confluence

Confluence is a community-supported nonprofit that connects people to place though art and education. This important work is only possible through the generous support of individuals like you. People who become Friends or Legacy Makers of Confluence share a deep devotion to the Columbia River system and all that it means to our lives, and want to create a lasting, positive impact for future generations.

Make your Confluence Legacy at: www.confluenceproject.org

Visit other Confluence sites

Cape Disappointment State Park Getting there: Hwy 101 north of Ilwaco, WA

Bird Blind at Sandy River Delta *Getting there:* Take Exit 18 off I-84, go north of the freeway

Story Circles at Sacajawea State Park Getting there: Just off Hwy 12 in Pasco, WA (Discovery Pass required)

Listening Circle at Chief Timothy Park Getting there: Off Hwy 12, nine miles west of Clarkston, WA

Celilo Park

Getting there: Exit 97 off I-84, north side of the freeway.

This guide is supported by the City of Vancouver's Lodging Tax Grant Program. And many thanks to Greg Archuleta for providing us with the native plant guide.



Guide to the Confluence Land Bridge



Confluence Land Bridge Dedicated Vancouver, WA

This place along the river has been a plain and a prairie for 10,000 years a rich source of native plants and an economic crossroads for indigenous peoples. Today, the Confluence Land Bridge reconnects people with the river and the broad history of this place.

Architect John Paul Jones designed the Land Bridge with artistic consultation by artist Maya Lin and with key features by native artist Lillian Pitt. Indigenous plants, languages and native basket weavings reveal insights about the confluence of the land, the river and the people.

Welcome Gate – By artist Lillian Pitt, designed as a greeting to visitors, as Chinook people would welcome someone arriving by canoe. Two cedar logs are topped with crossed cedar canoe paddles, each one set with the cast-glass face of a Chinook woman.

Overlooks – Three points along the path feature words for River, Land and People in nine northwest native languages. Stainless steel Spirit Baskets by Lillian Pitt feature cutouts inspired by Columbia River petroglyphs.

August 2008

Native Plant Walkway – Native plants from these distinct habitats are showcased along the walkway, identified by a series of interpretive panels.

Native Plants Source of food and much more Many native plants are along the Land Bridge. Follow the map inside to find them.

confluence



Salmonberry Young shoots and ripe orange or red berries are edible. Berries signal the beginning of the salmon fishing season. Found along waterways.



Fish traps are made of willows sticks. String, cordage and rope are also made from parts of the willow. Gathered in early spring.

Willow



Cottonwood Used to start fires the traditional way. Early buds are used for salves due to its pleasant smell.



Grapes are edible but very bitter until ripe. Boiled prior to eating. Yellow dye is made from roots for basketry.



In many old tribal stories, covote would lose his eves and collect rose hips to use as eyes. Wild roses are edible if prepared correctly. High in vitamin C.



Oregon White Oak Acorns are gathered for food. Very bitter, so tribes had ways to leach the bitter taste out to make flour for acorn mush or steam pit-roasted.



Salal Berries eaten raw or dried and stored for winter. Taste of the berries can vary, but often they have a very good flavor.



Western Red Cedar Bark used to make numerous types of basketry, clothing, cordage and rope. Canoes carved from the large older trees and boards used for the plankhouses.

Land Bridge Native Plants Walk

Find these plants on your walk over the Confluence Land Bridge





Red Osier Dogwood Limbs used to make bows. Berries are bitter but eaten by some Northwest indigenous people.

trick others.

Red Alder

Carved for spoons,

plates and other uten-

sils, also used for dye.

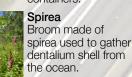
Coyote would pretend

he was bleeding by

chewing the bark to

Sword Fern Leaves used for

ground oven baking of camas and other foods, also for lining of containers.



To Ft. Vancouver

Cattail Woven and sewn to make utility mats, for drying foods and as partitions in plankhouses, for sitting on and many other purposes.



Huckleberry Berries are edible and tasty. Red huckleberries are tart and usually eaten fresh. Mountain huckleberries are dried and stored for winter.





Red-Flowering Currant Edible but not highly prized by most indigenous people.

Cascara Bark is a well-known laxative and used for this medicinal purpose.

Vine Maple

Used to make fish traps in small streams. Sticks used for a hockey-like game called "shinny." Also used for plates. spoons and other wooden utensils and firewood to dry fish, eels and venison.

Welcome

Gate



Choke cherry Edible, but boiled before eating. Continues to be an important food source for traditional ceremonies. Bark is used in basketry and for medicinal purposes.

Hawthorn



There are several species of native hawthorn, and today many non-native species are in the region. Berries are edible, but not widely used by tribes west of the Cascades.



Snowberry Not edible due to its taste, but an important food source for birds in winter.



Red cap-like berry is eaten fresh and often found along waterways. Berry ripens about the same time as salmonberry.

Camas

Bulbs are gathered and eaten by many tribes. Boiled for eating in early spring, but most were baked in ground ovens.



Also known as "Ironwood" for its strength and hardness, used to make hunting bows, arrows and other utility items.

Pacific Ninebark

Peeling bark helps to identify this plant, commonly used to make bows and arrows for vouth.





Oregon Ash

Used to make canoe

paddles, bark used for

baskets and buckets.

Young saplings used for basketry. Hazelnuts gathered in summer. Gathered green, dried in the sun for several days, then shelled and stored in baskets for wintertime.



Serviceberry

branches.

Common berry eaten

stored for winter. Camas

digging sticks made from

fresh or dried and





