



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – February 1, 2017

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\$8M COVINGTON COMMUNITY PARK PHASE 2 PROJECT FULLY FUNDED

Covington, WA – Covington Community Park (17649 SE 240th St, Covington) will soon be adding a number of park amenities and features as part of the second development phase.

At the January 24 Covington City Council meeting, council approved an agreement to receive a \$4,950,000 grant from the Washington State Department of Commerce, which was the last step to fully fund the project. Local representatives Pat Sullivan and Mark Hargrove have joined with Senator Joe Fain and the Washington State Legislature to provide multiple appropriations to the City for the purpose of building the second phase of Covington Community Park.

The total amount the state is contributing toward the project is \$7,500,000, which includes another grant from the Department of Commerce and a grant from the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program. Other funding for the project includes \$500,000 from the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund program, \$354,000 from the City of Covington's General Fund, \$65,000 from King County and \$30,688 from King Conservation District. The \$8,449,688 project is now fully funded.

Phase one of Covington Community Park was completed in June 2013. Since that time, many park users have enjoyed playing sports on the athletic field and walking along the nature trails. Major elements that will be added to the park in phase two include a community stage with a green roof, a large lawn, picnic shelters, a playground, a fitness area with exercise stations, a tennis court, additional trail segments, restrooms, a concessions building, additional parking, wetland mitigation, utility infrastructure and frontage improvements along 180th Avenue SE. Currently the City is obtaining permits and will subsequently bid the project and begin construction later this year. Construction is estimated to take about a year to complete.

In the future there will be a third and final phase of development at Covington Community Park, but it is currently not funded. The most significant feature of the third phase will be the addition of synthetic turf athletic fields with lighting.

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