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COUNCIL AWARDS CONTRACT TO BEGIN FOOTHILLS PARK CONSTRUCTION

LAKE OSWEGO- What a difference a bid makes. The long awaited development of Foothills Park, a 9-acre property lining the shores of the Willamette River, is now set to proceed with City Councilors' approval of a public improvement contract with P&C Construction Company of Gresham. Construction will begin next March, with project completion by November 2005.

Of the seven bids received, the P&C bid was most competitive at \$2,886,500—in line with the engineer's estimated project cost of \$2,858,886. With a unanimous vote, Councilors approved the staff recommendation to accept the bid with three additive alternates that include construction of a stage area, park signs, and a picnic shelter. Accepting P&C's bid on the optional features is expected to defray the added costs of delaying portions of the project for future construction.

Foothills Park development plans were placed on hold this summer when the City received a sole bid of \$3,776,800, which was significantly higher than expected. Although the park had been slated to be open this year, City officials decided to hold off and solicit more competitive bids for the project, asserting that Foothills Park is worth the wait.

"With a project of this magnitude, the stakes are high enough to take the time to do it right the first time," said Chief of Staff Bob Kincaid. The decision to wait paid off in the form of a competitive bid from a qualified contractor with 43 years of experience and positive references.

Funding for the project will come from a variety of sources, including: the Parks and Recreation Fund, Open Space and Pathways Bond Issue, Parks System Development Charges, and additional funding provided by Georgia Pacific, the previous lessee of the riverfront property. As the current property owner, the City of Portland will meet on December 7 to finalize the sale of the future parkland to the City of Lake Oswego.

Formerly a wood chip processing plant operated by Georgia Pacific, the park site has been cleared of major structures and most remnant material. Foothills Park will include a pedestrian bridge to a viewing platform over the Willamette River, a custom timber-framed picnic structure, restrooms, a natural grass amphitheater with stage for performances, a parking lot, an entry arbor, a water feature, lighted pathways, and landscaping.