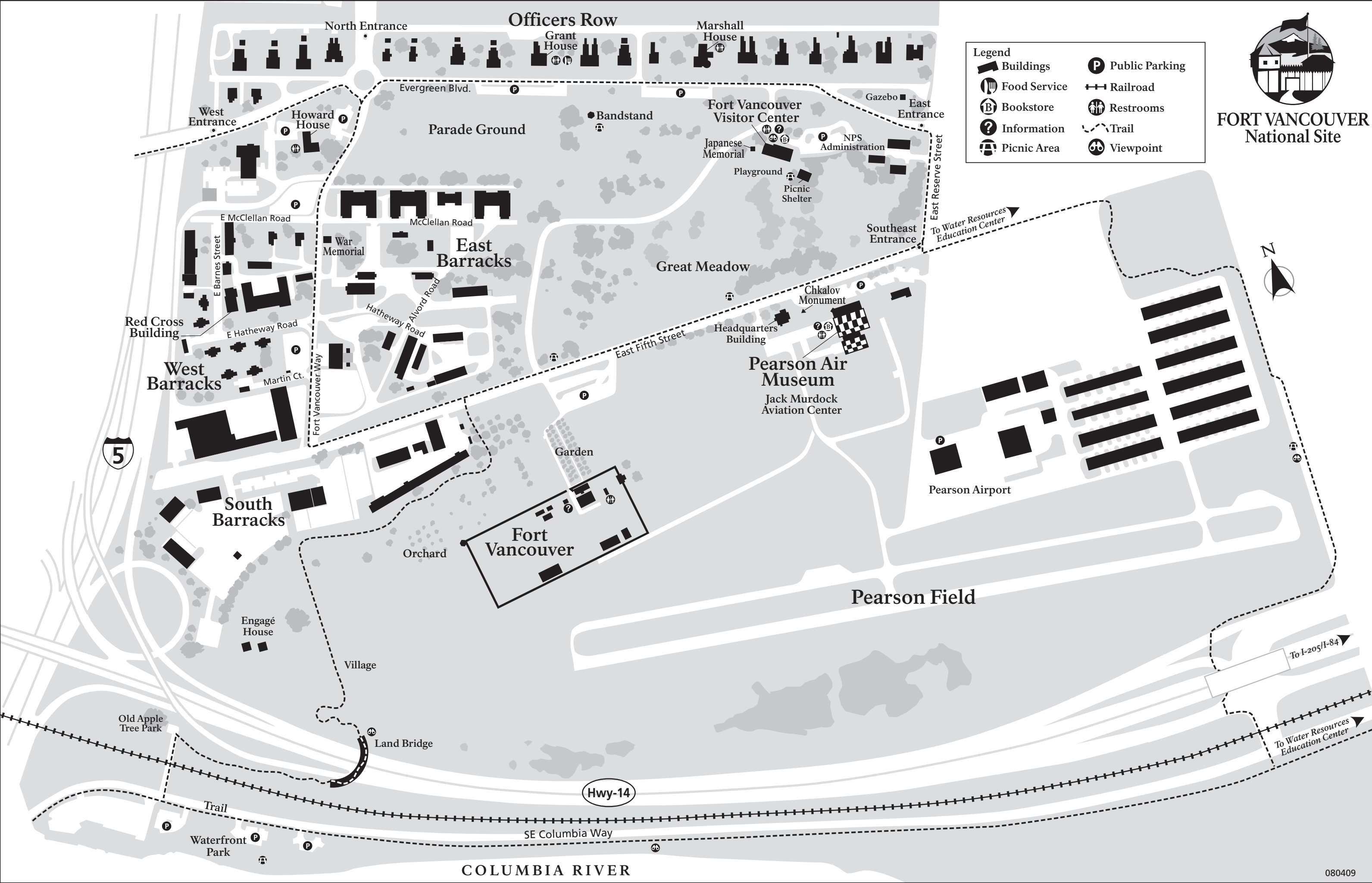




FORT VANCOUVER
National Site

Legend

Buildings	Public Parking
Food Service	Railroad
Bookstore	Restrooms
Information	Trail
Picnic Area	Viewpoint





FORT VANCOUVER National Site

A national park, a premier archaeological site, the region's first military post, one of the nation's oldest operating airfields and a waterfront trail and environmental education center are featured at this unique historic site located on the northern bank of the Columbia River in Vancouver, Washington. The Fort Vancouver National Site's array of museums, public programs and recreational opportunities create a dynamic, fun and unique destination for people of all ages.



Conceptual drawing of renovated Visitor Center

Fort Vancouver Visitor Center

The Fort Vancouver Visitor Center is the place to start a visit to the Fort Vancouver National Site; it offers orientation films, maps, brochures and other information about the attractions and activities to help visitors make the most of their stay. The Visitor Center, which will soon be renovated to add new exhibits and visitor services, currently includes a bookstore and gift shop, exhibits about Fort Vancouver and changing exhibits on other aspects of the history and cultural of the site. Admission to the Visitor Center is free.

For information on summer and winter hours:
360-816-6230
www.nps.gov/fova

Amenities

Trails

The site has a well developed trail system including a trail along the Columbia River waterfront.

Wireless Internet

WiFi is available throughout the site with the exception of the waterfront and Water Resources Education Center.

Interpretive Panels

Outdoor informational panels are located throughout the site which provide information about the buildings, cultural landscape and stories of the site.



Fort Vancouver

Established in 1825

The British Hudson's Bay Company established an extensive fur trading network throughout the Pacific Northwest of which Fort Vancouver was the administrative center and principal supply depot. Today the reconstructed 1840's era Fort and Village, operated by the National Park Service, offer a glimpse into the lives of Native Americans, settlers and fur trappers. The Fort is the site of many special events and interactive educational programs. The park also includes the historic Vancouver Barracks Parade Ground, the site of many military themed events.

The Village

The Hudson's Bay Company Village was home to workers and their families who supported the operations of Fort Vancouver. Residents included trappers, blacksmiths, carpenters and other laborers. In its heyday, the Village housed over 600 people from diverse ethnic backgrounds including Hawaiians, French-Canadians, English, Scottish and members of more than 30 Indian tribes. The Village included a variety of small dwellings, with styles reflecting the diversity of their inhabitants. Today, the reconstructed Engagé House, along with other "ghosted" structures, fence lines and trails, gives visitors a sense of the vibrant and complex life of this multicultural community. The Engagé House is open during special events and for pre-arranged tours.

For information on summer and winter hours and admission fees:
360-816-6230
www.nps.gov/fova



Officers Row

1849-1906

The 22 fully-restored stately homes lining the area north and the west of the Parade Ground were built for the army officers who served at Vancouver Barracks. Today, these homes are in use as offices and residences with three buildings open to the public.

Ulysses S. Grant House

Built in 1850

The first structure built on Officers Row, the Grant House was constructed of hand-hewn logs that were covered with siding in 1855 (some logs are still visible inside the house). The house served as the home of the post commanders until 1886. Grant never lived in this house although he did serve at Vancouver Barracks. The Grant House is open to the public as The Restaurant at the Historic Reserve featuring fine dining and the Commander's Whiskey Bar.

For information on hours and reservations:
360-906-1101

George C. Marshall House

Built in 1886

Built as quarters for the post commander, the house was named for General George C. Marshall who served as Commander of Vancouver Barracks from 1936-1938. This elegant Queen Anne Victorian features an exhibit on General Marshall and is available for weddings, receptions and other special events; open to the public for tours when not in use for special events.

For information on hours and reservations:
360-693-3103

O.O. Howard House

Built in 1879

The home of General Oliver Otis Howard, the Commander of the Department of the Columbia, the Howard House was converted to a non-commissioned officers (NCO) club during World War II. The home was restored to its former elegance in 1998 and now houses the offices of the Fort Vancouver National Trust.

For more information:
360-992-1800
www.fortvan.org



Land Bridge

Built in 2007

Designed by noted landscape architect Johnpaul Jones in consultation with artist Maya Lin, the Land Bridge features native plants and artwork highlighting Native Americans' connection to the land and water. The trail, named for Vancouver's Mayor Royce Pollard, winds past Fort Vancouver and the Hudson's Bay Company Village to the 40-foot wide bridge over Highway 14 which features sweeping views of the Fort and the Columbia River. The half-mile trail is open year-round from sunrise to sunset.

For information on summer and winter hours and admission fees:
360-694-7026
www.pearsonairmuseum.org



Pearson Air Museum

Enter Pearson Air Museum at the Jack Murdock Aviation Center and you enter a world of daredevil barnstormers, experimental aircraft, and aces of World War I and II. Learn about the first dirigible landing in Vancouver in 1905, the beginning of Pearson Field's rich aviation history. View the Russian memorabilia from the world's first trans-polar flight which landed at Pearson in 1937. Watch a movie in the "Tex Rankin" Theatre, browse through exhibits in America's second oldest wooden hangar built in 1918, or enjoy the museum's replica of a rare 1913 Voisin Type-3 French Bomber.



Pearson Field

One of the oldest operating airfields in the United States, many aviation "firsts" occurred at Pearson Field, landing site for the first aerial crossing of the Columbia River in 1905, and for the first transpolar flight in 1937 by Russian pilot Valery Chkalov. Today Pearson operates as a general aviation airport that offers scenic flights and airplane rentals.

For rates and availability:
360-735-9441
www.aeromt.com



Vancouver Barracks

Established in 1849

The US Army arrived in Vancouver in 1849 to ensure the orderly settlement of the Oregon Territory. Vancouver Barracks was an active military post for 150 years, closing in the year 2000. The East and South Barracks currently house Army Reserve Units and the Washington National Guard. The West Barracks includes 16 buildings built between 1887-1939 that are in various stages of rehabilitation. The beautifully-restored 1919 Red Cross Convalescent House featuring EB Hamilton Hall is available for meetings, receptions and other special events. The West Barracks is also home to the International Air & Hospitality Academy (IAHA) which offers culinary arts and restaurant management classes.

For information on special event rentals or classes:
360-931-7873
www.airacademy.com

For general information:
360-992-1800
www.fortvan.org



Water Resources Education Center

Created in 1996

A riverfront environmental education center, the Water Resources Education Center's mission is to teach people to better care for and make wise decisions about water. Visitors can enjoy the hands-on activities in the Exhibit Hall, art work in the Center's White Sturgeon Gallery, live sturgeon in a 350-gallon aquarium, and the panoramic view of the Columbia River. The wildlife-rich wetlands can be viewed from the Overlook that connects visitors to a paved waterfront trail. The Water Center is the caretaker of 50 acres of adjacent wetlands, one of the metropolitan area's few remaining natural Columbia River riparian areas.

For hours of operation and a schedule of events:
360-696-8478
www.cityofvancouver.us/watercenter/wrec/



Water Resources Education Center and Marine Park

