



# Fort Vancouver

News from Your  
National Park

June 2012

## Post to Park Ceremony Brings East and South Vancouver Barracks into Fort Vancouver NHS

On May 22, 2012, the U.S. Army relinquished the East and South Vancouver Barracks from the U.S. Army to the National Park Service (NPS). This action was symbolized by the Post to Park ceremony held on Memorial Day, when the U.S. Army lowered the post flag and presented it to the NPS, then park rangers raised the flag back into position.

This ceremony was the culmination of seven years of work between the U.S. Army and the NPS, which began when the Vancouver Barracks was added to the Base Relocation and Closure list.

As a final gift to the site, the U.S. Army, in cooperation with the NPS, is providing caretaking actions for the many historic structures located within the East and South Barracks. It is important to take measures to stabilize these historic structures to ensure that their signature elements are not damaged by natural events or vandalism while utilities are being upgraded.

The East and South Vancouver Barracks Draft Master Plan and Environmental Assessment specifies how the NPS plans to adaptively reuse, protect, and interpret these nationally significant resources and ensure that they are accessible to the public. To access a copy, go to:  
<http://www.parkplanning.nps.gov/fova>



National Park Service rangers raise the colors during the Post to Park Ceremony.



An Olympic National Park Ranger helps visitors make a dam of sand to demonstrate how the Elwha Dam functioned.

## Get Outdoors Day a Huge Success

Our park hosted National Get Outdoors Day, a celebration of healthy, active, outdoor fun!

Along with Fort Vancouver, seven other national parks and 55 city, county, state, federal, non-profit, and outdoor-based businesses joined together to share educational, recreational, and nature-based activities with visitors. Events like this one make Fort Vancouver, your urban national park, a gateway to national parks, wildlife refuges, forests, and other public spaces.

Get Outdoors Day was a nationwide event, celebrated by 134 sites in 37 states. Visitors to Vancouver's celebration tried activities from fishing to archery, and discovered national parks by gold panning, building mock dams, and learning about wilderness safety.

Visitors also had the opportunity to step back in time to the return of trappers and their families to a re-enactment of an 1840s Brigade Encampment, the original camp-out!



## Learn about history with the Fort Vancouver Mobile App!

Want to explore history at the fort in a new way? There's an app for that! Fort Vancouver Mobile is now available. Download the free app and see what you can discover. A behind-the-scenes blog on the project can be found at:  
<http://www.fortvancouvermobile.net>

## Interested in hosting an event at Fort Vancouver?

Fort Vancouver offers a unique landscape for your special event. For more information on holding an event at the park, check the website or for initial inquiries contact Supervisory Park Ranger Kimm Fox-Middleton at:  
(360) 816-6243 or [kimm\\_fox-middleton@nps.gov](mailto:kimm_fox-middleton@nps.gov)



## What's Happening at Fort Vancouver

### Events

#### Independence Day at Fort Vancouver

Join us to celebrate the 4th of July! **All day, on the Parade Ground**

#### 1860s Vintage Baseball

This gloveless game with wooden bats is played by very different rules! Bring a picnic and watch staff and volunteers recreate playing by the rules of 1860.

**July 21, 6:00 p.m.**

#### Labor Day Cannon Salute

Join rangers and volunteers as they explain the role of various weapons used by the soldiers at Vancouver Barracks.

**September 3, 1:30 p.m.**

### Campfires and Candlelight

Mark your calendars for our biggest living history event of the year! Stroll back in time and experience the night life of U.S. Army soldiers, Oregon Trail immigrants, and the residents of the Fort and Village.

**Saturday, September 8th, 4:00 p.m.**



#### Constitution Day & Citizenship Ceremony

**Monday, September 17, 2012**

#### Summer Programs

##### Kid's Digs

Kids ages 8-12 are introduced to archaeology by participating in a mock dig, mapping their artifact finds, and filling out site forms. **11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Limited to 20 youth; reserve your spot at the reconstructed fort the day-of. Saturdays July 7, July 28, Aug. 4, Aug. 18, Aug. 25, and Sept. 1**

##### History in the Park

Meet rangers and volunteers during the Noon Concerts at Esther Short Park. **11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Esther Short Park, 610 Esther Street, Vancouver Washington 98660. Drop-in, hands-on activities aimed at kids. Wednesdays July 11, July 18, July 25, Aug. 1, Aug. 8, and Aug. 15**

Join us for walking tours and hands-on fun this summer! Programs take place daily, **July 7th through September 3rd, at 11:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m., and 3:00 pm.** Visit [www.nps.gov/fova](http://www.nps.gov/fova) or call (360) 816-6230 to learn more.

#### Fall Programs

##### Lantern Tour Series

Join in a wonderful opportunity to tour the Fort at night. Each adult attending will carry their own lantern and tour with the Park Ranger through Fort Vancouver. Reservations required. **Sept. 29, Oct. 6, Oct. 20, Nov. 3, Nov. 17, Dec. 1, Dec. 15**

##### Tales of the Engagé

Step back in time with a "campfire program" of the 1840s. Join the Engagés of the Hudson's Bay Company as they share their stories of life at Fort Vancouver. The 1 hour program will take place just outside the fort walls. **October 13, October 27, 7:00 p.m.**

**For more information** on our special events and programs, contact Supervisory Park Ranger Kimm Fox-Middleton, (360) 816-6243, [kimm\\_fox-middleton@nps.gov](mailto:kimm_fox-middleton@nps.gov)

## Public Archaeology Field School Excavates in the Fort's Village



Be sure to visit the dig site this summer to see newly discovered artifacts and find out what university students and NPS archaeologists are learning about the history of our community. The dig will be in the South Barracks portion of the Fort Vancouver multicultural village, which is located north of the Landbridge.

This colonial village was the largest settlement in the Pacific Northwest in the 1830s and 1840s. It contained people from around the world and the Pacific Northwest, including Native Hawaiians, Scots, French Canadians, the Métis, and people of many different American Indian tribes.

Excavations take place Tuesday through Saturday, from June 19 through July 28. Follow the field school's progress at: [www.nps.gov/fova/historyculture/2012publicarchaeologyfieldschool.htm](http://www.nps.gov/fova/historyculture/2012publicarchaeologyfieldschool.htm).

## New Developments Improve Historical Accuracy at the McLoughlin House

This has been an interesting year at the McLoughlin House unit. Changes have been made to make the house look more as it would have when the McLoughlin family lived there. The process has been methodical, the improvements based on studies like the Historic Furnishings Plan.

The Barclay House next door has a new, more historically accurate cedar shingle roof, which greatly enhances the appearance of the house. The changes continue to breathe new life into the site, and staff and volunteers are proud to be a part of it.



## Living History: Perfecting the Art of Being Someone Else

Ever wonder what it takes to represent a historic person? NPS staff and volunteers spend countless hours perfecting public speaking skills, creating an authentic ensemble, and expanding their expertise on the history of the park. Whether they are portraying a fur trade voyageur, World War I soldier,



or Civil War era laundress, our staff and volunteers take the responsibility of interpreting history seriously. Stay tuned for a presentation this autumn on fabricating and wearing historic costumes.

## Open Houses Share Artifacts from the Fort's Museum Collection

Curious about what can be discovered in Fort Vancouver's collection of over two million artifacts? Find out at our



Museum Collection Open Houses! In this program, visitors can get up close to artifacts that come to us through archaeological excavations or are donated by members of the community. Open Houses allow visitors behind-the-scenes inside our curation facility. Each month, we focus on a different topic, ranging from military history, to hygiene and health, to what it was like to dine at Fort Vancouver.

Museum Collection Open Houses take place from March through October (excluding September) on the second Saturday of the month. Tours take place on the hour 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Register on the day. For more information, contact Meagan Huff at: (360) 816-6255, [meagan\\_huff@nps.gov](mailto:meagan_huff@nps.gov)