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Date: 7-16-09

Media and Interested Parties

Clackamas County Commissioners approve Hood View Park name for NCPRD's newest

North Clackamas Parks and Recreation District's (NCPRD) newest park will be named Hood View Park, Clackamas County Commissioners announced today.

The 35-acre park is located north of Highway 212 between 162nd and 172nd Avenue in Happy Valley. It will open officially with a ceremony Thursday, July 30, at noon. The public is invited to enjoy their first hot dogs in the park.

A Clackamas band, the Green Machine Jazz Ensemble, will perform at the opening. Dignitaries will speak briefly before they join partners and local children to cut the ribbon.

NCPRD hosts the park's first activities when the Amateur Softball Association Western National tournament for girls ages 12 and under comes to NCPRD's Hood View Park and North Clackamas Park to play July 27 to Aug. 2.

Anyone interested in volunteering with the tournament is encouraged to contact NCPRD Volunteer Coordinator Clee Ann Hart at 503-742-4350 or by e-mail at cleannhar@co.clackamas.or.us.

For more about the park, call 503-742-4353. For more about the tournament, call 503-742-4371.

BACKGROUND: The much-anticipated park in Happy Valley is also seeking sponsors to help fund ongoing park maintenance and to help keep player and usage fees affordable to all, parks district officials announced.

The multi-million dollar, state-of-the-art park complex between 162nd and 172nd Avenue features four ball fields with all-weather turf, two soccer fields, wireless scoreboards and myriad amenities. The park will eventually be home to a recreation center, off-leash dog area, basketball courts and a skate park as well.

The park is located between Highway 212 and Sunnyside at 162nd Avenue and lies between North Clackamas School District's newest elementary and middle schools. It is expected to draw nearly a half-million visitors annually.

"We are not only excited about opening this new world-class park for our citizens, but about giving companies the opportunity to partner with the parks district through sponsorships while encouraging physical activity," said Dan Zinzer, director of NCPRD and Clackamas County Business and Community Services. "This is a great opportunity for businesses or individuals to support kids while showcasing their businesses."

Levels of sponsorships include field naming and sponsorship of the entire park. They will not only allow local or national companies to market themselves and get more exposure but also to help fight childhood obesity and promote youth activity and health awareness for park users of all ages.

NCPRD and Metro Parks and Greenspaces purchased the 35 acres for use as an active park.

Funding for the acquisition comes from the 2006 voter-approved Metro Natural Areas, Parks and Streams Bond Measure and the NCPRD Capital Improvement Plan. NCPRD identified this park as satisfying the number-one priority of the Happy Valley annexation, approved by voters in 2006.

The \$7.7 million purchase is adjacent to about 40 acres recently purchased by the North Clackamas School District (NC12) that is planned for development of a new middle and elementary school. It is the intention of NCPRD and NC12 to share facilities, including parking, recreational fields and roads.

"I'm pleased that the parks district coordinated with the school district for an efficient use of land," said Commissioner Charlotte Lehan. "Having parks and schools next to each other just makes good sense."

"This fulfills a longstanding promise to residents of the Parks District," said Commissioner Jim Bernard of Milwaukie. "It's good to have Happy Valley and other north county residents see this come true for the benefit of the region."

Through coordination of NCPRD, Metro and NC12, this new community park and school will make it easier for residents of all interests and abilities to incorporate outdoor activity into their daily lives.

Marketing opportunities are still available, with proceeds going to maintenance of the park.

To support the new park, contact NCPRD marketing coordinator Toby Forsberg at 503-742-4361 or e-mail tobyfor@co.clackamas.or.us.

MEDIA: Park tours and interviews are available. To schedule, contact Pam Girtman (503-742-4353).