



Imagine...

Home to Incredible Stories

Amazing stories of indigenous people, migrating wildlife, endangered species recovery, and the tremendous human benefits of connecting with nature await visitors to Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge. A Community & Nature Center would be the gateway to the great outdoors the Refuge currently lacks — a portal to discovery of wildlife and native culture.

Gateway to Nature

The Center is envisioned as a community asset and transition space between urban living and a deeper immersion in nature found at the Refuge. Several community development projects are already expanding connectivity to the Refuge and supporting this transition concept, including trail and sidewalk improvements on and off refuge, a refuge-themed downtown plaza, and a new gateway to the Refuge at the Port of Ridgefield.

A Place for Shared Goals

The Community & Nature Center will focus on four core areas: Community, Culture, Education, and Nature. Proposed features supporting these core areas include a community room, cultural and nature-themed exhibits, demonstration habitat areas, and nature play space. The Center will also include desperately needed staff and program space that will allow the Refuge to support a much greater menu of educational opportunities for visitors and partners.

Honoring Community Voices

The Refuge, with support from the Friends of the Refuge, has implemented an inclusive process in developing the conceptual design of the Community & Nature Center by holding two open houses, engaging visitors at the annual Birdfest and Bluegrass event, and conducting listening sessions with community partners throughout the Portland-Vancouver region.

Partner Support

The City of Ridgefield, Port of Ridgefield, Clark County schools and many local non-profits have been strong proponents of the Community & Nature Center at Ridgefield, recognizing the Refuge as core to the quality of life in the community while understanding that its potential is unrealized by its lack of adequate visitor facilities.

Community & Nature Center at Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge

Project Update



Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge

- Welcomes 160,000 annual visitors (and growing)
- Attracts 3,000 students annually to educational programs
- Is a high-priority Urban National Wildlife Refuge serving diverse communities across the Portland-Vancouver Metropolitan Area

Project Status

- The Ridgefield Community & Nature Center is ranked the #1 U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service visitor center priority in the Pacific Region. **Due to limitations of the Service's construction budget, the project is currently not funded.**
- In Fiscal Year 2016, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Pacific Region Headquarters provided \$116,640 to begin conceptual design of the Community & Nature Center. The Refuge contributed an additional \$27,100 to this effort.
- The current cost estimate for offices and a visitor center is \$9.53 million based on a total 11,080 square feet. This number includes site work, utilities, engineering fees, construction and inspection. Conceptual design work currently underway will result in revised and more detailed figures.
- The commitment to help fund these facilities at Ridgefield NWR is strong within the community — a shared goal that has ignited a sense of stewardship from public and private organizations. **Community support is essential.**



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