

# State Rep. Judy Clibborn Receives Legislative Citation of Merit Award from Washington Recreation & Park Association

by Nancy Woo, Mercer Island Parks & Recreation

Judy Clibborn, state representative for the Washington State House of Representatives, received the “Legislative Citation of Merit Award” from the Washington Recreation & Park Association (WRPA) for her contributions to the field of recreation and parks through legislative action. This special award is the highest recognition WRPA can bestow to recognize the official service of a state legislator or a member of Congress who has contributed to the recreation and parks profession. Recipients of this award have also included other elected and appointed officials — members of park boards, city councils, county commissioners or professionals.

State Rep. Clibborn, D-Mercer Island, has worked with WRPA on legislative issues to support and successfully pass House Bill 1631 — Conservation Futures Tax Revenues for local parks and recreation maintenance and operations. House Bill 1631 was signed by Gov. Christine Gregoire on May 13, 2005, which allows counties to use conservation future levy funds for maintaining and operating property acquired with such funds.

Rep. Clibborn currently serves on the following committees: Local Government, Vice Chair; Health Care, Transportation; Economic Development, Agriculture and Trade; Rules, Committee on Committees. Using a stakeholder input approach, Clibborn has successfully sponsored and passed major legislation that will provide health insurance for all uninsured children in Washington state, allow employers legal protection to give accurate employment references, provide money to local governments to protect salmon and our environment, allow local governments to use e-mail and faxes to send special meeting notifications, and expand the scope of practice for naturopathic physicians.

As a civic leader in the 41st Legislative District, Clibborn served as a councilmember and mayor for the city of Mercer Island. From 1992 to 1994 as a councilmember, she was instrumental in obtaining funding and support for the design and construction of the first open skate park in Washington state, collaborating with the youth to include their ideas and designs. She was successful in mentoring youth on how to work with local government to accomplish their goals, and later helped to amend the Recreational Immunity Statute to make skate parks equal in insurability to other non-fee recreational facilities.



Clibborn’s earlier career included serving as a head nurse at Harborview Medical Center where she also acted as a primary care nurse, administrator and an in-service educator for five years. Clibborn is a longtime supporter of parks, having been a founding member of the Mercer Island Arts Council, which launched the “Mostly Music in the Park” summer concert series and helped establish the Mercer Island Public Art Program.

She also served on the Mercer Island Parks Board during the establishment of the community’s public street-end parks. Her other park contributions included the establishment of the first Municipal Open Space Trust in Washington state for the 113-acre Pioneer Park on the Island. As mayor of Mercer Island from 1994 to 1998, Clibborn presided over the rebuilding of the Town Center infrastructure to be more pedestrian-friendly and bring a mix of housing, retail and office space downtown.

Prior to being elected as a state representative in 2003, she also served as the executive director of the Mercer Island Chamber of Commerce from 2001 to 2005. Clibborn has a long history of civic leadership and community service with numerous contributions to human services, law, safety and justice.

Representative Clibborn and husband Bruce attended the WRPA and ORPA (Oregon Recreation & Park Association) Annual Conference in Vancouver, Washington, to receive this special recognition at the awards banquet on April 26 at the Vancouver Hilton Convention Center.

# 2006 WRPA Award Winners



## Honor Fellow Award

This is the Association's highest award and recognizes an individual's dedication and achievement in the parks and recreation profession. Nominee requires a minimum of ten (10) years of professional experience.  
**Lynn Cheeney, CPRP**



## Citation of Merit – Professional

This award recognizes an individual's contribution to WRPA.  
**Jennifer Schroder, CPRP**



## Citation of Merit – Individual

This award recognizes a lay citizen's contributions to parks and recreation in their community or statewide.  
**Florence Wager**

## Distinguished Service Award

This recognizes service in the field. The nominee must have been a member of WRPA for a minimum of five (5) years and, if retired, no longer than two (2) years previous service.

**Dennis Culp**  
**Mike Dobb**  
**Lynn Stokesbary**  
**Jan Wolcott**

## Citation of Merit – Organization

This is the highest award given by WRPA to an organization for its contributions to the park and recreation field.

**Altrusa Club**

## Young Professional Award

The award recognizes the contributions of future leaders in the professional who are 35 years of age and younger.

**Andy Coleman, CPRP**  
**Michelle Larson, CPRP**

## Citation of Merit – Legislative

This award recognizes official service on a local board, as a council member or as a state or federal legislator who has contributed to our profession through legislative action.

**Rep. Judy Clibborn**

## 2006 Spotlight Facility & Park Awards

Recognizing excellence in the design and development of parks and recreation facilities:

### Facility & Park

Cal Anderson Park, Seattle  
 Japanese Gardens, Longview

### Sports Complex

Thurston County – City of Lacey Athletic Complex

### Facility

South Bellevue Community Center

### Special Use

Skateboard Park, Sprinker Recreation Center

## 2006 Spotlight Media Awards

Recognizing excellence in the following categories:

### Best Brochure

Kent Parks Recreation & Community Services  
 – Specialty Brochure

### Best Poster

Redmond Arts in the Parks Summer Concerts

Ravenna-Eckstein Community Center – Quarterly Brochure

### Best Web Site

Egov Alliance (nine cities)