



Thank you, Tidewater and Waste Connections!

Local corporate partners understand the importance of parks, trails, and recreation programs
Hello and Happy New Year!

Thanks to the generosity and commitment of our community partners, the parks, trails, and recreation programs of Clark County will receive a much-needed funding boost in 2012.

Tidewater took the lead this year establishing a \$5,000 matching campaign program in conjunction with our annual end-of-year appeal. Waste Connections matched Tidewater's contribution, successfully upping the community challenge to \$10,000. Then, upon learning about the matching campaign, Riverview Community Bank stepped forward with a \$6,000 donation to the fund.

I am very pleased to report not only was the \$10,000 challenge met, but exceeded! The 2011 end-of-year campaign was a record breaking success, netting more than \$25,000 for the parks, trails, and recreation programs of Clark County.

100% of these dollars will directly support our Community Grant program, which, especially in this time of widespread budget cuts, serves as a pivotal resource for the parks, trails, and recreation programs in Clark County. Launched in 2009, the Community Grant program has provided \$98,836 in support of projects ranging in size and scope from the addition of new tri-bar equipment in Yacolt's Town Park to the construction of a nature play area in Vancouver's Marshall Community Park. We've consistently funded the countywide Everybody Plays! recreation scholarship program, supported Battle Ground's traveling summer playground program, and placed new bleachers in Ridgefield's Abram's Park. The grants have supported trail building efforts, installed new water fountains, purchased skate park equipment, and funded event tents.

Now, more than ever, the future of our parks, trails and recreation programs is uncertain. It is through the support of our many wonderful community partners that we will sustain our communities' high standard of livability. To learn more about the many projects and programs the Parks Foundation supported in 2011, please see our [2011 Accomplishments](#). If you would like to donate to the Parks Foundation, call us at 360.487.8370 or find all the ways to help at [this link](#).

Thank you to EVERYONE who contributed to our 2011 end-of-year appeal. You REALLY made it happen!

With warm regards,
Cheri Martin

SAVE THE DATE for St. Paddy's for Parks!!



St Paddy's for Parks is Friday, March 16. You won't want to miss this fabulous evening of music, food, Irish beer, and getting together with other community members to benefit the Parks Foundation. Then, plan to bring the kids to Shorty's on Saturday, March 17, for fun and surprises at [St. Paddy's for Kids](#). Be sure both events are entered into your calendar TODAY!

City of Ridgefield installs new play area and completes first phase of improvements to Abrams Park

The City of Ridgefield has recently completed construction of a new play area and play structure in Abrams Park. This is the first phase of multiple improvements identified in the City's 2008 Abrams Park Master Plan.



The new play structure is located between the softball and baseball fields in Abrams Park and was installed to replace the outdated wood play structure that was donated by Pacific Wood Treating and installed by volunteers in the early 1970s. Plans will be made for a dedication ceremony in the spring or summer of 2012.

The old wood structure had a great deal of community sentimental value; however, it was in need of such significant repairs to maintain a safe play environment that the Abrams Park Master Plan recommended it be replaced. The new play structure is constructed of long lasting materials that are now standard in the play structure industry, intended to withstand the elements and still provide a safe play environment for kids. Even though the new structure is made of modern materials, one of the primary goals of the project was to maintain the feel and nostalgia of the old wood structure. Mayor Ron Onslow said "We're delighted with the new structure and confident it will bring as much fun and joy to the park as the old structure."

A generous gift sustains free swimming at Marshall Center for another year



In June of 2009, faced with significant budget reductions, Vancouver-Clark Parks and Recreation was forced to address the prospect of eliminating a free program at Marshall Center, known as Sunday Funday. For three hours once a month, families enjoyed staff-led games and activities in the gym, arts and crafts, and a 90-minute swim session. Thanks to a generous donation of \$3,000 from John and Debra Bauman, owners of

[Bauman Chiropractic](#), the program was able to continue through the remainder of that year.

In 2010, the Baumans were back, this time funding an entire year of Sunday Funday through a \$6,000 donation.

In 2011, further budget deficits forced the closure of Marshall Center on Sundays. But that didn't stop the Baumans! Working with Marshall Center management, the Bauman's determined the community would best benefit from a \$6,000 donation to fund a full year of free Saturday swim sessions and an additional \$6,000 to provide free swim lessons to children in our community from low income homes.

We are thrilled to report the Baumans are generously providing a \$12,000 donation again this year to support the Free Saturday Family Swim sessions and swim lessons for children from low income homes. Thank you, John and Debra Bauman!

If you're interested in applying for a swim lesson scholarship, please call Marshall Center at 360.487.7100.

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