



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 19, 2009

Mount Vernon Parks & Recreation Department Offered Grant to Develop Outdoor Recreation Facilities

MOUNT VERNON – The City of Mount Vernon has been awarded a grant of \$322,000 from the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program, Outdoor Recreation Account, Local Parks category. The grant was awarded by the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (RCFB), and will be used as follows:

The Mount Vernon Parks and Recreation Department will use this grant to build a children's splash park and about .2 mile of boardwalk through a wetland. These are the last two elements to be built in the recently opened Kiwanis Park located at the northeast corner of 18th and Broadway Street. The boardwalk trail will serve as the main pedestrian connection between the Park and several apartment complexes as well as an interpretive feature for all park users. The city will contribute \$322,000 in cash, labor, and cash donations.

There were seventy-six applications submitted, and each project went through an evaluation process prior to being recommended for funding. The RCFB Board approved funding for projects on Thursday, July 9, 2009. Funding for the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program, Outdoor Recreation Account, Local Parks category comes from the sale of state general obligation bonds. Mount Vernon Parks & Recreation Department will leverage local contributions totaling \$322,000 with grant monies to implement the project. Total estimated project cost is \$644,000. RCFB is the state's administrator of the grant program.

Mayor Norris said "Kiwanis Park has been an extremely popular recreational facility for families, and especially children. The addition of a splash park and boardwalk will only increase its level of use". Larry Otos, the City's Director of Parks and Recreation, said "This grant is a fantastic opportunity to leverage State funding to get the splash park and boardwalk completed. These grants are very competitive and the City is fortunate to be in a position to capitalize on this opportunity".

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