

**ACCESSIBILITY SELF-EVALUATION AND
TRANSITION PLAN
FORT VANCOUVER NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE
VANCOUVER, WASHINGTON**

AUGUST 2020

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Fort Vancouver National Historic Site's Accessibility Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan (SETP) includes findings from the self-evaluation process, as well as a plan for improving accessibility parkwide. The Accessibility Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan resulted from the work of a National Park Service (NPS) interdisciplinary team, including planning, design, and construction professionals; and interpretive, resource, visitor safety, maintenance, and accessibility specialists. Site plans, photographs, and specific actions for identified park areas were developed. Associated time frames and implementation strategies were established to assist NPS park staff in scheduling and performing required actions and to document completed work. Park policies, practices, communication, and training needs were also addressed. The goals of the plan are to 1) document existing park barriers to accessibility for people with disabilities, 2) provide an effective approach for upgrading facilities, services, activities, and programs, and 3) instill a culture around creating universal access.

The following are the key park experiences and associated park areas addressed in the transition plan:

- 1) **Explore the Hudson's Bay Company cultural landscape** – Garden, Orchard, and Agricultural Fields; Reconstructed Fort; Spruce Mill Trail; Village Houses; and Visitor Center, Japanese Memorial, and Picnic Area
- 2) **Discover how Fort Vancouver was a site of cultural diversity** – Garden, Orchard, and Agricultural Fields; Reconstructed Fort; Village Houses; Visitor Center; and Waterfront
- 3) **Learn about the military presence at the Fort Vancouver site** – Bandstand and Flagstaff; East Barracks; Pearson Air Museum and Chkalov Monument; Spruce Mill Trail and Grounds; Village Houses; Visitor Center, Japanese Memorial, and Picnic Area; and Waterfront
- 4) **See the Columbia River, and learn about its importance** – Garden, Orchard, and Agricultural Fields; Reconstructed Fort Vancouver; Village Houses; Visitor Center, Japanese Memorial, and Picnic Area; and Waterfront
- 5) **Learn about some of the earliest historic preservation efforts in the American West** – McLoughlin and Barclay Houses; and Visitor Center, Japanese Memorial, and Picnic Area
- 6) **Learn about the archeological investigations that have taken place at Fort Vancouver** – Reconstructed Fort; Spruce Mill Trail; and Visitor Center, Japanese Memorial, and Picnic Area
- 7) **Enjoy special events** – Bandstand and Flagstaff; East Barracks; Garden, Orchard, and Agricultural Fields; McLoughlin and Barclay Houses; Pearson Air Museum and Chkalov Monument; Reconstructed Fort; Spruce Mill Trail; Village Houses; Visitor Center, Japanese Memorial, and Picnic Area; and Waterfront

- 8) **Enjoy recreation throughout the park** – Bandstand and Flagstaff; East Barracks; Garden, Orchard, and Agricultural Fields; McLoughlin and Barclay Houses; Spruce Mill Trail; Visitor Center, Japanese Memorial, and Picnic Area; and Waterfront

Overall, similar services, activities, and programs were found throughout park areas, as were assessment findings for physical and program accessibility.

PHYSICAL ACCESSIBILITY

Recurring findings were identified for parking areas, accessible paths of travel, and visitor information areas, such as kiosks, interpretive panels and waysides. These findings included surfaces that were not firm and stable, and slopes that exceeded allowable standards. Some restroom features did not meet required standards, and drinking fountains were often only provided at standing height. Picnic tables did not always meet appropriate access route and clearance standards.

Other physical access issues where improvements are recommended include the need for improved designs of exhibits with operable parts, modifications to existing exhibit features so that they are cane detectable, improved accessibility at service counters and information desks, and correct placement and design of informational signage communicating the location of accessible features in the park such as entrances and elevators.

PROGRAM ACCESSIBILITY

Recurring findings related to program accessibility included font and contrast issues at interpretive waysides that require modifications to meet size and readability standards. Some interpretive panels, waysides, publications, videos, and self-guided tours did not have alternate formats in braille, large print, open captioning, or audio or electronic formats. While assistive listening devices were available for people with hearing loss for guided tours or special events, they were not advertised as being available to visitors. Audio description for ranger-led interpretive tours and self-guided tours that describe visual elements to persons with low or no vision were also not widely available. Tactile exhibits were limited.

Programs would benefit from providing increased information regarding the accessible features and conditions at the park. This includes physical challenges along walking routes, the availability of assistive listening devices, braille maps and brochures. The parks special events, activities, and programs need alternative formats for informational materials and interactive activities that are accessible to visitors with a wide range of abilities. For buildings that present challenges to physical access, like the Barclay House, the use of alternative formats including virtual tours should be explored as a means of providing an interpretive experience for people unable to enter due to narrow doorways, tall thresholds, and stairs.

PARKWIDE ACCESSIBILITY

Some of the more noteworthy parkwide accessibility challenges that were discussed by the planning team during the self-evaluation and assessment process include providing access to and within historic structures, and the need for alternative formats of interpretive and outreach materials.

It is recommended that the park employ trained consultants to assist in determining how best to address accessibility improvements parkwide and to ensure that design and implementation of alternate format programs meet the needs of the intended audiences. The park can notify visitors that alternative formats are available by placing signage in appropriate locations and in park publications. Creating parkwide accessibility requires staff awareness, understanding, and appropriate action. The assessment process served as a field training tool to help increase staff knowledge and commitment toward embracing accessibility as a core park value. Continued training in physical and programmatic access requirements for all park staff, particularly those in maintenance and interpretation, is strongly advised.

Because of fiscal constraints and limited park resources, staff considered which park area improvements would benefit the greatest numbers of park visitors with disabilities. Suggested implementation time frames and relative costs were factored into all accessibility investment decisions, and the park will update this information on an as needed basis.

Fort Vancouver National Historic Site strives to be inclusive and welcoming. Staff have a strong understanding of the importance of providing access to their facilities and programs, and staff commitment has led to great examples of accessible experiences at the Visitor Center, Pearson Air Museum, and the Reconstructed Fort. The park is working on a long term circulation plan that over time will continue to phase in more accessible parking and routes to more buildings and waysides. Staff are enthusiastic about continuing to further accessibility initiatives and providing new opportunities for visitors at Fort Vancouver.

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INTRODUCTION

Since 1916, the National Park Service (NPS) has preserved, unimpaired, the natural and cultural resources and values of the national park system, while also providing for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of current and future generations.

Many of our national parks were founded because of their stunning views, extreme and unique geography, challenging and sensitive natural environments, and historic and fragile structures. This park, Fort Vancouver National Historic Site, and other parks exist because of their history and resources. The NPS mission balances protection of resources (both natural and cultural) with visitation. Facilities, services, activities, and programs were designed and built within parks to accommodate our visitors and help them better understand each park purpose and significance.

Many facilities were constructed prior to the passage of laws and policies that reflect the commitment of the National Park Service to provide access to the widest cross section of the public and to ensure compliance with the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968, the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Equal Employment Opportunity Act of 1972, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 USC 12207). The accessibility of commercial services within national parks is also governed by all applicable federal laws. After 100 years of operation, the National Park Service continues to work toward a more inclusive environment. The more than 400 park units that comprise the national park system today include not only the large western parks, for which the agency is well known, but also nationally significant urban parks, historic sites, monuments, parkways, battlefields, and a diversity of other park types across the country.

For a century, the National Park Service has been a leader in connecting people to both our natural and cultural heritage. Visitors today have different needs and expectations, and the agency must adapt to meet these changing demands. Modern scientific research and visitor trend analysis provide new insight into accessibility opportunities and challenges in the national park system. There are approximately 60 million people with disabilities in the United States today, and the number is expected to rise to 71 million in upcoming years as more baby boomers reach retirement age (people 65 and older). This information helps the National Park Service understand changing visitation patterns, the nexus between resource stewardship and accessibility, and the impacts of managing visitors, resources, and infrastructure against the threat of decreased funding. Adequate planning can identify solutions to challenges and provide services with the knowledge and understanding that serves as a trajectory full of opportunity for current and future visitors. The National Park Service is committed to making NPS facilities, programs, services, and employment opportunities accessible to all people, including those with disabilities.

FORT VANCOUVER NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE DESCRIPTION

Fort Vancouver National Monument was established on June 19, 1948, to preserve “the site of the old Hudson’s Bay Company stockade” in current-day Vancouver, Washington.

Archeological investigations had confirmed the 19th-century location of the Hudson’s Bay Company Pacific Northwest headquarters along the north bank of the Columbia River. These findings spurred Congress to formally recognize and preserve this intact archeological site as a unit of the national park system and to interpret the history of the Hudson’s Bay Company fur trading post. In addition to the stockade site, the national monument also protected other historical features in the area, including the historic parade ground of the U.S. Army post that was established during the latter years of the Hudson’s Bay Company period. In 1961, the park was redesignated Fort Vancouver National Historic Site and its boundaries were significantly expanded to include additional historic features, such as the East and South Vancouver Barracks. Since the 1960s, the National Park Service has pursued ongoing reconstruction of select Hudson’s Bay Company-era structures and landscape features as an essential means of interpreting the history of the site.

Prior to European contact, many American Indian tribes (resident Clackamas, Multnomahs, and Cascades Chinooks, as well as interior Klickitats, Cowlitz, Kalapuyas, and many others) used the site of the future Fort Vancouver for shared resource harvests and trade. The site was located along traditional travel and trade routes linking the coast and the interior along the Columbia and Willamette Rivers and their tributary river basins.

Fort Vancouver was established along the northern bank of the Columbia River by the Hudson’s Bay Company in 1825. The fort became the hub of the company’s activity until 1846, when the Oregon Treaty established the 49th parallel as the border between the United States and Canada. The company recognized the strategic commercial importance of peaceful coexistence with the regional tribes and actively engaged them in the company’s organization. Though its location was initially chosen to access both the inland and maritime fur trade and take advantage of the site’s agricultural potential, the fort also became an end-point supplier to U.S. settlers who had migrated westward on the Oregon Trail and were preparing to establish homesteads. The fort and village developed into an important trade and cultural exchange center and were the site of the Pacific Northwest’s first hospital, school, orchard, library, grist mill, sawmill, shipyard, and dairy.

A diverse population congregated around the post for trade, employment, medical care, and security. The company enlisted the skills of local and distant American Indians (e.g., Iroquois and Cree), as well as Native Hawaiians, French Canadians, Scots, English, Métis (people of both American Indian and European ancestry), and others.

Dr. John McLoughlin, the chief factor (chief executive) of Fort Vancouver, is often described as “the Father of Oregon” because of his assistance to homesteaders during westward migration. After the passage of the Oregon Treaty, McLoughlin, a Canadian from Quebec, applied for U.S. citizenship and moved to nearby Oregon City, where he continued to be an influential figure in community life. McLoughlin’s Oregon City home was designated as the first national historic

site in the Pacific Northwest in 1941 and operated as a historic house museum by the McLoughlin Memorial Association with support from the National Park Service. In 2003, the McLoughlin House National Historic Site, which included the McLoughlin House and the home of Hudson's Bay Company physician Dr. Forbes Barclay, became a unit of Fort Vancouver National Historic Site, with ownership and management of the houses transferred to the National Park Service.

After the Hudson's Bay Company abandoned Fort Vancouver in the 1860s, the U.S. Army's Columbia Barracks, established nearby in 1849, quickly grew to encompass the fort site. Eventually known as the Vancouver Barracks, Fort Vancouver served as the army's regional headquarters throughout the late 19th century and 20th century. The field adjacent to the barracks served as what was then the world's largest sawmill site, which provided aviation-grade lumber for aircraft during World War I and became the home of Pearson Field, a military airfield that was the landing site for the first transpolar flight. During the 1930s, the barracks included the regional headquarters of the Civilian Conservation Corps and remained active through World War II. While the army gradually lessened its presence at the site throughout the late 1940s and 1950s, Vancouver Barracks continued to be used by the U.S. Army Reserve into the 21st century. In September 2011, the U.S. Army ceased its operations at East and South Vancouver Barracks, and on May 22, 2012, the U.S. Army relinquished ownership of the property to the National Park Service in accordance with the 1961 legislation that expanded the boundaries of Fort Vancouver National Historic Site, and with the 2005 Base Closure and Realignment Commission recommendations of the U.S. Department of Defense.

The concept of place is core to Fort Vancouver National Historic Site, enabling visitors to better understand the broad history of the site by first-hand experience of the park's location, resources, historic views, and surrounding community. Featuring a reconstructed British fur trading fort, the site of one of the largest multicultural villages in the Pacific Northwest, the U.S. Army's Vancouver Barracks, Pearson Air Museum, and the McLoughlin House Unit, Fort Vancouver National Historic Site represents more than 200 years of history and its resources provide historic context for the settlement and development of the Pacific Northwest. Visitors can experience cultural demonstrations of 1840s lifeways at the reconstructed fort, enjoy urban green space on the Vancouver Barracks campus, view historic aircraft at Pearson Air Museum, and learn more about John McLoughlin's life in Oregon City.

Being an urban national park in the Vancouver/Portland metropolitan area allows Fort Vancouver National Historic Site employees to partner with numerous private and public groups for the protection and interpretation of the area's rich historic resources. The National Park Service, working through Fort Vancouver National Historic Site staff, is a legislated partner in the Vancouver National Historic Reserve, a 366-acre area designated by Congress with the shared vision of preservation, education, and public use. The reserve's four legislated partners (the National Park Service, the U.S. Army, the State of Washington, and the City of Vancouver, Washington) cooperatively administer their respective adjacent historic venues under a management plan that also allows each entity to manage its resources according to its own missions, policies, and regulations.

FORT VANCOUVER NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE PURPOSE AND SIGNIFICANCE STATEMENTS

In 2017, Fort Vancouver National Historic Site completed a foundation document. Foundation documents provide basic guidance for planning and management decisions by identifying the park purpose, significance, and fundamental resources and values. The Fort Vancouver National Historic Site foundation plan identifies special mandates and administrative commitments and provides an assessment and prioritization of park planning and data needs. Understanding these elements helps set the stage for appropriately integrating accessibility into the overall park priorities and plans. The following foundation elements were identified for Fort Vancouver National Historic Site.

Park Purpose

Fort Vancouver National Historic Site preserves and interprets nationally significant resources associated with the western headquarters of the Hudson's Bay Company's fur trade empire, the settlement of the Oregon Country, and the U.S. Army's post and headquarters, while promoting public understanding and appreciation for the individuals and diverse communities who forged this multilayered history.

Park Significance

- Fort Vancouver, strategically located on the Columbia River, was the site of the Hudson's Bay Company's administrative headquarters and supply depot west of the Rocky Mountains. The fort served as the central hub of the company's trading network in the Pacific Northwest, greatly influencing the region's economic development and settlement as well as prompting cultural change for Europeans and American Indians.
- Known as the "New York of the Pacific," Fort Vancouver played a pivotal role in advancing settlement in the Oregon Country, a movement that drastically impacted American Indian life and culture in the region. The fort's chief factor, John McLoughlin, provided immigrants arriving on the Oregon Trail with much-needed food, supplies, and other assistance; his actions bolstered American influence on the Northwest.
- As the first U.S. Army post in the Pacific Northwest, Vancouver Barracks took military actions relating to land and labor disputes during pivotal moments in America's western expansion, often at the expense of American Indians. The post's importance continued into the 20th century as it became the Pacific Northwest's center for defense and home of the Army Air Corps and Civilian Conservation Corps during the Great Depression.
- Fort Vancouver National Historic Site's extensive collection of American Indian, fur trade, and U.S. Army material culture, which encompasses archeological artifacts, historic objects, and archival documents, directly contributed to the park's

establishment and showcases global trade networks, technological change, and cultural contact over the past two centuries.

- By virtue of its preservation, Fort Vancouver National Historic Site offers a rich overlay of historic structures, reconstructions, intact archeological sites, cultural landscapes, and historic views that allows visitors an authentic experience of place-based learning and understanding of the region’s history in the heart of a metropolitan area.
- The confluence of European and Canadian traders, Native Hawaiians, and indigenous peoples from across the North American continent gave rise to a unique, multicultural community at Fort Vancouver and created complex connections between the fort and communities across the globe. Descendants of these early community members have enduring cultural and spiritual connections to the fort site.
- The McLoughlin House not only honors the “Father of Oregon,” but also stands as a testament to some of the earliest preservation efforts in the American West. A grassroots movement led to the creation of the McLoughlin Memorial Association, drove the house’s 1909 relocation to a public park established by John McLoughlin in 1851, and resulted in the site’s designation as the first national historic site west of the Rocky Mountains.

ACCESSIBILITY SELF-EVALUATION AND TRANSITION PLAN

The creation of a transition plan is mandated by regulations under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as they apply to the US Department of the Interior, which states that “No otherwise qualified handicapped individual in the United States . . . shall, solely by reason of his handicap, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal assistance.” It specifically requires parks to document architectural barriers, solutions, and time frames for making improvements to increase accessibility.

This Accessibility Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan has been prepared to provide Fort Vancouver National Historic Site a tool for addressing overall needs associated with making the park accessible when viewed in its entirety. The plan is based on an understanding of key park experiences and establishes a methodical process that identifies, prioritizes, and outlines improvements to park accessibility. The plan proposes strategies for implementation over time and in a manner consistent with park requirements and protocols.

All key park experiences and all park areas were identified to ensure that all park programs were considered in the plan. Park areas were then evaluated against measurable criteria to determine which would be assessed for purposes of the plan. Each park area assessed was evaluated to identify barriers that prevented participation in park programs, and the best manner in which access could be improved. In some situations, it

is not reasonably practicable to create physical or universal design solutions. A transition plan was drafted documenting the barriers and setting forth a strategy for removing them.

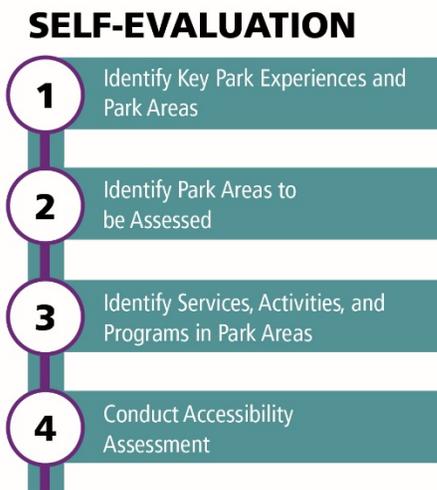
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PLAN

One of the goals of the plan is to increase accessibility awareness and understanding among staff and volunteers of Fort Vancouver National Historic Site. The park superintendent is responsible for implementing and integrating the plan. The park-designated accessibility coordinator ensures adequate communication to park employees and works with the superintendent to follow up on the implementation and relevancy of the plan by documenting improvements and keeping the plan updated.

ACCESSIBILITY SELF-EVALUATION AND TRANSITION PLAN PROCESS

SELF-EVALUATION

The following graphic illustrates the primary steps in the self-evaluation process. Each step is further described in the following text.



Step 1: Identify Key Park Experiences and Park Areas

Key park experiences are those park experiences that are iconic and important for visitors to understand the purpose and significance of the park unit. They are “musts” for park visitors. Park legislation serves as the foundation for key park experiences, which are identified through park purpose, significance, interpretive themes, and those programs or activities highlighted in park communications. Key park experiences were identified at Fort Vancouver National Historic Site to ensure that planned improvements were prioritized to best increase overall access to the experiences available.

- 1) Explore the Hudson’s Bay Company cultural landscape.
- 2) Discover how Fort Vancouver was a site of cultural diversity.
- 3) Learn about the military presence at the Fort Vancouver site
- 4) See the Columbia River, and learn about its importance.
- 5) Learn about some of the earliest historic preservation efforts in the American West.
- 6) Learn about the archeological investigations that have taken place at Fort Vancouver.
- 7) Enjoy special events.
- 8) Enjoy recreation throughout the park.

After key park experiences were identified, all park areas were listed. Next, a matrix was developed to determine which key experiences occurred in each park area. A park area is a place defined by the park for visitor or administrative use. All park areas within Fort Vancouver National Historic Site were evaluated per criteria in step 2, to determine which, if not all, areas would be assessed.

Step 2: Identify Park Areas to be Assessed

The criteria below were used to determine which park areas would receive assessments:

- 1) Level of visitation
- 2) Diversity of services, activities, and programs offered in the area
- 3) Geographic favorability (as a whole, the park areas selected reflect a broad distribution throughout the park)
- 4) Other unique characteristics of the site

The areas selected for assessment provide the best and greatest opportunities for the public to access all key park experiences. These park areas received comprehensive assessments as outlined in steps 3 and 4. Areas not assessed at this time are to be assessed and improved as part of future facility alterations or as a component of a future planned construction project.

Step 3: Identify Services, Activities, and Programs in Each Park Area

During step 3, all services, activities, and programs within each park area were identified. This process ensured that during step 4 all visitor amenities within a park area, including both physical and programmatic elements, were reviewed for accessibility. The comprehensive lists of services, activities, and programs were the basis for conducting the 10 assessments and documenting all elements as they pertained to improving access to park experiences.

Step 4: Conduct Accessibility Assessment

During step 4, an interdisciplinary assessment team identified physical and programmatic barriers and reviewed possible solutions within each park area.

Existing conditions and barriers to services, activities, and programs were discussed on-site by the assessment team. The assessment team then developed a reasonable range of recommended actions for consideration, including solutions that would provide universal access. Barrier-specific solutions, as well as alternative ways to improve access overall, were addressed and included both physical changes and/or the addition of alternate format methods. In some cases, programmatic alternatives needed to be examined because it was

not always possible to eliminate physical barriers due to historic designations, environmental concerns, topography, or sensitive cultural and natural resources. Therefore, a full range of programmatic alternatives was considered that would provide access to the key experience for as many visitors as possible. All field results, including collected data, findings, preliminary options, and conceptual site plans, are organized by park area and formalized with recommendations in the transition plan.

TRANSITION PLAN

The following graphic illustrates the primary steps taken in developing the Fort Vancouver National Historic Site transition plan. Each step is further described in the following text.



Step 5: Draft Transition Plan

The next step of the process was drafting the transition plan and implementation strategy. Developing an implementation strategy can be complex because of a large range of coordination efforts associated with scheduling accessibility improvements. All improvement efforts need to consider park activities and operational requirements. The plan recommends accessibility improvements, identifies improvement time frames, and identifies responsible parties for such actions.

Implementation time frames are based on the park's ability to complete the improvements within normal scheduling of park operations and planned projects. Time frames are categorized as follows:

- 1) **Immediate (0–1 year):** Improvements that are easy, quick, and inexpensive to fix internally. It does not require supplemental NPS project funding.
immediate
- 2) **Short-term (1–3 years):** If the improvement does not require supplemental NPS project funding, park staff will initiate the elimination of the barrier internally; or, if a project is currently scheduled for funding, the improvement will be incorporated into the project and the barrier eliminated.

short-term

- 3) **Mid-term (3–7 years):** The park will develop a proposal and submit it for those projects requiring supplemental NPS project funding in the next annual servicewide budget call. For those projects requiring supplemental NPS project funding, the park will submit a request in the next budget call. Improvements will be scheduled dependent upon the year funding is received. If the improvement does not require supplemental NPS project funding, park staff will continue the elimination of the barrier internally.

mid-term

- 4) **Long-term (>7 years):** The park will eliminate the barrier when other work is taking place as part of facility alterations or as a component of a future planned construction project.

long-term

Step 6: Conduct Public Involvement

To be revised after public review and comment period is completed:

Public involvement occurs at the draft stage of the transition plan; however, it is recommended that at the beginning of the SETP process parks initiate public outreach efforts with organizations representing people with disabilities. The draft plan will be released for a 30-day period to solicit input from the public, including people with disabilities and organizations that represent people with disabilities, to provide comments and thoughts on whether the document represents a reasonable review of the park's barriers and a feasible and appropriate strategy for overcoming the barriers.

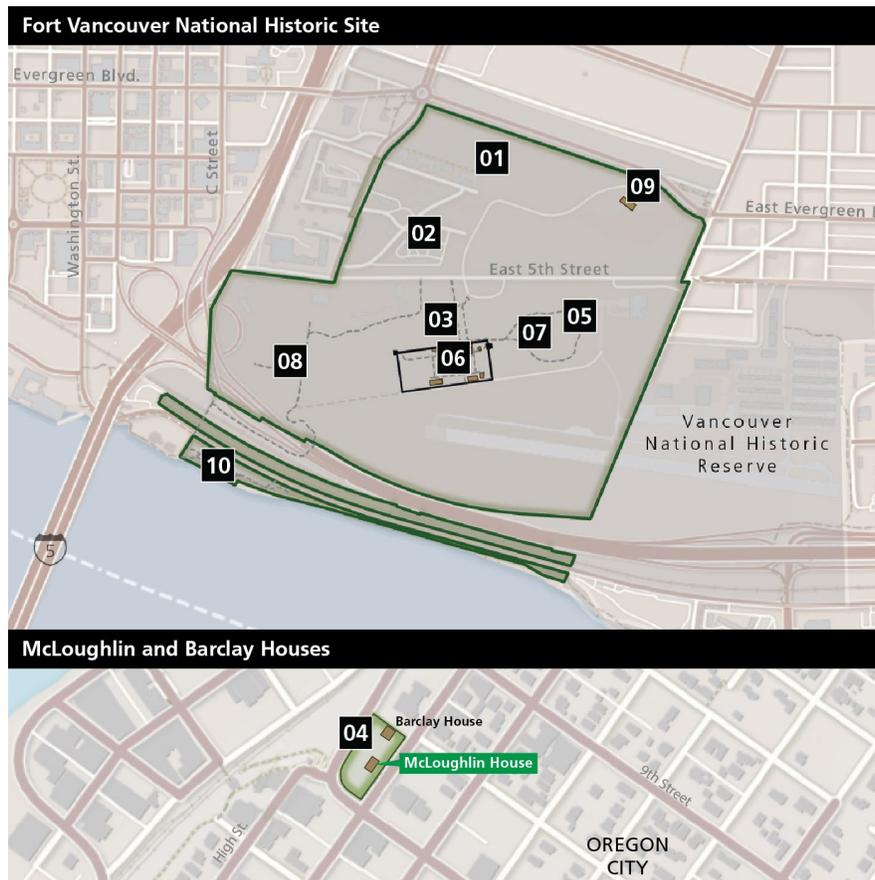
Step 7: Finalize Transition Plan

After the comment period has closed, the park will analyze all comments to determine if any revisions to the plan are necessary. Those revisions will be made before the implementation strategy is finalized. Once finalized, a notification will be sent to the public to announce the plan's availability.

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY FOR FORT VANCOUVER NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

PARK AREAS ASSESSED

All key park experiences at Fort Vancouver National Historic Site are represented within the park areas assessed. Park areas not included in the park area list will be upgraded to current code requirements when facility alteration and/or new construction is planned. Each park area identified for assessment is addressed during the implementation strategy exercise. All park areas assessed are listed in alphabetical order and identified in the associated map below.



- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) Bandstand and Flagstaff | 5) Pearson Air Museum and Chkalov Monument |
| 2) East Barracks | 6) Reconstructed Fort |
| 3) Garden, Orchard, and Agricultural Fields | 7) Spruce Mill Trail |
| 4) McLoughlin and Barclay Houses | 8) Village Houses |
| | 9) Visitor Center, Japanese Memorial, and Picnic Area |

10) Waterfront

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY FOR PARK AREAS ASSESSED

The Architectural Barrier Act (ABA) of 1968 requires that any building or facility designed, constructed, altered, or leased with federal funds be accessible and usable by any individuals with disabilities. The Uniform Federal Accessibility Standards (UFAS) and the Architectural Barriers Act Accessibility Standards (ABAAS) were adopted for federal facilities in 1984 and 2006, respectively. Subsequently in 2011, standards for recreational facilities were incorporated into ABAAS as chapter 10.

Dependent upon the date of a building's construction or alteration, different design standards apply. In conducting the transition plan facility assessments, the 2011 ABAAS standards were used as the on-site assessments. Although a barrier may be identified by the current assessment for improvement, facilities constructed pre-1984, or between 1984 and 2011, are only required to be in compliance with the standard in place at the time of construction and/or alteration. Therefore, they may not be in violation of ABAAS. However, any renovation or upgrade of that building will be required to meet the most current standard at the time of work.

Recommended improvements for park policies, practices, communication and training are included. Park policies are adopted by the park and are those defined courses of action for reaching a desired outcome. Park practices are those habitual and/or customary performances or operations park staff employs for reaching a desired outcome. Communication and training strategies help park staff keep informed on how to best deliver services, activities, and programs to visitors with disabilities in the most appropriate and accessible formats.

This document does not include strategies for transitioning employee workspaces to be accessible. In the event an employee with a disability is hired by Fort Vancouver National Historic Site, the supervisor and employee will discuss the employee's needs. The supervisor will then determine what accommodations are reasonable within the given work environment and determine a plan of action to meet those needs.

For each park area, site plans illustrate existing conditions and recommended improvements. During the implementation phase, reassessment of the project site conditions and consultation with the Architectural Barriers Act Accessibility Standards is necessary to ensure that specific design and programmatic solutions are addressed correctly. Assistance is available at the Denver Service Center and through the Pacific West Region Accessibility Coordinator.

BANDSTAND AND FLAGSTAFF

Site Plan



Implementation Strategy

The Bandstand and Flagstaff area is connected to three key park experiences: history of military presence, special events, and recreation. The replica bandstand, flagstaff, and surrounding lawn is used for special events and ceremonies. Currently, stairs are required to access the bandstand, but performances can also be viewed from the lawn area, which is relatively level with ample circulation space. The flagpole's hardened surface allows for easy circulation around the pole. A paved path connects the flagpole to the sidewalk along Officer's Row.

The following improvements to this park area are planned:

01 Accessible Route

- 1) Improve surface of route to have openings and vertical changes in level no greater than ½".

short-term

02 Accessible Route

- 1) Provide a route to the bandstand that is 36" minimum in width with a 2% maximum cross slope and a 5% maximum running slope.

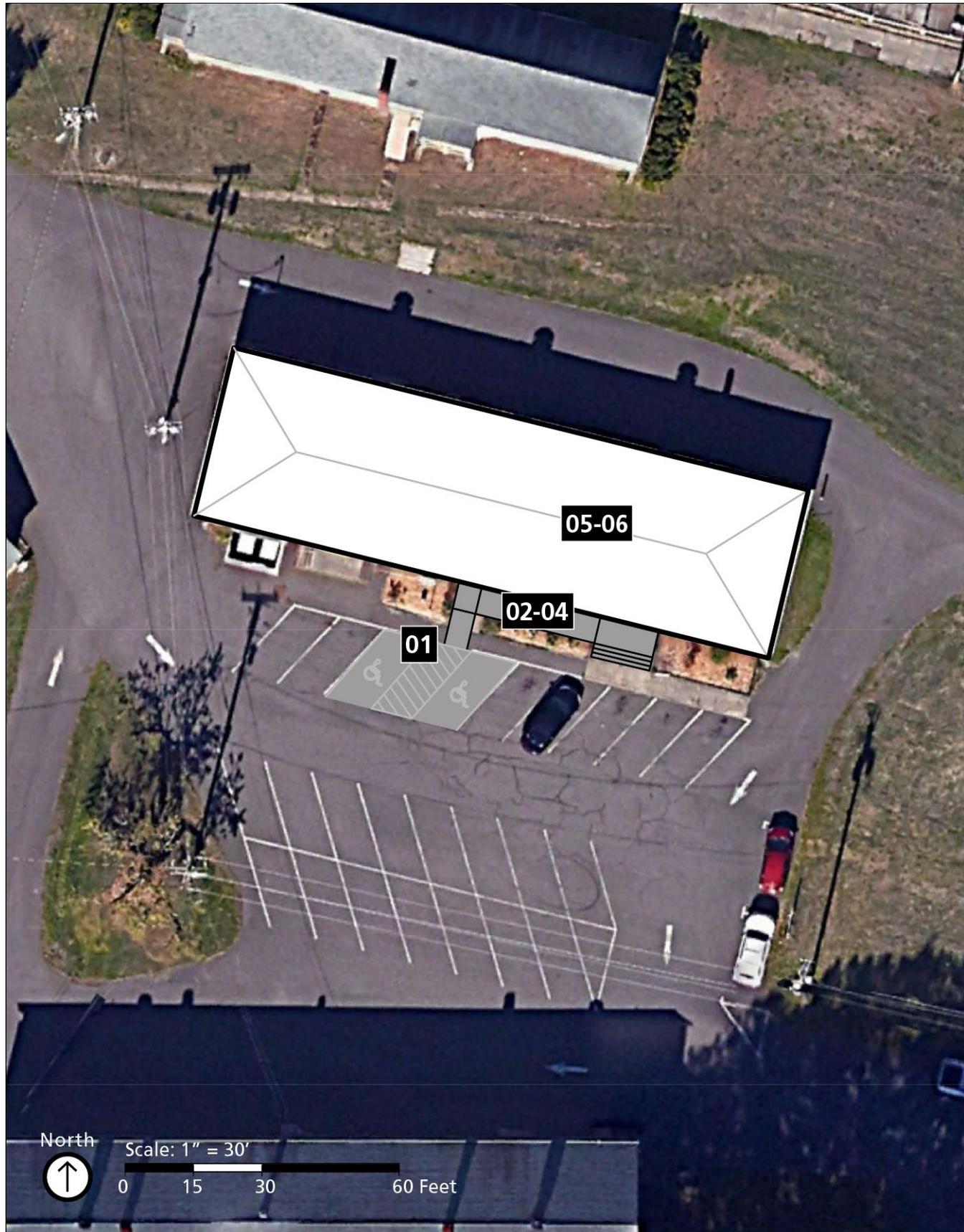
long-term

03 Accessible Route

- 1) As feasible, provide a ramp to the bandstand or an equivalent experience that does not require the use of stairs.

long-term

Shoppette Site Plan



Implementation Strategy

The East Barracks are connected to three key park experiences: history of military presence, special events, and recreation. The East Barracks are widely intact but not currently used for National Park Service functions. The Shoppette serves as a miniature commissary for local military personnel and retirees and is open to the public. The building has designated accessible parking and a ramp, but improvements are needed for both features to be compliant. Northwest of the Shoppette is a War Memorial maintained by Clark County. A seat wall and flat paved area with benches and companion seating space surround a stone monument honoring service members who died in American wars. As other buildings and areas within the historic barracks are adaptively reused, improvements to parking and building access will need to be considered. The integrity of the cultural landscape will also need to be maintained.

The following improvements to the Shoppette are planned:

01 Car Parking

- 1) Improve the accessible parking space to have slopes of a 2% maximum in all directions.

long-term

02 Accessible Route

- 1) Improve the ramp to have running slopes that do not exceed 8.33%.

long-term

03 Accessible Route

- 1) Provide handrails on both sides of the ramp and stairs and 1' handrail extensions at the top and bottom of ramp runs.

long-term

04 Accessible Route

- 1) Provide level landings at the top and bottom of each ramp run, with slopes less than 2% in all directions.

long-term

05

Drinking Fountain

- 1) Replace drinking fountain with a double unit that includes separate fountains for standing and seated users. The standing fountain shall have a spout height between 38" and 43" above the ground, and the seated fountain shall have a spout height of 36" maximum above the ground.

short-term

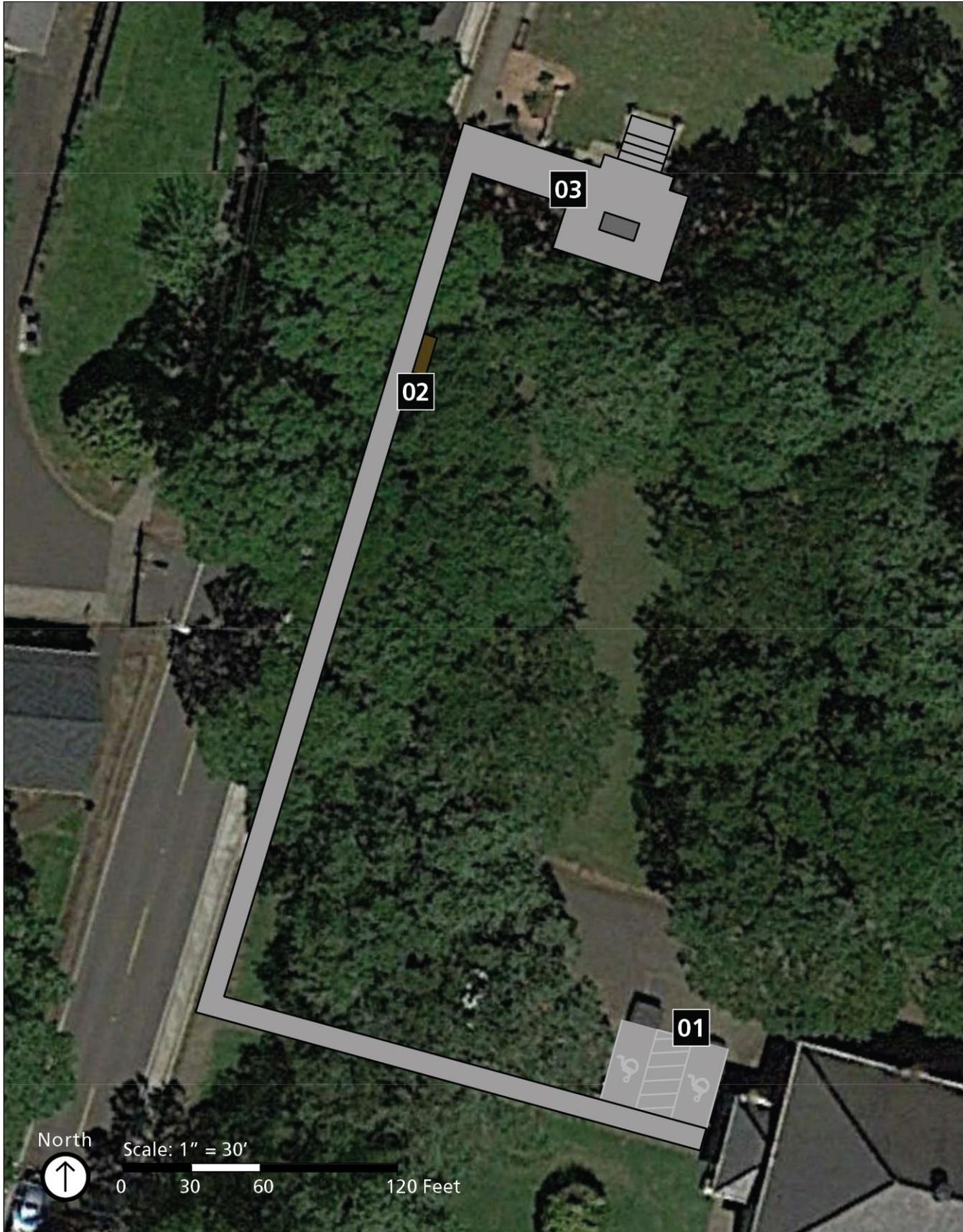
06

Retail Items

- 1) As feasible, distribute merchandise lower on shelves and displays. Display a sign indicating that visitor assistance is available to access items beyond reach.

short-term

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Implementation Strategy

The following improvements to the War Memorial are planned:

01 Car Parking

- 1) As feasible, provide one van-accessible parking space at the memorial. Space shall be 11' minimum in width with a 5' minimum width access aisle or 8' minimum in width with an 8' minimum width access aisle. Provide "van accessible" signage on the van-accessible space.

short-term

02 Bench

- 1) Provide a 36" by 48" clear ground space at benches, with slopes no greater than 2% in all directions. Ensure that clear ground space adjoins an outdoor recreation access route.

long-term

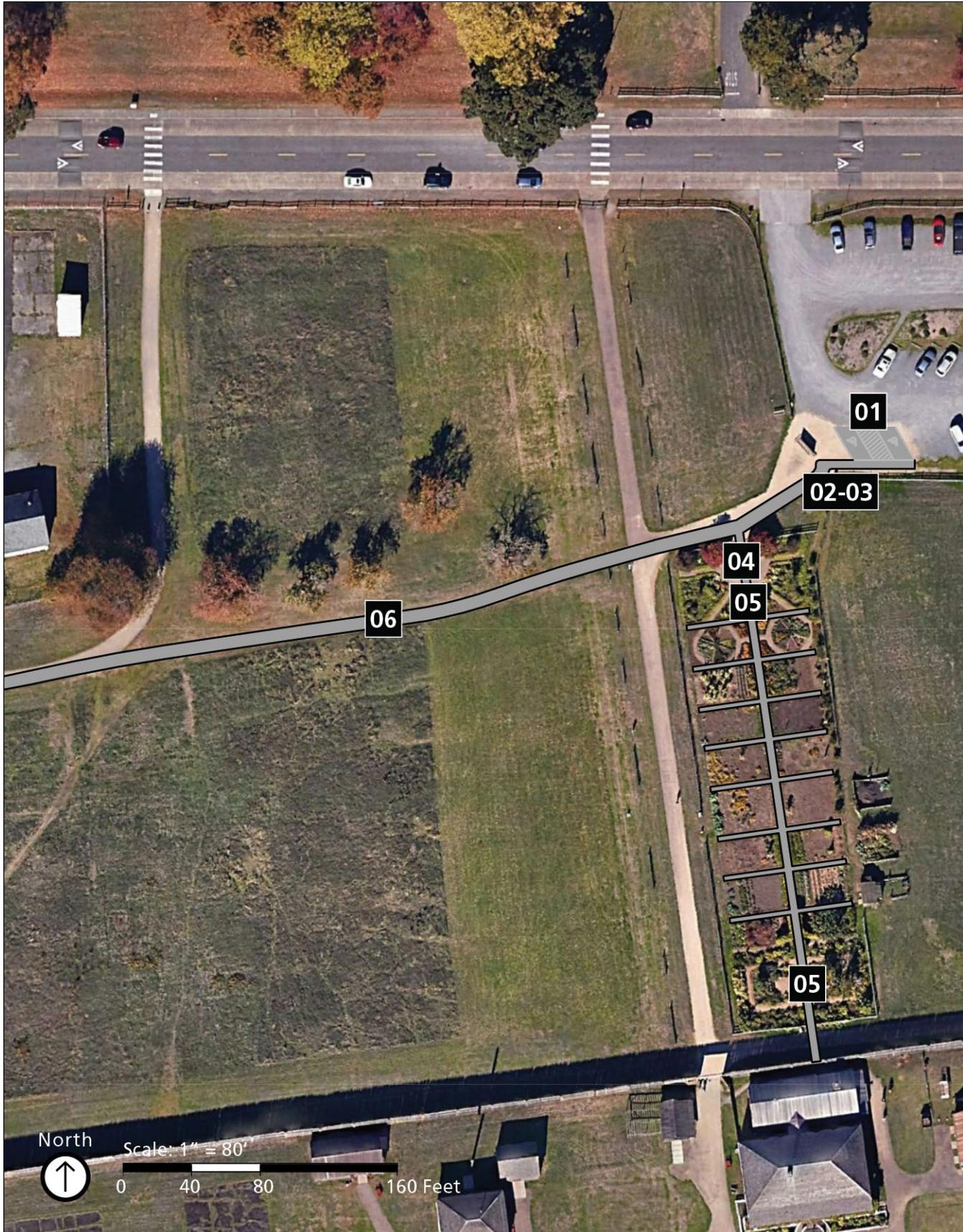
03 Accessible Route

- 1) Improve surface of route around memorial to have openings and vertical changes in level no greater than ½".

mid-term

GARDEN, ORCHARD, AND AGRICULTURAL FIELDS

Site Plan



Implementation Strategy

The garden, orchard, and agricultural fields are connected to five key park experiences: The Hudson's Bay Company cultural landscape, cultural diversity, the Columbia River, special events, and recreation. The garden is located just a short walk from the fort and provides an up-close view of a formal English-style garden featuring plants that would have been grown at the historic post. Paths within the garden are generally firm, stable surfaces with enough clearance to view interpretive panels and access the different plantings. A spacious round courtyard serves as a resting area with benches and companion seating. Visitors can see the former locations of these landscape features among the open fields on self-guided walks. The remnant orchards and agricultural fields are located along a paved path with wide clearance and gentle grades.

The following improvements to this park area are planned:

01 Car Parking

- 1) Provide one van-accessible parking space 11' minimum in width with a 5' minimum width access aisle or 8' minimum in width with an 8' minimum width access aisle. Provide "van accessible" signage on the van-accessible space.

short-term

- 2) Improve the accessible parking space to have slopes of a 2% maximum in all directions.

mid-term

02 Trash and Recycling Receptacles

- 1) Improve the trash receptacles to be operable with a closed fist and no more than 5 pounds of force.

short-term

03 Interpretive Wayside

- 1) Provide a clear ground space of 30" by 48" with a maximum slope of 2% in all directions.

short-term

04 Accessible Route

- 1) Improve route to have running slopes no greater than 5% and cross slopes no greater than 2%.

short-term

05

Bench

- 1) Provide a 36" by 48" clear ground space at benches, with slopes no greater than 2% in all directions. Ensure that clear ground space adjoins an outdoor recreation access route.

short-term

06

Outdoor Recreation Access Route

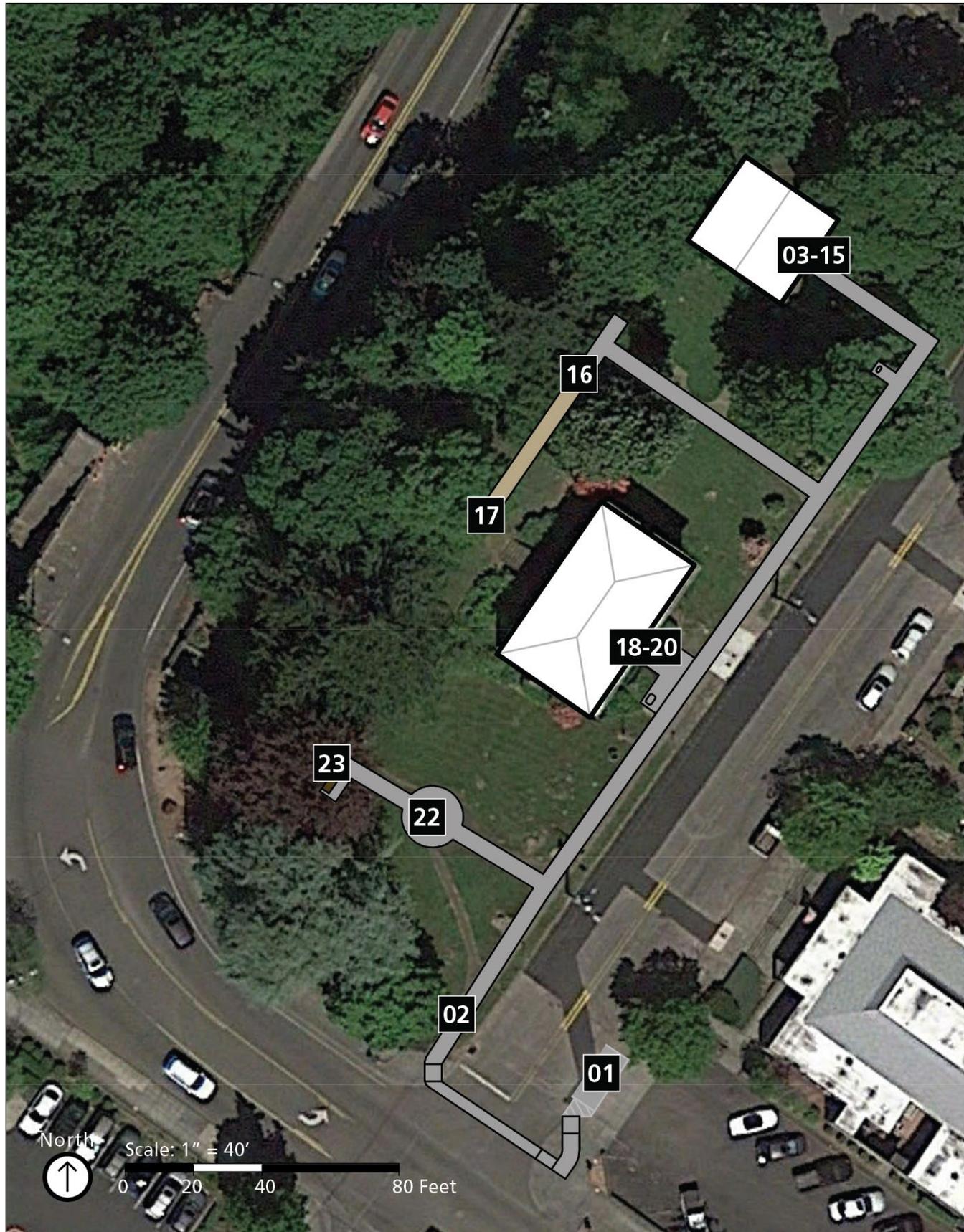
- 1) As route to orchards is improved, ensure that it is 36" minimum in width, with a 2% maximum cross slope and a 5% maximum running slope. Segments up to 10% are allowed for short distances but must include resting intervals at the top and bottom of each segment. Routes shall be firm and stable.

mid-term

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MCLOUGHLIN AND BARCLAY HOUSES

Site Plan



Implementation Strategy

The McLoughlin and Barclay Houses are connected to two key park experiences: historic preservation and special events. The McLoughlin House preserves the home of John McLoughlin, the “Father of Oregon.” The Barclay House preserves the home of Dr. Forbes Barclay, a physician at Fort Vancouver. The Barclay house is open daily to the public. The two buildings contain historic artifacts, photographs and interpretive materials. A small gift shop at the Barclay House sells books and souvenirs. The buildings do not provide access to the upper floors, but a photograph album showing the upstairs exhibits is provided at an accessible table in the entry foyer. The surrounding grounds feature a small memorial and gravesite, benches, and a drinking fountain that are accessible by paved paths or the lawn. Small improvements to both houses could be made to enhance interior access and interpretive programming opportunities.

The following improvements to this park area are planned:

01 Car Parking

- 1) Provide a minimum of one van-accessible parking space 11' minimum in width with a 5' minimum width access aisle or 8' minimum in width with an 8' minimum width access aisle. The space and access aisles shall be firm, stable, and slip resistant at a 2% maximum slope in all directions. Provide an accessible parking sign to designate the accessible space. The sign shall be 60" minimum above the ground to the bottom of the sign. Provide "van accessible" signage on the van-accessible space.

mid-term

02 Accessible Route

- 1) Improve route to have running slopes no greater than 5% and cross slopes no greater than 2%.

long-term

03 Accessible Route

- 1) Improve the threshold at the door to have a change in level no greater than ¼" or ½" with a beveled edge.

long-term

04 Door

- 1) As feasible, replace door knob with a unit that is operable without tight grasping, pinching, or twisting of the wrist, and less than 5 pounds of force.

mid-term

05

Accessible Route

- 1) Improve the threshold at the door to have a vertical change in level no greater than ¼" or ½" with a beveled edge.

long-term

06

Accessible Route

- 1) Maintain walking surfaces with a minimum clear width of 36" throughout the parlor.

immediate

07

Seating Area

- 1) Provide a minimum of one integrated wheelchair seating space that is 36" minimum in width, 48" minimum in depth, and has a 2% maximum slope in all directions.

immediate

08

Interior Signage

- 1) Provide tactile exit signs on the latch side of exit stairways, passageways, and discharge areas. The bottom of the tactile characters shall be 48" minimum above the ground and the tops of the highest tactile characters 60" minimum above the ground. Ensure there is an 18" by 18" minimum clear space underneath the braille signs.

short-term

09

Door

- 1) Improve the clear width of the doorway to be 32" minimum.

long-term

10

Restroom

- 1) Improve the restroom to provide an accessible toilet compartment with fixtures, dispensers, grab bars, and accessory items that meet the requirements of ABAAS.

long-term

11

Accessible Route

- 1) Improve the threshold at the door to have a vertical change in level no greater than ¼" or ½" with a beveled edge.

short-term

12

Accessible Route

- 1) Maintain walking surfaces with a minimum clear width of 36" throughout the gift shop.

short-term

13

Checkout Counter

- 1) Improve the counter surface to be 38" maximum above the finished floor.
- 2) Maintain a section of counter space that is clear of objects at 36" wide.

short-term

14

Retail Items

- 1) As feasible, distribute merchandise lower on shelves and displays. Display a sign indicating that visitor assistance is available to access items beyond reach.

short-term

15

Door

- 1) Improve the clear width of door opening to be 32" minimum.

long-term

16

Accessible Route

- 1) As feasible, improve the clear space at the gravesite to have slopes no greater than 2%.

mid-term

- 2) As feasible, improve the clear space at the gravesite to have openings no greater than ½" in width.

immediate

17

Outdoor Recreation Access Route

- 1) Provide a route to the cannon and fountain that is 36" minimum in width, with a 2% maximum cross slope and a 5% maximum running slope. Segments up to 10% are allowed for short distances but must include resting intervals at the top and bottom of each segment. Routes shall be firm and stable.

long-term

18

Accessible Route

- 1) Provide a ramp to the front entrance of the house.

short-term

19

Accessible Route

- 1) Improve the threshold at the door to have a vertical change in level no greater than ¼" or ½" with a beveled edge.

short-term

20

Stanchion and Rope

- 1) Add an additional rope to ensure that the stanchions and ropes are cane detectable at or below 27" from the floor.

short-term

21

Accessible Route

- 1) Improve the route to have running slopes no greater than 5%.

long-term

22

Drinking Fountain

- 1) As feasible, replace drinking fountain with a double unit that includes separate fountains for standing and seated users. The standing fountain shall have a spout height between 38" and 43" above the ground and the seated fountain shall have a spout height of 36" maximum above the ground.
- 2) Provide a clear ground space of 30" by 48" minimum, with a 2% maximum slope in all directions.

long-term

23

Bench

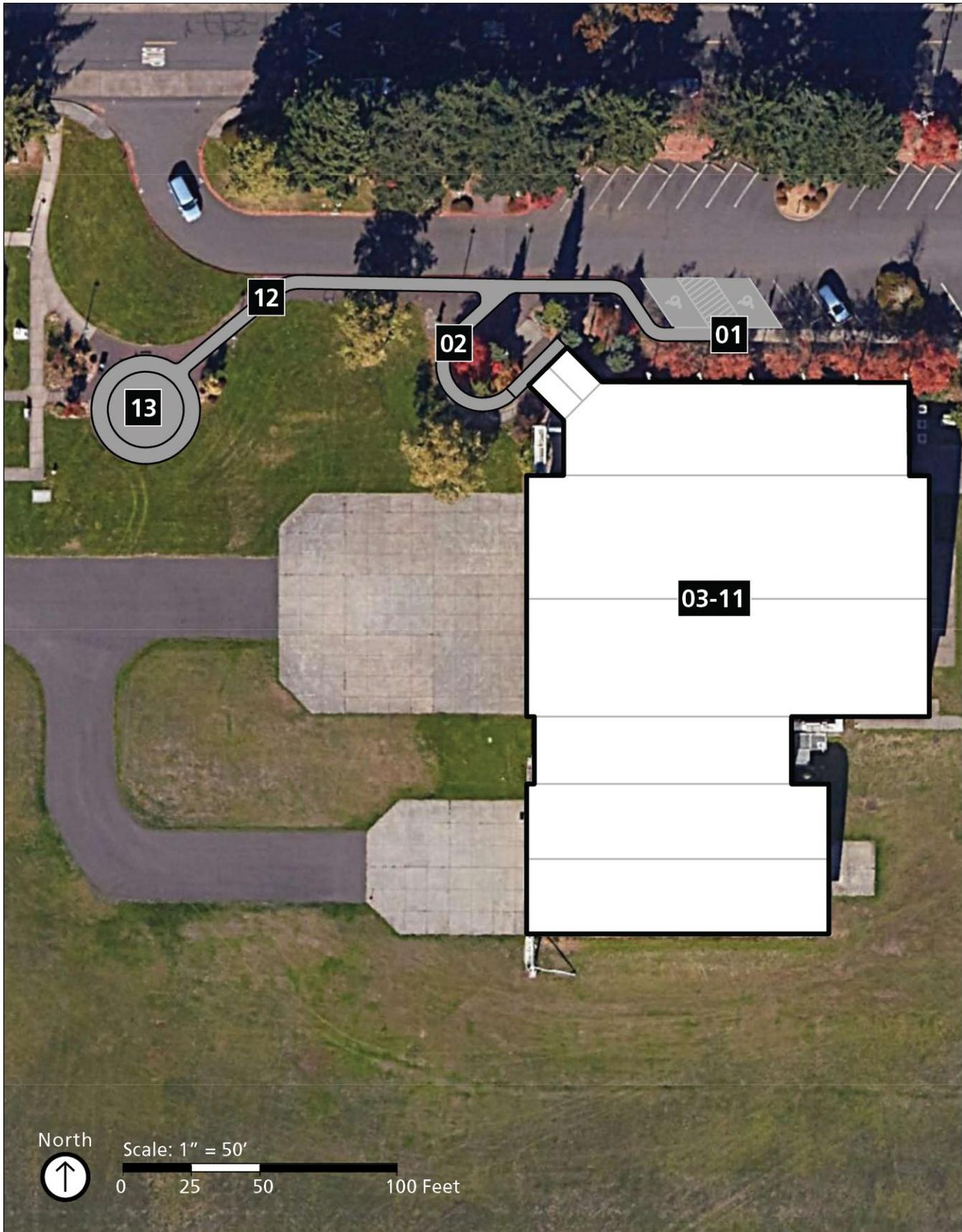
- 1) Provide a 36" by 48" clear ground space at the bench, with a slope no greater than 2% in all directions. Ensure that clear ground space adjoins an outdoor recreation access route.

mid-term

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PEARSON AIR MUSEUM AND CHKALOV MONUMENT

Site Plan



Implementation Strategy

The Pearson Air Museum and Chkalov Monument are connected to two key park experiences: history of military presence and special events. The museum provides visitors the opportunity to discover the history of flight in the Vancouver area. The museum includes extensive exhibits in a variety of formats, including interactive exhibits and a large hangar with replica aircraft. The space has ample circulation space and a variety of accessible features, including accessible parking, restrooms, automatic door entry, ramps, and an elevator to allow visitors access between floors. A wide ramp with handrails provides access to the historic hangar. The museum's theater can accommodate wheelchair users, and assistive listening devices are available upon request to assist with video viewing. Museum exhibits are planned to be updated, at which time alternative formats for interpretive materials could be developed. Nearby Pearson Field is the site of the world's first transpolar flight landing. Adjacent to the field is the Chkalov Monument that commemorates the pilot who completed the flight landing. Paved circulation paths provide access from the monument to the parking lot and sidewalks, and benches with companion seating space provide areas for rest and reflection.

The following improvements to this park area are planned:

01 Car Parking

- 1) Improve the accessible parking space and access aisle to have a 2% maximum slope in all directions.

mid-term

02 Accessible Route

- 1) As feasible, improve ramp to have running slopes that do not exceed 8.33%.

long-term

03 Work Surfaces

- 1) Improve or replace table so the top of the table is between 26" and 30" above the finished floor.

immediate

04 Accessible Route

- 1) As feasible, improve ramp to have running slopes that do not exceed 8.33%.

long-term

05 **Stanchion and Rope**

- 1) Add an additional rope to ensure that the stanchions and ropes are cane detectable at or below 27" from the floor.

short-term

06 **Drinking Fountain**

- 1) Replace drinking fountain with a double unit that includes separate fountains for standing and seated users. The standing fountain shall have a spout height between 38" and 43" above the ground, and the seated fountain shall have a spout height of 36" maximum above the ground.

short-term

07 **Exhibit (spruce production tent)**

- 1) Improve and maintain a clear turning space that is 60" minimum in diameter.

immediate

08 **Accessible Route**

- 1) Improve flooring to have no openings greater than ½" in diameter.

short-term

09 **Interpretive Panels (second floor)**

- 1) As a best practice, improve or replace text to use 24-point minimum text.

short-term

10 **Theatre (first floor)**

- 1) Provide four integrated wheelchair seating spaces that are 36" minimum in width, 48" minimum in depth, and have a 2% maximum slope in all directions. Disperse these spaces throughout seating area.

short-term

11 **Restrooms (unisex)**

- 1) Adjust the rear grab bar to extend 24" minimum from the centerline of the toilet on the open side of the toilet room and 12" on the closed side.

immediate

- 2) Improve or replace the toilet so that the flusher is on the open side of the toilet.

short-term

- 3) Relocate the soap dispenser to have operable parts at 44" maximum from the finished floor.
- 4) Adjust the rear grab bar to extend 24" minimum from the centerline of the toilet on the open side of the toilet room and 12" on the closed side.
- 5) Reinstall toilet paper dispenser to be between 7" and 9" in front of the toilets to the centerline of the dispenser.

immediate

12

Restrooms (men's)

- 1) Insulate or otherwise configure water supply and drain pipes under sink to protect against contact.
- 2) Lower existing coat hook or install additional hook that is within accessible reach range of 15" to 48" above the floor.
- 3) Adjust the rear grab bar to extend 24" minimum from the centerline of the toilet on the open side of the toilet room and 12" on the closed side.
- 4) Relocate the soap dispenser to have operable parts at 44" maximum from the finished floor.
- 5) Improve the push side of the door to have a smooth surface for 10 inches, measured vertically from the finished floor, and extending the full width of the door.

immediate

13

Restrooms (women's)

- 1) Improve the opening force of the restroom door to be 5 pounds maximum.
- 2) Adjust the rear grab bar to extend 24" minimum from the centerline of the toilet on the open side of the toilet room and 12" on the closed side.
- 3) Lower existing coat hook or install additional hook that is within accessible reach range of 15" to 48" above the floor.

immediate

14

Accessible Route

- 1) Improve route to have running slopes no greater than 5% and cross slopes no greater than 2%.

long-term

15

Monument

- 1) Improve clear ground space surrounding monument to have slopes that do not exceed 2%.

long-term

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RECONSTRUCTED FORT

East Buildings Site Plan



Implementation Strategy

The Reconstructed Fort is connected to five key park experiences: Hudson's Bay Company cultural landscape, cultural diversity, the Columbia River, archeological investigation, and special events. Reconstruction of the fort based on archeological findings began in the 1960s, and today, the stockade and several buildings are open to visitors. Reconstructed buildings and features within the stockade include the fee booth, Chief Factor House, kitchen, restrooms, well, Bake House, blacksmith shop, surgeon's office and Indian trade shop, fur store and bailing room, Bastion, carpentry shop, Counting House, and jail. The fort orientation building has an accessible wood ramp entry and good circulation. Visitors can enjoy reenactment activities on the grounds of the fort. The Chief Factor house tour is only accessible with a guide, and wheelchair lift use requires ranger assistance. The house has good circulation. The park has completed several accessibility improvements, including the installation of ramps into all buildings. Firm and stable paths with gentle grades connect each of the buildings. Minor maintenance, and small modifications to existing ramps, walkways, and small features will improve site accessibility.

The following improvements to the east buildings are planned:

01 Accessible Route

- 1) Provide handrails on both sides of the ramp and 1' handrail extensions at the top and bottom of ramp runs, or reduce slope of route to building to have slopes less than 5%.

short-term

02 Platform Lift

- 1) Repair or replace platform lift.
- 2) Replace platform lift and gate with a unit that is user-operated.

mid-term

03 Accessible Route

- 1) Improve the threshold to have a change in level no greater than ¼" or ½" with a beveled edge.

mid-term

04 Doors

- 1) Improve the clear width of the doorway to be 32" minimum.

mid-term

05

Accessible Route

- 1) Improve surface of route to have openings and vertical changes in level no greater than ½".

immediate

06

Accessible Route

- 1) Maintain 36" of clear width between elements around dining table.

immediate

07

Restroom (men's and women's)

- 1) Improve transition between ground surface and ramp to have no openings larger than ½".

short-term

- 2) Adjust the rear grab bar to extend 24" minimum from the centerline of the toilet on the open side of the toilet room and 12" on the closed side.
- 3) Lower existing coat hook or install additional hook that is within accessible reach range of 15" to 48" above the floor.
- 4) Reinstall toilet paper dispenser to be between 7" and 9" in front of the toilets to the centerline of the dispenser.
- 5) Provide a door pull on both sides of the door, near the latch.

immediate

08

Restroom (men's)

- 1) Replace drinking fountain with a double unit that includes separate fountains for standing and seated users. The standing fountain shall have a spout height between 38" and 43" above the ground and the seated fountain shall have a spout height of 36" maximum above the ground.

short-term

- 2) Improve clear floor width at urinal to be 30" minimum in width.

mid-term

09

Viewing Platform

- 1) Provide edge protection between the circulation route on the viewing platform and the grate over the well.

immediate

10 **Interpretive Waysides**

- 1) Relocate waysides to locations that provide clear space of 30" by 48" with a maximum slope of 2% in all directions.

immediate

11 **Bench**

- 1) Relocate bench to a location that provides a clear space of 36" by 48" with a maximum slope of 2% in all directions.

short-term

12 **Door**

- 1) Improve the threshold to have a vertical change in level no greater than ¼" or ½" with a beveled edge.

mid-term

13 **Accessible Route**

- 1) Improve flooring to have no openings greater than ½" in diameter.

immediate

14 **Accessible Route**

- 1) Improve route to the blacksmith shop to be firm, stable, and slip resistant.

immediate

15 **Accessible Route**

- 1) Improve ramp at entrance of blacksmith shop to have running slopes no greater than 8.33%.

mid-term

16 **Door**

- 1) Improve the clear width of the door opening to be 32" minimum.

mid-term

17 **Accessible Route**

- 1) Improve the threshold to have a change in level no greater than ¼" or ½" with a beveled edge.

mid-term

18

Accessible Route

- 1) Improve route inside the blacksmith shop to be firm, stable, and slip resistant.

immediate

19

Accessible Route

- 1) Improve change in level between the ground and ramp to be less than ½" or ½" with a beveled edge.

mid-term

20

Door

- 1) Improve change in level at the door threshold to be less than ½ in height"

mid-term

21

Accessible Route

- 1) Improve transition between ground surface and ramp to have no openings larger than ½" in width.

mid-term

22

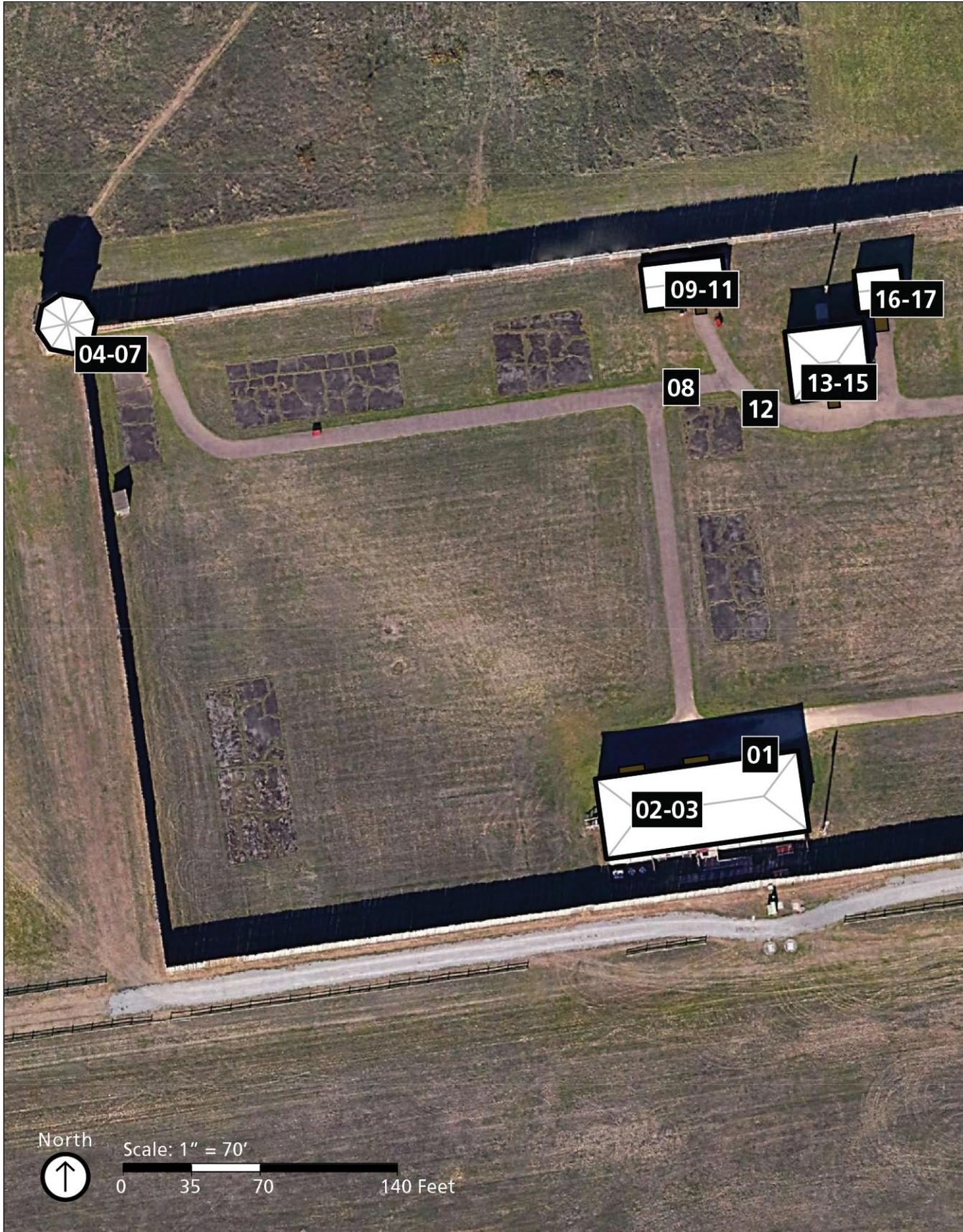
Door

- 1) Improve change in level at the door threshold to be less than ½" in height.

mid-term

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Reconstructed Fort
West Buildings Site Plan



Implementation Strategy

The following improvements to the west buildings are planned:

01

Accessible Route

- 1) Improve the ramp to have vertical changes in level no greater than $\frac{1}{4}$ " or $\frac{1}{2}$ " with a beveled edge.

mid-term

02

Interpretive Panels

- 1) Modify panels so they do not protrude more than 4" into the circulation path or make the panels cane detectable at or below 27" from the floor.

mid-term

03

Fire Extinguisher

- 1) Recess fire extinguisher so it does not protrude beyond 4" into the circulation space or install the fire extinguisher so its bottom edge is cane detectable at or below 27" from the floor.

immediate

04

Accessible Route

- 1) Improve the ground surface to have changes in level no greater than $\frac{1}{4}$ " or $\frac{1}{2}$ " with a beveled edge.

short-term

05

Interpretive Exhibit

- 1) Move the exhibit found upstairs to the ground level or provide an additional exhibit with equivalent content on the ground level.

short-term

06

Accessible Route

- 1) Provide guardrails or other object to prevent entrance under stairs where overhead clearance is less than 80". Ensure the leading edge of guardrail or object is 27" maximum above the ground.

immediate

07

Stairs

- 1) Provide extensions that extend 12" minimum beyond and bottom of stairs.

immediate

08

Accessible Route

- 1) Improve route to have cross slopes no greater than 2%.

immediate

09

Accessible Route

- 1) Improve transition between ground surface and ramp to have no openings larger than ½" in width.

immediate

10

Door

- 1) Improve the threshold to have a change in level no greater than ¼" or ½" with a beveled edge.

short-term

11

Interpretive Wayside

- 1) Relocate bench to provide a clear ground space of 36" by 48" at the wayside.

immediate

12

Accessible Route

- 1) Improve route to have cross slopes no greater than 2%.

immediate

13

Accessible Route

- 1) Improve ramp to have openings between boards no larger than ½".

immediate

14

Door

- 1) Improve the threshold to have a change in level no greater than ¼" or ½" with a beveled edge.

short-term

15

Exhibits

- 1) Improve flipbooks so they are operable without tight grasping, pinching, or twisting of the wrist.
- 2) Improve archeology exhibits so it is operable without tight grasping, pinching, or twisting of the wrist.
- 3) Improve table to have 27" of knee clearance.

mid-term

16

Accessible Route

- 1) Provide handrails on both sides of the ramp.

short-term

17

Accessible Route

- 1) Improve the route to have openings no greater than ½" in width.

immediate

SPRUCE MILL TRAIL

Site Plan



Implementation Strategy

The Spruce Mill Trail is connected to five key park experiences: Hudson's Bay Company cultural landscape, history of military presence, archeological investigation, special events, and recreation. The Spruce Mill Trail leads from the gates of Fort Vancouver towards the northeast, forming a loop and connecting to a parking area at the park headquarters and Pearson Air Museum. The trail leads visitors through an area that was once the site of the largest mill in the world. The paved trail is wide with gentle slopes that follow a short loop, providing visitors an opportunity for a short walk with open views of the park's grassy fields.

The following improvements to this park area are planned:

01 Car Parking

- 1) Improve the accessible parking spaces to have a 2% maximum slope in all directions.

mid-term

02 Interpretive Wayside

- 1) As a best practice, improve wayside to have high-contrast images and text.

mid-term

03 Trailhead Signage

- 1) Provide signage at the trailhead that details trail conditions, including trail length, surface type, typical and maximum running and cross slopes, and typical and minimum tread width. Other recommended information includes providing a description of potential obstacles, distances to experiences and/or features, and graphics such as a cross-section that demonstrates slope conditions.

mid-term

04 Trash and Recycling Receptacles

- 1) Locate the trash receptacles on an accessible route and provide a clear ground space that is firm and stable, 36" by 48" minimum for a forward approach or 30" by 60" minimum for a parallel approach, with a 2% maximum slope in all directions.

short-term

05

Hiking Trail

- 1) As feasible, improve hiking trail to have cross slopes less than 2%.

long-term

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VILLAGE HOUSES

Site Plan



Implementation Strategy

The Village Houses are connected to five key park experiences: Hudson's Bay Company cultural landscape, cultural diversity, history of military presence, the Columbia River, and special events. The Fort Vancouver village was one of the largest settlements in the west during its time and was home to a multicultural population. Today, two replica village houses represent the type of housing that Fort Vancouver's employees and their families would have inhabited in the era of the Hudson's Bay Company. Village house #1 is open to the public. A flat, asphalt path leads to areas near the front of the houses; however, the surface is sandy, loose dirt to the entrance. An interpretive wayside near the park trail gives information on the village. Minor improvements to the route would improve access to the building and the availability of interpretive materials in alternative formats would help orient hearing and sight impaired visitors to the site and its history. Village house #2 is closed to visitors because of structural concerns.

The following improvements to this park area are planned:

01 Interpretive Wayside

- 1) As best practice, use sans serif fonts, 24-point minimum text, high-contrast images and text, and minimize the use of all caps and italics.

mid-term

02 Accessible Route

- 1) Improve route to have running slopes no greater than 5% and cross slopes no greater than 2%.

long-term

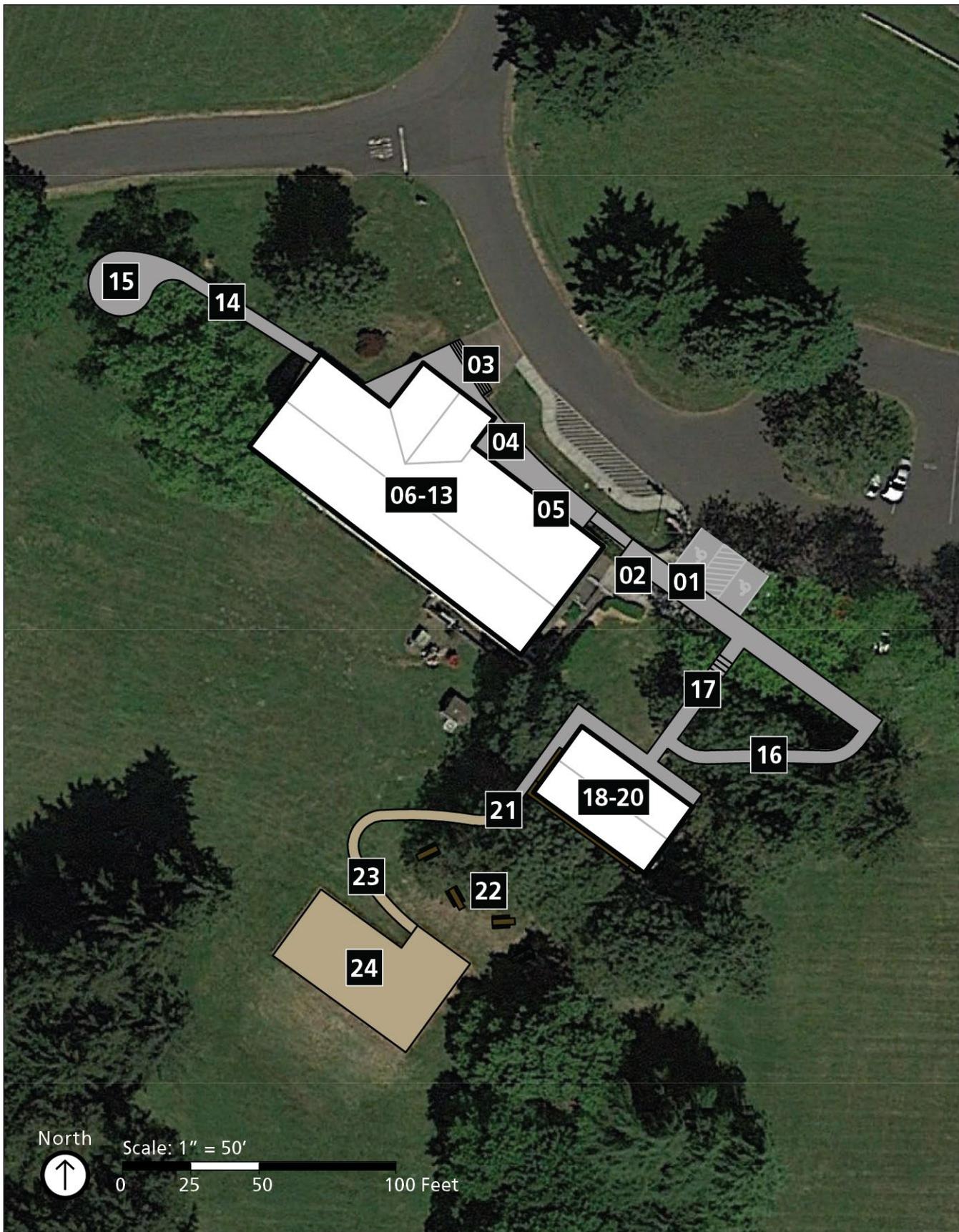
03 Door

- 1) Improve the threshold at the door to have a vertical change in level no greater than ¼" or ½" with a beveled edge.

short-term

VISITOR CENTER, JAPANESE MEMORIAL, AND PICNIC AREA

Site Plan



Implementation Strategy

The Visitor Center, Japanese Memorial, and Picnic Area are connected to eight key park experiences: Hudson's Bay Company cultural landscape, cultural diversity, history of military presence, the Columbia River, historic preservation, archeological investigation, special events, and recreation. This Mission 66 building serves as the first stop for many visitors, providing a place to gather information, participate in interpretive programs and interactive exhibits, watch a movie in the theater, use the restrooms, and purchase books and souvenirs at the bookstore. Large print and braille Unigrid brochures as well as large print brochures of the demonstration garden are available at the front desk. During the 2016 Centennial, the visitor center underwent improvements focused on upgrading accessibility of the entrance and parking areas, which included providing an automatic door entry and a concrete plaza with seat walls, companion seating space, and a dual height drinking fountain. Located within walking distance of the visitor center, along a crushed basalt trail, is the Japanese Memorial, which commemorates the journey of Japanese sailors who arrived at Fort Vancouver in the 1830s. Southeast of the visitor center down a moderately sloped concrete walk is a picnic area that includes picnic tables, a playground, and a picnic shelter with restrooms and kitchen. These visitor areas are all within an archeologically sensitive lawn area. These exterior areas include routes with generally firm surfaces, ramps, and some accessible components.

The following improvements to this park area are planned:

01 Accessible Route

- 1) Improve route to have running slopes no greater than 5% and cross slopes no greater than 2%.

long-term

02 Trash and Recycling Receptacles

- 1) Improve the clear ground space at the trash receptacles to be 2% in all directions.

immediate

03 Accessible Route

- 1) Provide 1' handrail extensions at the top and bottom of both sides of stairs.

short-term

04 Accessible Route

- 1) Improve surface of route to have openings and vertical changes in level no greater than 1/2".

short-term

05

Drinking Fountain

- 1) Improve the standing fountain to have a spout height between 38" and 43" above the ground. Ensure the seated fountain retains a spout height of 36" maximum above the ground.

mid-term

06

Information Counter

- 1) Maintain a section of counter space that is clear of objects at 36" wide.

immediate

07

Interpretive Panels

- 1) Improve the position of text within the cases to be visible by seated users.

short-term

08

Exhibits

- 1) Rearrange furniture to provide a clear width of 36" for circulation between the seating and the exhibit.

immediate

09

Retail Items

- 1) As feasible, distribute merchandise lower on shelves and displays. Display a sign indicating that visitor assistance is available to access items beyond reach.

immediate

10

Checkout Counter

- 1) Maintain a section of counter space that is clear of objects at 36" wide.

immediate

11

Door

- 1) Improve the opening force of the restroom door to be 5 pounds maximum.

immediate

12

Theatre

- 1) Provide a seating plan that includes two integrated wheelchair seating spaces that are 36" minimum in width, 48" minimum in depth, and have a 2% maximum slope in all directions. Disperse these spaces throughout seating area.

immediate

13

Display Cases

- 1) Modify display cases so they do not protrude more than 4" into the circulation path or make the panels cane detectable at or below 27" from the floor.

short-term

14

Outdoor Recreation Access Route

- 1) Improve route to memorial to have a surface that is firm and stable.
- 2) Improve route to memorial to have cross slopes that do not exceed 2%.

short-term

15

Memorial

- 1) Improve clear ground space surrounding the memorial to have slopes that do not exceed 2%.

short-term

16

Outdoor Recreation Access Route

- 1) Improve route to picnic shelter to be 36" minimum in width, with a 2% maximum cross slope and a 5% maximum running slope. Segments up to 10% are allowed for short distances but must include resting intervals at the top and bottom of each segment. Routes shall be firm and stable.

mid-term

17

Handrails

- 1) Improve handrail gripping surfaces to be continuous along their length and be unobstructed along their tops or sides.

mid-term

18

Picnic Tables

- 1) Ensure that picnic tables have 36" width minimum clear ground space on all sides. Locate tables on a surface with a slope no greater than 2% in any direction.

mid-term

19

Kitchen

- 1) Improve counter height to be 34" maximum to top of counter surface from the finished floor.

mid-term

20

Restroom

- 1) Relocate the soap dispenser to have operable parts at 44" maximum from the finished floor.

immediate

- 2) Modify toilet or side wall so the toilet is between 16" and 18" from the sidewall.

long-term

- 3) Reinstall sink so that 27" of knee clearance is provided below the sink.

short-term

- 4) Provide a tactile sign on the latch side of the restroom doors. The bottom of the tactile characters shall be 48" minimum above the ground and the tops of the highest tactile characters 60" minimum above the ground. Ensure there is an 18" by 18" minimum clear space underneath the braille signs.

immediate

21

Outdoor Recreation Access Route

- 1) Improve route to picnic area to be 36" minimum in width, with a 2% maximum cross slope and a 5% maximum running slope. Segments up to 10% are allowed for short distances but must include resting intervals at the top and bottom of each segment. Routes shall be firm and stable.

mid-term

22

Picnic Tables

- 1) Ensure that 20% of picnic tables have integrated wheelchair seating and 36" width minimum clear ground space on all sides. Locate tables on a surface with a slope no greater than 2% in any direction.

mid-term

23

Accessible Route

- 1) Provide a route to the playground that is 36" minimum in width with a 2% maximum cross slope and a 5% maximum running slope.

mid-term

24

Playground

- 1) Provide accessible playground equipment and ground surfaces.

mid-term

WATERFRONT

Site Plan



Implementation Strategy

The Waterfront is connected to five key park experiences: cultural diversity, history of military presence, the Columbia River, special events, and recreation. Three parking lots are provided along the riverfront area, each with designated accessible parking. A paved walkway leads visitors from the parking lots and adjacent sidewalks toward a series of viewing platforms along the waterfront. A wide, moderately sloped walkway with handrails leads down to the beach. Interpretive waysides line the waterfront, explaining the history of Fort Vancouver. A lawn area located between the waterfront and parking has several picnic tables with companion seating space and extended tables, benches, and trash receptacles. The walkway requires minor to major repairs. Several sections have gaps and uplifting concrete, some viewing platforms have begun settling toward the water, and the walkway steeply drops off where it meets the sandy beach area.

The following improvements to this park area are planned:

01 Car Parking

- 1) Improve or relocate accessible parking space to a location with a 2% maximum slope in all directions.

short-term

02 Outdoor Recreation Access Route

- 1) Improve routes to have a 2% maximum cross slope and an 8.33% maximum running slope. Segments up to 10% are allowed for short distances but must include resting intervals at the top and bottom of each segment. Route shall be firm, stable, and 36" minimum in width.
- 2) Improve routes from parking to viewing and picnic areas to have openings no greater than ½" in width, and obstacles no greater than ½" in height measured vertically.

short-term

03 Benches

- 1) Provide a 36" by 48" clear ground space at benches, with slopes no greater than 2% in all directions. Ensure that clear ground space adjoins an outdoor recreation access route.

short-term

04

Accessible Route

- 1) Improve the route to be 36" minimum in width with a 5% maximum running slope and a 2% maximum cross slope.

long-term

05

Viewing Platforms

- 1) Improve viewing platforms to have openings no greater than ½" in width, and obstacles no greater than ½" in height measured vertically.

short-term

06

Picnic Tables

- 1) Ensure that picnic tables have 36" width minimum clear ground space on all sides. Locate tables on a surface with a slope no greater than 2% in any direction.

immediate

07

Car Parking

- 1) Improve or relocate accessible parking space to a location with a 2% maximum slope in all directions.

short-term

08

Picnic Tables

- 1) Ensure that picnic tables have 36" width minimum clear ground space on all sides. Locate tables on a surface with a slope no greater than 2% in any direction.

immediate

09

Car Parking

- 1) Improve or relocate accessible parking so access aisle has a 2% maximum slope in all directions. Ensure that access aisle is free of changes in level.

short-term

10

Trash and Recycling Receptacles

- 1) Improve the clear ground space at the trash receptacles to be 2% in all directions.

immediate

11

Benches

- 1) Provide a 36" by 48" clear ground space at benches, with a slope no greater than 2% in all directions. Ensure that clear ground space adjoins an outdoor recreation access route.

short-term

12

Accessible Route

- 1) Provide a route to the beach that is 36" minimum in width with a 5% maximum running slope and a 2% maximum cross slope.

long-term

13

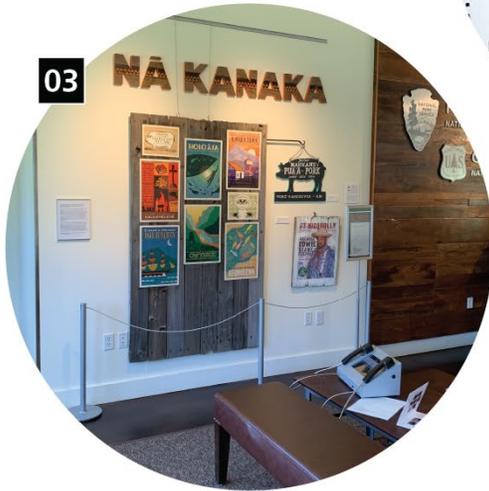
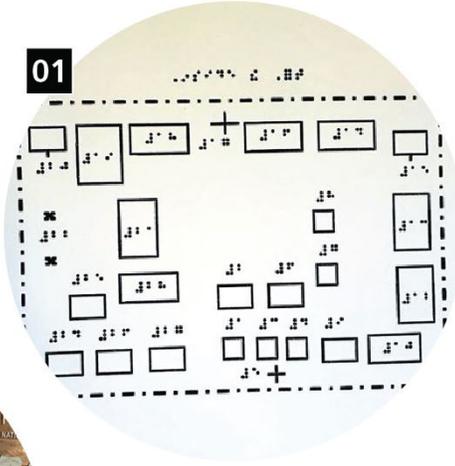
Beach Access Route

- 1) Improve transition between paved route and the beach to have a more gradual transition between paving and natural surface, maintaining a change in level of less than ½" in height measured vertically. As practicable, provide a beach access route that meets the standards of ABAAS 1018, connecting the paved route to the mean high water level.

long-term

FORT VANCOUVER NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE POLICIES, PRACTICES, COMMUNICATION, AND TRAINING

Park Features



Fort Vancouver 
@FtVancouverNPS
The official feed of Fort Vancouver National Historic Site in Vancouver, WA, and Oregon City, OR. RT/follow/likes=endorsement
© Washington State & Oregon [nps.gov/fova](https://www.nps.gov/fova)  Joined October 2009
508 Following 8,948 Followers

Tweets Tweets & replies Media Likes

Fort Vancouver  @FtVancouverNPS · 4h
Finally, follow the Friends of Fort Vancouver on Facebook at [facebook.com/friendsoffortv...](https://www.facebook.com/friendsoffortv...) for news and updates! 5/5

1



Implementation Strategy

Park policies and practices are specific to the park unit and provide guidance for reaching desired outcomes. Park policies are defined courses of action adopted by the park, while park practices are those habitual and/or customary performances of operations that the park employs.

Posting and Publications

01

Alternative Formats

- 1) Provide site bulletins in alternative formats including braille and tactile versions, audio description, and large print formats, as appropriate
- 2) Provide walking tour brochures in alternative formats including braille and tactile versions, audio description, and large print formats, as appropriate.
- 3) Provide event handouts and posters in alternative formats including braille and tactile versions, audio description, and large print formats, as appropriate.
- 4) Provide a tactile version of park map.
- 5) Provide junior ranger booklets in alternative formats including braille and tactile versions, audio description, and large print formats, as appropriate.

short-term

- 6) Provide rack cards in alternative formats including braille and tactile versions, audio description, and large print formats, as appropriate.

mid-term

- 7) Work with State School for the Blind to have braille versions made; do large-print versions in-house.

short-term

02

Accessibility Information

- 1) Add accessibility information in site bulletins, as they relate to services, activities, and programs.
- 2) Add accessibility information to walking tour brochures, as they relate to services, activities, and programs.
- 3) Add accessibility information to event handouts and posters, as they relate to services, activities, and programs.

short-term

- 4) Add accessibility information to park maps, as they relate to services, activities, and programs.

mid-term

- 5) Add accessibility information to junior ranger booklets, as they relate to services, activities, and programs.
- 6) Add accessibility information to rack cards, as they relate to services, activities, and programs.

short-term

Exhibits

03 Exhibits

- 1) Expand use of alternative formats such as braille and large-print, or tactile models on long-term exhibits.

mid-term

- 2) Expand use of alternative formats such as braille and large-print, or tactile models on short-term exhibits.

short-term

Staff Training and Park Protocols

04 Accessibility Awareness Training

- 1) Provide ongoing accessibility awareness training for all staff, including permanent and nonpermanent employees.

immediate

05 Accessible Facilities and Maintenance Training

- 1) Provide ongoing training for maintenance staff on planning, maintaining and constructing accessible facilities, including, but not limited to, restrooms, walks and trails, door pressure requirements, assistive devices, accessible routes, and universal design principles.

immediate

06 Accessibility for Project Managers Training

- 1) Provide ongoing training for project managers to address project accessibility requirements, (e.g., entering accessibility projects in Project Management Information System (PMIS), understanding universal design principles, and overseeing quality control of projects and designs).

immediate

07

Accessible Interpretive Training

- 1) Provide ongoing training for the interpretation and education division. Training may include, but is not limited to, how to evaluate programs for accessibility compliance; which websites offer more information; information about service animals; information about Other Power-Driven Mobility Devices (OPDMDs); how and when to offer live audio description programming; accessibility specifications for interpretive tactile models and maps; what assistive technologies are available; universal design principles; visitor services and communication about accessibility. It is also important to provide regular and ongoing visitor information and interpretive staff training in use of, distribution, and procedures for wheelchairs and assistive technology—assistive listening devices, T-coil hearing loops, neck loops, and text telephone machines.

immediate**08**

Emergency Preparedness

- 1) Develop, distribute, and practice standard operating procedures for assisting people with disabilities in the case of an emergency.

immediate**09**

Movable Seating

- 1) Develop and distribute standard operating procedures for movable cubicles and conference rooms, so there is adequate clear space and accessible routes to all elements in a room or building. Post a map in an area with accessible layout and instructions for use of the space.

short-term

- 2) Develop and distribute standard operating procedures for movable seating arrangements and moving things to create an accessible route and maintain integrated accessible seating. Post a map in an area with accessible layout and instructions for use of the space.

immediate**10**

Other Power-Driven Mobility Devices (OPDMDs)

- 1) Provide guidance outlining use of OPDMDs within the park.

immediate

Audio and Visual Programs

11 Assistive Listening Devices (ALDs)

- 1) Provide signage and information where programs are offered stating device availability. Verbally inform visitors and program participants that auxiliary aids are available. Add information to all publications and communications stating that assistive listening devices are available and provide information on how they can be attained.

immediate

12 Live Audio Description

- 1) Provide live audio descriptions on guided interpretive tours when needed.

mid-term

13 Open Captioning and Audio Description

- 1) Provide open captioning on videos and indicate its availability on the park's website.

immediate

14 T-Coil Hearing Loops or Neck Loops

- 1) Purchase T-coil hearing loops and neck loops. Inform visitors and program participants that auxiliary aids are available and provide information on check-out procedures. Post signage in appropriate locations and in all publications specifying availability of services.
- 2) Develop and distribute standard operating procedure or guidance for checking out and returning T-coil hearing loops and neck loops.
- 3) Develop and distribute standard operating procedures or guidance for pre-and post-inspection of T-coil hearing loops and neck loops and cleaning and maintenance of all devices.

immediate

15 Text Telephone (TTY) Machines

- 1) Provide a TTY machine at all locations where there is a public telephone.

long-term

- 2) Include TTY number on publications and on the park's website with the park contact information and phone number.

short-term

- 3) Provide a standard operating procedure or guidance describing use and protocol for pre- and post-inspection of TTY machines. Address cleaning and maintenance of all devices.

long-term

Visitor Information

16

Communication

- 1) Provide park e-mail address and telephone number on the park's website and in publications for questions.

immediate

17

Signage

- 1) Provide signage at visitor center that states availability of accessible alternative formats.

short-term

Outreach

18

Outreach

- 1) Conduct outreach via social media (Pinterest, Facebook, Snapchat, Twitter, etc.) to describe accessible programs, services, and activities available at the park.
- 2) Conduct outreach via traditional media and other advertising methods to describe accessible programs, services, and activities available at the park.
- 3) Contact groups with disabilities to inform them about the accessible programs, services, and activities that have become available at the park as solutions are implemented.

immediate

- 4) Outreach to and engage groups with disabilities to determine appropriate ways to involve them in park accessibility improvement projects as they occur (case-by-case basis).

short-term

Reservations

19 Reservations

- 1) On the park website, identify the following Federal Relay Service phone numbers: Voice (1-866-377-8642), Voice Carry Over (1-877-877-6280), Speech-to-Speech (1-877-877-8982), and Telebraille (1-866-893-8340). Note that for some of these services (Voice and Voice Carry Over), a user may also dial 711.
- 2) Provide an online reservation system built into the provider's website. Provide accessible formats for making reservations through the Federal Relay Service, Text Telephone (TTY), Video Phone, etc.

mid-term

- 3) For each park area that requires a reservation, provide information on website reservation systems about accessible services and facilities.

short-term

Tours, Programs, and Special Events

20 Tours, Educational Programs and Special Events

- 1) Upon request, provide alternative formats such as trail information in large print; audio descriptions for tours; educational programs; or special events. Provide alternative formats on park website and in publications at visitor center.
- 2) Provide information on the physical conditions of the tour, education program, or special event (e.g., number of steps, slopes, other barriers that exist, etc.) on-site, in a publication and/or on a website.

short-term

21 Sign Language Interpreters

- 1) Develop the process for requesting sign language interpreters. Provide sign language interpreters within five days of request.
- 2) Develop and distribute standard operating procedures for contacting and scheduling sign language interpreters.

short-term

22

Special Events

- 1) Provide a system for people to call in and request a sign language interpreter within five days of service. Provide assistive listening devices and a T-coil or neck loop system. Post signage indicating devices and systems are available for special events. Provide large print of any handouts or waivers being provided.
- 2) Provide information on how people can contact the park for accommodations for special events, and release event announcements in a variety of accessible methods (e.g., large-print flyers, electronic accessible PDFs, etc.)

short-term

- 3) Develop and distribute a standard operating procedure on how to post accessibility information and how to request accommodations on event announcements.

immediate

Concessions and Partnerships

23

Park Partner, Lessee, and Concessionaire Services, Activities, and Programs

- 1) Develop and distribute a standard operating procedure for presentations provided by outside groups regarding accessibility and assistive listening devices.
- 2) Architectural Barriers Act for Accessibility Standards applies to all lands funded by the federal government. Communicate with park partner and/or concessioners to ensure accessible services, activities, and programs are provided. The National Park Service will conduct an assessment, develop a transition plan, and address park partner concessioner services.

short-term

CONCLUSION

Fort Vancouver National Historic Site is committed to providing all visitors the opportunity to connect with and learn about the park's unique natural, cultural, and recreational resources. Accessibility improvements identified in the Fort Vancouver National Historic Site Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan will make it easier for individuals with cognitive, hearing, vision, and mobility disabilities to discover, understand, and enjoy the range of experiences available at the park. Implementation of the plan will ensure that Fort Vancouver National Historic Site will continue to work toward accommodating all park visitors while sustaining its legacy to preserve and protect natural and cultural resources.

The Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan for Fort Vancouver National Historic Site is a living document intended to be used as a guiding reference for the park as it implements accessibility upgrades and documents accessibility accomplishments. As barriers to accessibility are removed and/or improved, the changes will be updated in this plan. The park will conduct periodic reviews to evaluate and update conditions to reflect accomplishments and to document new programs or other changes that occur over time. Revisions to the plan may include conducting additional assessments for areas not originally conducted as a part of this plan.

The primary goal of the transition plan is to define key park experiences and document modifications needed to provide independent program participation for the widest range of disabilities possible. As the park works towards its accessibility goals and makes the implementation strategy a reality, both physical and programmatic accessibility will improve across the breadth of key park experiences at Fort Vancouver National Historic Site.

For visitors with mobility disabilities, access will be improved from the moment they enter the park. Facilities, as well as numerous programs, services, and activities the park offers will be more universally accessible. Experiences such as exploring the reconstructed fort, viewing the memorials and exhibits, walking along the waterfront, picnicking with friends and family, and learning about the human history and environment of the park, will be enhanced.

Park programs will be created and delivered for all visitors, including visitors with mild to severe disabilities impacting their mobility, vision, hearing, and/or cognitive abilities. Ranger led walks/talks, visitor center exhibits, films, trail waysides, and all materials that interpret park resources to the public will be provided in formats that allow visitors with disabilities to participate fully. Some of those formats include but are not limited to: large-print transcripts for printer materials, audio description for exhibits and films, assistive listening devices and sign language interpreters for ranger-led tours and programs, T-coil hearing loops for park films.

Over time, the results of this collective effort will make Fort Vancouver National Historic Site a truly welcoming and accommodating place for all visitors and will provide equal opportunity

to access the many places, resources, stories, and experiences the park has to offer.

APPENDIX A: ACCESSIBILITY LAWS, STANDARDS, GUIDELINES, AND NPS POLICIES APPLICABLE TO FORT VANCOUVER NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

As a national park, Fort Vancouver National Historic Site is required to comply with specific federal laws that mandate that discriminatory barriers be removed to provide equal opportunities to persons with disabilities. The following laws, design guidelines, and Director's Orders specifically pertain to Fort Vancouver National Historic Site.

LAWS AND STANDARDS

A law is a principle and regulation established in a community by some authority and applicable to its people, whether in the form of legislation or of custom and policies recognized and enforced by judicial decision. A standard is something considered by an authority or by general consent as a basis of comparison; an approved model. It is a specific low-level mandatory control that helps enforce and support a law.

Architectural Barriers Act of 1968

<http://www.access-board.gov/guidelines-and-standards/buildings-and-sites/about-the-aba-standards/guide-to-the-aba-standards>

The Architectural Barriers Act of 1968 requires physical access to facilities designed, built, altered, or leased with federal funds. The Uniform Federal Accessibility Standards (UFAS) are the design guidelines used as the basis for enforcement of the law. The UFAS regulations were adopted in 1984. Architectural Barriers Act Accessibility Standards (ABAAS) were revised and adopted in November 2005. Four federal agencies are responsible for the standards: the Department of Defense, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the General Services Administration, and the US Postal Service. The United States Access Board was created to enforce the Architectural Barriers Act, which it does through the investigation of complaints. Anyone concerned about the accessibility of a facility that may have received federal funds can easily file a complaint with the United States Access Board.

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973

<http://www.law.cornell.edu/cfr/text/43/17.550>

To the extent that section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 applies to departments and agencies of the federal government, the parks operated by the National Park Service are subject to the provisions of that statute. As will be discussed in the following text, both section 504 and the Architectural Barriers Act require the application of stringent access standards to new construction and the alteration of existing facilities. The Rehabilitation, Comprehensive Services, and Developmental Disabilities Amendments of 1978 (PL 95-602) extends the scope of section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (PL 93-112) to include Executive Branch agencies of the federal government. As amended, section 504 states:

Section 504: No otherwise qualified handicapped individual in the United States, as defined in Section 7 (6), shall, solely by reason of his handicap, be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance or under any program or activity conducted by any Executive agency or by the United States Postal Service. The head of each such agency shall promulgate such regulations as may be necessary to carry out the amendments to this section made by the Rehabilitation, Comprehensive Services, and Developmental Disabilities Act of 1978. Copies of any proposed regulation shall be submitted to appropriate authorizing committees of Congress, and such regulation may take effect no earlier than the thirtieth day after the date on which such regulation is so submitted to such committees.

As noted above, section 504 and the Architectural Barriers Act govern new construction and alterations. However, as a civil rights law, section 504 goes further. Unlike the construction-driven ABA mandates, section 504 also requires covered entities to consider the accessibility of programs, services, and activities.

Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973

<http://www.section508.gov/>

In 1998, Congress amended the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 to require federal agencies to make their electronic and information technology (EIT) accessible to people with disabilities. Inaccessible technology interferes with an ability to obtain and use information quickly and easily. Section 508 was enacted to eliminate barriers in information technology, open new opportunities for people with disabilities, and encourage development of technologies that will help achieve these goals. The law applies to all federal agencies when they develop, procure, maintain, or use electronic and information technology. Under section 508 (29 USC §794 d), agencies must give disabled employees and members of the public access to information that is comparable to access available to others. It is recommended that you review the laws and regulations discussed in the following sections to further your understanding about section 508 and how you can support implementation.

Accessibility Standards for Outdoor Developed Areas

<http://www.access-board.gov/guidelines-and-standards/recreation-facilities/outdoor-developed-areas/final-guidelines-for-outdoor-developed-areas>

Achieving accessibility in outdoor environments has long been a source of inquiry because of challenges and constraints posed by terrain, the degree of development, construction practices and materials, and other factors. The new provisions address access to trails, picnic and camping areas, viewing areas, beach access routes, and other components of outdoor developed areas on federal sites when newly built or altered. They also provide exceptions for situations where terrain and other factors make compliance impracticable. In 2013, this final rule amended the Architectural Barriers Act Accessibility Guidelines by adding scoping and technical requirements for camping facilities, picnic facilities, viewing areas, trails, and beach

access routes constructed or altered by or on behalf of federal agencies. The final rule ensures that these facilities are readily accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities. The final rule applies to the following federal agencies and their components that administer outdoor areas developed for recreational purposes: Department of Agriculture (Forest Service); Department of Defense (Army Corps of Engineers); and Department of the Interior (Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service). The final rule also applies to nonfederal entities that construct or alter recreation facilities on federal land on behalf of the federal agencies pursuant to a concession contract, partnership agreement, or similar arrangement.

Accessibility Standards for Shared Use Paths

<http://www.access-board.gov/guidelines-and-standards/streets-sidewalks/shared-use-paths>

Shared use paths provide a means of off-road transportation and recreation for various users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, skaters, and others, including people with disabilities. In its rulemaking on public rights-of-way and on trails and other outdoor developed areas, comments from the public urged the board to address access to shared use paths because they are distinct from sidewalks and trails. Shared-use paths, unlike most sidewalks, are physically separated from streets by an open space or barrier. They also differ from trails because they are designed not just for recreation purposes but for transportation as well.

In response, the board is supplementing its rulemaking on public rights-of-way to also cover shared-use paths. The proposed rights-of-way guidelines, which address access to sidewalks, streets, and other pedestrian facilities, provide requirements for pedestrian access routes, including specifications for route width, grade, cross slope, surfaces, and other features. The board proposes to apply these and other relevant requirements to shared-use paths as well. This supplementary rulemaking also would add provisions tailored to shared-use paths into the rights-of-way guidelines.

Draft Accessibility Standards for Public Rights-of-Way

<http://www.access-board.gov/guidelines-and-standards/streets-sidewalks/public-rights-of-way>

Sidewalks, street crossings, and other elements in the public right-of-way can pose challenges to accessibility. The United States Access Board's ADA and ABA Accessibility Guidelines focus mainly on facilities on sites. While they address certain features common to public sidewalks, such as curb ramps, further guidance is necessary to address conditions and constraints unique to public rights-of-way.

The board is developing new guidelines for public rights-of-way that will address various issues, including access for blind pedestrians at street crossings, wheelchair access to on-street parking, and various constraints posed by space limitations, roadway design practices, slope, and terrain. The new guidelines will cover pedestrian access to sidewalks and streets, including crosswalks, curb ramps, street furnishings, pedestrian signals, parking, and other

components of public rights-of-way. The board's aim in developing these guidelines is to ensure that access for persons with disabilities is provided wherever a pedestrian way is newly built or altered, and that the same degree of convenience, connection, and safety afforded the public generally is available to pedestrians with disabilities. Once these guidelines are adopted by the Department of Justice, they will become enforceable standards under ADA Title II.

Effective Communication

<http://www.ada.gov/effective-comm.htm>

People who have vision, hearing, or speech disabilities ("communication disabilities") use different ways to communicate. For example, people who are blind may give and receive information audibly rather than in writing and people who are deaf may give and receive information through writing or sign language rather than through speech. The ADA requires that Title II entities (state and local governments) and Title III entities (businesses and nonprofit organizations that serve the public) communicate effectively with people who have communication disabilities. The goal is to ensure that communication with people with disabilities is equally effective as communication with people without disabilities.

- The purpose of the effective communication rules is to ensure that the person with a vision, hearing, or speech disability can communicate with, receive information from, and convey information to, the covered entity.
- Covered entities must provide auxiliary aids and services when needed to communicate effectively with people who have communication disabilities.
- The key to communicating effectively is to consider the nature, length, complexity, and context of the communication and the person's normal method(s) of communication.

The rules apply to communicating with the person who is receiving the covered entity's goods or services, as well as with that person's parent, spouse, or companion in appropriate circumstances.

Reasonable Accommodations

<http://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/disability-employment/reasonable-accommodations/>

Federal agencies are required by law to provide reasonable accommodation to qualified employees with disabilities. The federal government may provide reasonable accommodation based on appropriate requests (unless so doing will result in undue hardship to the agencies). For more information, see the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission's [Enforcement Guidance: Reasonable Accommodation and Undue Hardship under the Americans with Disabilities Act \(external link\)](#).

Reasonable accommodations can apply to the duties of the job and/or where and how job tasks are performed. The accommodation should make it easier for the employee to successfully perform the duties of the position. Examples of reasonable accommodations include providing interpreters, readers, or other personal assistance; modifying job duties; restructuring work sites; providing flexible work schedules or work sites (i.e., telework); and providing accessible technology or other workplace adaptive equipment. [Telework \(external link\)](#) provides employees additional flexibility by allowing them to work at a geographically convenient alternative worksite, such as home or a telecenter, on an average of at least one day per week.

Requests are considered on a case-by-case basis. To request reasonable accommodations:

- Look at the vacancy announcement.
- Work directly with person arranging the interviews.
- Contact the agency [Selective Placement Program Coordinator](#).
- Contact the hiring manager and engage in an interactive process to clarify what the person needs and identify reasonable accommodations.
- Make an oral or written request; no special language is needed.

Other Power-Driven Mobility Devices

<http://www.ada.gov/regs2010/ADAREgs2010.htm>

The definition and regulation to permit the use of mobility devices has been amended. The rule adopts a two-tiered approach to mobility devices, drawing distinctions between wheelchairs and other power-driven mobility devices such as the Segway Human Transporter. Wheelchairs (and other devices designed for use by people with mobility impairments) must be permitted in all areas open to pedestrian use. Other power-driven mobility devices must be permitted for use unless the covered entity can demonstrate that such use would fundamentally alter its programs, services, or activities, create a direct threat, or create a safety hazard. The rule also lists factors to consider in making this determination.

Service Animals

<http://www.nps.gov/goga/planyourvisit/service-animals.htm>

[The following is excerpted from the Department of Justice and Americans with Disabilities Act Revised Regulations \(effective 3/15/2011\).](#)

34.104 Definitions: Service animal means any dog [or miniature horse as outlined in the following text] that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability, including a physical, sensory, psychiatric, intellectual, or other mental disability. Other species of animals, whether wild or domestic, trained or untrained, are not service animals for the purposes of this definition. The work or tasks performed by a service animal must be directly related to the handler's disability. Examples of work or tasks include, but are not limited to, assisting individuals who are blind or have low vision with navigation and other tasks, alerting individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing to the presence of people or sounds, providing nonviolent protection or rescue work, pulling a wheelchair, assisting an individual during a seizure, alerting individuals to the presence of allergens, retrieving items such as medicine or the telephone, providing physical support and assistance with balance and stability to individuals with mobility disabilities, and helping persons with psychiatric and neurological disabilities by preventing or interrupting impulsive or destructive behaviors. The crime deterrent effects of an animal's presence and the provision of emotional support, well-being, comfort, or companionship do not constitute work or tasks for the purposes of this definition.

- a. General. Generally, a public entity shall modify its policies, practices, or procedures to permit the use of a service animal by an individual with a disability.
- b. Exceptions. A public entity may ask an individual with a disability to remove a service animal from the premises if-
 - (1) The animal is out of control and the animal's handler does not take effective action to control it; or
 - (2) The animal is not housebroken.
- c. If an animal is properly excluded. If a public entity properly excludes a service animal under § 35.136(b), it shall give the individual with a disability the opportunity to participate in the service, program, or activity without having the service animal on the premises.
- d. Animal under handler's control. A service animal shall be under the control of its handler. A service animal shall have a harness, leash, or other tether, unless either the handler is unable because of a disability to use a harness, leash, or other tether, or the use of a harness, leash, or other tether would interfere with the service animal's safe, effective performance of work or tasks, in which case the service animal must be otherwise under the handler's control (e.g., voice control, signals, or other effective means).

- e. Care or supervision. A public entity is not responsible for the care or supervision of a service animal.
- f. Inquiries. A public entity shall not ask about the nature or extent of a person's disability, but may make two inquiries to determine whether an animal qualifies as a service animal. A public entity may ask if the animal is required because of a disability and what work or task the animal has been trained to perform. A public entity shall not require documentation, such as proof that the animal has been certified, trained, or licensed as a service animal. Generally, a public entity may not make these inquiries about a service animal when it is readily apparent that an animal is trained to do work or perform tasks for an individual with a disability (e.g., the dog is observed guiding an individual who is blind or has low vision, pulling a person's wheelchair, or providing assistance with stability or balance to an individual with an observable mobility disability).
- g. Access to areas of a public entity. Individuals with disabilities shall be permitted to be accompanied by their service animals in all areas of a public entity's facilities where members of the public, participants in services, programs or activities, or invitees, as relevant, are allowed to go.
- h. Surcharges. A public entity shall not ask or require an individual with a disability to pay a surcharge, even if people accompanied by pets are required to pay fees, or to comply with other requirements generally not applicable to people without pets. If a public entity normally charges individuals for the damage they cause, an individual with a disability may be charged for damage caused by his or her service animal.
- i. Miniature horses.
 - (1) Reasonable modifications. A public entity shall make reasonable modifications in policies, practices, or procedures to permit the use of a miniature horse by an individual with a disability if the miniature horse has been individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of the individual with a disability.
 - (2) Assessment factors. In determining whether reasonable modifications in policies, practices, or procedures can be made to allow a miniature horse into a specific facility, a public entity shall consider-
 - i. The type, size, and weight of the miniature horse and whether the facility can accommodate these features;
 - ii. Whether the handler has sufficient control of the miniature horse;
 - iii. Whether the miniature horse is housebroken; and

- iv. Whether the miniature horse's presence in a specific facility compromises legitimate safety requirements that are necessary for safe operation.

(C) Other requirements. Paragraphs 35.136 (c) through (h) of this section, which apply to service animals, shall also apply to miniature horses.

Section 17.549 Program Accessibility: Discrimination Prohibited

<http://www.law.cornell.edu/cfr/text/43/17.549>

Except as otherwise provided in §17.550, no qualified handicapped person shall, because the agency's facilities are inaccessible to or unusable by handicapped persons, be denied the benefits of, be excluded from participation in, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity conducted by the agency.

The reference to §17.550 in the below quotes is intended to address exclusions available to covered entities in connection with existing facilities.

Section 17.550 Program Accessibility: Existing Facilities

<http://www.law.cornell.edu/cfr/text/43/17.550>

(a) General. The agency shall operate each program or activity so that the program or activity, when viewed in its entirety, is readily accessible to and usable by people with disabilities. This paragraph does not:

- (1) Necessarily require the agency to make each of its existing facilities or every part of a facility accessible to and usable by people with disabilities;
- (2) In the case of historic preservation programs, require the agency to take any action that would result in a substantial impairment of significant historic features of an historic property; or
- (3) Require the agency to take any action that it can demonstrate would result in a fundamental alteration in the nature of a program or activity or in undue financial and administrative burdens. In those circumstances where agency personnel believe that the proposed action would fundamentally alter the program or activity or would result in undue financial and administrative burdens, the agency has the burden of proving that compliance with §17.550(a) would result in such an alteration or burdens. The decision that compliance would result in such alteration or burdens must be made by the agency head or his or her designee after considering all agency resources available for use in the funding and operation of the conducted program or activity, and must be accompanied by a written statement of the reasons for reaching that conclusion. If an action would result in such an alteration or such burdens, the agency shall take any other action that

would not result in such an alteration or such burdens but would nevertheless ensure that handicapped persons receive the benefits and services of the program or activity.

(b) Methods.

- (1) **General.** The agency may comply with the requirements of this section through such means as redesign of equipment, reassignment of services to accessible locations, assignment of aides to beneficiaries, home visits, delivery of services at alternate accessible sites, alteration of existing facilities and construction of new facilities, use of accessible rolling stock, or any other methods that result in making its programs or activities readily accessible to and usable by people with disabilities. The agency is not required to make structural changes in existing facilities where other methods are effective in achieving compliance with this section. The agency, in making alterations to existing buildings, shall meet accessibility requirements to the extent compelled by the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968, as amended (42 USC 4151–4157) and any regulations implementing it. In choosing among available methods for meeting the requirements of this section, the agency shall give priority to those methods that offer programs and activities to qualified handicapped persons in the most integrated setting appropriate.
- (2) **Historic preservation programs.** In meeting the requirements of paragraph (a) of this section in historic preservation programs, the agency shall give priority to methods that provide physical access to handicapped persons. In cases where a physical alteration to an historic property is not required because of paragraph (a)(2) or (a)(3) of this section, alternative, methods of achieving program accessibility include:

 - (i) Using audio-visual materials and devices to depict those portions of an historic property that cannot otherwise be made accessible;
 - (ii) Assigning persons to guide people with disabilities into or through portions of historic properties that cannot otherwise be made accessible; or
 - (iii) Adopting other innovative methods.
- (3) **Recreation programs.** In meeting the requirements of paragraph (a) in recreation programs, the agency shall provide that the program or activity, when viewed in its entirety, is readily accessible to and usable by people with disabilities. When it is not reasonable to alter natural and physical features, accessibility may be achieved by alternative methods as noted in paragraph (b)(1) of this section.

Section 17.551 Program Accessibility: New Construction and Alterations

<http://www.law.cornell.edu/cfr/text/43/17.551>

Each building or part of a building that is constructed or altered by, on behalf of, or for the use of the agency shall be designed, constructed, or altered so as to be readily accessible to and usable by handicapped persons. The definitions, requirements, and standards of the Architectural Barriers Act (42 USC 4151–4157) as established in 41 CFR 101 – 19.600 to 101 – 19.607 apply to buildings covered by this section.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE DIRECTOR’S ORDERS AND MANAGEMENT POLICIES

A policy is a definite course of action adopted and pursued by a government, ruler, or political party. It is an action or procedure conforming to or considered with reference to prudence or expediency.

Director’s Order 16A

<http://www.nps.gov/policy/DOrders/DOrder16a.html>

Director’s Order 16A establishes the framework for meeting reasonable accommodation requirements in all areas of employment, including: application, hiring, retention, promotion, recognition, and special hiring authority. Within this framework, NPS Human Resources and Equal Opportunity Program officials will take the lead in providing specific guidance and services to applicants, employees, and supervisors and other managers with respect to the provision of reasonable accommodation.

Director’s Order 42

<http://www.nps.gov/policy/DOrders/DOrder42.html>

Director’s Order 42 addresses accessibility for visitors with disabilities in National Park Service programs and services. It is the goal of the National Park Service to ensure that all people, including persons with disabilities, have the highest level of access that is reasonable to NPS programs, facilities, and services. The order gives detailed guidance based on the minimum requirements set forth in laws, rules, and regulations with the goal to provide the highest level of access that is reasonable, exceeding the minimum level of access required by law. The order sets forth six implementation strategies:

1. to increase employee awareness and technical understanding of accessibility requirements
2. to ensure all new and renovated buildings and facilities, and all new services and programs (including those offered by concessioners and interpreters) will be “universally designed” and implemented in conformance with applicable regulations and standards

3. to ensure existing programs, facilities and services will be evaluated to determine the degree to which they are currently accessible to and useable by individuals with disabilities
4. to ensure that barriers that limit access be identified and incorporated into the NPS Assets Management Program
5. to develop action plans identifying how identified barriers will be removed (where feasible)
6. to ensure action will be taken on a day-to-day basis to eliminate identified barriers, using existing operational funds or other funding sources or partnerships

National Park Service Management Policies: Section 1.9.3 – Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities

<http://www.nps.gov/policy/mp/policies.html>

All practicable efforts will be made to make NPS facilities, programs, services, employment, and meaningful work opportunities accessible and usable by all people, including those with disabilities. This policy reflects the commitment to provide access to the widest cross section of the public and ensure compliance with the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968, the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Equal Employment Opportunity Act of 1972, and Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Specific guidance for implementing these laws is found in the Secretary of the Interior’s regulations regarding enforcement and nondiscrimination on the basis of disability in Department of the Interior programs (43 CFR par 17, subpart E), and the General Service Administration’s regulations adopting accessibility standards for the Architectural Barriers Act (41 CFR part 102-76, subpart C).

A primary principle of accessibility is that, to the highest degree practicable, people with disabilities should be able to participate in the same programs, activities, and employment opportunities available to everyone else. In choosing among methods of providing accessibility, higher priority will be given to methods that offer programs and activities in the most integrated setting appropriate. Special, separate, or alternative facilities, programs, or services will be provided only when existing ones cannot reasonable be made accessible. The determination of what is practicable will be made only after careful consultations with persons with disabilities or their representatives. Any decisions that would result in less than equal opportunity is subject the filing of an official disability right complain under the departmental regulations cited above.

GUIDELINES

A guideline is an indication of a future course of action. It consists of recommended, nonmandatory controls that help support standards or serve as a reference when no applicable standard is in place.

Programmatic Accessibility Guidelines for National Park Service Interpretive Media

<http://www.nps.gov/hfc/accessibility/>

The “Programmatic Accessibility Guidelines for National Park Service Interpretive Media” is for media specialists, superintendents, and other NPS employees and contractors who develop and approve interpretive media. Publications, exhibits, audiovisual programs and tours, wayside exhibits, signage, and web-based media provide park visitors with information and context so that their experience of visiting national parks can be both safe and meaningful. Park visitors who have physical, sensory, or cognitive disabilities have legally established civil rights to receive the same information and context that NPS interpretive media products have always provided to their fellow citizens.

APPENDIX B: GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Accessibility assessment: A process in which physical and programmatic barriers to accessibility are identified at a park unit.

Accessibility assessment team: This group is a subgroup of the Interdisciplinary Design Team (see definition below) and includes an accessibility specialist and/or technician, coordinators, a regional representative, the primary facilitator for the process, architect, engineer and/or landscape architect, and typically the chiefs of interpretation, resources management, and facilities management.

Accessibility Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan: A tool that establishes a methodical process for identifying and improving parkwide access and proposes strategies for implementing the plan over time, in a manner consistent with park requirements and protocols.

Architectural Barriers Act Accessibility Standard (ABAAS): Standards issued under the Architectural Barriers Act apply to facilities designed, built, altered, or leased with certain federal funds. Passed in 1968, the Architectural Barriers Act is one of the first laws to address access to the built environment. The law applies to federal buildings, including post offices, social security offices, federal courthouses and prisons, and national parks.

Barrier: Architectural and programmatic obstacles to accessibility that make it difficult, and sometimes impossible, for people with disabilities to maneuver, understand, or experience.

Best practice: A method or technique that has consistently shown results superior to those achieved with other means, and that is used as a benchmark for meeting accessibility requirements.

Consultation: A formal or informal process for discussing an action or process for implementing a solution, such as section 106 (cultural resource compliance), or design for an Accessibility Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan.

Facility Management Software System (FMSS) work order: The process for documenting work needs and collecting information to aid the work scheduling and assignment process within the Facility Management Software System. Information collected should include labor, equipment and material costs, hours, types, and quantities.

Guideline: A guideline is an indication of a future course of action. It consists of recommended, nonmandatory controls that help support standards or serve as a reference when no applicable standard is in place.

Interdisciplinary design team: This team is composed of all the people involved in the workshop at the park unit, potentially including planning, design, and construction professionals; and interpretive, resource (natural and cultural), visitor safety, maintenance and accessibility specialists.

Key park experience: For the purpose of the Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan, key park experiences are those experiences that are iconic and essential for visitors to understand the purpose and significance of a given park unit. They are those experiences that are “musts” for all park visitors. Key park experiences can be identified through a consideration of park purpose, significance, interpretive themes, and those programs or activities highlighted in park communications.

Law: A law is a principle and regulation established in a community by some authority and applicable to its people, whether in the form of legislation or of custom and policies recognized and enforced by judicial decision.

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Requirements: NEPA defines a process that federal agencies must follow when proposing to take actions that have environmental impacts. NEPA requires federal agencies to fully consider the impacts of proposals that would affect the human environment prior to deciding to take an action. NEPA also requires federal agencies to involve the interested and affected public in the decision-making process.

Park area: A park area is the geographic location that is home to a single or multiple key park experience(s).

Park Asset Management Plan-Optimizer Banding (PAMP-OB): Provides a 5-year asset management strategy for park units, allowing for annual updates that coincide with the budget and planning processes already occurring in park units. As this approach includes life cycle total cost of ownership, analysis, processing, and calculations, it also helps park units and the service as a whole to manage the gap between what should be spent on facilities and what is actually being spent.

Park policy: A policy is a definite course of action adopted and pursued by a government, ruler, or political party. It is an action or procedure conforming to or considered with reference to prudence or expediency.

Park practice: Those habitual and/or customary performances or operations for reaching a desired outcome that the park employs.

People-first language: A type of disability etiquette that aims to avoid perceived and subconscious dehumanization when discussing people with disabilities. It emphasizes the person rather than the disability, noting that the disability is not the primary defining characteristic of the individual but one of several aspects of the whole person.

Project Management Information System (PMIS) Facility: A separate and individual building, structure, or other constructed real property improvement.

Project Management Information System (PMIS) Nonfacility: A project that includes anything not covered by the definition for PMIS facility

Project Management Information System (PMIS) # (number): A unique Project ID Number that is automatically generated when adding a new project into the Project Management Information System

Project planning team: This group is a subgroup of the interdisciplinary design team and includes DSC planners and PWR staff. This team collects baseline data, facilitates calls, develops the participant guide, plans for and facilitates the workshop, and produces the draft and final documents.

Readily achievable: Easily accomplished and able to be carried out without much difficulty or expense.

Recommended solution: The action to eliminate the identified barrier.

Responsible person: The person/position responsible for seeing that the elimination of a barrier is completed.

Service, activity, and program: A service, activity, or program that is undertaken by a department and affords benefits, information, opportunities, and activities to one or more members of the public.

Standard: A standard is something considered by an authority or by general consent as a basis of comparison; an approved model. It is a specific low-level mandatory control that helps enforce and support a law.

Time frame: Time frames for implementation of a recommended solution are primarily based on park's ability of the park to complete the improvements within normal scheduling of park operations and planned projects. They describe when staff will eliminate the barrier. Recommended solutions are divided into four time frames including: immediate, short-term, mid-term, and long-term.

APPENDIX C: CONTRIBUTORS

FORT VANCOUVER NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

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Mindy Burke, Contract Editor

Laurie Domler, Project Manager

Marc Kochheiser, Landscape Architect

APPENDIX D: PARK AREAS NOT ASSESSED

The following park areas are those not assessed for this Accessibility Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan. The selection process determined that key park experiences provided in these park areas were available in an equivalent way within the areas that were assessed. If any of the park areas not assessed are improved by new construction or alterations in the future, the area will be assessed and improved to comply with the current Architectural Barriers Act Accessibility Standards.

Rationales are provided below for park areas not assessed for this plan:

Park Area	Rationale
Admin Buildings	Administrative use only
Land Bridge	Not NPS owned
Munitions Building	Administrative use only
Officer's Row	Not NPS owned
Pilots Headquarters Building	Administrative use only
South Barracks	Fenced off to public, administrative use only
West Barracks	Non-NPS owned, administrative use only

APPENDIX E: ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE PARK

Identification no. _____

Record this identification number in the implementation table where this action is identified. Use this template to track and document accessibility actions and accomplishments throughout the park.

Action Taken by Fort Vancouver National Historic Site

Location: [Park Area]

Barrier:

Action taken:

Date work was completed:

PMIS Number(s) and Title(s):

Cost:

Photograph(s), sketches, or notes documenting completed work:

Submitted by:

Date:

APPENDIX F: GUIDANCE FOR PREPARING PMIS PACKAGES FOR ACCESSIBILITY IMPROVEMENTS

Project description: Clearly identify what improvements will be addressed as part of the package. Also identify the park location and facility for planned work. Reference work orders for all applicable types of planned work, e.g., deteriorated conditions to be improved (deferred maintenance), health and safety improvements, and code compliance issues such as accessibility improvements. Provide measurements of areas to be improved, e.g., square footage, lineal footage, etc.

Project justification: Reference the recently completed “Accessibility Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan” for your park and the implementation strategy dates. Identify the number of visitors affected and other beneficial aspects of the project. You can cite legal and management policies as noted below:

- The Architectural Barriers Act (ABA) of 1968 requires that any building or facility designed, constructed, altered, or leased with federal funds be accessible and usable by any individuals with disabilities. In addition, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 requires covered entities to consider the accessibility of programs, services, and activities. In 2006, the Architectural Barriers Act Accessibility Standards (ABAAS) were adopted for federal facilities. Subsequently in 2011, standards for Recreational Facilities were added to ABAAS as Chapter 10.
- The National Park Service recommitted to making our parks and programs truly accessible to all in the “*A Call to Action*”. The recently released “*ALL IN! Accessibility in the National Park Service 2015-2020*” included three goals for improved visitor access. This project addresses: Goal 1: Create a welcoming environment by increasing the ability of the National Park Service to serve visitors and staff with disabilities; Goal 2: Ensure that new facilities and programs are inclusive and accessible to people with disabilities; and Goal 3: Upgrade existing facilities, programs, and services to be accessible to people with disabilities.

Potential eligible fund sources: Accessibility projects are potentially eligible for a number of NPS fund sources and can be competitive in regard to the capital investment strategy. The following is a list of possible fund sources:

1. Repair/rehabilitation program—identify all work orders that pertain for deferred maintenance, code compliance, health and safety, etc.
2. Flex park base—accessibility is a NPS emphasis area for years 2015-2020.
3. Recreation fee 80% park—excellent fund source for accessibility as the project provides for visitor improvements. This should be a top choice for Fee80 parks.
4. Recreation fee 20% park—excellent fund source for accessibility as the project provides for visitor improvements.

5. Concession/permitted facilities—consider these fund sources when the facility is included in a Concession contract or permit.
6. Regular cyclic maintenance—excellent fund source for replacement of picnic tables, grills, trash containers, etc.
7. Exhibit cyclic maintenance—excellent fund source for replacing non-compliant waysides, exhibits, etc.
8. FLHP—include accessibility improvements with parking lot, parking spaces, accessible routes, curb cuts, sidewalks, signage, etc. as part of road improvement projects where appropriate.
9. Line item construction (LIC) —if you have a project in the LIC program, ensure inclusion of all appropriate accessibility improvements.

PMIS packages: Conduct a search in PMIS for projects previously funded for accessibility.

APPENDIX G: TRAIL SUMMARY SHEETS

[NAME OF TRAIL]

Park Name	Fort Vancouver National Historic Site	
Trail Name	[Name of trail]	
Segment	[Segment information]	
Type		
Length	[Length information]	
Elevation Gain	[Elevation gain] file	
Elevation Loss	[Elevation loss information]	
Trail Uses Allowed		
Trail Uses NOT Allowed		
Typical Grade	[%]	Max = [X%]
Intermediate		
Maximum		
	Standard Ramp Grade is [X%]	
Typical Cross Slope	[%]	Max = [X%]
Intermediate		
Maximum		
Typical Tread Width	[X in (X cm)]	Min = [X in (X cm)]
Intermediate		
Minimum		
Surface Type	[Surface Type]	
Surface Category	X % of Trail is [Surface Type]	X % of Trail is [Surface Type]
	X % of Trail is [Surface Type]	X % of Trail is [Surface Type]
	X % of Trail is [Surface Type]	
Firmness	Typical: X	Minimum: X
Stability	Typical: X	Minimum: X

Obstructions:

Type:	Size (Height):	Remaining Tread:	Location:
X	X in (X cm)	X in (X cm)	X ft. (X m)
X	X in (X cm)	X in (X cm)	X ft. (X m)
X	X in (X cm)	X in (X cm)	X ft. (X m)

Warning: [Add notes from rtf file]

[Add notes from rtf file]

Signage created by Beneficial Designs Inc. from data collected by a Certified Trail Assessment Coordinator using the High Efficiency Trail Assessment Process (HETAP).

APPENDIX H: TRAIL ASSESSMENT PROTOCOL

References: Architectural Barrier Act Accessibility Standards (ABAAS)

- Chapter 2 Scoping Requirements: Section F247 Trails, Section F216.13 Trailhead Signs
- Chapter 10 Recreation Facilities, Section 1017 Trails, Section 1019 Condition for Exceptions

Background standards: The ABAAS trail accessibility requirements are included in “Chapter 2 Scoping Requirements” and “Chapter 10 Recreation Facilities.” Refer to ABAAS for the complete standards prior to planning any trail work or conducting assessments; the following bullets highlight some pertinent sections of the standards in regard to conducting assessments:

- F216.13 Trailhead Signs. Where new trail information signs are provided at trailheads on newly constructed or altered trails designed for use by hikers or pedestrians, the signs shall comply with 1017.10.
- F247.1 General. Where a trail is designed for use by hikers or pedestrians and directly connects to a trailhead or another trail that substantially meets the requirements in 1017, the trail shall comply with 1017. A trail system may include a series of connecting trails. Only trails that directly connect to a trailhead or another trail that substantially meets the requirements in 1017 are required to comply with 1017.
- F247.1 Advisory Trails. Trails that have a designed use for hikers or pedestrians are required to comply with 1017. Trails that have a designed use for other than hikers or pedestrians are not required to comply with 1017.
- F247.2 Existing Trails. Where the original design, function, or purpose of an existing trail is changed and the altered portion of the trail directly connects to a trailhead or another trail that substantially meets the requirements in 1017, the altered portion of the trail shall comply with 1017.
- F247.4 Advisory Trail Facilities. Facilities are required to comply with F247.4 regardless of whether the trail complies with 1017. (Note: this includes camping facilities, picnic facilities, and viewing areas that must comply with appropriate standards.)
- F247.5 Outdoor Constructed Features. Where outdoor constructed features are provided on trails, other than within facilities specified in F247.4, at least 20 percent, but not less than one, of each type of outdoor constructed feature at each location shall comply with 1011.
- 1017.1 General. Trails shall comply with 1017.
 - Exception 1. When an entity determines that a condition in 1019 (see below) does not permit full compliance with a specific provision in 1017 on a portion of a trail, the portion of the trail shall comply with the provision to the extent practicable.

- Exception 2. After applying Exception 1, when an entity determines that it is impracticable for the entire trail to comply with 1017, the trail shall not be required to comply with 1017.
- 1017.1 Advisory General Exception 2. An entity must apply Exception 1 before using Exception 2. The entity should consider the portions of the trail that can and cannot fully comply with the specific provisions in 1017 and the extent of compliance where full compliance cannot be achieved when determining whether it would be impracticable for the entire trail to comply with 1017. The determination is made on a case-by-case basis. Federal agencies must document the basis for their determination when using Exceptions 1 or 2 and must notify the Access Board when using Exception 2.
- 1019.1 General (Conditions for Exceptions). Exceptions to specific provisions in 1017 shall be permitted when an entity determines that any of the following conditions does not permit full compliance with the provision:
 - 1) Compliance is not practicable due to terrain.
 - 2) Compliance cannot be accomplished with the prevailing construction practices.
 - 3) Compliance would fundamentally alter the function or purpose of the facility or the setting.
 - 4) Compliance is limited or precluded by any of the following laws, or by decisions or opinions issued or agreements executed pursuant to any of the following laws:
 - Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. §§ 1531 et seq.);
 - National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. §§ 4321 et seq.);
 - National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. §§ 470 et seq.);
 - Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. §§ 1131 et seq.); or
 - Other federal, state, or local law the purpose of which is to preserve threatened or endangered species; the environment; or archaeological, cultural, historical, or other significant natural features.
- 1019.1 Clarification. Entities should consider all design options before using the exceptions. On trails, the exceptions apply only on the portion of the route where the condition applies. The trail is required to fully comply with the provisions in 1017, as applicable, at all other portions of the route where the conditions do not apply. There are additional exceptions that apply to an entire trail in 1017.1.

Identifying trails for assessments: Parks vary considerably in what key experiences are provided to visitors. A small historical park may have minimal or no trails but will have various walks and outdoor recreation access routes providing universal access. Some parks may have a few identified trails that they provide for universal access. While at other parks, the primary key experience for visitors may be the recreational trail system.

There are various sources of information to inform a decision on which trails to assess as part of the SETP process. The following sources can be researched and actions taken when identifying what trails are appropriate for assessment:

Sources:

- Trails that the park has identified in visitor information as being wheelchair accessible to visitors with disabilities.
- There are five classifications of trails defined within FMSS including:
 - Class 1 primitive/undeveloped
 - Class 2 simple/minor development
 - Class 3 developed/improved
 - Class 4 highly developed
 - Class 5 fully developed.

Note: Class 4 and class 5 trails by definition have potential for universal access.

- FMSS trail listings in which parks have identified those trails that are ABA compliant and/or ABA designated trails. In December 2015, there were 98 trails in 32 parks identified in the region meeting those requirements.

Actions:

- Select a representative number of trails for assessment to provide visitors the maximum access to key park experiences. Eliminate those trails that are not practical because of terrain, cannot be altered to meet standards with prevailing construction practices, or exempt as a result of environmental or historical laws. For each trail, document within the park evaluation the reasons for elimination.
- Outdoor recreation facilities are often targeted in ABAAS to provide for access to at least 20% of the facilities but not less than one of each type of facility at each location. The 20% figure could be used as a general guide in identifying the number of trails to be assessed at various locations.
- Evaluate what is a reasonable expectation for making trail improvements in the 10-year time-frame of the transition plan. Possibly four to six trail assessments would be the maximum scheduling capacity for trail improvements at a park within 10 years. Identify planned trail assessments and improvements for each time frame category.

Requirements for trail assessments: ABAAS Section 1017 provides the access standards for constructing and altering trails. These standards shall also be used for the assessment process. It is critical to note that although a trail may not meet Section 1017 accessibility standards, all constructed facilities on the trail or at the destination must comply with ABAAS standards, i.e., camping, picnicking, view areas, restrooms and other constructed facilities. Many visitors with disabilities can navigate non-standard trails into the backcountry but upon arrival may be

unable to use constructed facilities with physical barriers. The only exemption for backcountry facilities is the primitive outhouse with riser on a hole dug into the ground.

Trailhead signs: Trail information signs at trailheads shall include the following:

1. Length of the trail or trail segment
2. Surface type
3. Typical and minimum tread width
4. Typical and maximum running slope
5. Typical and maximum cross slope

Conducting trail assessments: The High Efficiency Trail Assessment Process (HETAP) tool provides the most effective means of conducting trail assessments. This tool is a wheeled carriage (baby jogger size) with a mounted computer that stores photos, barrier observations, and field data such as length, running slope, and cross-slope measurements at designated intervals. A Rotational Penetrometer (RP) should be used in tandem with the HETAP tool to measure the firmness and stability of the trail surface. The data collected can be used for evaluating the trail in meeting ABAAS Section 1017 requirements, including trail length, width, surface, running slope, cross slope, and tread obstacles. The park can generate a report from the data to estimate and plan trail improvements. In addition, the data can be used in providing information for trailhead signage. The final HETAP trail data is presented in excel spreadsheets and should be left with the park for future planning purposes. If HETAP equipment is not available, information can be collected by a measuring wheel, tape measure, and smart level. (Note: The HETAP equipment is manufactured by Beneficial Design, Inc. and is used by several parks. Other manufacturers may carry this equipment.

**FORT VANCOUVER NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE
ACCESSIBILITY SELF-EVALUATION AND TRANSITION PLAN
AUGUST 2020**

This Accessibility Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan has been prepared as a collaborative effort between Fort Vancouver National Historic Site, Pacific West Regional staff, and the Denver Service Center and is recommended for approval by the superintendent.

[to be signed upon completion of final draft]

Approved

Date

Superintendent, Fort Vancouver National Historic Site



As the nation’s principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has responsibility for most of our nationally owned public lands and natural resources. This includes fostering sound use of our land and water resources; protecting our fish, wildlife, and biological diversity; preserving the environmental and cultural values of our national parks and historic places; and providing for the enjoyment of life through outdoor recreation. The department assesses our energy and mineral resources and works to ensure that their development is in the best interests of all our people by encouraging stewardship and citizen participation in their care. The department also has a major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in island territories under U.S. administration.

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AUGUST 2020

Back Cover