



Florence B.  
*Wager*  
AWARDS

**Larry Smith**  
*2023 The Leading Eagle Award*

Larry Smith retired as a Colonel of Infantry from the US Army after serving for 26 years. He then became an Assistant City Manager for the City of Vancouver in 1991, a position he held until 1996. From there, Larry was appointed as the Director of Vancouver/Clark Parks and Recreation Department until 2003. Following his 13-year tenure as a city employee, he successfully ran for public office and served three terms as a City Councilor until his retirement in 2015.

During the 1990s, Larry led the annexation efforts in the Vancouver City Manager's office, resulting in the largest annexation in the state's history, significantly raising Vancouver's profile as the fourth largest city in the state. Later, he served as the director of Vancouver-Clark Parks and Recreation, a newly created city-county department. Afterward, he was elected to the Vancouver City Council, where he accomplished many feats, including completing the Esther Short Park revitalization, implementing the Greater Clark Parks District, and acquiring land for the new Vancouver Waterfront, among others.

As a Vancouver City Councilmember from 2005 to 2016, including service as the Mayor Pro Tem from 2010 to 2016, Larry left a lasting legacy as a champion of the community's prosperity. He helped establish the Parks Foundation as a thriving non-profit agency that funds numerous critical projects and programs throughout the county.

Throughout his career, Larry was a passionate advocate for the development and improvement of parks, trails, and recreational programs in the community. He played a pivotal role in numerous key projects, such as the construction of the Firsenburg Community Center, the renovation and expansion of the Marshall Community Center, and the creation of inclusion programs to better serve individuals with disabilities. One of his most notable achievements was his involvement in the leadership team responsible for Vancouver's civic reconnection to the Columbia River, the Waterfront Park, and development.

**Larry Smith's unwavering vision, determination, and commitment to the community transformed Vancouver's trajectory and created a lasting impact.**

