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NEWS RELEASE

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2012 Florence B. Wager Award Winners Announced

Award honors outstanding service and commitment to Clark County's parks, trails, and recreation programs.

VANCOUVER, Wash. – The Parks Foundation of Clark County proudly announces the winners of the 2012 Florence B. Wager Award. The award honors leaders, volunteers, and parks and recreation professionals who, through their actions, influence, and example, have had a significant impact in the development and enhancement of the parks, trails, and recreation programs of Clark County. The award's namesake, Florence B. Wager, has exemplified this level of service in this community for decades.

The **Leading Eagle Award** recognizes a community leader – in business, non-profit, government, or grassroots – who has led initiatives that have significantly influenced the life, health, and direction of our parks, trails, and recreation programs. **Don Cannard**, retired Vancouver School District teacher and administrator, has been selected as the 2012 Leading Eagle recipient. Cannard, a trails' activist, volunteer, and supporter, spearheaded the planning and development of the Ellen Davis Trail, co-founded the Chinook Trails Association, and has been instrumental in the planning, development, and maintenance of a vast array of community projects, including the Cy Ward Garden, the Jane Weber Evergreen Arboretum, and the construction of a "rim top trail", circling the Columbia River Gorge to Vancouver. "Don's interest in trails was far broader and was more characterized by his leadership, not merely his participation in outdoor activities and trails design and construction," said nominator Larry Swatosh.

The **V-Formation Flyer Award** recognizes the spirited volunteer whose dedication goes above and beyond the norm. They unhesitatingly give of their time and resources, organizing, developing, or enhancing the parks, trails, and recreation programs of our community. They are characterized by their consistent and dependable dedication to supporting, sustaining, or building parks, trails, and recreation programs. In honor of her

tireless commitment and dedication to our community, **Dr. Milada Allen** has been named the 2012 V-Formation Flyer award recipient. Allen, longtime Felida Neighborhood Association board member and president, also serves as a member of the Clark County Planning Commission, and in various capacities with numerous other organizations, including Clark Conservation District, Friends of Clark County, Watershed Stewards, and Clark County Veterans' Assistance Center. As president of the Felida Neighborhood Association, Allen serves as a strong advocate and supporter of park, trail, and open space projects, soliciting tens of thousands of dollars in donations, recruiting volunteer support, and organizing fundraising events.

The **Tributary Award** recognizes a parks and recreation professional who has gone above and beyond their daily duties in developing or enhancing innovative programs that connect the public to parks and recreation in new ways, create new efficiencies to ease cost burdens, and/or secure and develop new grant sources or revenue concepts. **Vicki Vanneman**, a 32-year parks and recreation professional, has been selected as the Tributary Award recipient. A ten-year veteran with Vancouver-Clark Parks and Recreation, Vanneman served as construction project manager of the award-winning Firstenburg Community Center, director of the Marshall/Luepke Center campus, and is currently leading special assignments related to the department's recreation transition plan. Vanneman was cited for her commitment to addressing the needs of the under-served in our community, her advocacy in securing external funding to maintain youth, teen, and senior services and programs, and her leadership in serving on external committees like the Clark County Aging Readiness Task Force Committee.

The 2012 Florence B. Wager Awards will be presented at the Parks Foundation Annual Luncheon on Thursday, June 14, at the Vancouver Hilton. This year's keynote speaker is Mike Houck, executive director of the Urban Greenspaces Institute. Go to www.parksfoundation.us to purchase tickets, or find other ways to support the Parks Foundation of Clark County.

The 2012 Florence B. Wager Award recipients were selected by committee members Liz Cervený, Paul Christensen, Val Ogden, Kate Sacamano, Pat Sheaffer, and Florence Wager.

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.

