

KaBOOM! Selects Progressive Design Playgrounds' Outdoor Learning Environments Slide for First Natural Playground Project

Commercial Playground Company's Natural Playgrounds Serve as Outdoor Classrooms

Vista, CA, June 16, 2009 – KaBOOM! selected [Progressive Design Playgrounds'](#) Interactive Grass Slide for inclusion in the national nonprofit's inaugural [natural playground](#), which was built in Hawaii last week. The Interactive Grass Slide is a natural playground product designed by Progressive Design Playgrounds, [www.pdplay.com](#), and part of the company's [Outdoor Learning Environments](#) launched earlier this year.

Outdoor Learning Environments are natural playgrounds that extend the classroom into the outdoors where children can play with and among natural elements such as sand, water and living plants. Through natural learning, these [outdoor classrooms](#) enhance and reinforce the lessons students learn in every subject from math to the arts. They range from vegetable gardens, to slides built into grass hills, to stages where pretend play capitalizes on natural surroundings to stimulate young minds. More elaborate natural playgrounds include science labs, greenhouses, ponds, dirt trails, trike trails and mazes and reading amphitheaters. They often include local plants and boulders, contributing to the authenticity of the natural environment. A list of these natural playground products can be found online at [www.outdoorlearningenvironments.com](#).

Designed by kids and built by volunteers, the new 29,000 square foot play space at YMCA Camp H.R. Erdman in Waialua, uses natural elements as the foundation for endless play opportunities including a fort made using previously cut down trees, a maze consisting of Hawaiian vegetation, a boulder garden and Progressive Design Playgrounds' Interactive Grass Slide embedded into the natural topography of a hill. This natural playground was built over the course of four days by KaBOOM! organizers, more than 250 volunteers from the YMCA of Honolulu and residents of the community.

The Interactive Grass Slide is a custom slide built right into the earth so children can safely slide down a steep incline without the use of costly safety surfacing. Kids can play king of the hill; race balls down underground tube tunnels or go for a good old-fashioned roll down the hill. Suitable for toddlers and teenagers alike, this slide is custom designed to fit the environment and the educational or community facility.

Progressive Design Playgrounds Outdoor Learning Environments meet or exceed U.S. and International safety requirements.

KaBOOM!

KaBOOM! is a national nonprofit organization that envisions a great place to play within walking distance of every child in America. Since 1995, KaBOOM! has used its innovative community-build model to bring together business and community interests to construct more than 1,600 new playgrounds, skateparks, sports fields and ice rinks across North America. KaBOOM! also offers a variety of resources, including an online community, regional and national trainings, grants, publications and the KaBOOM! National Campaign for Play, which includes Playful City USA and Playmakers – a national network of individual advocates for play. Headquartered in Washington, D.C., KaBOOM! also has offices in Chicago and San Mateo, Calif. For more information, visit [www.kaboom.org](#).

Progressive Design Playgrounds

Progressive Design Playgrounds designs and manufactures state-of-the-art and environmentally friendly commercial playground equipment, natural playgrounds, safety surfacing and recreation site furnishings. Based in Vista, California, Progressive Design Playgrounds' play structures and natural playgrounds are available worldwide through an extensive dealer network. For more information visit the company's website at [www.pdplay.com](#).

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