



February 22, 2018

Clark County Community Planning
c/o Sharon Lumbantobing
1300 Franklin Street,
Vancouver, WA 98666-9810

Historic Preservation Commission
Robert Hinds, Chair

Dear Chair Hinds,

The Port of Camas-Washougal Commission and the Parkersville National Historic Site Advisory Committee members (PNHSAC) are requesting to apply for the 2019 Certified Local Government (CLG) grant on behalf of Parkersville Landing Historic Park, to hire a consultant to prepare a Cultural Resource Management Plan for this site.

Parkersville is an archeological site that is listed on the National Register of Historic Places as well as the State of Washington Register, and is owned and managed as a park by the Port of Camas-Washougal.

The Port of Camas-Washougal, as well as members of the PNHSAC, are in the process of submitting a nomination to the Clark County Historic Register for Parkersville.

The Port would like to have adequate understanding of how to manage the archeological site, having previously, over many years, completed construction projects on the park site, some of which involved excavation.

Commissioners from the Port have met with Alex Gall, and Jacqui Kamp and Sharon Lumbantobing over the past few months, and now understand that having a Cultural Resource Management Plan will help the Port of Camas-Washougal better manage this archeological site.

Management of this historical park site requires some renovations, new construction and improvement of facilities, driveways, pathways, and parking areas to be completed over the next 15-20 years. The Cultural Resource Management Plan will help guide and direct where the future development and management of the park can take place without adversely affecting the archeological site.

Please note the enclosed summary of the history, citizen involvement, and vision for Parkersville Landing Historic Park.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dave Ripp". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

David Ripp, Executive Director
Port of Camas-Washougal
(360) 835-2196

RE: Cultural Resource Management Plan funding request

Summary of Parkers Landing National Historic Site/Parkersville Landing Historic Park

IMPORTANCE AND BRIEF HISTORY OF SITE

The Parkersville Site is significant not only as an archaeological site but as an historic site as well.

There have been archaeological finds near this site. Construction of three residences west of the Parkersville Site from 1968-69 uncovered mortars, pestles, hammerstones, net weights, and a stone effigy. The residents retained the artifacts.

According to the Inventory—Nomination Form submitted to the National Register of Historic Places; “These artifacts indicate the site area may have been an extensive one taking in an additional 210 meters to the west along the terrace. On the other hand, the terrace may have held contiguous sites with tool complexes representative of different periods of occupation.”

Some early site history of significance are that Lewis and Clark camped on the Columbia River’s north bank in the area that eventually became the Parkersville site (from March 31 to April 6 of 1806).

In 1844 the settlement was founded by David C Parker on the Washington side of the Columbia River near what is now the Port of Camas-Washougal marina.

In 1845, Parker cleared ¼ acre, planting potatoes with seen from the Hudson’s Bay Company store at Fort Vancouver. He also built a small dock to receive supplies and accommodate the river boats that traveled upstream. The dock became known as Parker’s Landing.

Other pioneer families followed and settled in the area near Parker’s Landing, and in 1856, a survey established the town of Parkersville.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN SITE PRESERVATION

In 1974, citizens of Camas and Washougal started efforts to protect and preserve what was left of the pioneer community.

Citizen participation to preserve the park began in 1971 as an offshoot of the Columbia River Cultural Center board, whose goal was to promote cultural interest and promote construction of a cultural center for the communities of Camas and Washougal.

Along with preservation of the site, the board started community education programs, the East County Social Services Center, rushing Waters Fair in Washougal, and hosted presentation through the National Endowment for the Arts in the community and in schools.

After the site was submitted to the state Advisory Council on Historic Preservation to be placed on the state and National register, a letter dated August 23, 1976 written by the ACHP Executive Director Arthur Skelnick stated “The Parkersville site could well span 2,500 to 3,000 years of prehistory related to the chinook-speaking peoples. The site is also an early permanent American settlement.”

On August 11, 1976, the Parkersville National Historic Site was placed on the National Register of Historic Places (the site is also on the State of Washington register). The size of the site is listed as 3.88 acres.

The site has been threatened by development, and attempts were made to remove it from the National Register, without success. The citizens have stepped up to protect it, and currently, the site is now

designated a Park (current zoning by the City of Washougal), and further commercial development is prohibited

VISION

The site has become a public park, loved, and used by many. The Kiosk contains information and pictures about the history, providing education to future generations about this important piece of local history. The current advisory committee to the Port of Camas-Washougal, the Parkersville National Historic Site Advisory Committee (PNHSAC), provides oversight of the site, while the non-profit Parkerslanding Heritage Foundation (PHF) manages funding resources.

The intent is to protect this historical site, maintaining its current state with some appropriate additions, such as a replica of the landing light, an upgraded educational Kiosk, and continued additions to the bricks that are placed in the plaza area of the park, inscribed with donor and prominent citizen names.

- [Parkersville National Historic Site Nomination](#) Link to nomination form of 1976.

Full Link address: <https://www.clark.wa.gov/sites/default/files/dept/files/community-planning/Historic/Nominations/Parkersville%20Site%20Nat%20Reg%20document%20%2076001880.pdf>

