

THE STORY OF THE SLOUGH



A CONCEPT PLAN FOR THE HOQUARTON INTERPRETIVE TRAIL

Acknowledgements

This document chronicles a public involvement process begun in early 2001 and presents a conceptual plan for the Hoquarton Interpretive Trail. It represents the combined ideas of dozens of community residents, elected officials, agency/organization representatives, and professional employees, all of whom share a unified vision to make this trail a reality.

Hoquarton Interpretive Trail Committee

The dream for a trail along Hoquarton Slough in the City of Tillamook could not be realized without these dedicated citizens:

Phaedra Bennett	Tillamook Bay Watershed Council
Sally Clay	Tillamook Downtown Association
Jack Crider	Port of Tillamook Bay
Rudy Fenk	Retired Dairy Farmer, Soil & Water District
Mark Gervasi	City of Tillamook
Suzan Greenwood	Tillamook Estuaries Partnership
Herman Gonzales	Citizen
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Helen Hill	Sally Sheridan	Charlie Wooldridge

Project Management

Tillamook Estuaries Partnership

Technical Assistance

The Hoquarton Trail Committee was fortunate to benefit from the expertise of the following organizations and individuals:

Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program of the National Park Service – Lisa Jo Frech, Steve Bowes, Sue Abbott and Michael Linde

Artist in Residence/ Art and Community Landscapes Initiative – Jackie Brookner and Susan Leibovitz Steinman

Oregon Arts Commission – Sally Sheridan and Bill Flood

University of Oregon – Anita Van Asperdt, Adjunct Professor, and her graduate landscape architecture students

Supporting Partners

The following agencies have contributed personnel and support to the Hoquarton Trail Committee:

City of Tillamook
Tillamook Estuaries Partnership
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
Tillamook County
Port of Tillamook Bay
Tillamook Bay Watershed Council
Tillamook County YMCA
Tillamook Downtown Association
Bay City Arts Center
Tillamook County Transportation District
Pioneer Museum
Economic Development Council of Tillamook County
Tillamook County Futures Council
Tillamook Youth Accountability Camp
Tillamook School District



The Story of the Slough

Hoquarton Interpretive Trail Concept Plan

March 2004

A cooperative effort of:

Hoquarton Interpretive Trail Committee
The City of Tillamook
Tillamook Estuaries Partnership

With assistance from:

National Park Service Rivers, Trails and
Conservation Assistance Program
Pacific West Region – Seattle Office

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HOQUARTON: Where the story begins...

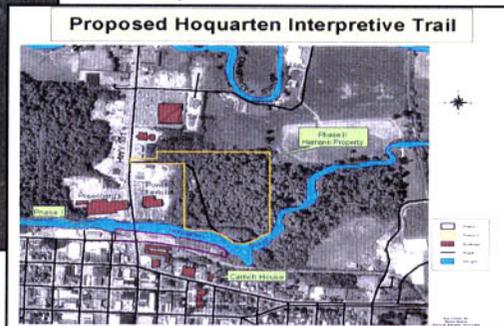
Carved horse heads once decorated the proud bows of dugout canoes, some as long as 60 feet that could hold 40 to 60 people. Food and water were carried in exquisite baskets made of bull rush and cattails. A needle used to make a mat was made from the joint of a crane's wing, with a hole drilled in it. The little bay and giant forest provided food, clothing, tools, and shelter, and they were honored for their gifts.. The water and land was so plentiful of food, they had no need for agriculture. For almost a thousand years this was their home.

They called it "Hoquarton," meaning "the Landing."



The Slough

This is the Hoquarton Slough as it meanders through the heart of Tillamook - "The land of many waters". The Hoquarton Slough is the City of Tillamook's major natural feature. Since the time of its first inhabitants, the Slough has beckoned people to its banks. Indian trails became the trails of the settlers. Some of these trails led to the current day roads. It is the re-establishment of a trail along the Hoquarton Slough that is the heart of our story.



New Orientation

Hoquarton Slough was one of the first navigable waterways from Tillamook Bay to the City of Tillamook, providing the main route to Tillamook for vessels from the Bay and the Pacific Ocean. Because of this important activity, Tillamook's first business district was developed along the Slough. Boats unloaded goods onto the docks and thriving business trade occurred on the Slough's east-west course.

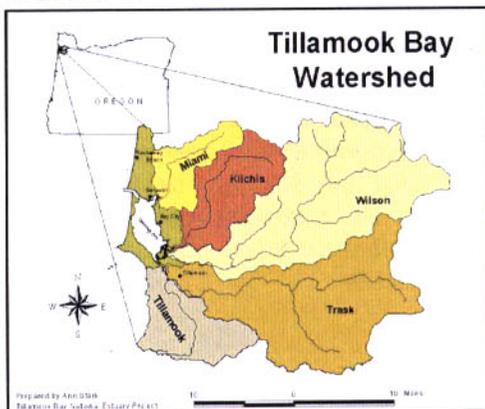
In 1931, the Pacific Highway (Highway 101) was built at right angles to the Hoquarton Slough, changing the basic orientation of Tillamook's core. With the advent of tourists and industrial transportation, businesses began to locate themselves in relation to the new highway. Tillamook developed into a town oriented north to south instead of east to west along the Slough. The Hoquarton Slough Interpretive Trail will revive the east/west route of earlier days, creating a gathering place that once again provides both a destination and a means of transportation.

City of Tillamook and Surrounding Area

Located on the North Oregon Coast, 75 miles west of the Portland Metro Area, the City of Tillamook is the county seat and is in the middle of Tillamook County. It is surrounded to the North, by Bay City which is nestled next to Tillamook Bay. To the East is the Coast Range and the Tillamook State Forest. West and South of Tillamook you will find the 3 Capes Scenic Loop, with Cape Meares, Oceanside and Netarts all offering fabulous views of the Pacific Ocean.

Tillamook County covers 1,125 square miles and includes nine rivers, four bays and 75 miles of coastline. More than 90 percent of the land is controlled by the State of Oregon, the U.S Bureau of Land Management, the U.S. Forest Service and private timber companies. The Tillamook forest is key to the county's economy. The 500,000 acre forest was re-planted after disastrous fires in the 1930's and 1940's wiped it out.

Fishing was once a major industry in the county, but today its economy is dominated by agriculture and timber harvesting. Cows have traditionally outnumbered people in Tillamook County and they still do. There are approximately 28,600 cows on the county's 147 dairy farms. Home to the Tillamook Cheese Factory and the Tillamook County Creamery Association, the county is the state's largest producer of milk products.



Tidbits about Tillamook

Average Annual Precipitation
90.9 inches

Average Winter Temperature
Day – mid 50's, Night – mid30's

Average Summer Temperature
Day –upper 60's, Night –upper 40's

County Population
24,600 people
28,600 cows

Median Age of Residents
35

% of Residents over 65
19.8%

County Motto
Land of Cheese, Trees and Ocean Breeze

Information provided by Tillamook Chamber of Commerce

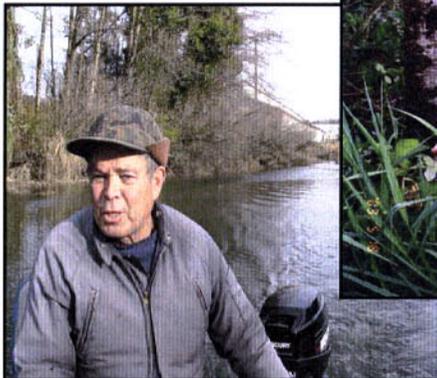
HELPING WRITE THE STORY... “Bringing a Vision to Life”

Today, a new generation of pioneers is finding a way to care for and celebrate the Slough. Our journey has been multi-faceted, filled with exploration, surprising resources in our back yard, new friendships, personal and professional growth, and an experience that has bonded people to people, people to land and water, and people to a new and greater sense of what is possible for our community.

Bringing the Community Together

The need for a trail along Hoquarton Slough was identified as early as 1997 by the Tillamook Vision Task Force, a consortium of citizens charged with developing a long-range vision for county residents. While these ideas were being developed at the City level, citizens without connections to the visioning process were also discussing how to create a recreational trail system in Tillamook. In early 2001, these individuals and vision task force members discovered each other and began an informal exchange about their shared vision as a Trail Committee.

From the beginning, it was obvious that one of the greatest strengths of the trail project was the diversity of representation among those committed to building a trail. Artists, teachers, business owners, farmers, natural resource professionals, students, civic leaders, retirees and young parents all contributed--and continue to contribute--unique and valuable perspectives. Over the next two years, the Trail Committee met regularly, developed and carried out community outreach activities, and researched other possible grant sources.



Assistance in Action

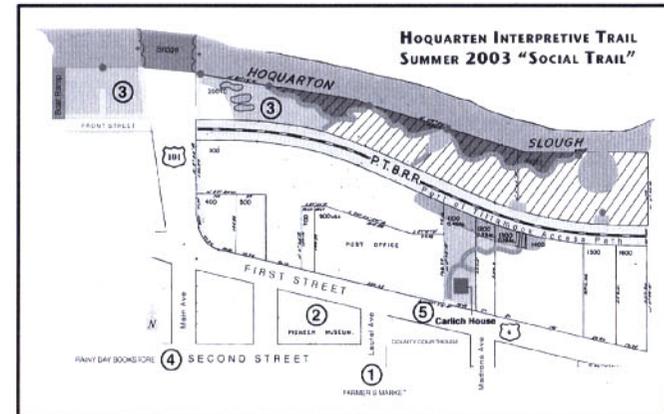
Community involvement has been enhanced by technical assistance from several sources. The National Park Service, National Endowment of the Arts, New England Foundation for the Arts, Oregon Arts Commission and the University of Oregon Graduate Landscape Architecture Program have all provided professional services to help draw the "Big Picture".

National Park Service

The National Park Service Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program (RTCA) awarded a grant of technical assistance to the Hoquarton trail project in December 2001. Over the next two years, the committee was fortunate to work with RTCA staff Lisa Jo Frech and Steve Bowes. Their expertise with community building, grant writing and public process was invaluable in moving the project forward.

Art and Community Landscapes Initiative

Because of the association with the National Park Service, Tillamook was selected as one of three cities in the Pacific Northwest to receive two Artists in Residence through their Art and Community Landscapes Initiative. This Initiative sponsored by the National Park Service, the National Endowment of the Arts and the New England Foundation for the Arts allowed artists, Jackie Brookner and Susan Leibovitz Steinman to work with the community to enhance trail development using art. These two nationally recognized artists worked with local artists and school groups to provide the impetus for community involvement in the trail project. The legacy they leave includes spearheading the annual Trail Festival, detailed drawings of future artistic components to add to the trail and an unwavering vision of renovation of the Carlich house to serve as a community center as well as a trailhead.



Design Workshops laid a foundation for "Social Trail" concept



Susan Leibovitz Steinman and Jackie Brookner meet the community

Oregon Arts Commission

The Oregon Arts Commission sponsored a community design workshop in January 2003. Citizen feedback from the workshop and questionnaires resulted in a prioritized list of trail components that were eventually incorporated into the preliminary concept plan. The workshop, led by Landscape Architect Sally Sheridan, provided a good forum for innovative ideas and renewed enthusiasm by residents and civic leaders.

Workshop Results – First Step in Planning Process



University of Oregon

Also in January 2003, nineteen graduate students and their professor Anita Van Asperdt, chose Hoquarten as the site for their semester long design studio. They came to Tillamook, met with residents, and spent time exploring the area. In May the students returned and presented their ideas to the community. Each interpretation celebrated the unique qualities of the Slough – flooding, history, and proximity to downtown.



One student, Liz Deck, produced a Hoquarten Trail quilt, inspired by a quilt she saw at the Latimer Quilt Center made by Rosa, a grand daughter of Chief Kilchis. Her concept of the trail weaves through the city and the forest. She said that she hoped her quilt would help residents and visitors *"Remember the past, enjoy the present and preserve the future"* just as Rosa's designs did.

Art Sub-Committee

The Hoquarton Interpretive Trail Committee Art Sub-committee was initially formed to work with the Art and Community Landscape Initiative's resident artists during their year-long interaction with the community. The committee is made up of local artists, art teachers, and other creative individuals who wish to use art as an avenue to get broad-based participation in and generate excitement about the trail.

Throughout the year these artists worked with local students to provide temporary art for the trail that would promote the Hoquarton trail project. Beautiful watercolors of the slough's varied flora and fauna were created by elementary school students, then transferred to waterproof fabric flags that now fly along portions of the trail, drawing the eye to the natural beauty of the area.

The Art Sub-committee also spearheaded the First Annual Hoquarton Trail Festival held in the Summer of 2003. With an official ribbon-cutting ceremony presided over by city leaders, close to 100 people took part in a variety of activities that fostered a greater appreciation for the many benefits that this trail will bring to downtown Tillamook, its residents, and visitors. Collaboration with the schools and local artists will continue to be an important task of the Art Sub-committee as they create interpretive art pieces for the developing trail.



Images from the First Annual Hoquarton Trail Festival

Landscape Sub-Committee

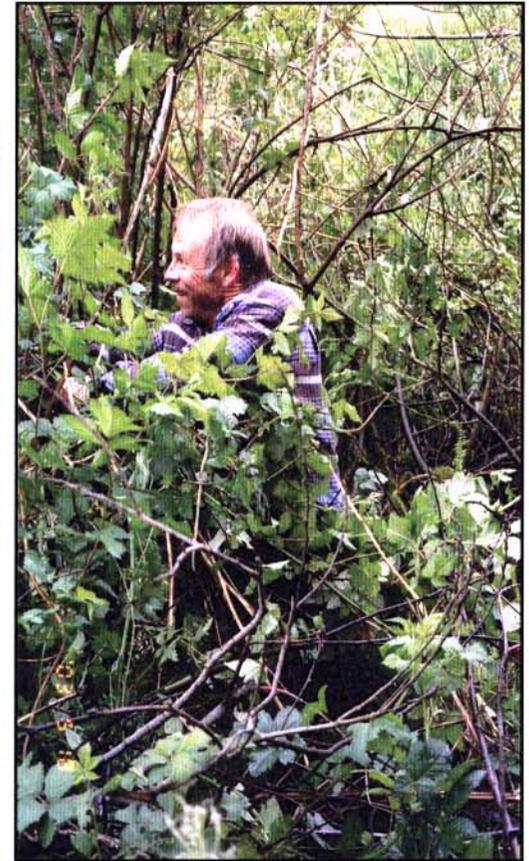
This small group of trail committee members with expertise in riparian restoration has been the impetus behind much of the actual on-the-ground work in trail development. They have led school and community groups during several work days to remove non-native vegetation, and plant native trees and shrubs. They regularly monitor proposed trail areas, and continue ongoing planting efforts. As trail development unfolds, this sub-committee will work to preserve the natural resource integrity of the entire trail corridor.



Planting native trees and shrubs



Its hard work to keep the riparian area healthy!!



Removing Himalayan Blackberries

Our Mission

The Mission of the Hoquarton Interpretive Trail Committee is to guide public participation in and obtain resources for the development of the Hoquarton Interpretive Trail.

Our Vision:

We want to help people listen to the Slough's many stories.

"The Hoquarton Slough Interpretive Trail will be a product of the community development process to preserve the unique history, cultural and natural resources, while providing recreation, health and wellness, economic stimulus and transportation alternatives for residents and visitors."

Goals of the Hoquarton Interpretive Trail Committee

- Creation of a valuable recreation opportunity for all citizens, regardless of age or ability
- Conservation and enhancement of critical habitats found in and around the Hoquarton Slough ecosystem
- Protection of cultural and historic resources, as well as the education of community members and visitors
- Promotion of economic and community development through outdoor recreation and resource conservation
- Education of residents and visitors regarding the impacts of development and the importance of biodiversity, riparian habitats, and water quality
- Fostering public participation in planning and development of the trail
- Development of a regional comprehensive transportation plan that incorporates an inter-modal center to connect rail, bike, pedestrians & public transportation.

THE SETTING... Natural Resources and History

"Treat the earth well: it was not given to you by your parents, it was loaned to you by your children. We do not inherit the Earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children." Native American Proverb

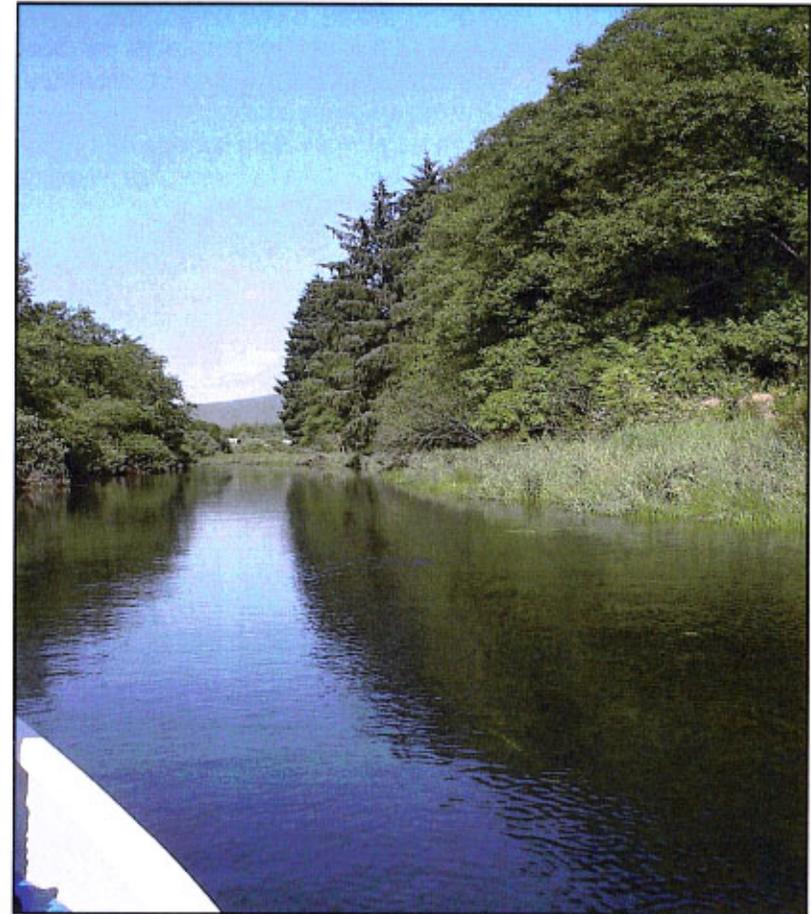
Natural Resources

In the lower Tillamook Watershed, where the Hoquarton Slough flows, forest gives way to open lowlands used primarily for dairy farms. Early settlers recognized the rich agricultural potential of the lowlands and drained the area with numerous dikes, levees, and ditches. The lowlands, once characterized by meandering rivers and networks of small channels that provided fish habitat, woody debris, and organic matter, now support 28,600 dairy cattle countywide that produce 95% of Oregon's cheese. Human, agricultural, and industrial uses have degraded the riparian areas in the lowlands. Riparian areas (vegetated corridors along a waterway) are essential for erosion control, filtering of pollutants, shade, and oxygen for salmon and other aquatic species.



Tillamook Bay Watershed and its five rivers are some of the West Coast's most productive fishing spots, yet its bounty of Chinook, Chum, Coho, and Steelhead fish

populations pales in comparison to harvests of yesteryear. The North Coast Coho salmon is now listed as a threatened species and Chum and Steelhead populations are declining. Scientists point to the dramatic loss of spawning and rearing habitat as a principal reason for the decline of Tillamook Bay salmon. According to the Tillamook Bay National Estuary Project, 72% of wetlands within the Tillamook Bay basin have been altered with development and agriculture.



HOQUARTON TODAY



In contrast to the compromised riparian areas in many parts of the lower watershed, a Riparian Inventory commissioned by the City of Tillamook in 1999 found the riparian areas associated with the Hoquarton Slough were the least disturbed and highest functioning in the watershed. Despite dredging and active use of the Slough for navigation in the early 1900s, the riparian area was still in remarkably good condition.

Forests bordering the Slough contain areas of a plant community that is now rare in Oregon, the Sitka Spruce swamp, also known as a tideland spruce meadow. The three primary flora species of a spruce swamp - skunk cabbage, salmon berry, and spruce tree - are all

found along the Hoquarton. The Riparian Inventory concluded that Hoquarton Slough presented many good opportunities for education and low-impact recreational use. It also found that a complex of riparian areas located south of Hoquarton Slough had been disturbed by ditching and pond excavation, offering opportunities for restoration.

Bald eagles, red tail hawks, and blue herons use the Slough's variety of habitats as rookeries, while migrating species like the endangered Aleutian Canada goose use the Slough as an important resting area along the Pacific Flyway. Additionally, threatened native salmon and other fish use the woody, debris-laden Slough and its many acres of wetlands to raise their young.

Historic Hoquarton

Photos Courtesy of Tillamook Pioneer Museum



Coates Lumber Mill early 1900's



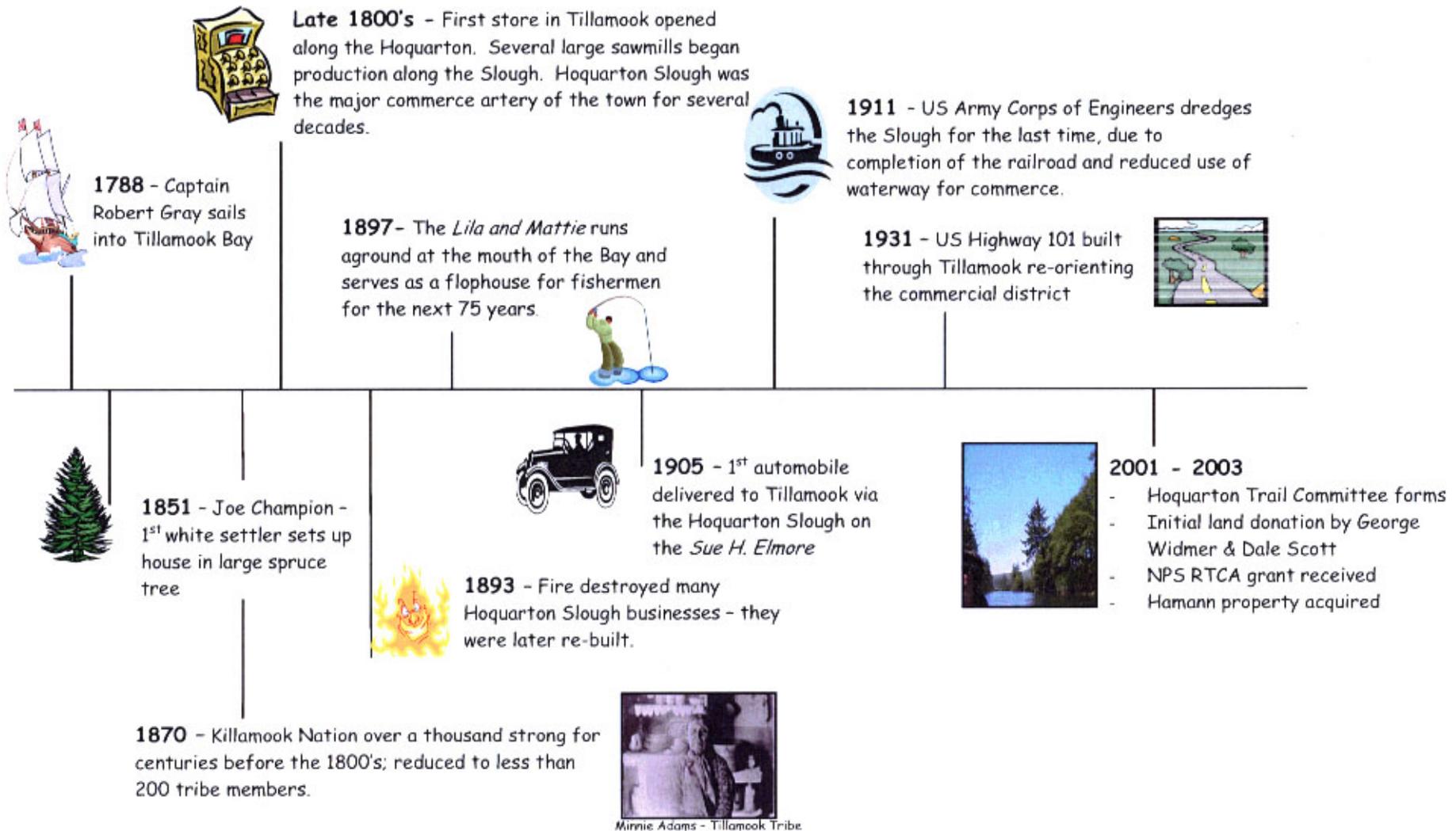
Ferries on the Slough



Center of Commerce

History

A Timeline of Selected Highlights from the Many Chapters of the Hoquarton Slough



THE NEXT CHAPTER... Community Benefits

“Because of the abundant resources of fish, shellfish, crab, berries, roots and game, the Tillamook people had no need for agriculture or any organized commerce. Hunting and gathering centered around three large villages at the mouths of the Tillamook, Trask and Wilson Rivers, and travel seldom extended to the upland forested areas.” – An Environmental History of Tillamook Bay and Watershed

A vastly different economy exists in present day Tillamook. Although dairy farming, fishing and logging remain the commercial backbone, making a living from the region’s natural resources is becoming increasingly difficult. The Hoquarton Interpretive Trail represents a critical opportunity for economic revitalization in downtown Tillamook. The trail’s close proximity to core downtown shops, restaurants, and the Pioneer Museum will encourage residents and visitors alike to get out of cars and stretch their legs before continuing on to the Tillamook Cheese Factory, the beach communities, or their deep sea fishing adventure.

To conserve, protect, and where appropriate restore the resources and benefits of all coastal shore lands, recognizing their value for protection and maintenance of water quality, fish and wildlife habitat, water-dependent uses, economic resources and recreation and aesthetics.

OR Statewide Planning Goals & Guidelines
GOAL 17: Coastal Shore lands



Downtown Economic Revitalization

Because the Hoquarton Slough is so close to downtown, the goals of the trail committee intersect well with many economic development plans for the area. Nature based tourism in Oregon is growing at 30% annually. To quote the Oregon Tourism Division in a new brochure about the ecotourism market, “Ecotourism emerged over the last decade as a significant trend in tourism development”. This new wave of tourism can generate visitors, benefits, and profits for rural regions with unique natural resources.

The Tillamook Downtown Association’s downtown beautification project seeks to stimulate existing businesses as well as create an environment that supports even more private investment. Cities with similar water related trails often experience not only resurgence to existing businesses, but also the creation of new enterprises such as boat sales/rentals, bike rentals, more restaurants and specialty shops, and overall increased tourism revenue.

Increased Health and Wellness

This trail system will have many benefits for the health and wellness of all users. Seniors (over age 62) in Tillamook County comprise 19.8% of the population. A comparison to the state average of 12.8% indicates that this is a rapidly growing segment of the county's citizenry. Currently, no low-impact, outdoor facilities exist for senior recreation in the Tillamook area, and indoor recreation opportunities are often not affordable to those living on a fixed budget. The trail will address this concern for Tillamook's seniors in a concrete way.



Photo by Skyler Veek



The trail and its environs must also be considered a place for solitude and serenity. Each of us requires a little time and space to calm the mind, sort out our daily lives, and prepare for the next challenge.

Alternative Transportation

The Hoquarton Interpretive Trail will provide an alternative pedestrian and bike route within an area of the city that is designated as a pedestrian walkway on the Town Center Plan. The Tillamook County Transportation District has bike racks on its buses, with extended service area to all parts of Tillamook County and Portland. Preliminary discussions have begun with the Port of

Tillamook about linking the east end of the Phase One trail to the Port's excursion train known as the "Tillamook Fun Run". A multi-modal transportation center at the trail site is envisioned as a hub connecting the rails to city buses, charter buses, the pedestrian and biking trail, and taxi services.

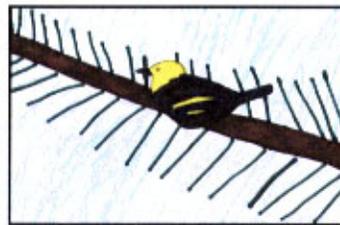
Education

The Hoquarton Interpretive Trail has already proven its significant potential as a source for education. Several Tillamook elementary school classes have created watercolors of the slough's plant and animal wildlife, which has in turn been developed into public flag art and colorful postcards that garner a small income to the trail committee. High school students have participated extensively in invasive plant removal and native plantings.

As the trail continues to grow, teachers of all disciplines can bring students to the trail to learn about science, history, math, music, art, and writing. Projects undertaken by teachers and students can be woven back into the trail and the community through performing arts, outreach events and other public forums.



Art by Tillamook County Students



Community Survey

The Hoquarton Trail Committee distributed a community-wide survey over a period of several months to solicit opinions from the public on how they envision this project. The following composite quotes represent the most commonly expressed thoughts:

What is important for future generations to remember about Hoquarton Slough?

- ◆ Centuries of Native American life along the slough
- ◆ Pioneer cultural history
- ◆ Importance to the economy
- ◆ Importance to the natural ecosystem

What is of value to you about the Hoquarton Slough?

- ◆ It is close to town
- ◆ Easily accessible for enjoying quiet and nature
- ◆ Provides a natural flood way
- ◆ Rich biological life
- ◆ Fishing and boating - natural and cultural history

What are some images or patterns that reflect the uniqueness of Tillamook to you?

Boats...pilings...rivers...beaches...birds...cows...trees
...floods...cheese...fish...rain...green...The Bay...fish...
Native American Influence

What kinds of activities would you like to see happen along the Slough?

- ◆ Interpretive information on the area's cultural and natural history
- ◆ Active educational opportunities for all ages
- ◆ Walking/biking paths with periodic benches for
- ◆ Resting and quietly enjoying nature
- ◆ Water trail for boats
- ◆ Protection/restoration of ecosystem
- ◆ Guided and self-guided tours
- ◆ Picnic areas
- ◆ Art and science classes
- ◆ Exercise opportunities accessible to all

Other comments....

"What once was a seaport, is now a place of beauty – Restoration by nature works!"

"Peace, calmness & beauty are valuable beyond measure"

Art by Sunshine, Grade 3, Liberty

THE PLOT... “Drawing the Big Picture”

In January 2003 the Trail Committee received an award of technical assistance from the Oregon Art Commission (OAC) for help in designing a concept plan for the trail. The OAC provided the services of a Landscape Architect to work with the Committee through an intensive 3-day design workshop or charette. This charette helped put onto paper in living color the many dreams and goals for how a trail along Hoquarton Slough could become a vibrant destination point. The following are “big picture” ideas and recommendations generated by the charette's design team.

Travel the Slough on a Water Trail

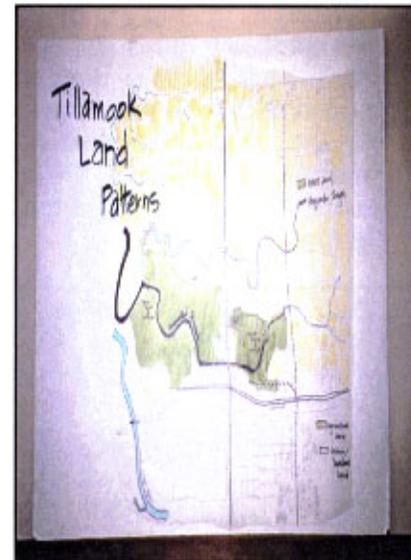
The City of Tillamook is encircled by water, and the committee's vision is for the Hoquarton Interpretive Trail to be as much a water trail as a land trail. Rivers and sloughs ebb and flow with the daily tides of the Pacific Ocean as it moves through Tillamook Bay, and the opportunity to see the city from the water the way Native Americans and early settlers first experienced it - floating through a tunnel of vegetation, peering into an ancient swamp forest, or watching a huge heron land in the tree just around the corner - is a primary objective.



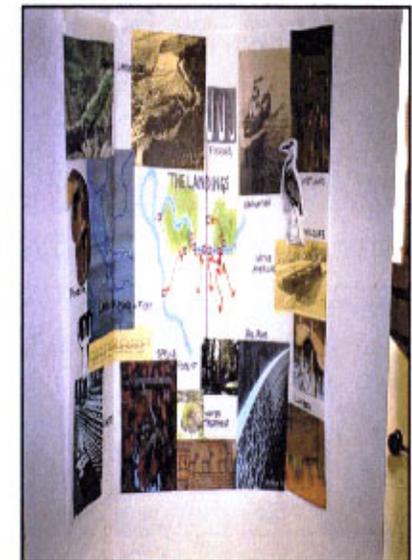
Photo by Skyler Veek

Promote a System of Landings

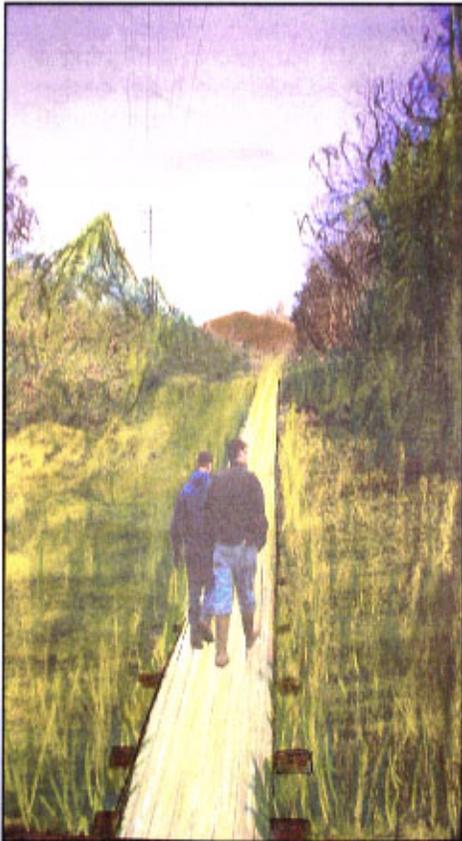
“Hoquarton” is a Native American word meaning “The Landing”. While people think of landings as places associated with water, a series of viewpoints overlooking the slough can be places for reflecting, enjoying the landscape, interacting with people, and learning about local history. Major trail heads for the Hoquarton Interpretive Trail could also be thought of as “Landings”-places where people park their cars, view interpretive displays or interactive artwork, and then set off to discover the treasures along the trail.



Patterns and Uses



“Landing” Ideas



Art by Liz Deck & Fisher & Talley Fisher – University of Oregon

Use the Trail to Tell Stories

Every community has a story to tell, and Tillamook is no exception. The local heritage of fishing, dairy farms, and lumber mills, along with Native American life and traditions, all intersect along the natural beauty of the slough. A Hoquarton Slough Interpretive Trail would reveal these stories by using waypoints, overlooks, story boards, and murals. Some could be told by way of more subtle methods, such as discovery walks, earthen sculptures, and other "wordless" art forms. In this way the trail becomes a route for people to experience some of the past and present wonders of Tillamook while wandering along Hoquarton Slough.



Telling stories without words

Plug into Regional Connections

The design team recommended signing existing bike routes in and through town, as well as creation of new routes. A hike/bike route along the Hoquarton Slough in downtown Tillamook could be directly linked with the other well-traveled bike routes such as the Pacific Coast Bike Trail.

The Port of Tillamook Bay Railroad runs the Oregon Coast Explorer vintage train and is considering bringing a "Fun Run" spur to the east end of the proposed trail site. The resulting train station would provide a central transportation hub near downtown for walkers, bikers, bus riders and cars.

Re-establish Hoquarton Landing as a Community Gathering Place

Since Tillamook's historic and cultural beginning was along Hoquarton Slough--and since the city owns land on both sides of the historic landing site--town leaders have an ideal opportunity to re-create a community gathering place near the original "Hoquarton Landing." The Landing could be a destination and hub for both residents and visitors--a place where friends could meet, enjoy art, stroll along the slough, launch a boat into the water, sit and watch wildlife, learn about local history and heritage, or walk a scenic trail to visit exhibits or catch the "Fun Run" train.

Goal: Provide quality outdoor recreation experiences in a sustainable manner to ensure the enjoyment and education of present and future generations.

Oregon Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan 2003-2005