



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

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Lewis and Clark National Historical Park News Release

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New Fort Clatsop Visitor Center Entrance Unveiling Dec. 2

Lewis and Clark National Historical Park invites all to see the more energy efficient and accessible Visitor Center 2 p.m. Dec. 2

OREGON – By Dec. 2, 1805, the Lewis and Clark Expedition was five days away from reaching what would be the site for Fort Clatsop. Fast forward 218 years, and we’re celebrating a new entrance to the Fort Clatsop Visitor Center at Lewis and Clark National Historical Park. All are invited to join us at 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 2, 2023, for this free event. Park leaders will make brief comments and welcome visitors to explore the updated visitor center.

“We’re happy to present the improvements to the public,” says Visitor Services Program Manager Jill Harding. “By improving our accessibility and updating our energy efficiency we are being good stewards of public money and this place.”

Much of the visitor center, including the restrooms and windows, was constructed in 1963, five years after the park was established. The facility tripled in size in 1991 — adding a theater and exhibit hall — through a public and private partnership with park supporters.

More than 30 years and another renovation later, the most visible change in the Visitor Center is the new entrance hall with its soaring beams and high windows. What you might not notice is that we also have replaced the smaller, single-pane office windows with energy efficient models and updated an antiquated heating and cooling system building wide. In addition, spacious public restrooms replace cramped ones, and we added a family restroom. Starting late winter, and into spring, we’ll continue the project with new seating and acoustic panels in the theater. Funding for the project has come from federal dollars and are designated as deferred maintenance.

On Dec. 2, our park partner the Lewis & Clark National Park Association will provide cake and punch during Saturday’s event, as well as have its bookstore open with educational and fun holiday and year-round goods. Hope to see you there!

A unit of the National Park Service, Lewis and Clark National Historical Park, Fort Clatsop is located southwest of Astoria, Oregon, three miles off U.S. Highway 101. The Park also maintains the Lewis and Clark Salt Works site near the Promenade in Seaside, Oregon. We serve more than 280,000 visitors a year and is open in winter 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. except for Thanksgiving and Christmas. For more information, call the park at (503) 861-2471. Learn more at www.nps.gov/lewi, and on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [YouTube](#).