



April 23, 2009 - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Parks & Rec Foundation Awards Grants to Local Projects

As part of its annual Community Grants Program for the improvement of local parks and recreation opportunities, the Whatcom Parks and Recreation Foundation has awarded grants to the Bellingham Bay Community Boating Center, the Center for Local Self-Reliance, and Project Labyrinth.

The Bellingham Bay Community Boating Center is receiving WPRF support for its program to certify volunteer instructors. The grant will help to reduce costs for participants taking entry-level instruction in kayaking, sailing or rowing.

Project Labyrinth will be using their Foundation grant to purchase pavers for a public, permanent labyrinth in Fairhaven Park. The project has been approved by the Bellingham City Council and embraced by supporters as a place to experience calm and centering, as a public art installation, and as a new Bellingham landmark. Project Labyrinth is currently seeking funding through private donations to see the project through.

The Center for Local Self-Reliance is receiving a grant to be used in the construction of an ADA accessible ramp for the former Caretaker's House at Fairhaven Park. The CLSR proposes to refurbish the house and use it as an education center to teach gardening, seed saving, plant propagation, food preservation, and other self-reliance skills.

For more information about these projects or the upcoming 2009 Community Grant Program, please contact the Whatcom Parks and Recreation Foundation at 360-392-6028.

The mission of the Whatcom Parks and Recreation Foundation is to support parks, open space and recreational activities for Whatcom County citizens. Tax-deductible donations can be mailed to WPRF at P.O. Box 29963, Bellingham, WA 98228.