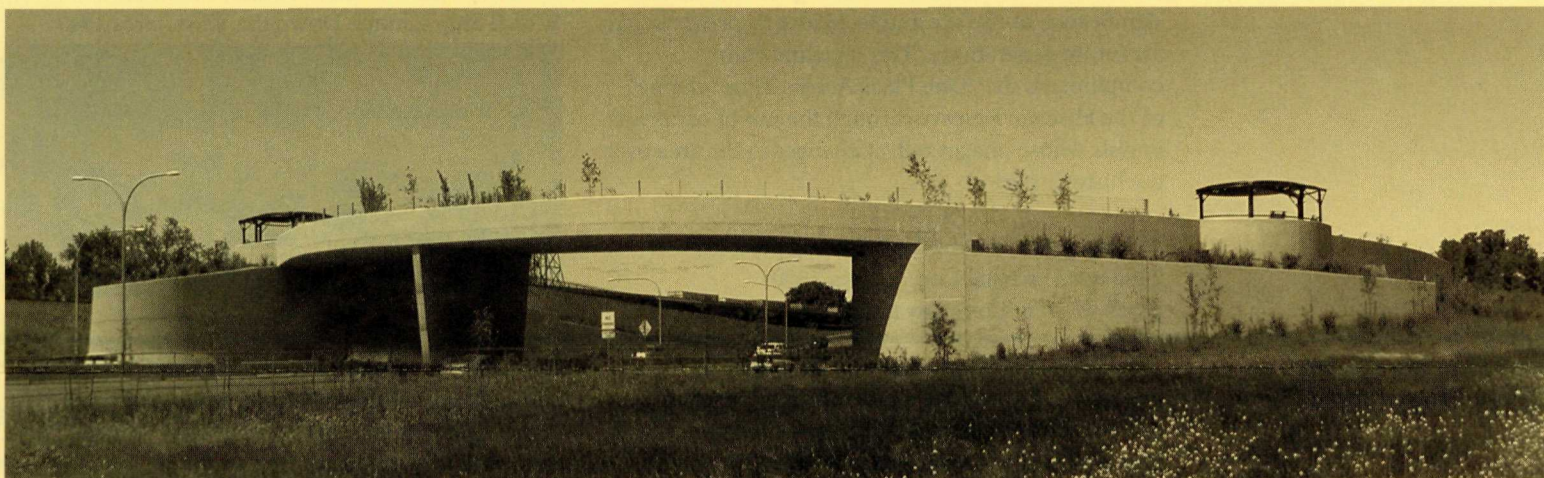




Land Bridge: Re-establishing an Historic Connection



Confluence Project

The Confluence Project was developed by a group of Pacific Northwest Native American tribes and civic leaders from Washington and Oregon. This group asked Maya Lin, the artist who designed the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., to participate in a project commemorating the bicentennial of the Lewis and Clark Expedition of 1804-06. These disparate parties came together to envision a new way to commemorate the Corps of Discovery's journey. Out of this collaboration came the idea to create a series of seven art installations along the Columbia River to evoke the history of the Lewis and Clark Expedition and the tremendous changes in the Pacific Northwest since their time. The Land Bridge and Interpretive Trail is the second of the seven sites. It completes a goal of the National Park Service 2003 General Management Plan for Fort Vancouver National Historic Site, to recreate a physical link between the historic fort site and the Columbia River, and was completed in 2008.

The Land Bridge & Interpretive Trail Project

The Land Bridge and Interpretive Trail is a unique earthen bridge designed by Native American architect Johnpaul Jones in collaboration with artist Maya Lin and is the largest of the seven Confluence Project art installations. The design of the Land Bridge and its interpretive elements are results of involvement of the local community, Native American groups, and collaborative efforts among Jones & Jones Architects and Landscape Architects, Ltd., Maya Lin Studio, Confluence Project, the National Park Service (NPS), the City of Vancouver, and the Washington Department of Transportation. The City of Vancouver acted as project manager, while the NPS was responsible for environmental compliance and assisted in developing the educational components of the project.

The Land Bridge spans State Route 14, restoring the ancient crossroads of the Klickitat Trail and the Columbia River. The project features a pedestrian trail more than one half mile long that winds over a 40-foot-wide earthen bridge that reconnects the Columbia River with the Fort Vancouver village. The educational components of the Land Bridge Trail invite visitors to experience multiple levels of rich historical, cultural, and environmental interpretation.

Interpretation of Native Vegetation

The Land Bridge mimics the undulating landforms and indigenous vegetation of the historic Columbia River floodplain. Terraces of native plants draw the prairie up and over the highway. Signs along the trail tell of the botanical observations of Lewis and Clark and 19th century naturalists David Douglas and Thomas Nuttall. The signs discuss the changes in land use and corresponding impacts on plant communities over the historic period. Native plant species documented by early botanical explorers are included in the plantings. Many of these species (such as wapato and camas) were intensively used by the Native Americans throughout the region. Panels

There are six major interpretive elements:

1. Native plant panels illustrating human uses of plants historically found on the site
2. The Language Walk, featuring indigenous words for people, land, and river
3. A Timeline Path reflecting changes in land use across time
4. Overlooks interpreting the People, the Land, and the River
5. A Welcome Gate and sculptural elements
6. Water sustainability system and rain harvesting artwork



Reconnecting historical eras via the Timeline Walk

also illustrate the stream-side landscape and the cultural uses of various native plants.



Terraces of Native Vegetation

Language Walk

The Language Walk juxtaposes various native words for people, land, and river with their corresponding overlooks. The words are drawn from correspondence, conversations, and direct information from numerous Northwest tribes

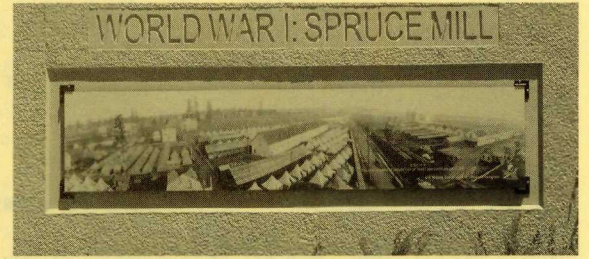
including the Nez Perce, Umatilla, Yakama, Warm Springs, Cowlitz and Chinook. The words are intended to provide the viewer a sense of the amazing number of languages that would have been heard at any given time along the lower Columbia.

Timeline Path

In 1996, Congress established the Vancouver National Historic Reserve to recognize the national significance of the site and to ensure its preservation for future generations. The Timeline Path compliments the “One Place Across Time” theme of the Historic Reserve through the use of oversized murals whose images reflect changes in the area over the historic period.

The images represent the following periods:
Chinook Traveling Lodge, circa 1800
Hudson’s Bay Company and U.S. Army, circa 1853

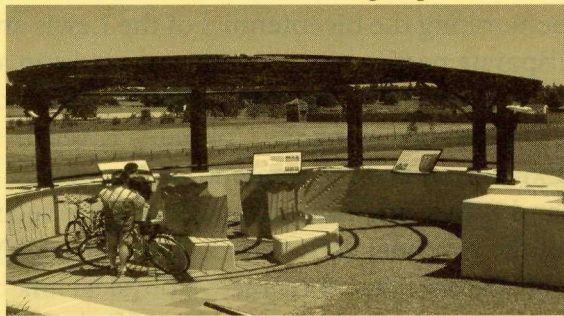
Officers’ Row, circa 1860
WW I Spruce Production Plant, circa 1917
WW II Ship Launch Down the Ways, circa 1943



One Place Across Time

People, Land, and River Overlooks

The **People Overlook** shares the story of the dynamic, multicultural Hudson’s Bay Company (HBC) village. This was the home of the community that ran the diverse operations of the HBC in the Northwest. The village was populated by Métis, a culture of mixed European and native heritage, as well as numerous Native American tribes, Hawaiians, and several other Euro-American groups.

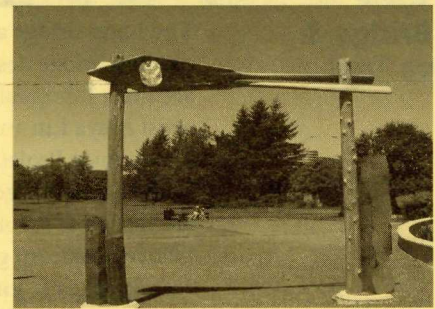


The **Land Overlook** provides a view of the Fort and a glimpse of the landscape and native plant communities as they would have been prior to European and American contact. It explores the relationship between open spaces and forest land and provides context of the forest/prairie ecosystem managed by native people.

The **River Overlook** surveys the connection of the Lewis and Clark Trail and the Native American Klickitat Trail. This interpretive feature encompasses the confluence of historic transportation systems, food gathering traditions and trading networks of interior mountain tribes (Yakama, Klickitat) and river tribes (Chinook, Salish) as well as the region’s breathtaking geologic landmarks including Mount Adams, Mount Hood, and Mount St. Helens.

Welcome Gate and Sculptural Elements

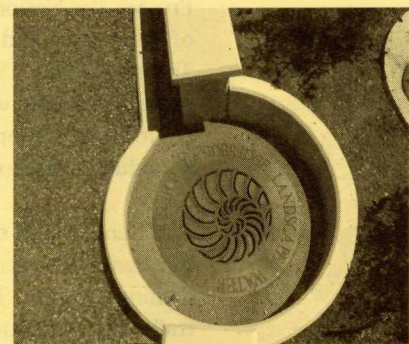
The design of the Welcome Gate is derived from a traditional Native American tool, the canoe paddle, and also bears two cast glass masks evocative of ancient imagery, particularly that of native women. The gate, designed by artist Lillian Pitt, serves as the entry portal to the Land Bridge south end at Old Apple Tree Park. The Three Mountain design, a traditional basket weaving pattern represents the three mountains visible from this area: Mount Hood, Mount Adams, and Mount St. Helens.



Crossed canoe paddles welcomes walkers

Sustainable Irrigation System

Sustainability is a major component of National Park Service planning and design. The rain-harvesting element of the land bridge demonstrates sustainable irrigation. The system combines art with function to capture the abundant winter rain and direct it to cisterns, so it can be used to irrigate the native landscape on the land bridge during dry periods. The artwork powerfully and visually celebrates water and the water cycle. It presents opportunities to learn about and preserve the riverside landscape so important to the people of the river.



Gutters and drains channel rain water to below-ground holding tanks for later irrigation

Safety and Enjoyment

Although this is an urban setting, the effort to travel the trail from East 5th Street to the Columbia River waterfront and return should be considered moderate. The round trip distance is approximately 1.25 miles with a gradual incline to the top of the Land Bridge structure. There are no bathrooms or water fountains along the way and very little shade. It is recommended that you carry water, wear comfortable walking shoes, and clothing appropriate to the current weather conditions. Anyone with health issues should consult their physician before walking the trail. This trail and bridge re-establishes a connection between river and land that was severed over 100 years ago. Please enjoy the scenery, artwork and history of the area and have a safe visit.

