



503-537-2909
fax 503-538-9669
125 South Elliott Road
Newberg, OR 97132
cprdnewberg.org

NEWS RELEASE

February 10, 2014

CPRD Parrett Mt. property purchase complete

NEWBERG, Ore. – Bob and Crystal Rilee Park has moved closer to opening to the public.

Chehalem Park and Recreation District's purchase of Parrett Mountain Farm from the Crystal Dawn Smith Rilee Foundation was completed on Jan. 29, 2014.

This transaction is part of the Crystal Dawn Smith Rilee Foundation's larger property donation to CPRD valued at more than \$6 million.

The foundation donated over \$6 million worth of land to CPRD in exchange for a \$280,000 purchase price for the 327 acres of property on Parrett Mountain. The relatively low price was figured to cover the foundation's attorney bills and remaining debt engendered by the embezzlement case involving the foundation's former executive director Liz Rhode.

"This decision to give the land to CPRD was made by the foundation as a positive answer to the best future interests of the community, following the wishes of Crystal Rilee to benefit people and allow them to enjoy the land she'd acquired," said Mary Dugan, vice president of the foundation. "Crystal wanted people to enjoy the land and the beauty of nature there and was adamantly against any future residential or business development on the property, so she would be very pleased to have it become a park."

With this acquisition and the addition of the new Bob and Crystal Rilee Park, the number of parks in Chehalem Park and Recreation District will become 23.

"This generous donation from the foundation will become a valuable legacy for our community," said CPRD Public Information Coordinator Kat Ricker. "Not only will the equestrian community return to the trails it has previously enjoyed, but the public is sure to be impressed with the opportunities our Board and staff are already planning for this spectacular property."

Bob and Crystal Rilee Park will be a scenic nature park with trails, including equestrian trails. These trails will be part of Chehalem Heritage Trails. The new park could be open as early as July.



503-537-2909

fax 503-538-9669

125 South Elliott Road

Newberg, OR 97132

cprdnewberg.org

Some of the property will continue to be leased for farming, and discussion is underway for a potential historical museum piece to preserve the history of Parrett Mountain and the farming heritage of the land. The property also contains potential rental facilities for special events such as weddings and business retreats.

The CPRD Board of Directors approved the lease-purchase Oct. 24, 2013.