

Willamette Falls churns at the end of the Oregon Trail. Native Americans gathered here from time immemorial, and the Falls powered the first long distance electric lines in the world. Multiple efforts are underway today to ensure that the legacy of this place is recognized and honored into the future.

Willamette Falls Heritage Area Coalition

Goal: Become a National Heritage Area that draws visitors from all over the world to Willamette Falls and the surrounding area to experience the end of the Oregon Trail and the stories, activities and gorgeous landscape that surround it. The Willamette Falls Heritage Area was recently designated as Oregon's first state heritage area. Heritage areas promote both heritage conservation and economic development. The coalition completed a feasibility study for national heritage area designation and the National Park Service has concluded it meets their adopted criteria. Congressional designation is pending. **Learn more at www.wfheritage.org**

Willamette Falls Legacy Project

Goal: Provide public access to Willamette Falls via a public riverwalk for the first time in more than 100 years and to spur redevelopment of the 23-acre former Blue Heron Paper Company site. The project partners are Oregon City, Clackamas County, Metro, the State of Oregon and Falls Legacy LLC. Four core values guide the project: public access, economic redevelopment, healthy habitat and historic and cultural interpretation. The first step to achieving the goal was completed in fall 2014 with the land-use zoning change that will allow for multimodal, mixed-use development of the site. The vision for the public investment in the riverwalk was finalized in June 2017. The first federal and state permits were applied for in May 2018. Construction for phase one of the riverwalk is anticipated to begin 18 to 24 months after permit applications were submitted. **Learn more at willamettefallslegacy.org and www.friendsofwflp.org**

West Linn Waterfront Project

Goal: Create a vision and planning framework for future land uses and activities in West Linn's Waterfront, based upon community values, aspirations, markets and ideas.

The City of West Linn borders the Willamette River and Willamette Falls, phenomenal natural and cultural amenities. West Linn's Waterfront Project will provide the framework for redevelopment of over two miles of waterfront through new zoning, design standards, development patterns and infrastructure. The plan stretches from the Arch Bridge upriver to the former paper mill ponds. All components of the Plan will support the guiding principles of River Access, Historic Character, Reinvestment Opportunity and Transportation Improvement. The project will translate the Community's vision into a viable framework for needed public and private decisions, actions and investments. Central to this planning process is the reopening of the Locks and the future of West Linn Paper Company. **Learn more at westlinnoregon.gov/waterfront**

Willamette Falls Locks Commission

Goal: Reopen the 1873 Willamette Falls Locks to allow boats, barges and paddlers to bypass Willamette Falls.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has managed the Locks since 1915. In 2011, the Corps moved the Locks to a "non-operational" status due to the lack of nationally significant economic benefit. As a result, the Corps has completed a Final Disposition Study calling for the transfer to a state or local entity or permanent decommissioning with the construction of a concrete bulkhead. The 2017 Oregon Legislature created the Willamette Falls Locks Commission to identify the appropriate transferee and funding strategy.

Reopening the locks ensures connected navigation up and down the river, fulfilling the river's designation as a National Water Trail and an American Heritage River for commerce, recreation and tourism. Each commercial barge eliminates the need for 60 semi-trucks. A study on the Locks' economic potential also revealed a pent-up demand by recreational users.

Learn more at orsolutions.org/osproject/WFLC

