



Confluence is a community-supported nonprofit that connects people to place through 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.

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Guide to the Confluence Land Bridge



Confluence Land Bridge

Dedicated Vancouver, WA | August 2008

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.

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
1109 east 5th street
vancouver, wa. 98661
www.confluenceproject.org



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



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



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



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



Wild Rose
In many old tribal stories, coyote would lose his eyes 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 Alder
Carved for spoons, plates and other utensils, also used for dye. Coyote would pretend he was bleeding by chewing the bark to trick others.



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



Sword Fern
Leaves used for ground oven baking of camas and other foods, also for lining of containers.



Spirea
Broom made of spirea used to gather dentalium shell from the ocean.



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.



Serviceberry
Common berry eaten fresh or dried and stored for winter. Camas digging sticks made from branches.



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.



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.



Thimbleberry
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.



Oceanspray
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 youth.



Oregon Ash
Used to make canoe paddles, bark used for baskets and buckets.



Hazel
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.

To Ft. Vancouver

Welcome Gate