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Corinne Bloomfield, Community Resources Manager, 503-615-3498

REI AWARDS GRANT TO HILLSBORO COMMUNITY FOUNDATION FOR HILLSBORO PARKS & RECREATION ROOD BRIDGE PARK RESTORATION PROJECT

Hillsboro, Oregon – The Hillsboro Community Foundation in partnership with the City of Hillsboro Parks & Recreation Department has been awarded a grant for \$10,000 from REI for a wetland restoration project at Rood Bridge Park.

Hillsboro Parks & Recreation's Rood Bridge Park Wetland Restoration Project will incorporate habitat restoration, community engagement and volunteerism, and ongoing stewardship and nature education to benefit the community and all users of one of the City's largest and most used parks. The project kicked off in fall 2010 and will be completed by fall 2011. Specific goals include:

- Restoration of approximately 6 acres of degraded native floodplain/wetland habitat at the confluence of Rock Creek and the Tualatin River.
- Creation and protection of turtle nesting and rearing habitat to ensure the survival of the population.
- Creation of an "outdoor education" site that can be used for environmental education programs for youth and adults through Hillsboro Parks & Recreation's and Jackson Bottom Wetlands Preserve's outdoor and nature programs.
- Engagement of the community in volunteerism and stewardship. Volunteers will plant over 6,000 native trees/shrubs and 6,000 emergent plugs (herbaceous wetland plants), install over 800 feet of split-rail fence, assist with creation of a public viewing platform and install turtle basking structures.

"REI is a fantastic community partner and is an enthusiastic and steadfast advocate for outdoor recreation and the environment in our community," says Hillsboro Parks & Recreation's Community Resources Manager Corinne Bloomfield, "Their support over the years has made a significant impact on our ability to offer valuable outdoor education and restoration programs."

This is the fifth grant that REI has awarded the Hillsboro Community Foundation for Hillsboro Parks & Recreation programs. Other grants, amounting to over \$40,000 since 2006, have allowed Hillsboro Parks & Recreation to launch a new outdoor education and adventure program for middle school students, purchase a small fleet of canoes and kayaks for classes on the Tualatin River, purchase GPS units and compasses for classes in navigating the outdoors and geo-caching, and acquire ten mountain bikes and related equipment to implement a youth bicycle education and skills program. REI also donated \$10,000 in 2006 towards two climbing boulders that were installed in Orchard Park, and REI Hillsboro store employees have been the official adopters of Orchard Park since 2007.

For more information on the Rood Bridge Park restoration project or other Hillsboro Parks & Recreation opportunities, call 503-681-6120 or visit our website at www.ci.hillsboro.or.us/parksrec.

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