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WOODBURN RECEIVES \$500,000 GRANT FOR CENTENNIAL PARK

[Woodburn, OR – July 17, 2009] – Woodburn residents stand to benefit from a \$500,000 grant awarded to the city of Woodburn through the State of Oregon’s Local Government Grant Program. The grant will enable the city to complete the final phase of Centennial Park, which will include features such as the 4th baseball field, concession/ restroom building, picnic shelter, nearly one mile of asphalt and wood chip walking paths, basketball court, 2-acre fenced dog park, and two drinking fountains.

The Local Government Grant Program, funded through the Oregon Lottery, has experienced declining revenues recently, a situation believed to be the result of the recession and the effect that recent anti-smoking legislation has had on video poker play in bars and taverns. With only \$3.7 Million in available funds, the State received 59 large grant requests, totaling \$19.1 Million. The Large grant program is designated for project requests exceeding \$50,000. Faced with limited funds, the State was only able to sponsor 15 projects. The city of Woodburn was one of two applicants to receive \$500,000, the largest grant awarded through the program this year.

“As you can imagine, we are thrilled by this news. Centennial Park is the jewel of our park system, and this grant will enable us to complete this long awaited project”, said Jim Row, the city’s Community Services Director. The balance of the project’s \$1.1 Million cost will be funded through a grant awarded by the Burlingham Trust, and parks system development charges, which are fees paid by developers to fund the growth related costs of expanding the park system. The city expects construction on the park to begin in late 2009 or early 2010.

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