



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

City of Ridgefield Receives \$6,200 Grant from the Parks Foundation for New Bleachers in Abrams Park

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Ridgefield, WA, June 15, 2011 – The City of Ridgefield has been awarded a \$6,200 grant from the Parks Foundation of Clark County supporting purchase and installation of new bleachers at the Little League baseball and softball fields in the City's Abrams Park. The grant, which was awarded during yesterday's annual luncheon of the Parks Foundation, was funded through a donation by Waste Connections.

The grant provides funding for the acquisition of four new aluminum bleachers (40 seat capacity per bleacher, four-row, 15-feet long). The City of Ridgefield partnered with the Ridgefield Little League in the grant application, with Ridgefield Little League agreeing to provide a match to the grant request in the form of volunteer labor to install the bleachers. Ridgefield Little League has also acquired two additional aluminum bleachers of the same size to add to the project.

The City of Ridgefield, in partnership with the Ridgefield Little League, operates and maintains the baseball, softball, and T-ball fields located in the City's Abrams Park. These fields, which have been a community asset for nearly 50 years, include bleachers that have been in-place for approaching 30 years. Due to age and constant exposure to outdoor conditions, the current condition of the bleachers requires their replacement.

Nearly 400 young athletes annually participate on 35 teams in the Ridgefield Little League, with all league games and practices completed at the Abrams Park fields. The fields are used six days a week between March 1 and July 1, with approximately six teams using the fields each weekday and over 30 teams using the fields on each Saturday. The bleachers serving these fields are constantly used by the families of the athletes throughout practices and games.

“We are extremely grateful to the Parks Foundation and Waste Connections for this grant” said Mayor Ron Onslow. “Through partnership with the Ridgefield Little League and other community organizations, Ridgefield is working towards improvements to the facilities of our premier park, Abrams Park. This effort includes the planned expenditure of over \$200,000 in City funds towards a new play structure and associated improvements in Abrams Park later this summer.”

About the Parks Foundation of Clark County

The mission of the Parks Foundation of Clark County is to raise funds through public and private partnerships in support of the parks, trails, and recreational programs of Clark County.

The foundation accomplishes its mission by creating and nurturing innovative partnerships, administering strategic grants, and establishing special funds to enhance the parks, trails, and recreational programs of Clark County.

Established in 1999, the foundation, as a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization, accepts and administers donations, gifts, and bequests, and provides support and assistance in raising funds and promoting the special projects and programs as identified and prioritized by the cities of Clark County.

The Parks Foundation also serves as a resource and network to the individual groups and organizations working to enhance the parks, trails, and recreation programs of Clark County.

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The City of Ridgefield, incorporated in 1909, is a rapidly growing community located in northern Clark County, Washington approximately 10 miles north of Vancouver, Washington. Over the next 20 years, the City of Ridgefield expects to grow to a population of over 26,000 persons with an employment base of over 13,000 jobs. The City has adopted a Council-City Manager form of government. The City Manager acts as the chief executive officer of the City overseeing daily operations, annual budget development and implementation, and personnel. The City Manager works with a management team composed of the Director of Finance and Administration, the Finance Division Director, the Public Works Director and the Police Chief to ensure that community services are provided and that the policy directives of the City Council are carried out in the most efficient manner possible.