



# Fort Vancouver National Historic Site



Photo by Christopher Communications

## Celebrating the Centennial at Fort Vancouver!



IN 2016, THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE turns 100 years old! All of America's national parks will be hosting exciting events, fun programs, and special activities in celebration. We invite you to join us for one of our special Centennial-themed happenings listed below, or to visit and connect with your national park anytime!

### BioBlitz

On Saturday, May 21, from 9 am to 3 pm, join us for our very first BioBlitz! Learn about local species of pollinators, plants, and birds from a team of experts, and help the National Park Service document the flora and fauna of our national park!

BioBlitz headquarters will be located at the Historic Hangar at Pearson Air Museum, where visitors can learn how to become citizen scientists for the day. Family friendly activities and exhibits will also be featured.

### Get Outdoors Day & Brigade Encampment

As an urban national park, Fort Vancouver serves as a gateway to the Great Outdoors! On June 11, from 10 am to 3 pm, join us for National Get Outdoors Day, when representatives from federal and local land agencies, outdoor-themed businesses, and local non-profits gather together to celebrate active, outdoor fun in the Pacific Northwest. At the same time, our annual Brigade Encampment recreates the return of the Hudson's Bay Company fur brigades. This large living history demonstration gives visitors a chance to discover the rugged lifestyle of fur trappers and traders, and their families.

### Founder's Day

On Saturday, August 27, join us to celebrate our 100th birthday! We will be featuring black powder demonstrations, special ranger tours, and hands-on, family friendly activities, as well as the unveiling of a newly restored DH-4 Liberty plane at Pearson Air Museum!

### National Park Week & Junior Ranger Day

National Park Week (April 16-24) is a wonderful time for families of all shapes and sizes to explore this beautiful national park! Fort Vancouver National Historic Site, and all national parks nationwide, will be free all week. With spring weather starting to emerge, National Park Week is a perfect time to explore Fort Vancouver and discover all that your local national park has to offer!

On April 16 from 12 pm to 3 pm, join us at Pearson Air Museum for exciting kid-friendly activities as part of our annual Junior Ranger Day celebration! Kids of all ages can learn about history, science, and national parks - all while earning their own Junior Ranger badge. From 5 pm to 8 pm, join us for Yuri's Night, a celebration of space exploration!

Also on April 16 at 11 am, a special art exhibit will debut at Pearson Air Museum. Through a partnership between Art of Legacy, North Bank Artists, and the National Park Service, local students from the Vancouver School of Arts and Academics and Thomas Jefferson Middle School have created screen prints based on artifacts in the Fort Vancouver museum collection. The exhibit will be on display through the spring.

On April 23 at 2 pm, join us for the opening reception dedicating a new art centerpiece in the Fort Vancouver Visitor Center by Yakama artist Toma Villa, along with a temporary exhibit of Villa's other work.



### Hello, and welcome to Fort Vancouver National Historic Site!

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." While I believe that our nation has been the origin of many other great ideas, it's hard to deny that the preservation of our national treasures is a hallmark of our unique American values.

The National Park Service, which celebrates its centennial year in 2016, is responsible for the care, protection, and interpretation of over 400 special places in this country. Every day, national park rangers, archaeologists, curators, scientists, archivists, law enforcement officers, administrators, and volunteers work tirelessly to preserve and share our parks with the public.

Here at Fort Vancouver National Historic Site, we are very excited to celebrate not just the Centennial of the National Park Service, but also the 68th anniversary of the designation of Fort Vancouver as a part of the National Park System. We are proud to be a longstanding member of our local community, and the national community of special places set aside as national parks.

This year we have many surprises and special events and programs in store for our visitors. See the article on this page to learn about some of the Centennial-themed happenings at the park this year.

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

Tracy Fortmann  
Superintendent



**Fort Vancouver National Historic Site** brings together a national park, a premier archaeological site, the region's first military post, an 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.

**Superintendent**  
Tracy Fortmann

**Park Visitor Center**  
360-816-6230

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**Web and E-mail**  
www.nps.gov/fova  
For email, click "Contact Us"

**Social Media**  
instagram.com/FortVancouverNPS  
twitter.com/FtVancouverNPS  
facebook.com/FortVancouver

National Park Service employees care for America's 410 national parks and work with communities across the nation to help preserve local history and create close-to-home recreational opportunities.

# What to See and Do

At Fort Vancouver National Historic Site, the history of the Pacific Northwest is told at four unique sites, through four unique stories.

## VISITOR CENTER

Begin your visit by learning about all the park's venues through new exhibits and activities. Watch a short film about the history of the area, peruse the park's bookstore, and enjoy a display of artwork by American Indian artists. The Visitor Center is also home to visitor services for Gifford Pinchot National Forest. Visitors can plan trips to the forest, and purchase federal recreation passes.

## FORT VANCOUVER

At Fort Vancouver, discover the site's roots as a British fur trading post, built by the Hudson's Bay

Company in 1825. Tour the fort's buildings on your own, or with our free audio guide. As you approach the fort's gates, be sure to stroll through the garden, which is cared for by a team of dedicated National Park Service volunteers.

## PEARSON AIR MUSEUM

Pearson Field is one of the nation's oldest operating air fields. Exhibits at Pearson Air Museum highlight early military and civilian aviators here, and the site's World War I Spruce Mill, which produced aviation-grade lumber for Allied planes.

## VANCOUVER BARRACKS

Established in 1849, Vancouver Barracks was the Northwest's first U.S. Army post. Stroll among these historic buildings, which

are marked with wayside exhibits interpreting their history. Though the buildings are currently closed, the National Park Service and its partners are working to transform the barracks into a vibrant, public service campus.

## McLOUGHLIN HOUSE

Dr. John McLoughlin, the Chief Factor of Fort Vancouver, moved to his home in Oregon City, Oregon, after his retirement in 1845. Free tours of this home - one of the oldest in Oregon - take place on Fridays and Saturdays. Call (503) 656-5146 for more information.

*Left: Visit Pearson Air Museum to learn about early aviation in Vancouver.*

*Center: The history of Vancouver Barracks is told by costumed reenactors who portray the soldiers, officers, and civilians of the historic military post.*

*Right: Our newly renovated Visitor Center is an excellent place to begin a visit to Fort Vancouver National Historic Site.*



# Suggested Tours of Fort Vancouver NHS

## If you have one hour...

If you have only one hour to visit the National Historic Site, we recommend that you see our namesake, of course: Fort Vancouver! After touring the Visitor Center to learn about the history of the site, proceed to the reconstructed fort located on the plain to the south.

Fort Vancouver was established by the Hudson's Bay Company in 1825, and served as the headquarters and supply depot for a vast network of fur trading outposts in the West. By 1860, after the Pacific Northwest had become part of the United States, the British fort fell into decline and within a few

years burned to the ground. What you see today is a reconstruction of the fort, built on the original's archaeological footprint.

On your way into the fort, take a leisurely stroll through the fort's formal English-style garden - featuring plants that would have been grown at the historic post.

To see the only structure remaining of the original fort, be sure to take a look down the well in the northeast corner of the stockade!



## If you have two hours...

If you have two hours to visit Fort Vancouver National Historic Site, after you've toured the Visitor Center and Fort Vancouver (see above), take a walk along the Spruce Mill Trail to Pearson Air Museum.

The Spruce Mill Trail leads from the gates of Fort Vancouver towards the northeast. This area was once the site of a vast Spruce Mill - the largest in the world. Built in 1917 as part of the nationalization of the lumber industry that occurred during World War I, the mill processed wood brought in from

logging camps throughout the northwest. The lumber was shipped to airplane manufacturers in the eastern United States and Europe. This was part of a massive war effort that ensured that the Allies would be able to compete with German aviation technology.

At Pearson Air Museum, discover the history of flight in Vancouver. Pearson Field has been in constant use since the earliest days of the 20th century, and has been the site of fantastic and historic aviation events, including the landing of the world's first transpolar flight.



## Essential Information

### Dates and Hours of Operation

All park facilities, including the Visitor Center, reconstructed Fort Vancouver, and Pearson Air Museum, are open Tuesday through Saturday, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. Please call 360-816-6230 for more information.

The public headquarters of Gifford Pinchot National Forest is located at the Fort Vancouver Visitor Center. At the Visitor Center, forest rangers can answer questions and help plan trips to the national forest. For information on visiting Gifford Pinchot National Forest, call 360-891-5000.

The park's McLoughlin House Unit in Oregon City is open Fridays and Saturdays from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. Please call 503-656-5146 for more information.

### Fees

The entrance fee to the reconstructed fort site is currently \$5.00 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.

An annual pass for entrance to Fort Vancouver NHS is available, and costs \$30.00. This pass grants entry to the pass holder and three additional adults for 12 months from the purchase date.

### Information Centers

Information can be found at the Fort Vancouver Visitor Center, located at 1501 E Evergreen Blvd., 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

Cyclists 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 and the Visitor Center.

### Pets

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

### Reservations & Permits

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](http://www.nps.gov/fova/planyourvisit/permits.htm) or contact our reservation coordinator Eva Dodd at 360-816-6241.

### 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.

## Explore the history of the Hudson's Bay Company

The Hudson's Bay Company's establishment at Fort Vancouver was the heart of their fur trading empire in the Pacific Northwest. It is because they chose this spot on the north bank of the Columbia River that the modern-day cities of Vancouver and Portland are located where they are.

After touring Fort Vancouver, walk the Land Bridge Trail to the Village and Waterfront (see map on next page). The two small, one-room cabins you will encounter are reconstructions of two houses

that were located in the Village - Vancouver's first neighborhood and the home of the fort's employees and their families.

Next, cross over the Land Bridge. This beautiful pedestrian bridge features indigenous plants, and artwork designed by American Indian artist Lillian Pitt. On the other side, you will encounter the northwest's oldest apple tree at the City of Vancouver's Old Apple Tree Park. Continue on to discover the Fort Vancouver waterfront, an area that was historically the site of boat and canoe landings.



## Explore the history of the US Army in Vancouver

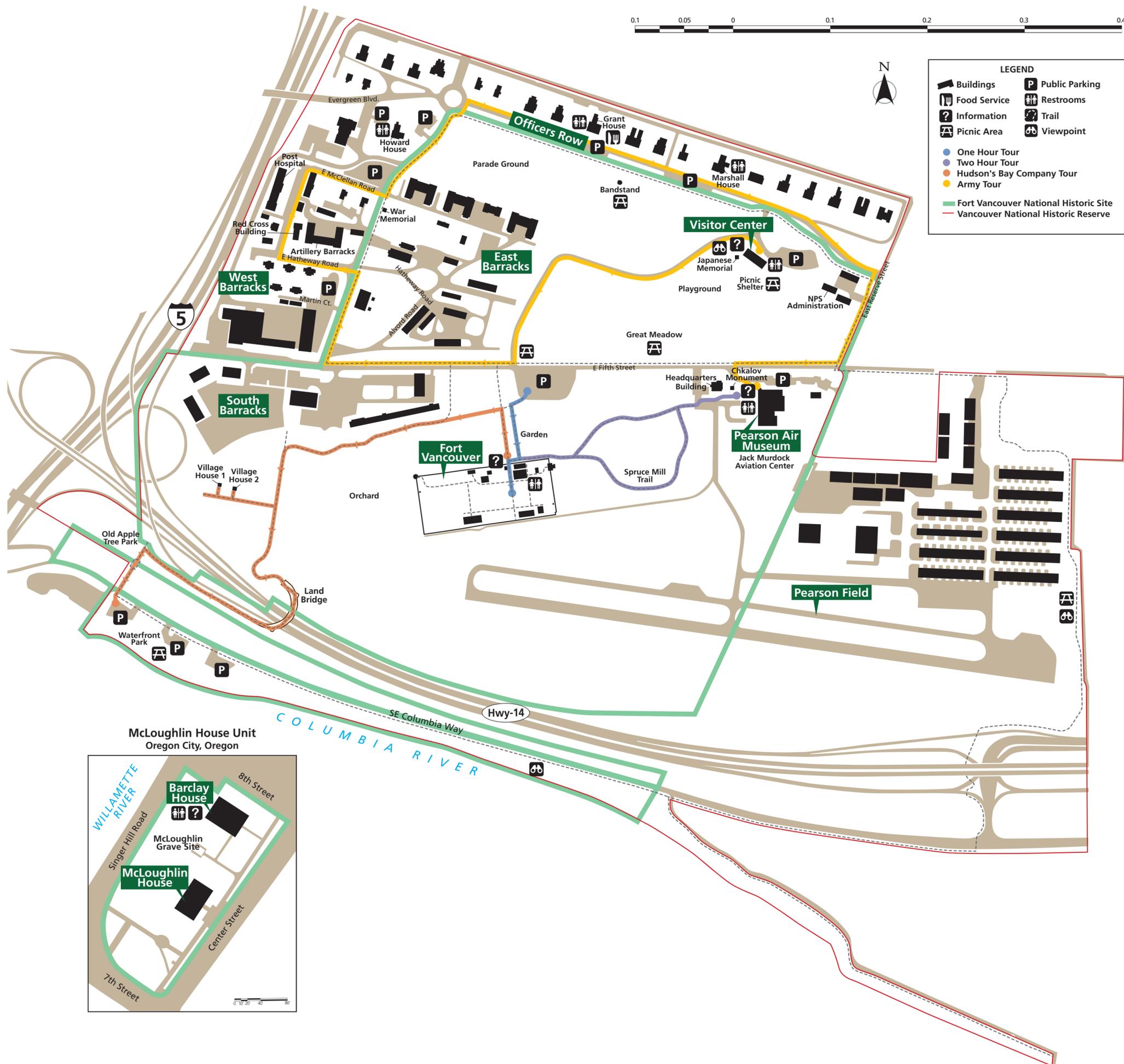
The US Army established Vancouver Barracks in 1849, the first military post in this part of the Pacific Northwest. The last US Army Reserve units were relocated in 2012. Today, the east and south sections of Vancouver Barracks are managed by the National Park Service, and the west section and Officers' Row are managed by the City of Vancouver.

After touring through the Visitor Center, walk down the Park Road towards the reconstructed fort. To your right, the

Parade Ground is where troops drilled. As you walk through the barracks (see map on next page), wayside exhibits will interpret the historic buildings, as well as buildings that are no longer standing, like the St. James Mission.

Be sure to see the beautiful Red Cross Building, the historic Post Hospital, charming Officers' Row, the Bandstand, and Pearson Air Museum, where you can discover the history of the 321st Observation Squadron, stationed at the post from 1921 to 1926.





This spring and summer, explore Pearson Air Museum on Junior Ranger Day, discover the history of the fur trade in the Pacific Northwest at Get Outdoors Day, celebrate the history of Vancouver Barracks at 1860s Vintage Base Ball, and step back in time at the McLoughlin House in Oregon City. For a full list of events and details, visit [www.nps.gov/fova](http://www.nps.gov/fova), or turn to page 7 in this guide.

# Celebrating 100 Years of the National Park Service!



*“There is something for everyone in our 410 national parks, whether it is the breathtaking landscapes or the historical and cultural sites that tell the story of our country...As we approach the centennial anniversary of the National Park Service, this is a perfect time for all Americans - especially young people - to Find Your Park, from neighborhood parks to national parks and all public lands in between.”*

— Secretary Sally Jewell, Department of the Interior

For 100 years, the National Park Service has worked together with many partners and friends to preserve and share our nation’s precious places. From the awe-inspiring beauty of Yellowstone and Yosemite, to the hallowed fields of Gettysburg, to the shores of Acadia and Redwood, to the lively history of Fort Vancouver, these sites are part of our American identity.



## A Liberty Plane Comes To Pearson Air Museum



On August 27, a new permanent exhibit will debut at Pearson Air Museum: a fully restored DH-4B Liberty Plane. The aircraft has been painstakingly restored by Century Aviation of Wenatchee, Washington, (below) using historic parts from previously salvaged DH-4 aircraft, as well as custom reconstructed pieces. The reconstructed aircraft will be made based on designs from 1916 - which is also the year the National Park Service was established!



Liberty Planes were the only American-built aircraft flown by American crews into combat in World War I. These planes were made using Pacific Northwest spruce manufactured at the Vancouver Spruce Mill that once stood on the plain where Fort Vancouver is located. The image above, which comes from the Fort Vancouver NHS archives, shows a Liberty Plane flown during World War I.

After the war, Liberty Planes were flown at Pearson Field by members of the US Army Air Corps’ 321st Observation Squadron, stationed here from 1921 to 1926. The aircraft that will be on display at the museum will be painted to match an actual aircraft that served with the 321st Observation Squadron at Pearson Field.

## Establishing Fort Vancouver National Historic Site

2016 is not just the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service, it’s also the 68th anniversary of Fort Vancouver as part of the National Park System. The National Park Service story here began in 1947, when NPS Archaeologist Louis Caywood uncovered the remains of the Hudson’s Bay Company fort. In 1948, the NPS designated the site as a national monument.



National Park Ranger Roy Ritchey shows young visitors the Fort Vancouver Bastion in 1974.

A groundswell of community support from Oregon and Washington, and the support of both local Congresswoman Julia Butler Hansen and the National Park Service at a national level, led to the site’s expansion and redesignation as a national historic site in 1961. Hansen continued to champion the national park in Congress, where she lobbied to get funding for archaeological excavations and the reconstruction of the fort’s stockade, which originally burned down in 1860.

Just five years later, in 1966, the reconstruction of Fort Vancouver began, starting with the northern stockade wall and gate. Over the years, the remainder of the walls and several other buildings would be constructed, all on the archaeological footprints of the original 19th century buildings.

the construction of facilities, roads, and infrastructure at many national parks nationwide. Since then, Fort Vancouver National Historic Site has become a center of our community, and a place where our local, nationally significant heritage is preserved and shared.

The 1960s also saw the opening of the park’s Visitor Center, which was completed as part of the Mission 66 program - an initiative that funded

## Upcoming Events at Fort Vancouver NHS

Event	Date & Time	Location
<b>Junior Ranger Day</b> Join us for a day of fun, family-friendly activities, and earn your Junior Ranger badge!	<b>April 16</b> 12 pm - 3 pm	<b>Pearson Air Museum</b>
<b>Yuri’s Night</b> Celebrate the first human being in space - Yuri Gagarin, who orbited the earth in 1961 - at this fun, free event!	<b>April 16</b> 5 pm - 9 pm	<b>Pearson Air Museum</b>
<b>Nez Perce/Chief Redheart Reconciliation Ceremony</b> Join us to remember the incarceration of Chief Redheart’s band at Vancouver Barracks in 1877.	<b>April 23</b> 10 am - 1 pm	<b>Great Meadow</b>
<b>Frederick Law Olmstead: Designing America</b> Historian Lawrence Cotton will introduce and discuss his latest PBS documentary on landscape architect Frederick Law Olmstead.	<b>April 30</b> 1 pm - 2:30 pm	<b>Pearson Air Museum</b>
<b>BioBlitz</b> Learn about local species of pollinators, plants, and birds from a team of experts, and help the National Park Service document the flora and fauna of Fort Vancouver.	<b>May 21</b> 9 am - 3 pm	<b>Pearson Air Museum</b>
<b>Children’s Cultural Parade</b> Watch as hundreds of local students parade through the park in celebration of our multi-cultural community, which began at Fort Vancouver.	<b>May 27</b> 10 am - 12 pm	<b>Parade Ground &amp; Reconstructed Fort</b>
<b>Memorial Day Ceremony &amp; Soldiers’ Bivouac</b> Remember our troops at this special community ceremony, then explore the past at living history camps telling the story of the military from the Civil War to World War II.	<b>May 30</b> 11 am - 3 pm	<b>Parade Ground</b>
<b>Get Outdoors Day &amp; Brigade Encampment</b> Discover the great outdoors at this festive, family-friendly celebration! Plan a summer adventure, learn about local parks and forests, and explore the past at our living history encampment!	<b>June 11</b> 10 am - 3 pm	<b>East 5th Street &amp; Great Meadow</b>
<b>Chkalov Memorial Ceremony</b> Commemorate the world’s first transpolar flight, which landed at Pearson Field in 1937.	<b>June 18</b> 10 am - 12 pm	<b>Pearson Air Museum</b>
<b>World War II Encampment</b> Discover the history of Vancouver Barracks during World War II. Local re-enactors will set up a living history camp with authentic World War II vehicles and an airplane!	<b>July 22-23</b> 10 am - 4 pm	<b>Parade Ground</b>
<b>1860s Vintage Base Ball</b> Cheer for your favorite team at this free, live base ball game, played by 19th century rules!	<b>July 23</b> 6 pm - 8 pm	<b>Parade Ground</b>
<b>100th Birthday of the National Park Service</b> Celebrate our Centennial with family-friendly activities, historic demonstrations and refreshments.	<b>August 27</b>	<b>Reconstructed Fort &amp; Pearson Air Museum</b>

For more information, visit [www.nps.gov/fova](http://www.nps.gov/fova) or call (360) 816-6230



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

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# 2016 | FIND YOUR PARK

National Park Service  
CENTENNIAL

The National Park Service turns 100 on August 25, 2016, and you're invited to take part in the celebration! The centennial will kick off a second century of stewardship of America's national parks and engaging communities through recreation, conservation, and historic preservation programs. Learn more at [findyourpark.com](http://findyourpark.com)

## What Makes Fort Vancouver NHS Special?

### Fort Vancouver, of course!

Fort Vancouver, established in 1825, was the capitol of the British Hudson's Bay Company's fur trading empire in the northwest. Fort Vancouver NHS tells this story of the early days of this region, both before and after European settlement.

### An American Legacy

This national park also tells the story of the transition between two nations, which occurred here. This was a place where Oregon Trail pioneers rested before starting the last leg of their journey. Vancouver Barracks, established here in 1849, served as the earliest military post in the Pacific Northwest.

### Cultural Landscapes

Today, we see the past in historic buildings, in heritage trees, in the preservation and interpretation of this land so many have called home.

### A Dense and Layered Archaeological Record

Fort Vancouver NHS is one of the northwest's premier archaeological sites. Excavations have taken place here since 1947 and continue today, resulting in a museum collection of over 2 million artifacts.

### A Place for Play

With our wide open green spaces, Fort Vancouver NHS is ideal for afternoon picnics, playdates, and special family and community events.

### Connections to our Community

This land has been a gathering place for thousands of years, and Fort Vancouver NHS is proud to be a part of our local community today. The presence of the National Park contributes millions of dollars to our local economy. Fort Vancouver NHS also hosts many free community events.

## Become a Junior Ranger!

Anyone can become a Junior Ranger if they are ready to learn about Fort Vancouver National Historic Site and have fun! As a Junior Ranger, your responsibility is to enjoy and protect all the national park sites you visit.

The Junior Ranger booklet, available at the fort, Pearson Air Museum, and the Visitor Center, has activities for children ages 6 to 12, but younger children can complete it with help. Older kids and adults are welcome to participate as

well. Once you complete your booklet, Junior Rangers will be officially "sworn in" and receive their Junior Ranger badge!

The booklet can also be printed at home before your visit from our webpage at <http://go.usa.gov/3H2aY>

For kids with access to the internet, the National Park Service also has an exciting new WebRanger program that kids can complete online at [www.nps.gov/webrangers/](http://www.nps.gov/webrangers/)

