

Falls City, City of

Community Profile:

Population 970

Location Falls City, Polk County

Position Description:

Sponsor City of Falls City

Supervisor Rick Hohnbaum

Assignment

Falls City would like a RARE Participant to focus on two priority areas from their community strategic plan: downtown and economic development and a youth parks and recreation program.

With input from Falls City citizens, Oregon Downtown Development Association developed a conceptual plan for the City of Falls City. Moving this plan into implementation is a major component of Falls City's economic development goals. The implementation of the plan will be a key aspect of the RARE Participant's work.

The RARE Participant will help the city increase its programs for youth and increase involvement of youth in community issues and activities. Specific "products" from this work could be a local sports program with full teams, a parks master plan, and a community center development plan.

In addition to working on these two specific topics, Falls City would like the RARE Participant to facilitate community discussions on other topics throughout the year. These dialogues will help the community seek agreement on various issues such as access to the falls, police and safety, or waste water facilities. The Falls City Council believes these discussions will be an important part of building community support and participation in future goal-setting and project implementation efforts. Falls City will also encourage the RARE Participant to have a regional presence to better connect the city with external organizations and processes that might benefit the city.

Required Skills

The most important skills for this position are: community organizing and outreach, communication and active listening, ability to network, small group facilitation, project development and grantwriting.

RARE Member: *Robert Richardson - 2001-2002, Year 8 Participant*

Before joining the RARE Program, Robert Richardson worked as a Community Prevention Specialist with the Seaway Valley Prevention Council in Canton, New York. Prior to that, Robert served as an Environmental Education Advisor with the Peace Corps in Lesotho, Africa. In 1997, Robert earned his undergraduate degree in Government and Environmental Studies at St. Lawrence University in Canton, New York. He also participated in the Semester Abroad program in Kenya.