for kindergarten, these trails can have a huge impact on building those skills for our children. The best part of the trails is how it helps the parents get takeaway lessons they can use to continue helping their child at home.

Potential parks have been identified which are located near existing sites where the United Way provides "Play and Learn" classes, also geared towards young children and their parents/caregivers. The parks are:

- Aldo Leopold Park
- High Point Park
- Huegel Park
- Marlborough Park
- Northland Manor Park
- Worthington Park

Recently a *Born Learning Trail* was installed at Lakeview Park in Middleton and the park trail was being used by families almost immediately after it was installed on May 20th. The installation photos at Lakeview Park are available at:
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/30452337@N08/sets/72157618639082744/>

Additional information regarding *Born Learning Trails* is attached; all funding for materials and installation of the signs and trail components along with ongoing maintenance will be provided by sponsors. Representatives from the United Way of Dane County will attend the Park Commission meeting on July 8th to gain concurrence for this project so that sponsors can be lined up and installation can move forward in August.

Attachment