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**DWIGHT MERKEL SPORTS COMPLEX
RECEIVES
WRPA SPOTLIGHT AWARD**

**Robert W. Droll, Architect & Bouton Construction
Recognized for Design & Construction**

Spokane BMX & Northwest Neighborhood Crucial to Success of Project

At the annual Washington Recreation & Park Association (WRPA) Awards Banquet held April 26 - 29 in Wenatchee, the Dwight Merkel Sports Complex was recognized with a Spotlight Award for Best Sports Complex in the "Facilities and Parks" category.

**SPOTLIGHT AWARD RECIPIENT
For Facilities and Parks, Best Sports Complex
Dwight Merkel Sports Complex, Spokane Parks & Recreation**

"We are especially proud of this recognition on behalf of the spectacular job done by our landscape architect, Robert W. Droll, and our General Contractor, Bouton Construction," said Leroy Eadie, director of Parks and Recreation for the City of Spokane.

Eadie also recognized the non-profit citizens group, Spokane BMX volunteers, who have provided all of the work shaping, outfitting and operating the new BMX track at the Merkel complex.

Additionally, Eadie recognized members of the Northwest Neighborhood and the ten members of the Parks Bond Citizens Advisory Committee for their time and dedication in ensuring the facilities met all the standards in quality and safety, as well as meeting expectations of the voters who had supported the project with an overwhelming 68.1228% “yes” vote in 2007.

About WRPA Spotlight Awards

The WRPA has established seven awards to recognize organizations and individuals (volunteers and professionals) for their contributions to the Park and Recreation field. These award recipients are recognized at the WRPA Awards Banquet during its annual conference. This year the conference was held Thursday, April 28, 2011 at the Wenatchee Convention Center.

About the Dwight Merkel Sports Complex

Named for one of the city’s most influential figures in the development of athletic competition for children, the Dwight Merkel Sports Complex was constructed using \$7 million from the 2007 City of Spokane Parks Improvement Bond along with \$4 million from the sale of park property that was approved by City voters in 1999 and subsequently held in reserve.

The new Dwight Merkel Sports Complex features:

- Six full size natural grass soccer fields
- Two full size synthetic athletic fields with lights
- Five softball diamonds with lights
- One youth baseball field
- Concessions, rest rooms and meeting space
- BMX track with lights & timing equipment
- Skate Park
- Neighborhood park with splash pad & playground
- A paved perimeter trail, plus an unpaved hiking trail approximately 1 mile long that leads down to Riverside State Park’s trails and offers outstanding views of the Spokane River.

About Spokane Parks and Recreation

City of Spokane Parks and Recreation is responsible for the professional management and prudent caretaking of more than 4,100 acres of developed parks and conservation land. The Golf Division maintains and operates four championship municipal golf courses, including Indian Canyon, Downriver, Esmeralda and the Creek at Qualchan. Park Operations has responsibility for the maintenance of all park land and park facilities in the City of Spokane including Riverfront Park, Manito Park, Gaiser Conservatory, the many city-wide gardens, and Finch Arboretum. Urban Forestry staff manages 50,000 street trees and another 28,000 trees on developed park land within the City of

Spokane. The Recreation/Entertainment Division offers classes, special events, athletic leagues and activities for youth, teens, adults, seniors and persons with physical and mental disabilities. It also operates Riverfront Park attractions, activities and events, and provides support for community centers, senior centers, the Northeast Youth Center, Corbin Art Center and outdoor swimming pools. For more information please visit www.spokaneparks.org

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