



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

City of Ridgefield Acquires Neighborhood Park Site

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Ridgefield, WA, April 27, 2012 – At their April 26 meeting, the Ridgefield City Council approved the purchase of a 20 acre site that will become a new city park. The property is located on Hillhurst Road at the northerly end of the Taverner Ridge development and includes roughly seven acres of gently sloping land with an additional 13 acres of forested green space. The access road to the “River S” unit of the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge currently runs through the site. The City worked with the owners of the Taverner Ridge development over the last several months to negotiate the terms of the sale. The purchase agreement calls for the City to complete an environmental review of the property and obtain an updated appraisal prior to finalizing the purchase.

The City’s Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plan identifies the need for a new neighborhood park (identified in the Plan as NP-6) along Hillhurst Road in the vicinity of the Taverner Ridge development and City leaders feel this acquisition will meet that need. Ridgefield Mayor Ron Onslow commented on the enthusiastic support of the City Council for this acquisition: “We are excited to be able to secure this readily accessible park site in an area currently underserved by City parks. Being able to preserve access to Lake River and the forested slope leading down to Lake River was a bonus.” Paul DeBoni, representing the seller added: “We are pleased to have the City purchase this parcel. The addition of a City park on the site will be a real asset for the nearby development and the community.”

The purchase price of the park site is \$400,000 and will be paid for out of City Park Impact Fees received from developers over the past several years. The City does not currently have plans to develop the park. Initial planning for future development of a park on the site could proceed in the next year or so subject to available funding.

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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 with an employment base of over 13,000 jobs. For additional information on the City of Ridgefield go to www.ci.ridgefield.wa.us or contact Paul Lewis at 360.887.3557.