



# PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

## City of Ridgefield Installs New Play Area and Completes First Phase of Improvements to Abrams Park



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**Ridgefield, WA, December 29, 2011** – The City of Ridgefield has recently completed construction of a new play area and play structure in Abrams Park; the first phase of multiple improvements identified in the City’s 2008 Abrams Park Master Plan. The new play structure is located between the softball and baseball fields in Abrams Park and was installed to replace the outdated wood play structure that was donated by Pacific Wood Treating and installed by volunteers in the early 1970s. The new play area was designed by MacKay & Sposito (Vancouver, WA), and the play area and Landscape Structures, Inc. equipment were installed by G.R. Morgan (Portland, OR). Given the timing of completion in the winter months, the City will likely hold a dedication ceremony in the spring or summer of 2012.

The old wood structure had a great deal of community sentimental value; however, it was in need of such significant repairs to maintain a safe play environment that the Abrams Park

Master Plan recommended it be replaced. The new play structure is constructed of coated steel, plastic and other long lasting materials that are now standard in the play structure industry and can withstand the elements and still provide a safe play environment for kids. Even though the new structure is made of modern materials, one of the primary goals of the project was to maintain the feel and nostalgia of the old wood structure. Mayor Ron Onslow said “We’re delighted with the new structure and confident it will bring as much fun and joy to the park as the old structure.”

The project was paid for through City collected Park Impact Fees and Real Estate Excise Tax (REET) money. The REET funding was made possible through a grant from the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO). The City had purchased a 3-acre parcel of land adjoining Abrams Park for \$300,000 with REET funds and then successfully obtained a grant from RCO to reimburse the City for approximately \$154,000 of the total land purchase. The \$154,000 reimbursement was then used to help offset a portion of the cost of the play area improvements.

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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 the council-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/City Clerk, 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.