Farmington Hills Department of Special Services presents

"No Child Left Inside" Summit

WHERE DO THE CHILDREN PLAY?

March 22, 2010

6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

at the Costick Center

ALL residents and organizations in Farmington and Farmington Hills are invited to a screening of the PBS award-winning documentary, WHERE DO THE CHILDREN PLAY?, followed by a discussion with WDCP originator and outreach director, Elizabeth Goodenough. Find out what is happening outdoors, offer suggestions for future programs, and get involved in the No Child Left Inside Initiative in Farmington Hills.

$5 donation per adult/child includes: Summit, dinner, children activities, resources, and more. No pre-registration required.

Where Do the Children Play? is an award-winning PBS documentary, book, and outreach project about the vital importance of open-ended play for the healthy development of children. This kind of play is disappearing from children’s lives because of unsafe neighborhoods, parents’ fear of “stranger danger,” even in safe neighborhoods; the seductiveness of electronic games and entertainment; an increase in teacher-led instruction in preschool and kindergarten that is pushing child-initiated learning and exploration out of the classroom; and children’s diminishing access to woods, fields, vacant lots, parks, and other semi-wild play spaces.

The documentary film was inspired by Elizabeth Goodenough’s Secret Spaces of Childhood (University of Michigan Press, 2003). Goodenough, a scholar in the emerging field of children’s studies, noted that time outside school was increasingly filled with adult-organized activities and indoor screen time. Children no longer had the space or opportunity to organize their own play or discover their own secret spaces.

The film challenges communities of all kinds to address the policy issues that need to be faced in relation to children’s outdoor activities, their health and well-being… millions of parents who are troubled by these issues will watch it closely.

Roger Hart, Professor, City University of New York

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL FARMINGTON HILLS SPECIAL SERVICES 248-473-1800