



Fort Vancouver National Historic Site



Archaeology UnCOVERS Vancouver's Spruce Mill

AT FORT VANCOUVER NATIONAL HISTORIC Site, we don't just use archives and books to learn about the past - we also rely on the archaeological resources that lie under our feet! Excavations began here in 1947, when National Park Service archaeologist Louis Caywood set out to locate the site of the original Hudson's Bay Company's Fort Vancouver. Caywood's search was successful and, thanks to those investigations, today's reconstructed fort is built on the exact location of the historic fort. Since then, archaeological excavations have been ongoing - from large-scale projects in preparation for the construction of nearby highways, to monitoring during utility projects, to university field schools - and our curators currently care for a collection of nearly three million artifacts!

This national park has a long tradition of supporting education, and since those first excavations in the 1940s and 50s, students have been part of the exploration of this site. Today, we partner with Portland State University and Washington State University Vancouver to lead annual Public Archaeology Field Schools. These



Welcome to Fort Vancouver!

Fort Vancouver National Historic Site holds a very special place in our history. From the native people who first lived on this land, to the Hudson's Bay Company fur traders who established its first permanent settlement, to the US Army soldiers who built Vancouver Barracks and the American emigrants who populated the City of Vancouver, the story of this site is not the story of just one place, but the story of a region and a nation. For our staff, volunteers, and partners, it is an honor to bring this history to life for you, our visitors.

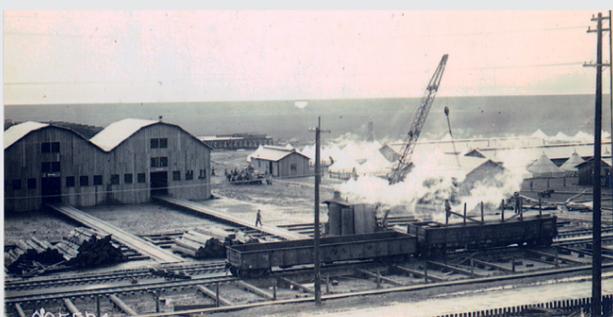
Spring and summer are exciting times at this national park, and I hope that you can take advantage of the wonderful programs and events offered here. We invite you to experience the outdoors with us at National Get Outdoors Day, discover history by visiting our active archaeological dig, commemorate the past at our Soldiers' Bivouac and Chkalov flight anniversary events, launch the centennial of the National Park Service during National Park Week, and so much more!

I hope your interest in Fort Vancouver NHS continues beyond your visit today, and I invite you to follow us on our website, Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram to learn all about current events, projects, and programs here.

I hope you enjoy your visit, and create wonderful memories here at your local national park!

Tracy Fortmann
Superintendent

The History of the Spruce Mill



In 1917, as the United States was entering World War I, the Allies were in dire need of raw material to build airplanes. The Sitka spruce trees of the Pacific Northwest were ideal for airplane manufacturing, but the lumber industry had ground to a halt due to labor strikes. To ensure that the Allies had the wood they needed, the US Army nationalized the lumber industry under the supervision of the newly-created Spruce Production Division.

At Vancouver, where this summer's Public Archaeology Field School will be excavating, a massive Spruce Mill was built to process wood brought in from logging camps throughout Oregon and Washington. At its peak, this mill produced 1 million board feet of lumber a day, which was used to build thousands of American, French, British, and Italian airplanes.

intensive training sessions bring graduate and undergraduate students to the site to actively participate in a dig, learning all aspects of an archaeological project. In the summer of 2015, the field school will take place in the field between the reconstructed fort and Pearson Air Museum, where a massive Spruce Mill was located during World War I. Students will also perform test excavations at the site of the Fort Vancouver Cooper Shop near the southeast corner of the fort's palisade.

One of the unique aspects of this field school is that the dig site is open to the public. Visitors are welcome to talk with National Park Service archaeologists and students about their findings, or just watch the dig as it progresses. The heritage we uncover as archaeologists in this national park belongs to everyone, and we encourage field school students to learn and practice the skill of interpreting their work to the public. The dig site will be open 9:00 am to 4:00 pm, Tuesday through Saturday, June 23 to July 25.

Follow us online!

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National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Fort Vancouver National Historic Site

Fort Vancouver brings together a national park, a premier archaeological site, the region's first military post, and international fur trade emporium, one of the oldest operating airfields, the first national historic site west of the Mississippi River, and a waterfront trail on the banks of the Columbia River.

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National Park Service employees care for America's 407 national parks and work with communities across the nation to help preserve local history and create close-to-home recreational opportunities.

The Season's Signature Free Events

The spring and summer weather are perfect for outdoor activities and the National Park Service produces several special events to help you connect to the park and its history. The following are just a few highlights; to see a complete list of events, check out our online Calendar at <http://www.nps.gov/fova>

APRIL: NATIONAL PARK WEEK & JUNIOR RANGER DAY

On April 18 and 19, help us kick off National Park Week and enjoy free admission to all national parks! On April 18, stop by Pearson Air Museum from noon to 5:00 pm for Junior Ranger Day. Discover the history of early aviation onsite and learn about the basics of aeronautics - all while earning a Junior Ranger badge from Fort Vancouver NHS!



MAY: MEMORIAL DAY & SOLDIERS BIVOUAC

The park will host the community Memorial Day observance at 11:00 am on Monday, May 25, on the Parade Ground. The annual Soldiers' Bivouac will follow the ceremony, with volunteers portraying soldiers from throughout the fort's military past.

JUNE: NATIONAL GET OUTDOORS DAY & ANNIVERSARY OF MILESTONE SOVIET FLIGHT

On June 13, the park will host the National Get Outdoors Day extravaganza - the nation's second largest! Come to the park and learn about the many outdoor activities available on public lands while experiencing a rock climbing wall, archery, up-close bird encounters, and fur trade-era living history at the park's Brigade



Encampment. At 10:00 am on Saturday, June 20, join us at Pearson Air Museum and help celebrate the 78th anniversary of Valery Chkalov's landmark transpolar flight from Moscow, Russia, to Pearson Field.

JULY: 1860S VINTAGE BASE BALL MATCH GAME

Huzzah! At 6:00 pm on July 25, the Vancouver Occidental Base Ball Club will challenge an area foe in a living history reenactment of an 1860s baseball game - played by 1860s rules. A brass band will highlight the players' flapdoodles and daisy cutters on the field with music of the era.

Left: Join us for fun, family-friendly, outdoor-themed activities at National Get Outdoors Day on June 13!

Center: Commemorate the history of the world's first transpolar flight at Pearson Air Museum on June 20.

Right: Cheer on your favorite team at a vintage base ball game on July 25!



Essential Information

Dates and Hours of Operation

The Visitor Center (temporarily relocated to Pearson Air Museum) and Pearson Air Museum are open Monday through Saturday, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, and 10:00 am to 5:00 pm on Sundays.

The reconstructed fort is open Monday through Saturday, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, and noon to 5:00 pm on Sundays. Please call 360-816-6230 for more information.

The park's McLoughlin House Unit in Oregon City is open Fridays and Saturdays from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. Please call 503-656-5151 for more information.

Fees and Reservations

Entrance to the reconstructed fort site is \$3.00 per person, and the receipt is valid for 7 days. Ages 15 years and under are free. Entrance to Pearson Air Museum is free. Entrance to the McLoughlin House Unit of Fort Vancouver NHS in Oregon City is free. America the Beautiful, and all other National Parks Passes, are honored.

If you are interested in holding a special event at Fort Vancouver NHS, visit the park website at www.nps.gov/fova/planyourvisit/permits.htm or contact our reservation coordinator Eva Dodd at 360-816-6241.

Information Centers

The park's Visitor Center is temporarily relocated to Pearson Air Museum during the facility's rehabilitation. Pearson Air Museum is located at 1115 E. Fifth St., Vancouver, WA 98661. Call 360-816-6230 for more information.

Food & Water

Snacks and drinks are available onsite at the AAFES Shoppette in Vancouver Barracks. Meals are available at the Grant House Restaurant on Officers Row and at a number of venues within walking distance of the park.

Bicycles

Bicyclists must stay on designated roads and trails and yield to pedestrians. Travel at a safe speed and let others know when you are passing. Always wear a helmet and carry a patch kit and pump. If listening to music, ride with only one ear bud to be aware of your surroundings and other trail users.

First Aid

Onsite first aid is available inside the reconstructed fort at the Contact Station and at Pearson Air Museum.

Pets

Dogs must be leashed at all times, and their waste must be collected and disposed of.

Permits

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Hunting & Firearms

As of February, 2010, a new federal law allows people who can legally possess firearms under applicable federal, state, and local laws, to legally possess firearms in this park. It is the responsibility of visitors to understand and comply with all applicable state, local, and federal firearms laws before entering this park. Federal law also prohibits firearms in certain facilities in this park; those facilities are marked with signs at all public entrances.

Collecting & Vandalism

Metal detecting and any type of ground disturbance is prohibited. If you see an artifact on the ground, please leave it in place and notify a staff member or call the park's Cultural Resources Division at 360-816-6250.

Blast to the Past with Historic Weapons Programs

AT FORT VANCOUVER NHS, Historic Weapons Programs let visitors experience technology used in the eras of the British fur trade and the US Army throughout the Pacific Northwest.

Every Saturday at 1:00 pm, from July 11th through September 5th, costumed staff and volunteers will demonstrate the loading and firing of black powder weaponry. The program will alternate every week between demonstrations of fur trade era and nineteenth century Army technology, with the fur trade era demonstrations taking place inside the

reconstructed fort and the Army era programs taking place on the Parade Ground. Weapons demonstrated from the fur trade era include flintlock muzzle-loading muskets and swivel guns, while the Army era is represented by muzzle- and breech-loading rifles, cartridge revolvers, and a mountain howitzer.

This popular event helps you to learn about the roles and characteristics of firearms and artillery on the far western frontier. Come see, hear, and smell a piece of our history - it's a blast!



Celebrate National Park Week!

EVERY YEAR, NATIONAL PARK WEEK CELEBRATES America's national parks with fun, family-friendly events nationwide. At Fort Vancouver NHS, join us for a full week of exciting programs from April 18 through the 25th!

April 18: Junior Ranger Day at Pearson Air Museum and Fort Vancouver, 12:00 pm-5:00 pm

April 19: Ranger-led tours of Fort Vancouver, 1:00 pm, 2:00 pm, 3:00 pm, 4:00 pm

April 20: Meet the volunteer gardeners of Fort Vancouver's Garden, 10:00 am-3:00 pm

April 21: Weapons of the Fur Trade black powder demonstration at Fort Vancouver, 1:00 pm

April 22: Walking tour of Fort Vancouver NHS with Chief Ranger & Historian Greg Shine, 12:15 pm-12:45 pm

April 23: Highlights of the Fort Vancouver NHS museum collection behind-the-scenes tour, at Fort Vancouver, 12:15 pm-12:45 pm

April 24: Tours of the McLoughlin House in Oregon City, on the quarter-hour from 10:15 am to 3:15 pm. Tours of the Fort Vancouver NHS Costume Shop, 11:00 am & 2:00 pm, call (360) 816-6244 for reservations.



Celebrating the Centennial of the National Park Service

2016 marks a very important year for the National Park Service - our 100th birthday! National parks throughout the nation, including Fort Vancouver National Historic Site, will be celebrating this year and next with exciting events, programs, and through our social media sites. The National Park Service is responsible for the care and protection of this country's most special places. Since 1916, it has been our mission to preserve these invaluable, irreplaceable resources for generations to come.

Throughout the late 19th and early 20th centuries, Americans became increasingly interested in protecting and preserving the natural and cultural wonders of this country. To do this, these special places were set aside as public lands, rather than private. The world's first national park, managed by the Department of the Interior, was Yellowstone National Park, created in 1872.

By 1916, the Department of the Interior was responsible for 14 national parks and 21 national monuments - including local favorites like Mount Rainier National Park and Crater Lake National Park - but had no agency to manage them. Instead, US Army troops patrolled the parks, and civilians administered them. This left our national parks vulnerable to mismanagement and competing interests, including developers. In 1913, conservationists were outraged when a dam converted Yosemite's Hetch Hetchy Valley into a reservoir. National park advocates used this example and arguments for the economic value of parks as tourist destinations to persuade Congress that an agency to govern and protect the parks must be created.

On August 25, 1916, President Woodrow Wilson approved legislation creating the National Park Service. Over the past 99 years, the national park system has grown to care for 407 national parks, historic sites, monuments, trails, seashores, heritage areas, and landmarks. Fort Vancouver joined the national park system as a national monument in 1948, and became a national historic site in 1966.

2016

National Park Service™ CENTENNIAL

But it is not just park rangers who care for these places. Writer and historian Wallace Stegner called national parks "the best idea we ever had. Absolutely American, absolutely democratic, they reflect us at our best rather than our worst." Our park staff work together with the American people to steward our parks into a great second century.

This year, join us for our initial Centennial-themed celebrations at Junior Ranger Day on Saturday, April 18, at National Get Outdoors Day on Saturday, June 13, and on August 25, when we will celebrate our 99th birthday. For news and updates on all our special events and programs, follow us online on Facebook (www.facebook.com/FortVancouver), Twitter (@FtVancouverNPS) and Instagram (@fortvancouvernps).

This will be a fantastic 99th year, and we can't wait for an even more spectacular 100th! We hope that you will join us to celebrate this historic anniversary at Fort Vancouver National Historic Site!



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Fort Vancouver National Historic Site
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Vancouver, WA 98661

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Upcoming Events at Fort Vancouver National Historic Site

For more information, call
360-816-6230

<i>Event</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Location</i>
Junior Ranger Day	April 18	Pearson Air Museum
Nez Perce/Chief Redheart Reconciliation Ceremony	April 25	Great Meadow
Founder's Day at the McLoughlin House	May 2	The McLoughlin House in Oregon City
Memorial Day & Soldier's Bivouac	May 25	Parade Ground
Children's Cultural Parade	May 29	Parade Ground & Fort Vancouver
National Get Outdoors Day & Brigade Encampment	June 13	Great Meadow
Valery Chkalov: From Moscow to Pearson	June 20	Pearson Air Museum
1860s Vintage Base Ball	July 25	Parade Ground
Village Comes Alive!	August 8	Village
National Park Service's 99th Birthday	August 25	Fort Vancouver
Campfires & Candlelight	September 12	Fort Vancouver

