

Where Nature &  
Community  
Come Together

*Willapa*  
National Wildlife Refuge  
Visitor Center



The Oregon Silverspot Butterfly is just one of the stories Willapa National Wildlife Refuge has to offer.

## *Witness the Transformation...*

*With the rich cycles of tides, spring and fall migrations, and ongoing habitat restorations, change is embraced at Willapa National Wildlife Refuge making each visit a new experience.*

Willapa National Wildlife Refuge invites you to be part of a new and exciting transformation along the Long Beach Peninsula. Just as the tides and streams transform Willapa Bay, the Community and Refuge will unite providing a productive, valuable, and creative partnership.

Blending natural elements into the design, the construction of a new visitor center will create a functional place for people to work, explore and play in harmony with nature. Facilities will provide new access to visitor experiences within walking and cycling distance from the heart of the Long Beach Peninsula, adding the potential to draw 200,000 annual visits.



Restoration of coastal prairie habitat, including the early blue violet, at this site has already begun.  
© Anne Elliott

Willapa National Wildlife Refuge expects to meet or exceed the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Certification Standards. Integrated design elements increase efficiency, minimize waste and help buildings blend into the landscape, while meeting a long list of design standards for energy conservation, water efficiency, and indoor environmental quality and control.

Green roofs will limit storm water runoff, create habitat for wildlife, and help blend the facility into its surroundings; alternative wastewater treatment systems will divert, capture and convert treated gray water and direct it into wetlands to enhance water conservation; and daylighting and natural ventilation will enhance energy performance and indoor environmental quality. Salvaged, reclaimed, recycled, sustainable, low-maintenance, long-life and/or local building materials will be used when possible.



## Create a Sanctuary...

Buildings, pathways and educational opportunities emerge from the landscape. Green roof design and restored natural landscaping surrounding the new buildings will provide a helping hand to wildlife.

$$\frac{1 \text{ inch of precipitation}}{1000 \text{ square feet}} = 640 \text{ Gallons}$$

Oregon Silverspot Butterflies lay eggs on or near early blue violet leaves. Photo Courtesy: Our fine Partners at the Oregon Zoo.



Creative use of space and innovative exhibits will provide all-weather opportunities to orient and learn about the refuge. A gift shop will offer tangible reminders of your wild experience. Indoor and outdoor classrooms enhance existing environmental education activities by placing students in a living laboratory, which will support educational events for an additional 4,000 children and adults. A gallery within the visitor center creates a venue for local artisans to exhibit their work inspiring future generations of wildlife stewards. Covered outdoor gathering spaces are designed for groups large and small.

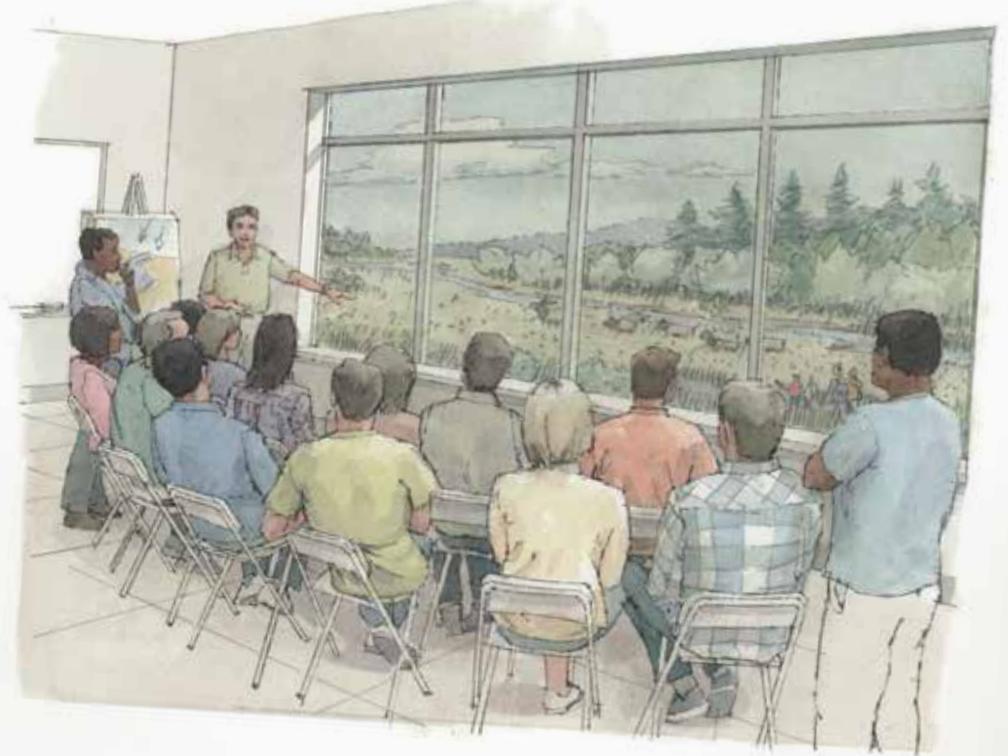
Consolidation of the administrative, maintenance and visitor facilities into one centralized location on the Long Beach Peninsula will allow for better efficiency and coordination while minimizing the environmental footprint. Expanded facilities provide additional opportunities to give back to nature through volunteerism. The new visitor center will provide meeting space for many, including refuge partners, universities, organizations, individuals and community groups.



*Tiny caterpillars rely on early blue violet leaves for nourishment.*

# *Grow with us...*

*Design features encourage comfortable meeting places for community and nature. Architectural elements such as large windows, covered wildlife viewing areas and integrated pathways provide the luxury of shelter while connecting the visitor with nature.*



<http://www.fws.gov/refuge/willapa>



## *Follow Nature's Journey*

*Indulge your senses and create your own unique experience as you explore the refuge through several diverse wildlife habitats.*

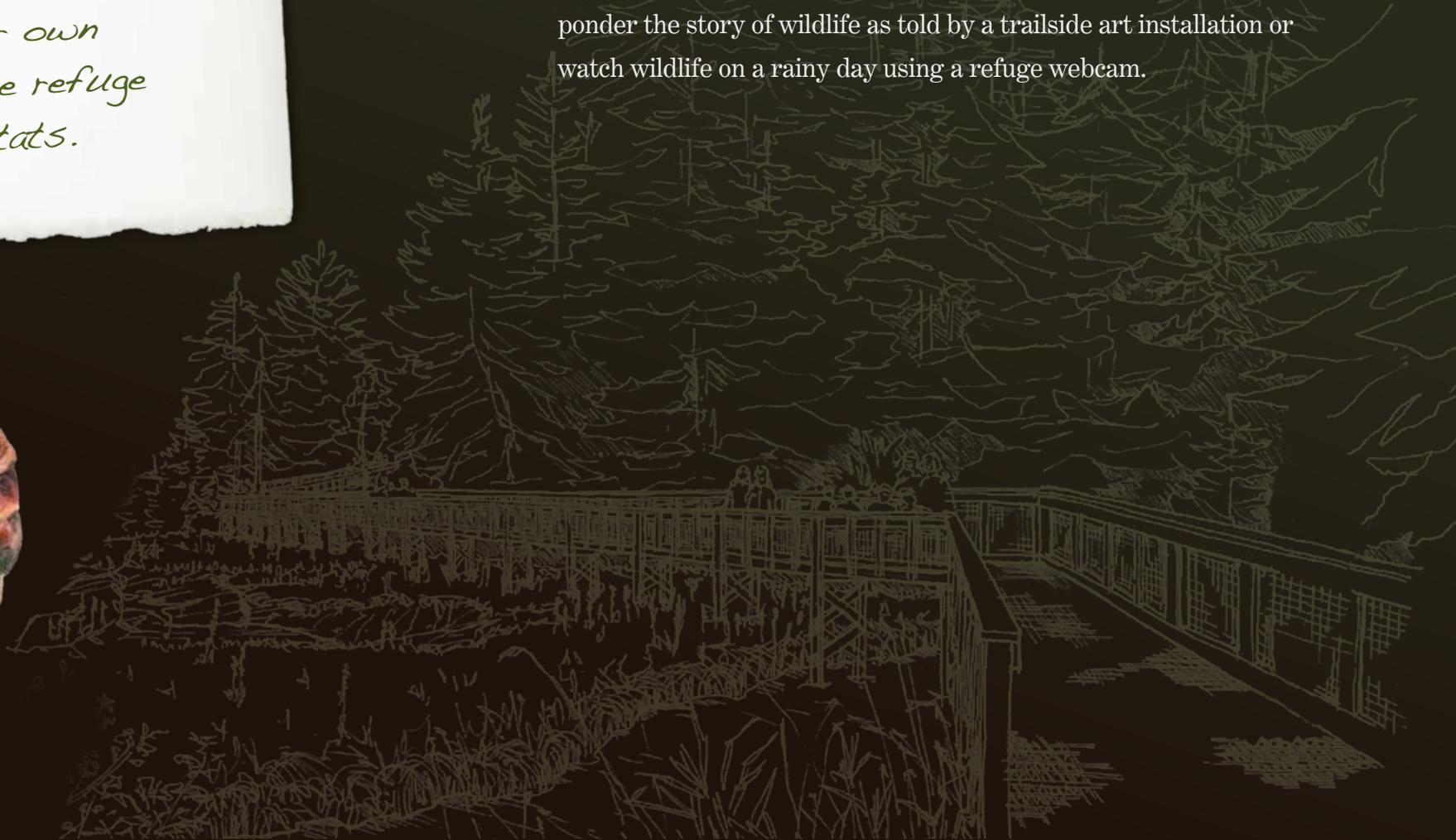
*The caterpillar enters a short pupae stage before emerging as a butterfly.*



Art, science, and technology fuse to reveal nature's story in uniquely incorporated orientation and education features. Connected or unplugged, educational tools and exhibits blend into the landscape as an invitation for all abilities to discover and enjoy.

An accessible nature trail extends from the building to the bay. This one-mile excursion will wind through wetland, coastal prairie, forest, and salt marsh habitats to offer unparalleled views of Willapa Bay. Enjoy a stroll along the nature trail, use the photo blind, view wildlife from covered lookouts, or just revel in the solitude of quiet nature spaces. Nature play areas provide safe opportunities for children to expand their creativity and embrace their wild side.

Use a digital field guide to meet the wild locals, capture a QR code with your smart phone to uncover the details of landscape restoration, ponder the story of wildlife as told by a trailside art installation or watch wildlife on a rainy day using a refuge webcam.



# *Help Spread our Wings*

*Construction of the new visitor center will reach beyond Refuge boundaries to help transform our community. We are actively seeking your help and support.*



Willapa National Wildlife Refuge, part of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, works with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish and wildlife and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.

*Thank you for being an important partner in achieving this goal.*



*[www.fws.gov/refuge/willapa/help\\_spread\\_our\\_wings.html](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/willapa/help_spread_our_wings.html)*

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U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
[www.fws.gov](http://www.fws.gov)  
1 800/344 WILD

Willapa National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1937 to protect migrating and wintering populations of black brant, waterfowl, shorebirds, and other migratory birds and their habitats. It continues to preserve, protect and restore habitat for migrant waterfowl and shorebirds, threatened and endangered species, as well as native fish, plants and other wildlife. The refuge encompasses a diversity of forest, dune, estuarine, freshwater, and grassland habitats.