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NEWS RELEASE

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Parks Foundation Annual Luncheon Draws Record Breaking Crowd

*Inaugural Florence B. Wager Awards Presented
Waste Connections Offers Matching Donation Pledge*

VANCOUVER, Wash. – The June 14 Parks Foundation Annual Luncheon drew a record-breaking crowd of 190 to celebrate the presentation of the inaugural Florence B. Wager Awards and distribution of the 2011 Parks Foundation Community Grant Awards.

The following programs and projects were awarded funding for 2011:

- Battle Ground: *Summer Playground Program* – \$6,000 sponsored by Riverview Community Bank.
- Ridgefield: *New bleachers for Abrams Park* – \$6,200 sponsored by Waste Connections, Inc.
- Washougal: *Kerr Island Park Clean Up and Trail Building Day* – \$1,600 sponsored by Columbia Resource Company.
- Vancouver-Clark Parks and Recreation: *Everybody Plays! Recreation Scholarship Program* – \$10,000 in partnership with Waste Connections, Inc.
- Vancouver-Clark Parks & Recreation *Marshall Community Park Nature Play Area Construction* -- \$10,000.
- Yacolt: *New Tri-Bar Playground Equipment* – \$842 in partnership with Northwest Playground Equipment, Inc.

Immediately following the 2011 grant distributions, Jason Hudson, of Waste Connections, Inc., announced Waste Connection would match all donations received through the luncheon appeal in support of the 2012 Parks Foundation Community Grant Awards.

The foundation announced today more than \$8,000 in contributions and pledges has been received for a total, with Waste Connections match, of over \$16,000. One hundred percent

of all funds raised will directly benefit Clark County's parks, trails, and recreation programs through the foundation's 2012 grant awards.

The luncheon also provided an opportunity to honor the inaugural recipients of the Florence B. Wager Award for their commitment and dedication to Clark County's parks, trails, and recreation programs.

Ron Onslow, Ridgefield City Mayor and community activist received the 2011 Leading Eagle award. Onslow's long list of achievements include coordination of volunteer efforts and fundraising events in support of Ridgefield's parks and community gardens, facilitating the improvement of city-owned trails, and leading efforts in planting trees and native plants in parks and open spaces.

In honor of more than 20 years of commitment and dedication to the Vancouver Tennis Center, John Garofalo was awarded the 2011 V-Formation Flyer Award. Garofalo was instrumental in the development of the Vancouver Tennis Center Foundation, and will chair this year's major fundraising event.

Debbi Hanson, Director of Battle Ground Parks and Recreation received the 2011 Tributary Award. Hanson's many achievements include the development of fitness and exercise programs for seniors, establishment of a summer playground program, and creation of community-wide holiday events and programs.

About the Parks Foundation

The Parks and Recreation Foundation of Vancouver and Clark County was established in 1999 to accept and administer donations, gifts and bequests for the enrichment and enhancement of our communities' parks, trails, and recreational programs.

The mission of the Parks Foundation is to raise funds through public and private partnerships for parks, trails, and recreational programs throughout Clark County. The Foundation is a 501 C 3 non-profit corporation and all gifts are tax deductible. The Foundation is governed by a board of directors comprised of local citizens who oversee, invest and administer donations made to the Foundation.