Fort Vancouver National Historic Site: Your National Park!
Fort Vancouver National Historic Site
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- A premier cultural heritage site
- Native American presence spanning thousands of years
- Hudson’s Bay Company fort and village
- First U.S. Army post in Pacific Northwest – continuous presence for 160 years
Fort Vancouver National Historic Site

- National park established in 1948, located in WA and OR
- Extensive cultural resources (structures, archaeology, landscapes, museum collection)
- Ties to over 26 federally recognized tribes and Native Hawaiians
- National Historic District
Economic Benefit:

• Last year, 733,539 park visitors spent $40.4M in communities near the park

• That spending supported 610 jobs in the area
Education:

- 12,600 K-12 students in curriculum-based programs
- 13th Annual Public Archaeology Field School
- 4th Annual Oregon Archaeological Society Archaeology Training
- Public History Field School Vancouver Barracks iBook
Fort Vancouver National Historic Site

Special Events:
• Park supports full range of permitted and public events at multiple venues throughout the year
• During 2014, over 150 events took place
East & South Vancouver Barracks

Sustainable
Historic
Campus for
Public Service
East & South Vancouver Barracks

Background:

- Relinquished from DOD to NPS in May 2012
- 28 buildings (20 on National Register)
- Over 200,000 sf of space
- 33 acres of land
- Extensive archaeological resources
Laying the groundwork for success:

• Condition assessments, cost estimates
• Environmental investigation and Planning
• Historic Structures Reports
• Archaeological testing & consultation
• Building preservation & maintenance
• Utility, building, and site design
• Master Plan and EA
East & South Vancouver Barracks

Master Plan and Environmental Assessment:

“Through the adaptive reuse of historic military structures and a lively mix of educational, commercial, recreational, and cultural activities, the Vancouver Barracks models environmental and cultural stewardship and fosters deep connections between people and place.”
Multimillion Dollar Investment Starting 2014:

• Agreement reached with Gifford Pinchot National Forest to locate HQ office and some regional functions here

• Numerous benefits - “Good for the People, Good for the Earth, Good for the Budget”

• Construction funds in hand for a fall 2014 solicitation
Additional work includes:

- Phase I utility rehab
- Paint another double barracks building
- Pavement preservation for roads and parking
- Rehab former Army ID building for PM and CM offices
- Build on success of new anchor tenant
- Continue to collaborate with COV to seek FHWA Federal Lands Access Program funding
- Restore historic flagstaff w/COV & CMAC
- Selective building removal
Pearson Air Museum/Jack Murdock Aviation Center

Creating a Dynamic, Place-Based Aviation Museum
New Exhibitry:
- Straight Grained Soldiers/Spruce Mill Diorama
- JN-4 Jenny Model
- DH-4 Liberty
- Chkalov Transpolar Flight
- Douglas World Cruisers
- 2 New Airplanes on Loan
High Visitation:
- February 2013 to September 2014: 25,525 Visitors
- Over 1,000 students through curriculum based programs
- Over 20 commercial bus tours
Public/Permitted Events at Pearson Air Museum:

• 45 permitted events since February 2013, with over 1,400 attendees
• Military change of command ceremonies, weddings/wedding receptions, birthday parties, dinners/luncheons, memorial services, church receptions, training courses
Facility Improvements:
• Painted the exterior of both hangars
• Upgraded restrooms and new water fountains
• New flags along north façade of the museum
Examples of Outreach & Partnerships:
- National Museum of the Marine Corps
- Oregon International Air Show
- Private donors/lenders
- National Air and Space Museum
- Dayton Aviation Heritage National Park
Visitor Center

- Built in 1961, listed on the National Register
- Designed to serve 15,000 visitors per year
- Annual visitation to VC is 70,000
- Over $1M in deferred maintenance
Mission Statement:

“The Visitor Center will be a warm, welcoming, community-based space that will orient visitors to the site, provide a place for visitors to explore the diverse cultures and multilayered history of this place, and a place to form personal connections to Fort Vancouver NHS and the Vancouver National Historic Reserve.”
Visitor Center

Rehabilitation

- Over $2M project
- New roof and canopy, paint and windows
- New electrical, mechanical, plumbing, and fire suppression systems
Visitor Center

- New theater and multi-purpose room, larger exhibit space, and new sales area
- Upgraded public restrooms
- Energy efficient, sustainable mechanical and electrical systems
- Meets **GOLD** LEED
Visitor Center

Interactive new exhibits will:

• Explore multiple layers of history within the Reserve
• Encourage visitors to connect history to their community
• Be thought-provoking and participatory for visitors of all ages
End of Presentation

Thank You

Questions?