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HILLSBORO AWARDED FEDERAL GRANT TOWARDS SHUTE PARK IMPROVEMENTS

Hillsboro Parks & Recreation has been awarded a federal Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grant of \$79,800 to go towards a new shelter and additional parking at Shute Park.

This grant will help to further develop Shute Park, the city's oldest park (1906), including adding a 20x30 picnic shelter with a connecting ADA path and converting an existing grass parking area into a porous paved parking lot for year-round use. Construction will take place during the off season to avoid conflicts with peak summer use, and is expected to be completed by June 2013.

"Our parks tie our communities together and give families a place to relax and play. These improvements will make Shute Park more accessible to area residents and create construction jobs. This is great news for the City of Hillsboro," says Oregon Senator Jeff Merkley.

The total cost of the project is just under \$160,000, with half coming from the LWCF grant. Other funds for the project will come from a \$14,000 donation from the Dal L. Baker Charitable Lead Annuity Trust and city funds.

The Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grant is administered by Oregon Parks and Recreation and the National Park Service. LWCF grants provide matching grants through states to local units of governments for acquisition and development of outdoor recreation areas and facilities.

In addition to being the oldest park, Shute Park is also one of Hillsboro's busiest and most used parks. It currently features group picnic areas, a shelter, play equipment, walkways, and a performance platform/stage. It is visited by thousands of people each year and is home to two very important community events including Hillsboro Parks & Recreation's award-winning Outpost free 9-week summer lunch and activities for youth and Hillsboro Community Arts Showtime at Shute summer concert series which is currently in its 30th year.

Other remodels and improvements to Shute Park were completed in 2010 with help from another LWCF grant and local donations. They included adding a fire pit, additional benches, pathways, flower planters, new play equipment, and renovation of the existing shelter.

For more information on Hillsboro Parks & Recreation, please visit www.ci.hillsboro.or.us/ParksRec.

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