

September news from the Fort-To-Sea Trail

Project 70% complete. More than 900 acres transferred to new national park

The project to build a six-mile hiking trail is now 70 percent completed and will be finished in time to observe Oregon's Lewis and Clark bicentennial in November. Running between the Fort Clatsop National Memorial and the new Sunset Beach State Park, the trail recreates the path members of the Corps of Discovery traveled to and from the Pacific Ocean in 1805-1806.

Read the following stories at www.forttosea.org:

Project reaches fundraising goal: \$3.2 million raised

Oregon is assured there will be a lasting legacy of the Lewis and Clark bicentennial now that the partnership raising funds for the Fort-To-Sea Trail project has reached its goal. The trail will be completed because the project reached its goal of raising \$3.2 million in public and private donations, says Chip Jenkins, superintendent of the Lewis and Clark National Historical Park. This sum includes private donations of \$359,000, public grants of \$410,000, National Park Service appropriations of \$183,000, and an Oregon Department of Transportation grant of \$1.54 million. The matching funds were needed to buy building materials for three large bridges, numerous smaller spans, boardwalks, viewing platforms and other components.

Trail wins national greenways award: Outstanding team

Not even completed yet, the Fort-To-Sea Trail already has won national recognition as an important greenway and a great public-private partnership. On Sept. 8, 2005, the Lewis and Clark National Historical Park headquartered at Fort Clatsop was one of four honorees recognized for outstanding achievement in greenways preservation at the Kodak American Greenways Awards held in Washington, D.C. Sponsored by Eastman Kodak, National Geographic Society and The Conservation Fund, the award honors leading individuals, organizations and corporations for their vision and commitment to protecting the nation's network of open space, trails and greenways.

The Conservation Funds transfers 921 acres to national park

The Conservation Fund announced today (Sept. 19) it would transfer 921 acres of historic forestland to the newly created Lewis and Clark National Historical Park. The land is located just west of the Fort Clatsop National Memorial and east of U.S. Highway 101 in Clatsop County. The property expands the new park and is vital for completion of the Fort-To-Sea Trail.

Trail dedication plans evolve: Interior Secretary to appear

The Fort-To-Sea Trail will be dedicated Nov. 14 as part of Oregon's Lewis and Clark bicentennial observance. Oregon will observe the bicentennial Nov. 11-15 under the banner of Destination: The Pacific. Official trail dedication will center on an event at the Sunset Beach trailhead at noon on Nov. 14. Anticipated featured speakers include US Interior Secretary Gale Norton (www.whitehouse.gov/government/norton-bio.html), National Parks Service Director Fran P. Mainella (www.doi.gov/bio/OfficialFranbio.htm), Oregon Gov. Ted Kulongoski (governor.oregon.gov/Gov/bio.shtml), members of Oregon's Congressional delegation and more. The unofficial fun starts at 9:00 a.m., when Gov. Kulongoski tentatively is scheduled to hike the entire six-mile trail from Fort Clatsop to Sunset Beach.

Park begins work on Netul River trail

Work started in early September on a second hiking trail at the Fort Clatsop National Memorial related to, but separate from, the Fort-To-Sea Trail. Thanks to significant help from the National Park Service's Pacific West Region and the NPS, funding has been provided to build the one-mile

trail from Netul Landing to Fort Clatsop. The Netul River Trail will run along the alignment of an old county road, on top of the dike between Fort Clatsop Road and the Lewis and Clark River.

ODOT bridge crews build abutments for three trail spans

Bridge crews from the Oregon Department of Transportation have played an important role in completing the Fort-To-Sea Trail. The Seaside Bridge crew and Astoria Drawbridge crew constructed abutments for pedestrian bridges over Neacoxie Lake and Sunset Lake. These bridges, along with a bridge over the Skipanon River, are part of the trail that starts at Fort Clatsop and ends at the Pacific Ocean.

Why build a Fort-To-Sea Trail?

The volunteers who worked hard in the 1950s to create a replica of Fort Clatsop had a broader vision that included more than replicating Lewis and Clark's 1805-1806 winter quarters. They envisioned a trail connecting the national memorial to the Pacific Ocean. In fact, the National Park Service commissioned a trail feasibility study in 1958. But, it wasn't until 2004 that construction actually started. There are a lot of hopes riding on the trail, which comes as close as possible to duplicating the route (see maps) members of the Corps of Discovery trekked between the fort and Clatsop Plains and the ocean.

See full story at http://www.forttosea.org/why_build_a_trail.html

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