

Summary of Reason for Nomination for the Regional Cooperative Project Award

Nominees: Bart Rierson, Newberg City Councilor
Ted Crawford, Mayor of Dundee
Don Clements, Chehalem Park and Recreation District (CPRD) Superintendent

Project: Chehalem Paddle Launch (CPL)

Councilor Bart Rierson, Mayor Ted Crawford, and CPRD Superintendent Don Clements are the three leading factors in the success of the Chehalem Paddle Launch (CPL), a canoe and kayak rental operation on the Willamette River in Dundee. The establishment of CPL was a group project by Newberg/Dundee members of the Ford Institute Leadership Program and went from just an idea in December of 2010 to actual rental operations in June of 2011.

The three above nominees cooperated in raising funds to purchase equipment and materials to build CPL and contributed countless hours to various building efforts, equipment refurbishing and vegetation clearing from the banks to improve access to the river at the Dundee site. Due to their combined efforts, CPL was an immediate success and was open this past summer for seasonal operations on Saturdays and Sundays.

The creation of the CPL site meets several of the interconnectivity goals of the Chehalem Heritage Trails, which are a system of trails for pedestrians and bicycles providing connectivity and recreation between the communities of Dundee and Newberg. This trail system has the goal of connecting the two communities to their respective waterfronts along the Willamette River and to someday connect to Champoeg State Park. Some could say the CPL site already enables the interconnection of the two communities via the river and Champoeg State park can also be accessed via a seven-mile float down the river.

In summation, the collective efforts of these three men helped to open up the Willamette River for countless paddlers to learn about and have respect for this great river system; its environmental issues, its habitat and its role in Oregon's past and future. Due to their immense contributions, a new fitness option has been made possible not only for residents of Dundee and Newberg; but, also residents of the county, region, state and beyond. Their commitment to fitness and recreation is further demonstrated by the continued involvement with the Chehalem Heritage Trails and both Dundee and Newberg are fortunate to have such a great contributors to this cooperative improvement project for our region.

CPL was handed over to the Chehalem Park and Recreation District (CPRD), a park and recreation district serving the greater Dundee and Newberg area, as a gift valued at approximately \$50,000. The CPL gift included 14 kayaks, 4 canoes, associated equipment, a 45-foot storage trailer and a portable transport trailer to haul kayaks and canoes from/to other locations. CPRD is talking about budgeting significant funds for further improvements to the CPL site next year, including a floating dock, picnic tables and landscaping.