

# History of the Regional Trail System



# A lesson to be learned:

How we applied community momentum and excitement for a region-wide pedestrian and bikeway system



# 2000 Years in the Making

- Klickitat Trail used by Native Americans
- Lewis & Clark Corps of Discovery 1805-06
- National Trails System Established 1968
- The Urban Outdoors Fund Created 1972
- Lewis & Clark Natl. Historic Trail 1978
- Chinook Trail Association Established 1986
- Captain Vancouver Voyage Legacy 1792-1992
- Clark County Trails & Bikeway Systems Plan 1992
- International Discovery Walk Festival 1996
- Vision 2000 Symposium
- Blazing New Trails Symposium November 4, 2005
- Lewis & Clark Bicentennial Legacy Vision April 6, 2006
- Clark County Regional Trail & Bike Systems Plan 2006
- Intertwine Alliance 2007
- Clark County Bicycle Pedestrian Master Plan 2010



# Lewis's Vision of Things to Come

## "Columbia vally wide & butifull"

Lewis and Clark recognized that this region possessed all the natural elements necessary for a vast settlement. The area had waterways for the transportation of goods and thick forests that could supply building materials. The explorers observed expansive "prairies" that would make ideal farmlands. The soil was fertile, and the mild climate could provide a long growing season.

Meriwether Lewis thought that at least 40,000 or 50,000 more people could live in this area some day, noting that it was "the only desirable situation for a settlement which I have seen on the West side of the Rocky mountains."

In 1805, a population this size was enormous. At that time, only 1,100 people lived in St. Louis, and Washington D.C. had a population of 3,210. Philadelphia, one of the largest cities in the country, supported 41,220 people.



Fort Vancouver, 1833

Illustration of Fort Vancouver from Historical Society Special Collection

Fort Vancouver, established by the Hudson's Bay Company in 1825, was one of the earliest permanent settlements in the Pacific Northwest. By 1855, fifty years after the Lewis and Clark Expedition, 2,850 people lived in this area. Today, more than 15 million people live in the metropolitan region of Vancouver, Washington, and Portland, Oregon. Citizens of this area are proud of their heritage and prominent location along the Lewis and Clark Trail.



March 30, 1806

"this valley would be capable to the maintenance of 40 or 50 thousand souls if properly cultivated..."

- Meriwether Lewis -

March 30, 1806

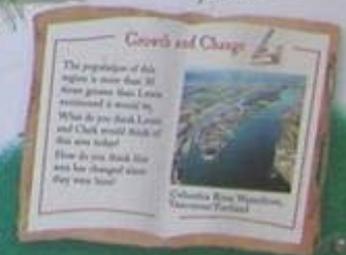
"about Sunset we Camped at a handsome prairie of Grasses of oak timber..."

- John Ordway -

March 30, 1806

"the highlands in this valley are rolling the by no means too steep for cultivation they are generally fertile of a dark rich loam and tolerably free of stones."

- Meriwether Lewis -



### Growth and Change

The population of this region is more than 15 times greater than Lewis estimated it would be. What do you think Lewis and Clark would think of this area today? How do you think the area has changed since they were here?



Columbia River, Vancouver, Washington, Portland, Oregon



# Partner with History

# History of the Regional Trail System

Transition *Vancouver, Washington* from a dying intercity with only limited pedestrian and bike access to a **Bi-state Parks, Pedestrian and Open Space System** that addresses the **health, alternative transportation, economic and environmental** issues.

# History of the Regional Trail System

- Build **community support and partnerships** with user groups
- Establish the blueprint for a **city/urban/county pedestrian and bikeway system**
- Develop a **region-wide pedestrian and bikeway systems plan, Connecting Green.**

NOTE: The Intertwine was formerly known as the Connecting Green Alliance



# Lewis & Clark Legacy Vision

An urban trail system connecting the 14 Lewis & Clark landing sites in the Portland-Vancouver region, providing access by foot, bike or boat to an historic legacy.





**Regional TRAILS & GREENWAYS**

April 08<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> 2003  
Portland State University  
www.pdx.edu/psu03

**METROPOLITAN Greenspaces**  
A Cooperative Regional System of Natural Areas, Open Space, Trails and Greenways, for Wildlife and People

*Charles Beetham*  
**OLMSTED LANDSCAPE LEGACY 1903-2003**  
A Symposium  
The Role of Parkland in Building Sustainable Communities

**2040 Growth Concept Map**

**METROPOLITAN Greenspaces**  
A Cooperative Regional System of Natural Areas, Open Space, Trails and Greenways, for Wildlife and People

**METROPOLITAN Greenspaces**  
Master Plan

**VANCOUVER Greenspaces**

**Nature in Neighborhoods  
Capital Grap Program**

**DISCOVER TUALATIN RIVER**

**FAIRVIEW CREEK**  
Wetlands, Wildlife, Water Quality

**JOHNSON CREEK**

**URBAN STREAMS**  
Wetlands, Wildlife, Water Quality

**EXPLORE SALMON CREEK**

**FANNO CREEK**

**URBAN STREAMS**  
Wetlands, Wildlife, Water Quality

**Urban Stream COUNTRY IN THE CITY**  
Restoration and Management of Urban Stream & River Corridors and Wetlands  
April 20th through April 23rd 2004

**THE URBAN OUTDOORS**  
A New Proposal for Parks and Open Spaces

Portland-Vancouver Metropolitan Area

**the best parks system in the world**

Connecting Green  
Making our vision for a region-wide network of parks, natural areas and trails a reality

**A Bold Goal**

**Connecting Green - A Call to Action**  
Creating the world's greatest system of parks, trails and natural areas

**PROPOSALS FOR PARK & OPEN SPACE SYSTEM - MAP I**

**NATURE NEXT DOOR**

- clean water
- healthy habitat
- access to nature

**Regional Trails & Greenways**  
Connecting neighborhoods to nature

An aerial photograph of the Columbia River region, showing the state line between Washington and Oregon. The river is a prominent dark blue feature winding through a landscape of green and brown terrain. The text is overlaid in white with a drop shadow.

**Clark County**

**Washington**

**Columbia River (Stateline)**

**Metro Area, Oregon**



# Vision

# to

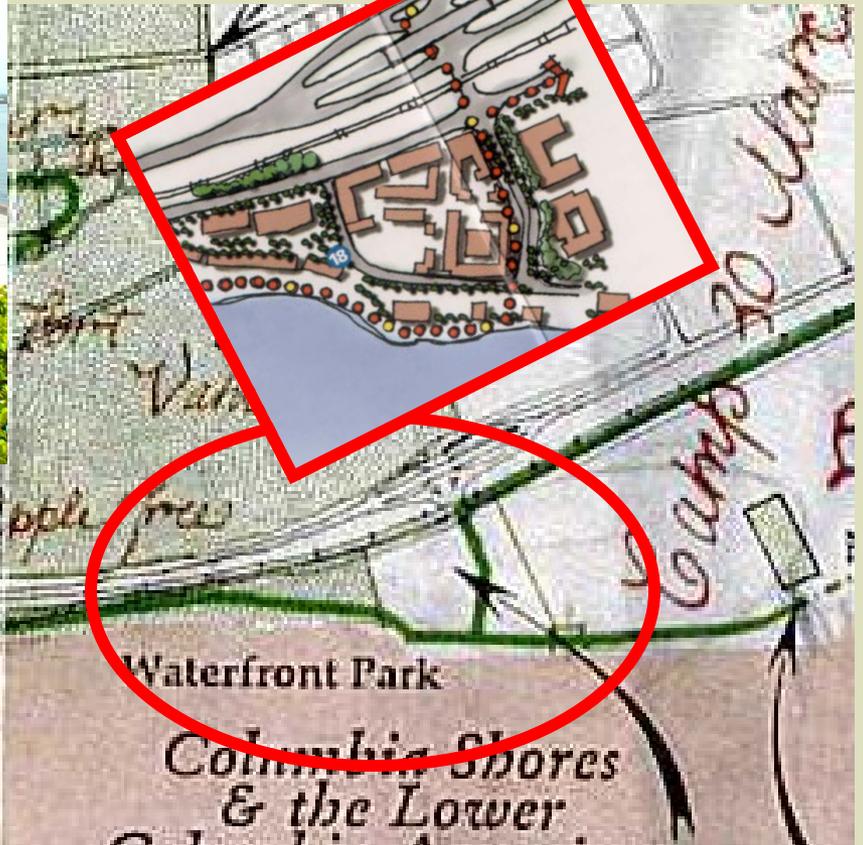
# Reality

“Vision – Outcomes - Objectives - Means”



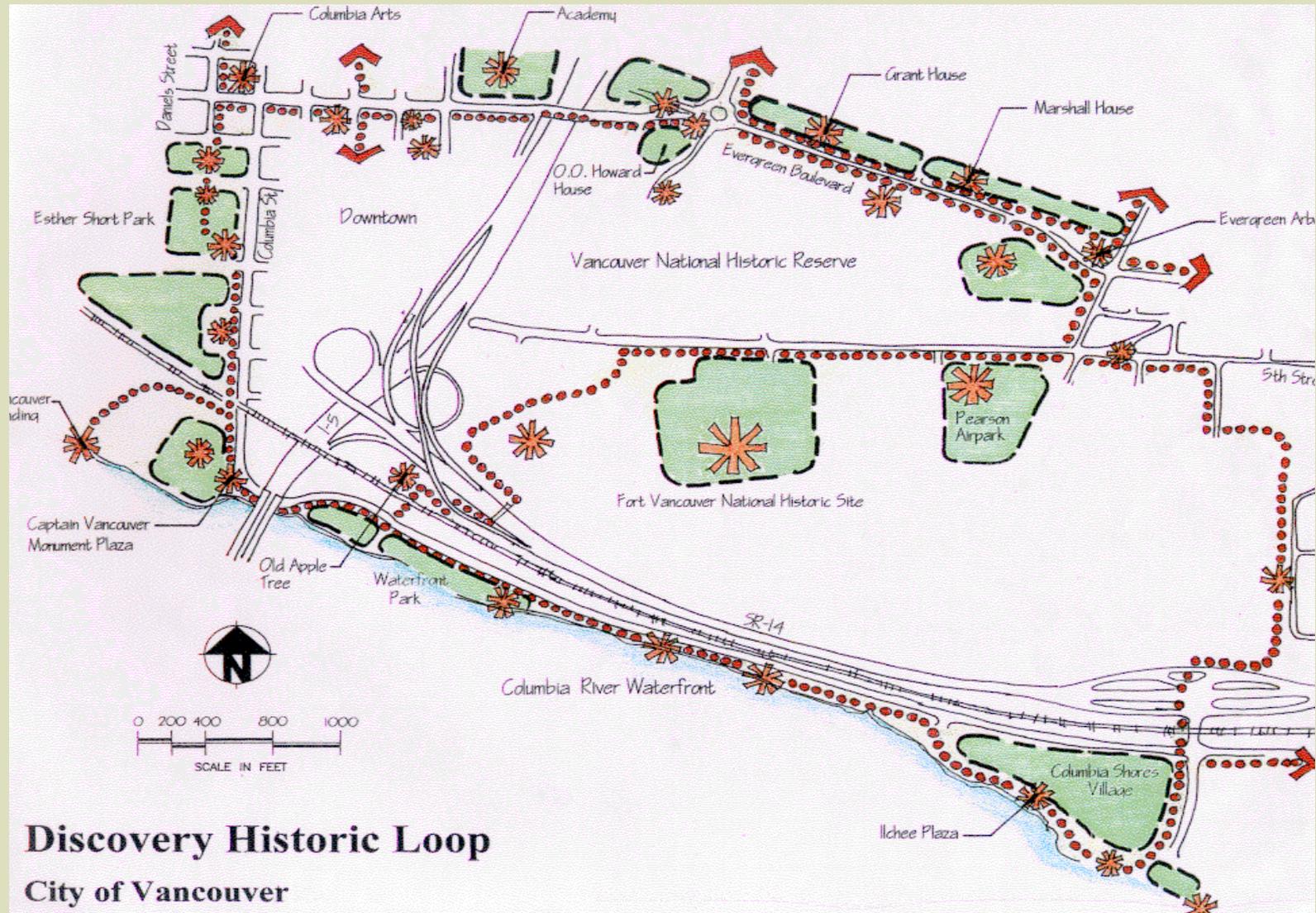


# Columbia Shores Mixed-Use Development 1993



## 1992 Columbia River Renaissance Vision Plan

# Concept Historic Loop Map



**Discovery Historic Loop**

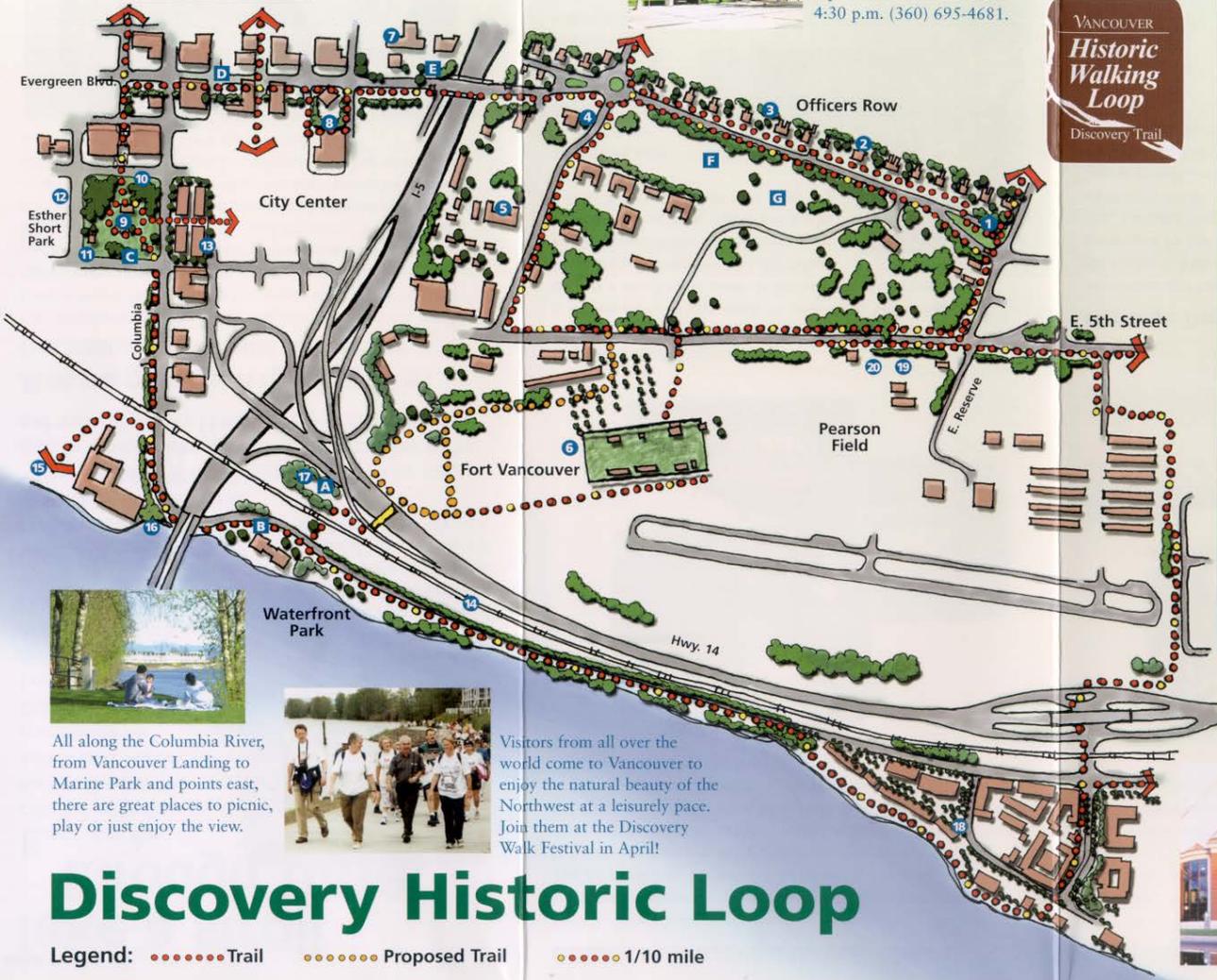
**City of Vancouver**



Just two blocks from Discovery Historic Loop, St. James Catholic Church at 218 W. 12<sup>th</sup> is one of Vancouver's premier architectural structures and the oldest Catholic church in Washington.

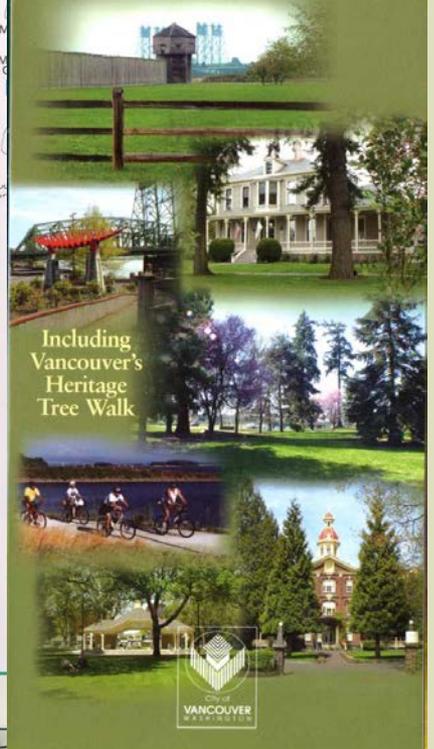


Explore our rich history in maps, photos and exhibits at the Clark County Historical Museum at 1511 Main St. Open Tues-Sat from 12:30-4:30 p.m. (360) 695-4681.



VANCOUVER  
*Historic Walking Loop*  
Discovery Trail

**DISCOVERY WALK!**  
One of America's great urban trails



Including Vancouver's Heritage Tree Walk



All along the Columbia River, from Vancouver Landing to Marine Park and points east, there are great places to picnic, play or just enjoy the view.



Visitors from all over the world come to Vancouver to enjoy the natural beauty of the Northwest at a leisurely pace. Join them at the Discovery Walk Festival in April!

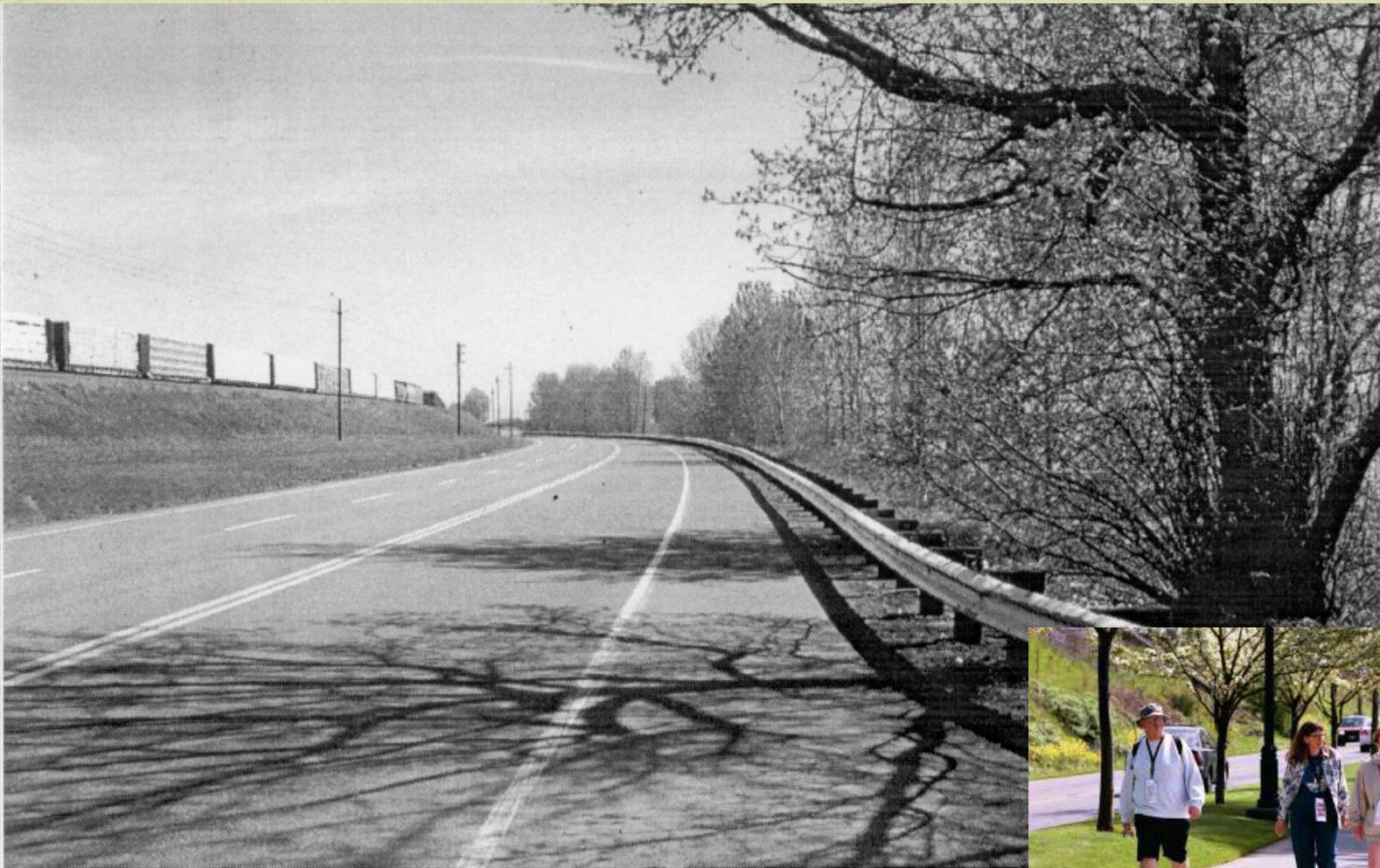
# Discovery Historic Loop

Legend: ●●●●● Trail    - - - - - Proposed Trail    ●●●●● 1/10 mile



Vancouver's Water Resources Education Center at 4600 S.E. Columbia features interactive exhibits, a rotating art gallery, sturgeon aquarium, computer game room and wetlands overlook. Open Mon-Sat, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. (360) 696-8478.

# Reality in 2004



**1992 (Note the tree shadow)**



**Artist Vision 1992**

**Before 1992**



**After**

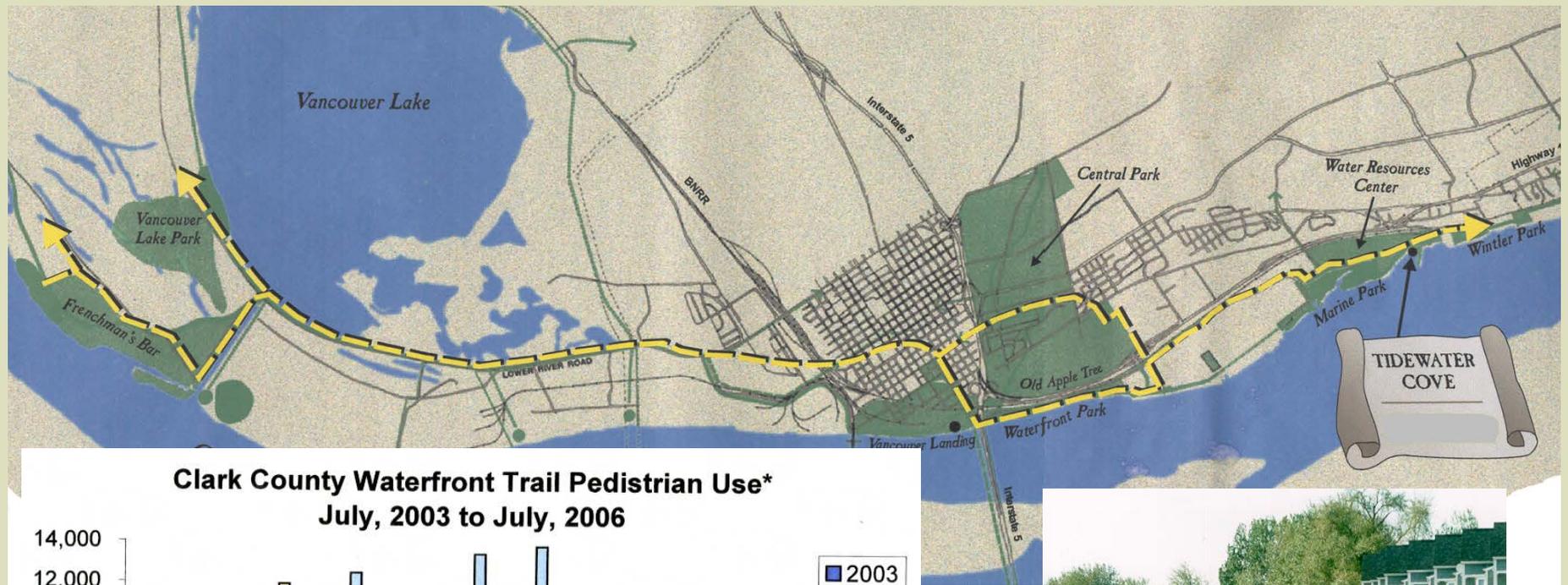


**Reality 2000**

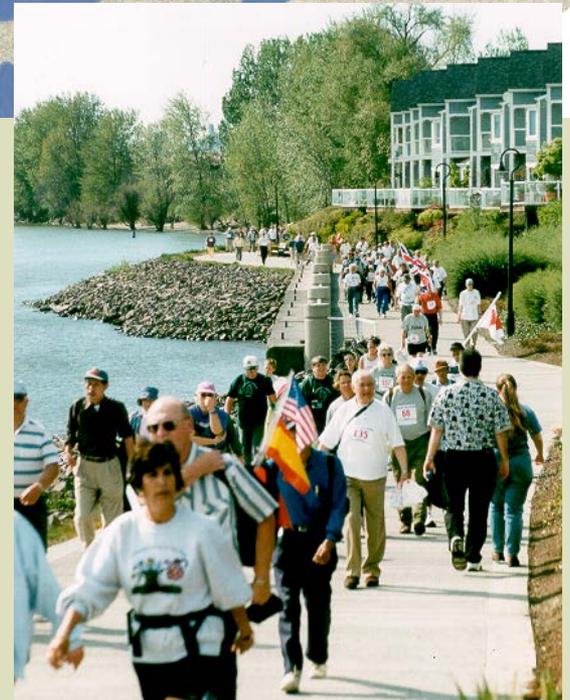
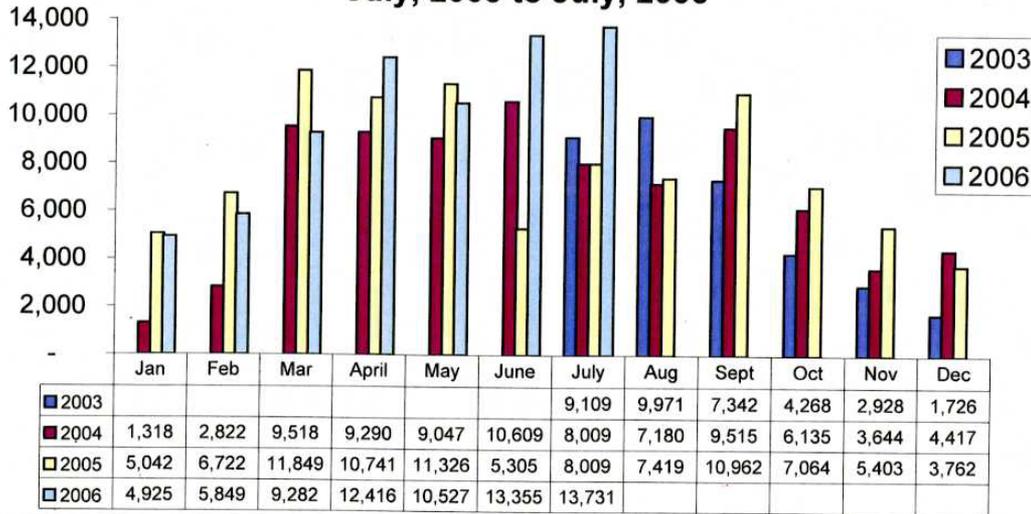


**Maya Lin - Land Bridge (Open 2008)**





**Clark County Waterfront Trail Pedestrian Use\***  
**July, 2003 to July, 2006**



**Reality in Numbers**





# Esther Short Park

# Tidewater Cove Mixed-Use Development

*Blandford Drive Interchange*  
WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
Connecting inland neighborhoods to the waterfront.

*Tidewater*  
PRIVATE MIXED-USE DEVELOPMENT  
Mixed-use development including residential, commercial, hotel, restaurant, marina and tour boat dock. Columbia River Trail at the waterfront edge and public plaza. Extension of Columbia Way to Wintler Park.

*Evergreen Highway Trail*  
CLATSOP WASHINGTON  
CLARK COUNTY  
Connects Columbia River Trail and Interstate 205 pedestrian trail to Oregon.

HIGHWAY 14

*Evergreen Highway*

BNRR

*Stanger House*

*Jane Weber Arboretum & the Stanger Mansion*  
National Historic Site  
CLARK COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Wintler Park

*Leuser Point*

Arboretum and public gardens at the historic Stanger Mansion. Columbia River Trail connects with the Evergreen Highway Trail.

*Marine Park Natural Area*  
CITY OF VASCOUVER

Environmental Education Center, Columbia River Trail, nature trails, wetlands enhancement, waterfront access, extension of Columbia Way to Wintler Park. Christensen Motor Yacht launching overlook.

*Kaiser Shipyards*

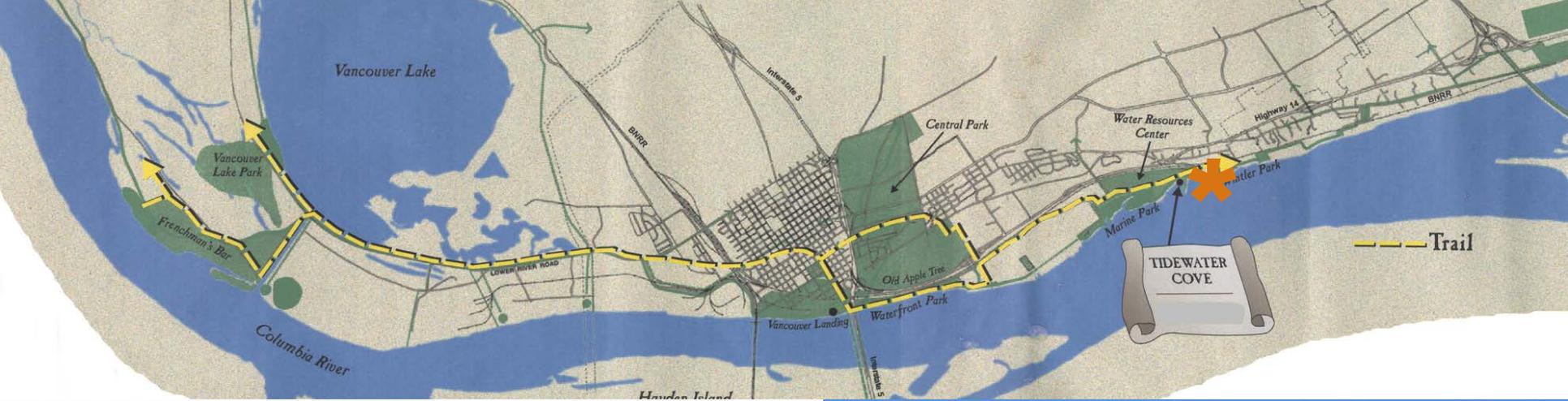
## 1992 Columbia River Renaissance

# Vision Plan

**1996**



**Tidewater Cove Trail 2006**



# Tidewater Cove Mixed-Use Development

# Success Story



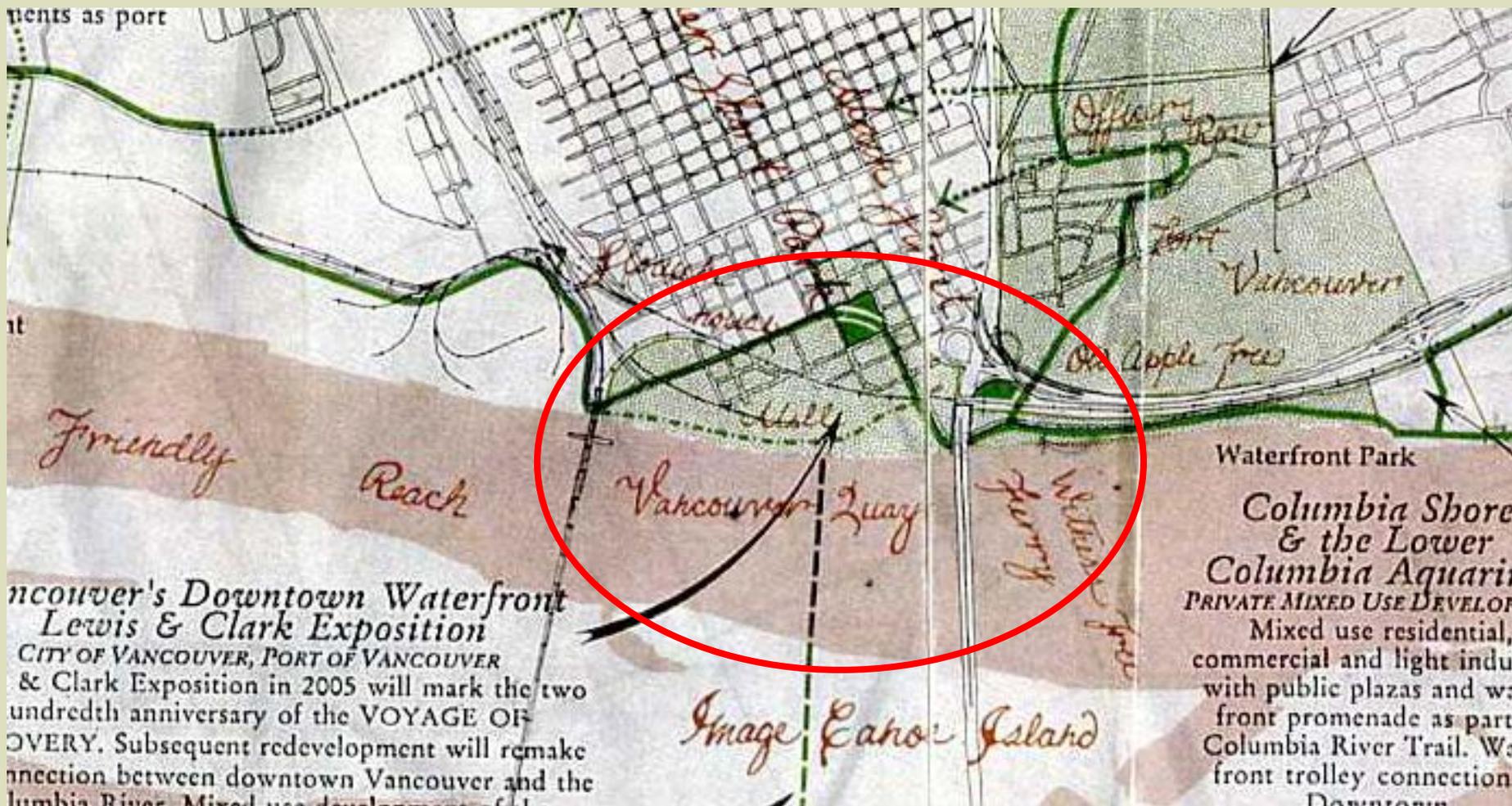
# Opening

# Tidewater Cove Urban Trail 1999



# **Vancouver's Popular Urban Trail - 2008**

# Boise Cascade Waterfront Property



**1992 Columbia River Renaissance**

**Vision Plan**

# Boise Cascade Property (The future)



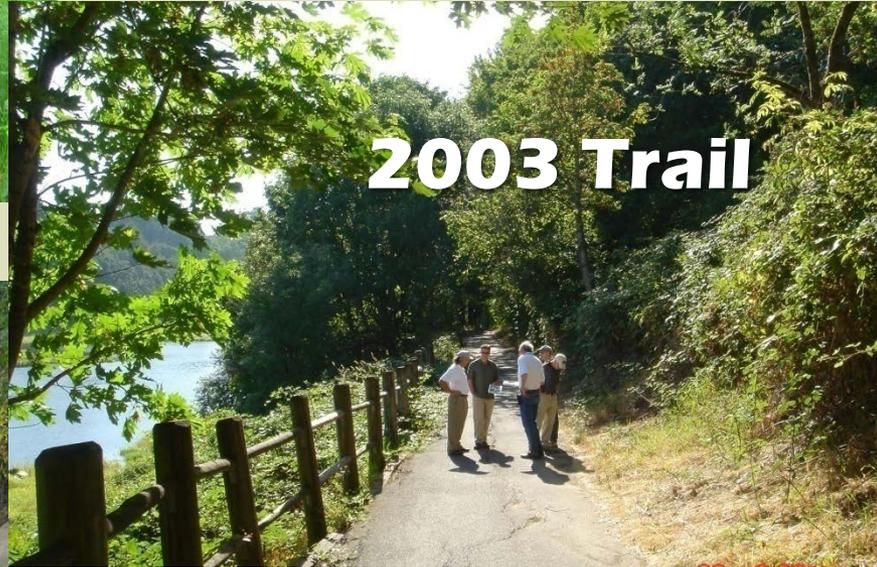
**Concept Plan as of September 2008**

**1970's Trail**

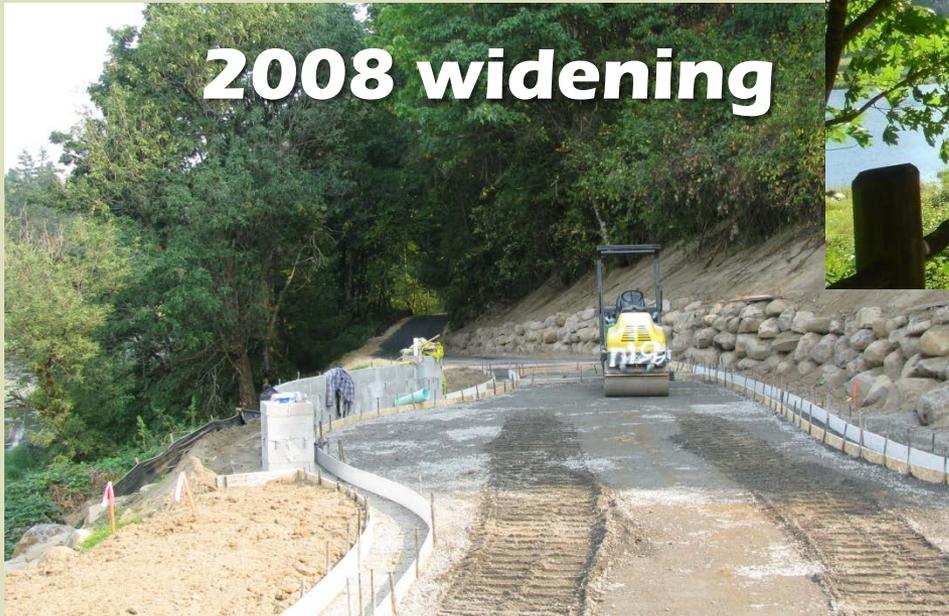


# **Burnt Bridge Creek Trail**

**2003 Trail**



**2008 widening**





**2005 Construction**

**Burnt Bridge Creek Greenway Trail**

# eastward ho!

## Burnt Bridge Creek Greenway

A green jewel in the heart of the city, Burnt Bridge Creek Greenway provides paved, shared-use trails that pass from heavy forest to open grassland. The newest section begins at Devine Road, two blocks south of NE 18th Street. This 3-mile section travels east to 19th Circle near 92nd Avenue. This new addition allows walkers to travel almost eight miles from 92nd Avenue to the Stewart Glen trailhead at the intersection of Fruit Valley Road and Bernie Road on the west.



*"Livable cities must include a vibrant urban Greeninfrastructure with healthy streams, natural areas and neighborhood parks, inside our cities where the vast majority of our population lives."*

*Mike Houck, Urban Naturalist*



### work in progress

In time, 19,000 recently planted trees and shrubs will create a lush canopy over this area. Wetland enhancements are now re-establishing the creek's natural water flow, improving water quality and decreasing flood risk.



**DIRECTIONS** Multiple access points. Travel on Mill Plain Blvd east from I-5, turn south onto Devine Rd, at bottom of hill trailhead is on east side. Travel on NE 39th St east from I-5, turn north onto Leverich Park Wy, Leverich



The Columbian

# Neighbors

\*\*\*  
Wednesday,  
June 21, 2006

your  
Guide:



Vandals damage trees in several Vancouver neighborhoods /2

In your neighborhood: News from all corners of Clark County /8-9



Index

Community watch	3
Calendar	4
Land-use review	4
Speak out	5
Picks in our neighborhood	5
Neighborhood briefs	7
Spiritual	11
Appetize	12
Spotlight on youth	12
Neighborhood focus	14
Genealogy today	15

Coming June 28:

Care home manager, homeowners association spar /1

NORTHCREST NEIGHBORHOOD

## Uncovering a gem

Burnt Bridge Creek Greenway trail attracts visitors, and its popularity is expected to grow this summer

By HOWARD BUCK

Columbia staff writer

Vancouver's newest gem of a trail is gaining favor with users eager to stretch their legs, soak up some nature or grab some urban solitude.

But hikers, cyclists, rollerbladers and casual strollers should expect more company this summer, what with local leaders killing more people. "Go take a hike!"

Come July, new signposts will grace entrances and paths along the Burnt Bridge Creek Greenway, a three-mile extension of the scenic trail that bisects Vancouver, now reaching east from Devine Road to Northeast Burton Road near 92nd Avenue.

Some 50,000 copies of a slick Clark County Walkaround Guide touting the popular trail and nine others have flooded doctors' offices and other medical centers. The map-filled guides are part of a community health campaign to nudge individuals and families outdoors for free, easy exercise.

Finally, sunny days and word-of-mouth should lure more visitors to the greenway, most evident to motorists on Northeast Andresen or

DAVID PLECHL, of The Columbian

stood off Northeast Andresen Road are among attractions on a recently opened three-mile section of the Burnt Bridge Creek Trail. The multiple-use trail crosses the Northwest neighborhood and 12 others as it winds from Northeast Burton Road near 92nd Avenue west to Fruit Valley Road.

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# Success

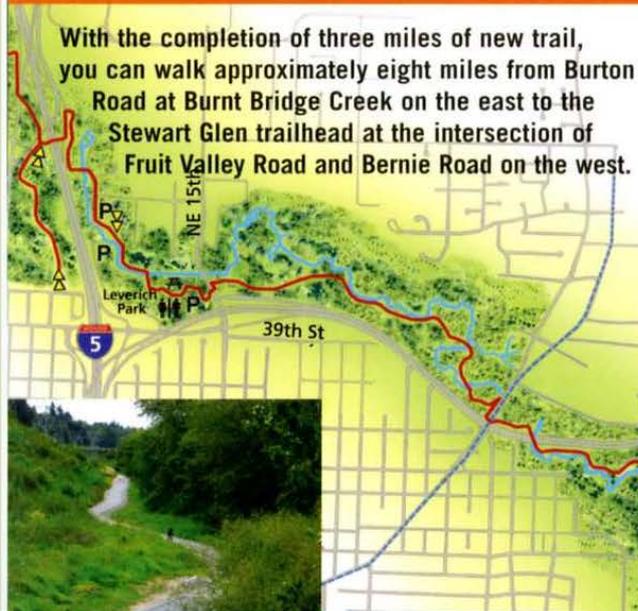


**Vancouver City Council**

**Dedicate Burnt Bridge Creek Urban Trail**

# 6 Burnt Bridge Creek CENTRAL VANCOUVER

With the completion of three miles of new trail, you can walk approximately eight miles from Burton Road at Burnt Bridge Creek on the east to the Stewart Glen trailhead at the intersection of Fruit Valley Road and Bernie Road on the west.



## 2006

### Community Pride Design Awards



### Burnt Bridge Creek Regional Greenway & Trail Project

# A Winner !

# Chinook Trail Association Partnership

## Regional Parks, Trails and Greenways



Identify work accomplished and build future non-profit management plans.

Review proposed trail routes with current regulations.

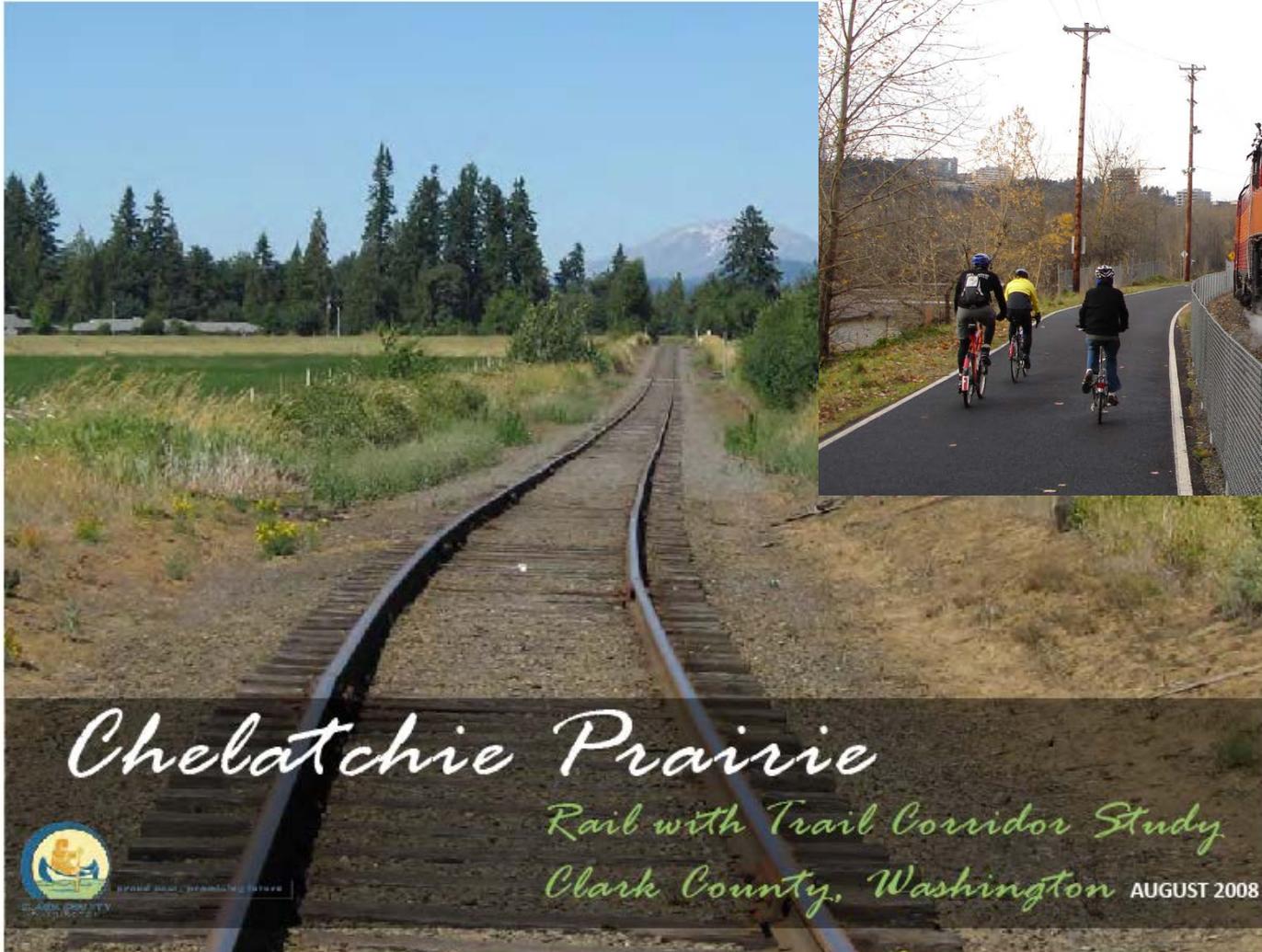
Solution-oriented approach for a changing society.

**Chinook Trail**

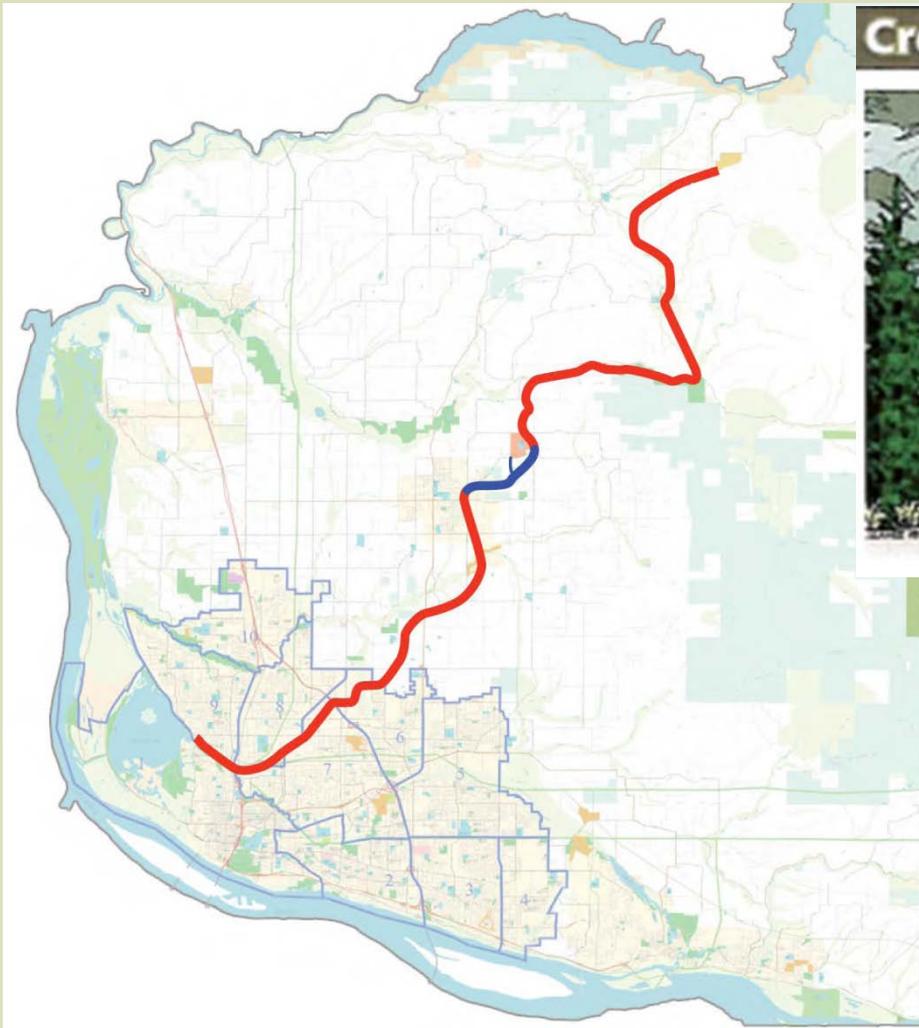


# Final Rail with Trail Corridor Study

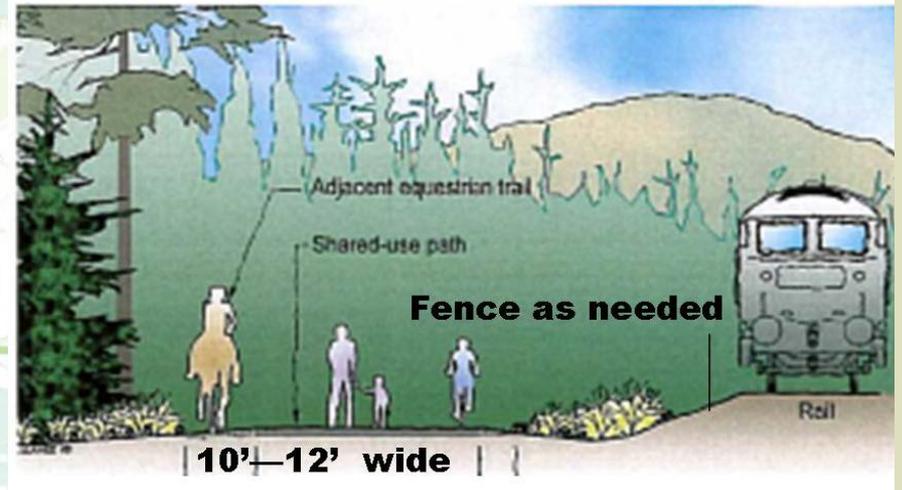
## August 2008



# Chelatchie Rail –Trail



Cross-Section Detail





# Chelatchie Rail –Trail, (Phase 1)

Battle Ground Lake State Park



3 miles



Fairgrounds Park

**Is this person commuting, getting fit, or recreating?**



# Clark County Trail & Bikeway System Plan 2006

Seek Local/State Partnerships, Support and  
Endorsements for the **Connecting Green Alliance**

Cities & Towns in Clark County  
Neighborhood Associations  
Advocacy Organizations  
America Walks  
40-mile loop (Portland)  
Washington Trails Association  
Washington State Parks & Transportation  
Chinook Trail Association  
Volkssport & Discovery Walks Organizations  
Clark County Executive Horse Council  
Steps to a Healthy WA/US  
Community Choices 2010  
Vancouver Bike Club  
Parks Foundation

# The Intertwine Alliance, a bi-state strategy

Integrating the Built and  
Natural Environments for a  
Portland-Vancouver/Clark County  
Metropolitan Area  
Trail System

