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Contacts: Morgan Selph, Project Manager, 360-619-1119
Jilayne Jordan, Public Information Officer, 360-619-1141

April 18 Public Meeting Scheduled for Sgt. Brad Crawford Neighborhood Park Development Project

Vancouver-Clark Parks and Recreation will host a public meeting for the Sgt. Brad Crawford Neighborhood Park development project on April 18, 2006. The meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. and will occur at the park, which is located at NW 131st Street and NW 47th Avenue in the Felida area of Clark County.

At the April 18 public meeting, project staff will explain how the park development process works, and will ask neighbors for feedback on how the undeveloped park site is currently being used and how they would like to see it used in the future. Staff will also respond to any initial concerns or questions, and discuss how the memorial aspect of the park will influence its design. The meeting will be held outdoors, so neighbors are asked to dress accordingly and check the weather report. Small tents will be available in case of rain.

This is the first of several public meetings the project team will host as part of the master planning process for this park development project. Developing a master plan is the first step in the project design, and feedback from neighbors plays an important role. A master plan is a graphic representation showing how the park might appear in the future, and is designed to bring the technical aspects of park design together with the needs of the neighborhood. Information gathered from neighbors at the April 18 meeting will assist project staff with the development of several master plan alternatives. These alternatives will be presented to neighbors for review and feedback later this summer.

The undeveloped park site was originally named McCann Neighborhood Park for identification purposes, but was officially changed to Sgt. Brad Crawford Neighborhood Park in 2005. Sgt. Crawford – an active Felida community member, neighbor and Clark County Sheriff's deputy – was killed in the line of duty in 2004. After his death, several community members approached the Felida Neighborhood Association asking if a park could be named in his honor. After considerable research and coordination with Vancouver-Clark Parks and Recreation, the Felida Neighborhood Association distributed a survey to neighbors around McCann Neighborhood Park asking if they would be in favor of renaming it in Sgt. Crawford's honor. The proposal received overwhelming public support, and was later approved by the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission and the Board of Clark County Commissioners. A park naming/dedication ceremony was held at the park in August 2005.

The Sgt. Brad Crawford Neighborhood Park development project is made possible, in part, by the Greater Clark Parks District, a property tax-based special district passed by voters in the unincorporated urban area of Clark County in February 2005. The property taxes collected by the parks district will be used to fund maintenance of 35 new parks, seven miles of trails, and 41 sports fields located in the unincorporated urban area of Clark County. Design and construction of the 35 parks is paid for by Park Impact Fees and by the Real Estate Excise Tax.

For more information, please contact Jilayne Jordan by phone at 360-619-1141; by e-mail at jilayne.jordan@ci.vancouver.wa.us.

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