



Property Purchased for Future Neighborhood Park in Southwest Olympia

On September 21, 2005, the City of Olympia Parks, Arts and Recreation Department purchased a four-acre parcel located at 1445 Evergreen Park Drive SW. In a number of years, this partially forested site will be developed into a neighborhood park to serve the needs of residents in Southwest Olympia.

This is the first of nine new neighborhood park sites, two community park sites, and a West Bay park site that will be purchased with revenue from the Parks and Recreation Facilities Funding Measure passed by voters in September, 2004. This funding measure raised the private utility tax 3%. Two percent of the increase is earmarked for park acquisition, development, and maintenance and one percent is earmarked for sidewalk construction.

With Olympia's supply of undeveloped land rapidly disappearing, Olympia Parks, Arts and Recreation staff are working as quickly as possible to secure new park sites. Sites for all 12 parks have been identified, all landowners have been contacted, and negotiations are underway. So that these sites may be purchased while they are still available, approximately 10 years worth of revenue from the private utility tax will be made available through the sale of bonds. Funds to construct new park facilities on these sites will therefore not be available for at least 10 years, unless other funds are secured.

In the intervening years between purchase and development, Parks staff will work with neighborhoods to develop Interim Use and Management Plans. Minor interim improvements on park property may include picnic tables, benches, trails, or a small mowed play area.

Thank you citizens of Olympia!





Unveiling the sign – Left to right: Olympia Parks, Arts and Recreation Director Linda Oestreich, Olympia Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee Chair Mary Ellen Bradley, and Olympia Mayor Mark Foutch.