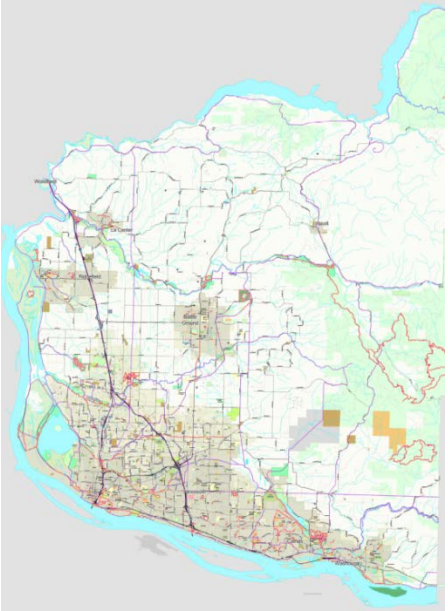
Lewis and Clark Regional Trail
Clark County, Washington

Connecting Communities via 50 miles of trail from Washougal to La Center



Clark County is located in the southwestern part of the state of Washington covering a total area of 656 square miles. The Columbia River flows along the southern and western borders, while the Lewis River defines the northern border. A diverse population of 481,857 individuals lives within these boundaries *(U.S. Census 2018 Population Estimates).*

Founded in 1845, the county is named after William Clark of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. The Lewis and Clark Regional Trail project honors the rich history and namesake of our county, provides opportunity for collaborative partnership, healthy recreation and community connections.

The goal of the Lewis and Clark Trail project is to build a regional trail that will link the southeast corner of Clark County to the northwest corner and beyond, following the Columbia River border. This effort is firmly committed to strengthening our regional partnerships so that we can all achieve positive impact, stretch funding dollars and better leverage limited resources.

This project is in direct response to our Recreation and Open Space Plan adopted by the Clark County Councilors in 2015. Developing the plan included an online survey, which attracted nearly 1,500 respondents. More than 87% of respondents indicated they had hiked or walked in the past year, 53% selected walking and hiking trails as their top recreational priority.

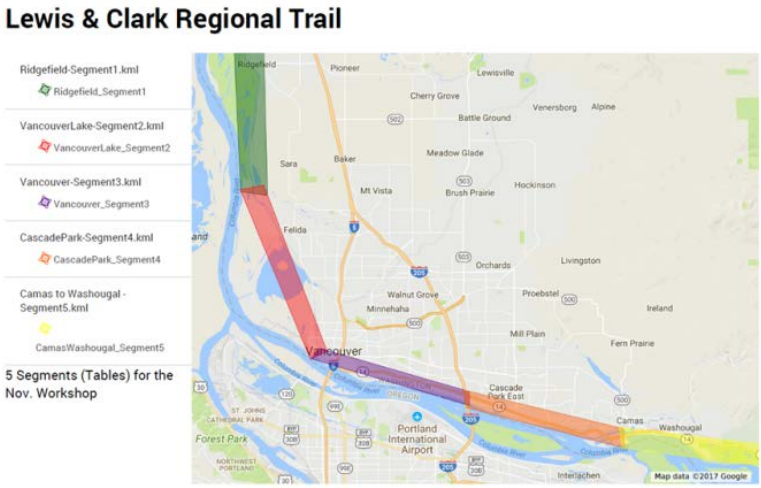
When completed, the regional trail will provide 50 miles of continuous trail that will link Clark County from corner to corner, increase recreational opportunities and improve public health. Our vision includes components that share the history of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, history of the land, viewpoints, rest areas, connection to local communities and more. Our goals include boosting economic development, supporting alternative transportation and providing a quality outdoor experience for residents and visitors alike. Additionally, the trail will connect to the Bi-State regional trail system that reaches into the state of Oregon. At the southwest border, the trail will connect to the Columbia River Gorge loop trail also known as Towns to Trails. The trail will reflect the diversity of the Northwest that includes the natural tranquility of two federal wildlife refuges, urban vitality, friendly locations, small town charm, water ways, forested areas and beautiful viewpoints.

The National Park Service (NPS) Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance program grant awarded to Clark County in 2016 provided the support needed to guide stakeholder discussions, concept trail design, map planning and town connections. The results of this work will be published within the final trail report.

Initial collaborative meetings were held in January and November of 2017. A trail planning charrette included fourteen (14) volunteer landscape architects, nine (9) students from area colleges, two high school student ambassadors and 50 participants representing city governments, area ports, national wildlife refuges, non-profit groups, Cowlitz Indian Tribe members, area parks staff, the National

Parks Service, trail advocates and interested citizens. The charrette focused on five segments of trail that were divided geographically in order to review maps and determine the best plan for the trail. Another group focused on design and trail attributes that would be important to everyone interested in the project.

Additional meetings with stakeholders were held in 2018 and 2019 to further define the alignment of the trail. Regional map reviews were held in the City of Ridgefield, the City of Vancouver and the City of Camas.



Each city along the route has made a commitment to develop trail sections. We are thankful for the work everyone has put into this project and celebrate the success of each mile completed. Exciting events include and are not limited to: the City of Vancouver Waterfront Park completion in 2018, the Port of Vancouver is moving forward with another project on the waterfront and completed a trail section along State Route 501/ NW Lower River Road (July, 2019). The Port of Camas/Washougal completed phase one of the trail alignment from Washougal Waterfront park. The City of Washougal is working on connecting the trail to the newly renovated Steamboat Landing. The City of Camas is working on a loop trail around Lacamas Lake that will connect to the regional trail system. The City of Ridgefield and the City of La Center are also at work to make trail connections. Please visit their websites to learn more!

We will work to keep the momentum going, seek funding opportunities and continue to press forward to see this project reach fruition. Working together we will share resources, develop common themes, preserve our rich history, improve local commerce and most importantly – provide opportunities for individuals and families to enjoy the beauty of the trail.

Thank you for your time and interest in the Lewis and Clark Regional Trail located in Clark County, Washington.

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Clark County, The Intertwine Alliance, the Cities of Camas, La Center, Ridgefield, Vancouver, Washougal, Woodland & Yacolt; in conjunction with the Ports of Camas-Washougal, Ridgefield & Vancouver have partnered together to develop a 50 mile regional trail that is envisioned to connect communities from Ridgefield to Washougal along the northern bank of the Columbia River.