

For Immediate Release



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Warriors welcome at new Desert Hills Challenge Course

[Kennewick, Wash] – The city and Kennewick School District have teamed up to make wellness more fun with a warrior-style challenge course now open at Desert Hills Middle School.

The 4,700 square foot obstacle course for teens and adults contains 11 components that can be conquered in 10 minutes. The parkour-type course addresses and promotes speed, agility, strength and balance, and features a human-powered timer so warriors can track their progress and compare their speed, explained the city's Parks and Recreation Director Emily Estes-Cross.

"This is a multi-generational recreation activity that kids and adults of every fitness level can enjoy together," Estes-Cross said. "Our mission is to create a healthy social network of recreation opportunities throughout the city, and this serves a different audience than the other 31 traditional play structures we maintain."

The \$275,000 of equipment and construction is funded with Park Impact Fees, not resident taxes, on a small piece of undeveloped school district land at the edge of Desert Hills Middle School. Park Impact Fees are paid by residential property developers for every new home built in Kennewick, and earmarked for new parks and recreation amenities in the same designated area.

Since the city doesn't own park land in the southwest portion of Kennewick, it partnered with the school district to use their property between a parking area and sports fields on West 15th Avenue just off Bob Olson Parkway to host the recreational amenity for the general public.

For more information, please contact Emily Estes-Cross at (509) 585-4258.

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