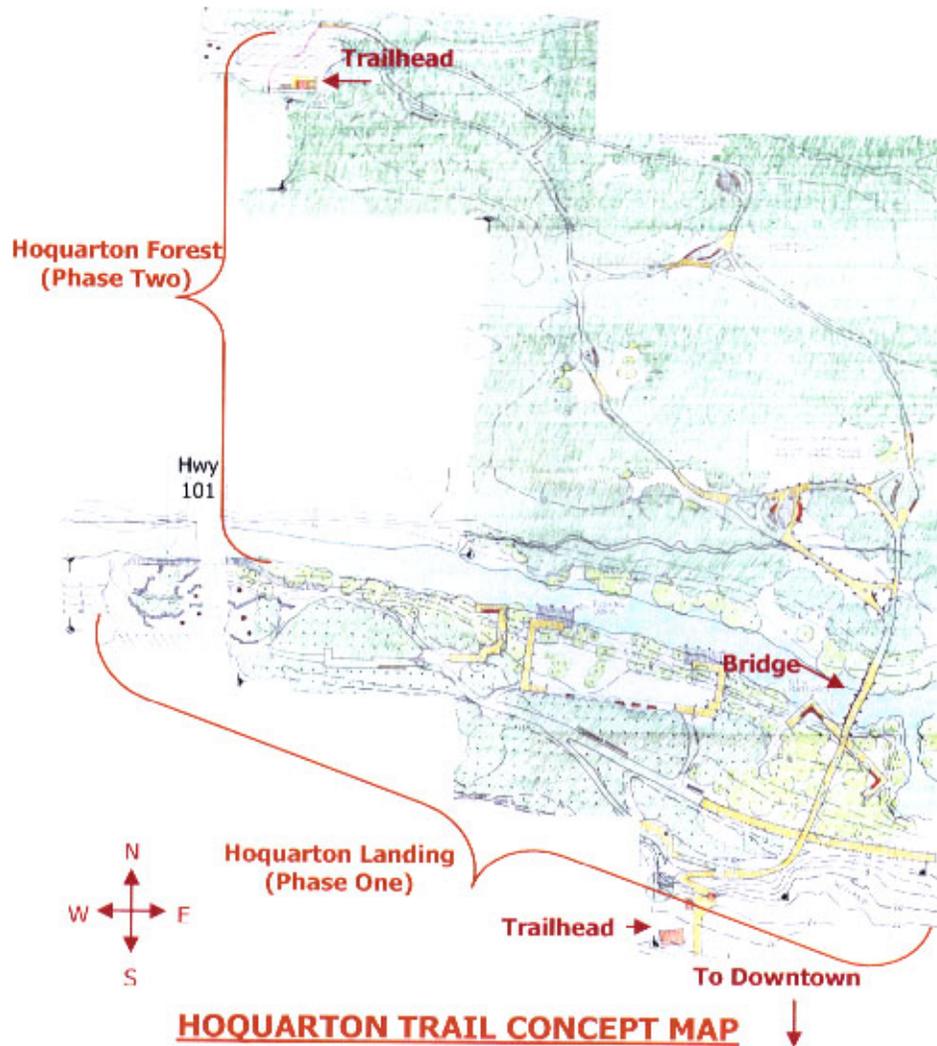


THE HEART OF THE STORY... Preliminary Trail Design

The Heart of the Story focuses on the trail design itself. As with all plans, some portions are more clearly defined and ready to proceed and others are still identified only as dreams in the making. The following section merges the outcomes of the Oregon Art Commission charette and a formal preliminary landscape design plan commissioned by the Trail Committee. The design plan was prepared by Anita Van Asperdt and Associates in December of 2003. This design plan has been formally adopted by the City of Tillamook and the Hoquarton Interpretive Trail Committee. The ideas formulated by the plan will be used as a template for future construction and development. *Follow along the impending trail as we meander forward.....*



Overall Design

The Trail Committee's concept proceeds in phases. The Hoquarton Slough Interpretive Trail begins on the south bank of the Slough at the existing city boat ramp. Across Highway 101, the trail continues east for 1500 feet on city property. At the east end of the city property, the trail turns and makes a connection to the south at the Carlich House on First Street, directly across from downtown Tillamook. This part of the trail's development is identified as Phase One. Interpretive signs and experiences in Phase One will focus primarily on the historic importance of the Slough as a transportation and economic corridor.

The Interpretive Trail also crosses the slough (over an eventual bridge) at the east end of the city property to meander north through a forested 20-acre parcel of land recently acquired by the City of Tillamook. This part of the trail's development is identified as Phase Two. Interpretive signs and experiences in Phase Two will focus on the natural functions of wetland, floodplains, and riparian areas.

Throughout the planning process it was recognized that design standards would need to be formulated to help guide final construction of all the special places and all of the individual facilities that support the trail. These standards will address color schemes, pavement materials, and art installations, in addition to construction materials and specifications for interpretative displays, signs, and other physical amenities.

HOQUARTON LANDING – PHASE ONE

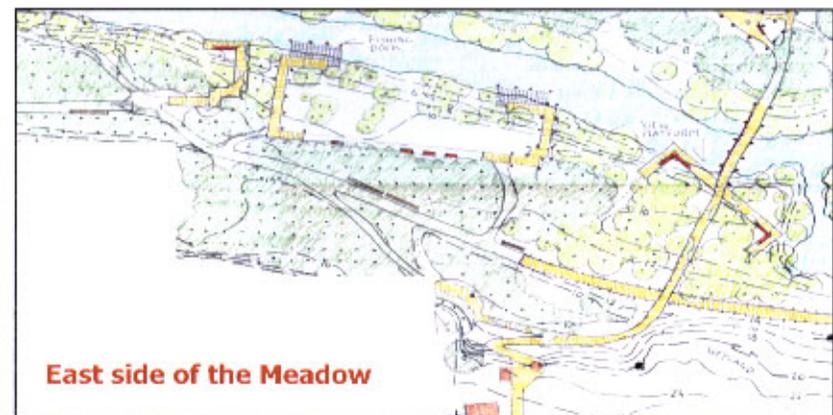
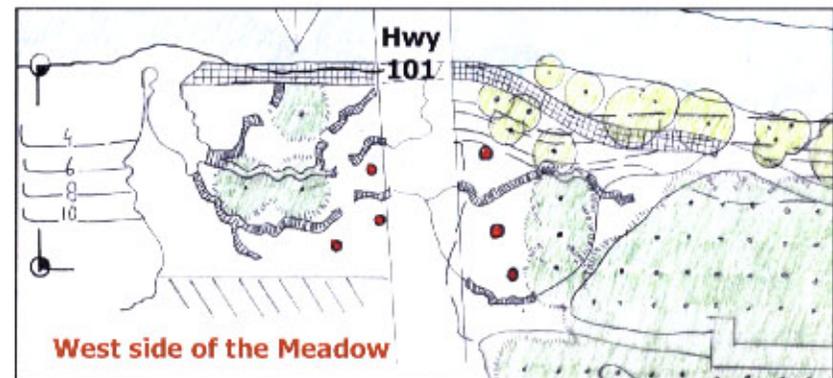
The area of trail development encompassed in Phase One was given the more lyrical designation of "Hoquarton Landing". Hoquarton is a Native American word that means "The Landing". This was the original name of what is now the City of Tillamook and identifies the significance of this portion of the trail as the historic center of the town. Interpretation in the Hoquarton Landing will primarily focus on the historic features of the area and utilize innovative ways to remind visitors of the old mills that used to line the banks of the Slough and the vessels that traversed its narrow passages out to the Bay.

On the West side of Highway 101, an existing boat ramp and city pocket park provide the most visible access to the trail both on land and water. Fisherman and recreational boaters have plied the quiet waters of the slough in the decades since local commerce moved away from the water's edge. Now the growing popularity of canoeing and kayaking is bringing a new generation of users to this easily accessible, pristine waterway. To the east of Highway 101, the trail begins in earnest as Hoquarton Landing further unfolds.

Hoquarton Meadow

The Meadow is the trail's main spine connecting both sides of the Landing across Highway 101, continuing on top of the old railroad tracks to the eastern boundary of existing city property. This entire section of the trail will be designed for handicap access and use. The surface of the trail will be paved with concrete or otherwise hardened with similar construction material. The dimension of all the pathways will be 8 to 12 feet wide, which will allow for non-motorized uses such as walking, rollerblading, and biking. Emergency and utility vehicles will also be able to use this section of trail when necessary.

The defining characteristics of the Meadow are narrow, meandering "social" trails that link small "green" rooms, shaded banks of the slough overhung with tree canopies, extensive plantings of native vegetation and a large picnic area. From the Meadow, trail users can take a trail south leading to the Carlich House, or they can cross the slough to take the Interpretive Trail through Hoquarton Forest. Artistic benches and other natural sculptures may be found throughout the park. Kiosks and signage will highlight the Pioneer and Native American influences on the area.



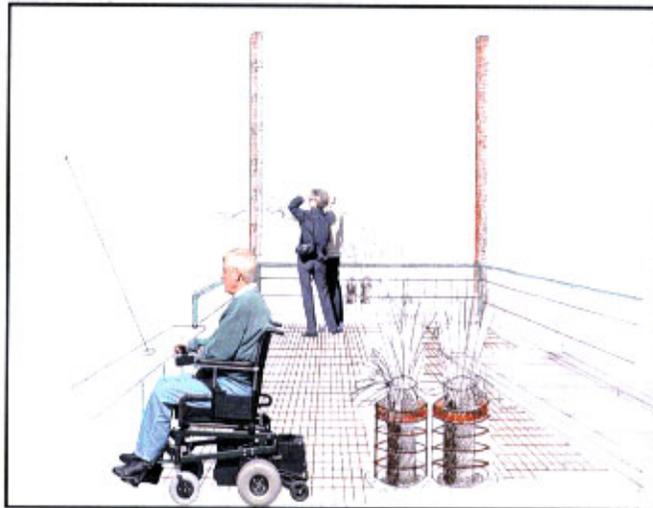
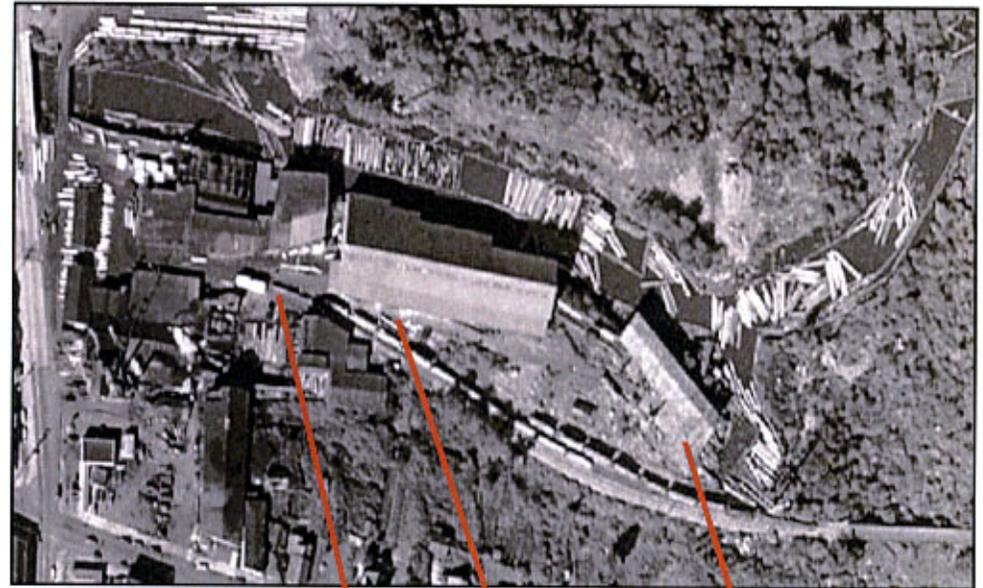
HOQUARTON LANDING: The Meadow – *Featured Design Element*

Historic Footprints

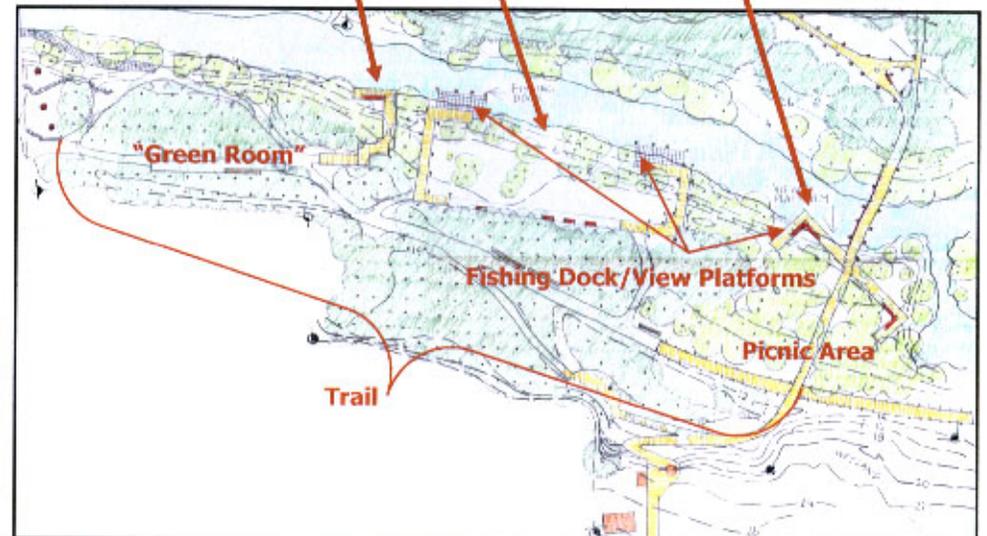
On the south side of the slough itself, viewing platforms and fishing docks will trace the former footprints of the saw mills that once occupied the site. Historic photographs sandblasted into glass panes could be incorporated on the viewing platforms as integrated artworks, allowing visitors “to see” the past superimposed of the present landscape.

The fishing dock and viewing platforms will be constructed of a decking that incorporates a fine weave pattern so the ground underneath the structures can be viewed. Additionally, some of the existing pilings present on the banks of the slough would be “captured” in the fishing dock.

An informal system of 8-12 ft. wide walking paths will connect various viewing platforms and docks that would form the outlines of the former building that lined the banks.



Fishing Docks with old pilings “captured” inside



Footprints of historic sawmills echoed through trail design

HOQUARTON LANDING: The Meadow – *Additional Design Elements*

Informal Social Trail

The Trail Committee envisions winding trails of discovery that travel through the Meadow connecting a series of playful and sometimes secluded spots to enjoy. Along the trail people will find “green rooms” and a string of overlooks along the slough for watching birds and other wildlife. Some places along the slough will be set aside as protected areas that are off-limits to trail users. Where possible, however, viewpoints will be incorporated in the trail design to give people visual access to these places.



Bench created by Phaedra Bennett for First Annual Hoquarton Interpretive Trail Festival – July 2003

Green Rooms

These will be spaces connected by the informal social trails that are hollowed out of thick vegetation along the middle section of the Meadow or nestled along the bank of the slough under tall trees. A green room might offer a bench for sitting, a riddle for answering, a natural sculpture for admiring, or some other surprise for people traveling the trail.

Picnic Area

An informal area with benches, chairs, and tables that emphasize the creative nature of the trail’s design standards is a planned feature. The picnic area is close to the Transportation History Park, the Carlich House, and the Amphitheater.

Pedestrian Bridge/Crosswalk over Highway 101

Safety of pedestrians is paramount. The safest design for moving people across the highway is a bridge. In the absence of a bridge, a crosswalk with a flashing signal that is timed along with the light at the nearest intersection would be a good alternative.

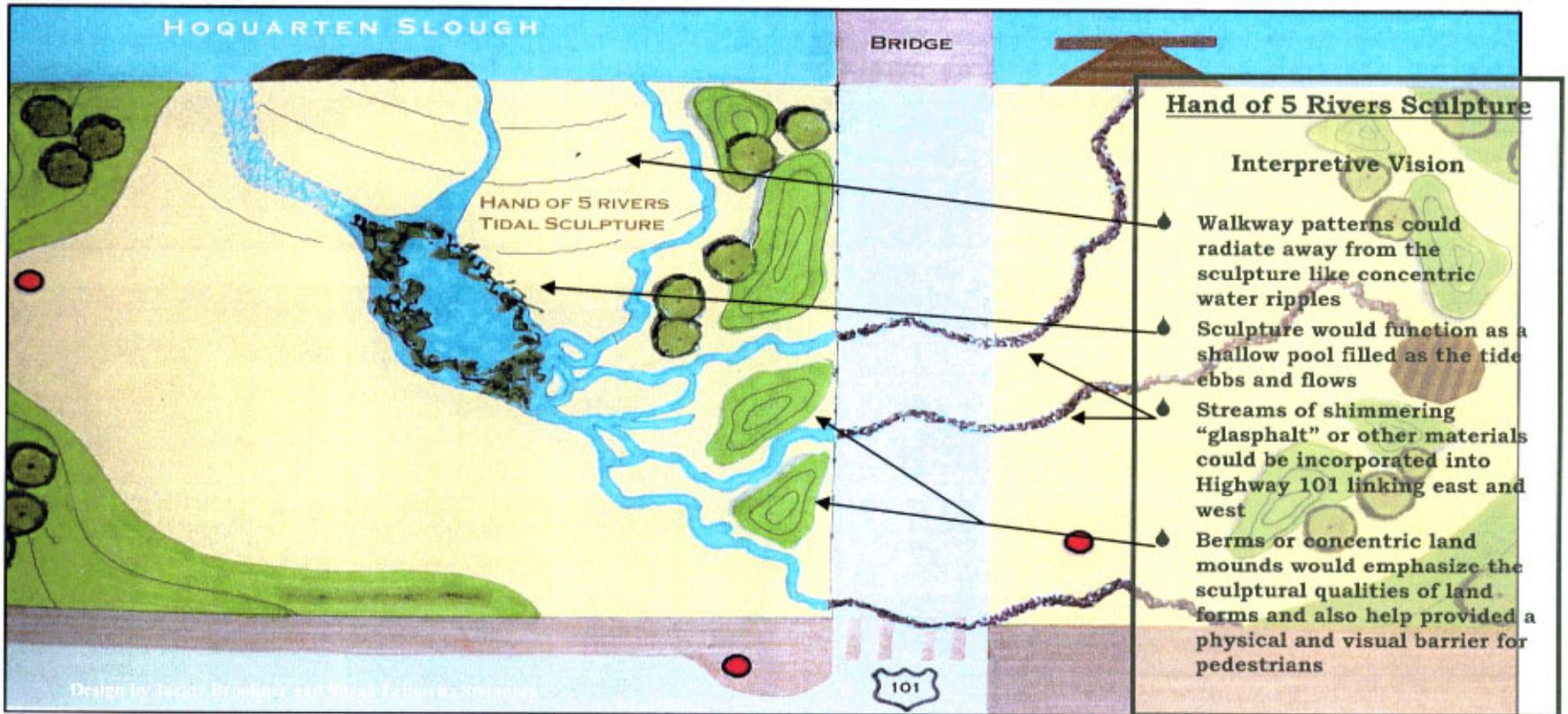
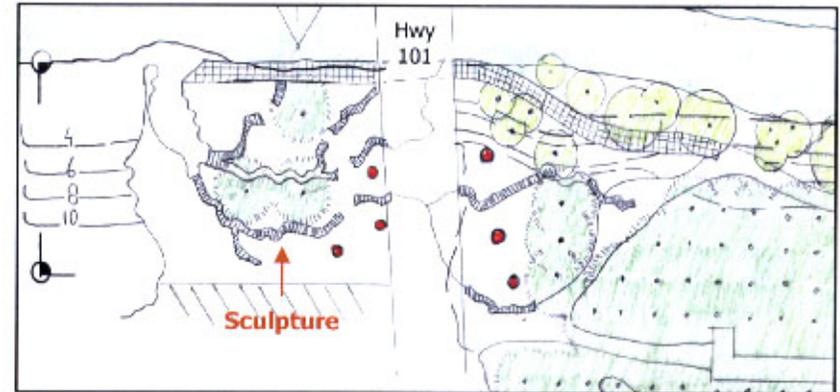
Planting Scheme/Habitat Restoration

Reflecting nature as it existed centuries ago, a diversity of native plants will be incorporated into the landscape along the slough to restore riparian habitat. To provide a historical context, the site will exhibit plants that came with the migration of people to the Tillamook area. Examples might include spruce, hemlock, and cedars. Eradication of extensive non-native vegetation in the Meadow will occur in conjunction with the plantings of native species.

HOQUARTON LANDING – *Future Opportunities*

Hand of Five Rivers Trail Sculpture

During the early 1900's settlers had a clever way of remembering the layout of the Bay and rivers. "To fix the location of the rivers in to the bay, Uncle John had me extend my right hand, palm down, to the south. The thumb was the Miami which flowed in to the bay near Garibaldi. The index finger was the Kilchis... the middle finger was the Wilson, the ring finger the Trask and the little finger the Tillamook" (Strite 1971). Artists Jackie Brookner and Susan Leibovitz Steinman took inspiration from the early settlers and envisioned the "**Hand of 5 Rivers Sculpture**" as a way to tie the east and west sides of the Hoquarton trail together.

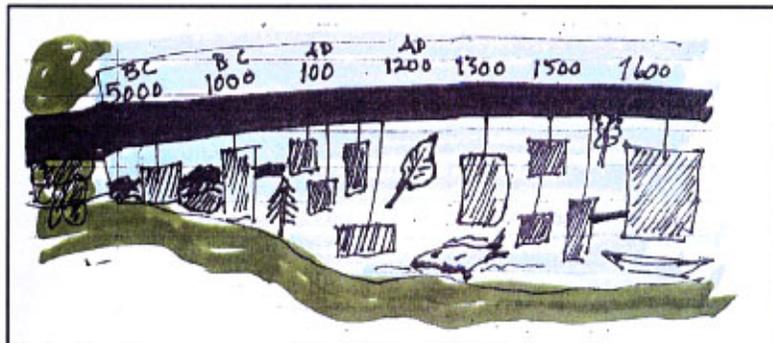
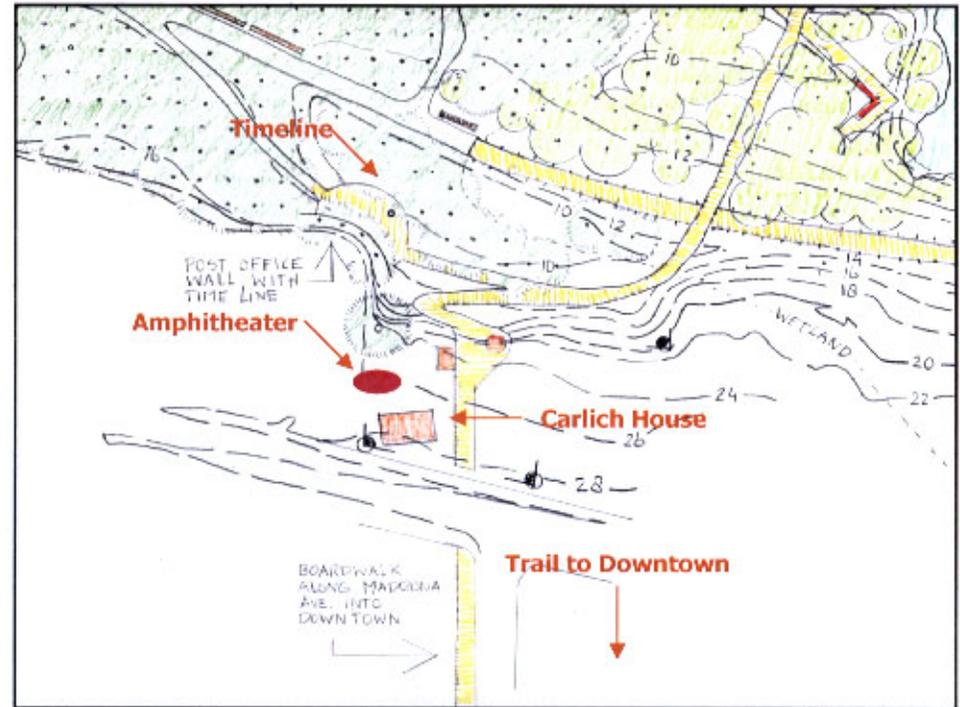


HOQUARTON LANDING – *Future Opportunities*

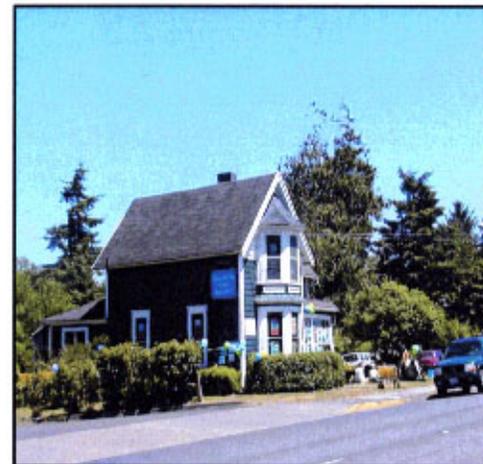
Carlich House Trail Head and Interpretive Center

Strategically placed at the edge of downtown Tillamook, the Carlich House is the oldest house in the city limits. Built in 1886 many of the original architectural features still remain including the old glass panes, door cornices, and period hardware. The Trail Committee feels this building could symbolize another link from Tillamook’s past to its present and serve as an inviting place to welcome and educate visitors and residents alike. Initial repairs have begun with the assistance of local partners such as Habitat for Humanity and Tillamook People’s Utility District.

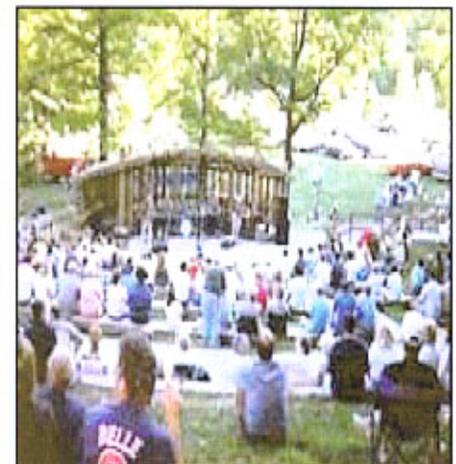
Conveniently located at the nexus of Highways 6 and 101, the Carlich House could serve as a Gateway from the trail to Tillamook’s Town Center. As an Interpretive Trailhead, the Carlich House and surrounding yard would be a gathering place and educational center showcasing Tillamook County’s art, nature and culture. A natural amphitheater behind the house, with added built in seating, would be ideal for trail gatherings, events and concerts, and theater productions. Interpretive trail displays, signs, and artwork would be showcased on the grounds as added attractions. The curved concrete wall supporting the neighboring Post Office parking structure provides an inspiring “canvas” to feature a timeline of interconnected history of natural and cultural events for the City of Tillamook.



Post office timeline concept developed by Jackie Brookner and Susan Leibovitz Steinman



Carlich House



Natural Amphitheater

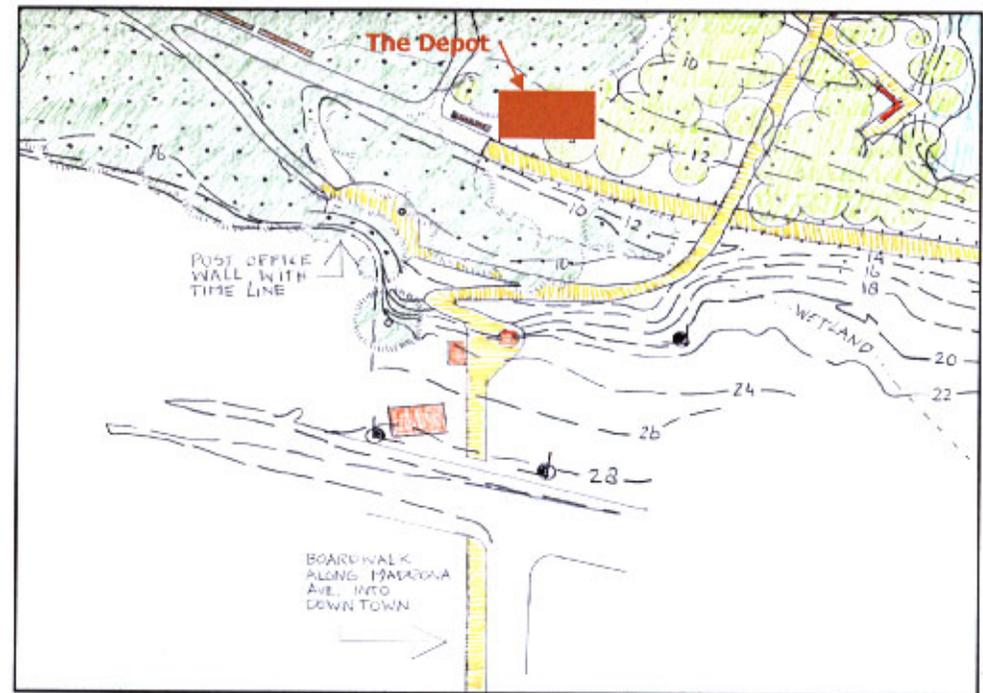
HOQUARTON LANDING – *Future Opportunities*

Transportation History Park or “The Depot”

Preliminary discussions have begun with the Port of Tillamook Bay to link with a proposed east/west spur of their excursion train. A multi-modal transportation center/train depot would function as a regional hub connecting rail passengers, walkers, hikers, bikers, taxis, and buses.

Kiosks and interpretive experiences in the proposed park would share stories and images associated with the Slough’s history as the “lifeline” into Tillamook. Importance of the Slough as a commerce route, first by boat, then by train, and finally as part of historic Highway 101 would be highlighted. Other transportation-related tales such as pioneer and Native American experiences would also be chronicled.

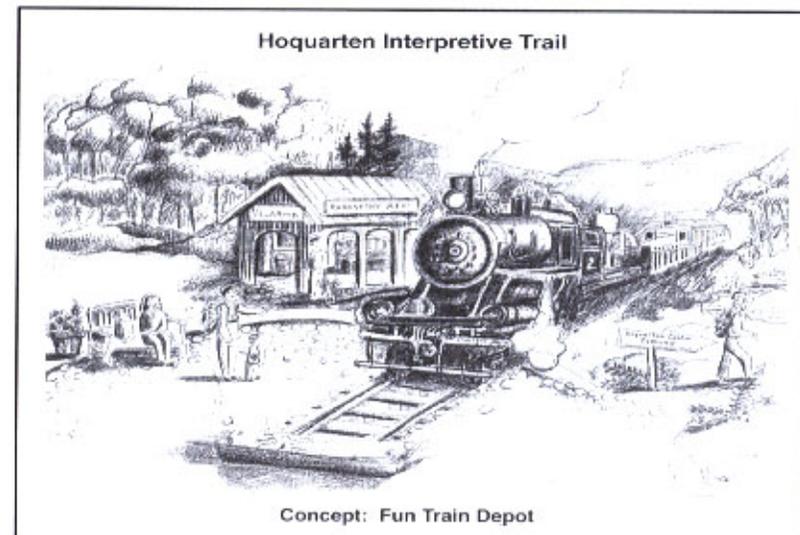
The Trail Committee hopes this section of the Landing will link travelers on bikes, trains, kayaks, buses, and pedestrians with the vibrant transportation heritage of the slough.



Objective: Develop safe and convenient pedestrian and bicycle systems that link all land uses, provide connections to transit facilities and provide access to publicly owned land intended for general use.

Recommended Project: *Develop a trail along Hoquarton Slough*

City of Tillamook Transportation System Plan – Section 5



Concept: Fun Train Depot

Depot concept by Charlie Woolldridge and Helen Hill

FROM THE LANDING TO THE FOREST: A BRIDGE CONNECTING PHASES ONE AND TWO



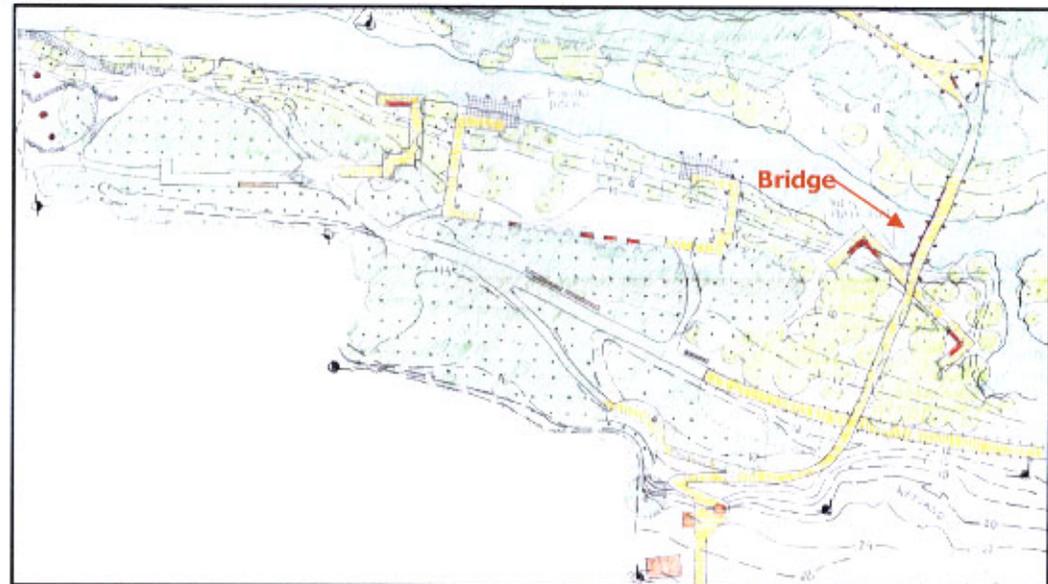
FreeSpan Inc.

Hoquarton Bridge

The two major areas of trail development are on opposite sides of the slough, making a connection between them necessary. A bridge would traverse pristine riparian areas, start and end in wetland zones, and provide a natural gateway for one phase to another. Since the Hoquarton Slough is situated in a floodplain and must remain unobstructed during high flood events, an appropriate bridge design is of utmost importance.

Innovative alternative designs were explored and may have applications for this trail component. One option is a "FreeSpan" bridge. The FreeSpan design innovation lies in a structure that omits the need for large abutments and supports used in conventional footbridges. It is ideal for use in wetland because construction minimizes the cut and fill requirements, and also reduces the need for heavy equipment during construction.

A FreeSpan bridge currently crosses a fragile wetland in Alaska and has generated interest across the country. Whatever final option is decided upon by the Trail Committee, it will involve significant public input, and will be made in cooperation with state, federal, and local natural resource agency requirements.



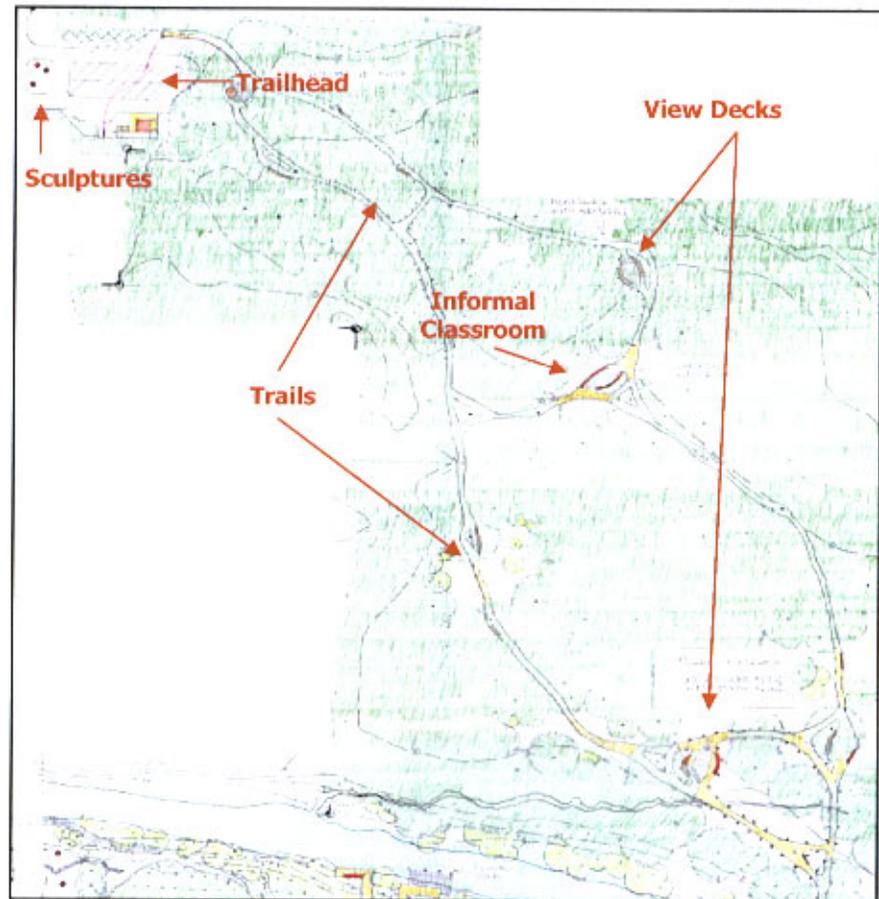
HOQUARTON FOREST – PHASE TWO

The Trail Committee and City of Tillamook were awarded two grants, one from the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department and another from the Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development, that provided funds to purchase almost 20 acres of forested wetland on the north side of the slough, directly across from Hoquarton Landing. This area has been re-christened the Hoquarton Forest. It represents Phase Two of the Hoquarton Trail development.

The Forest

The trail through the Forest keeps the majority of the environment in its natural state, while at the same time allowing increased public access to the slough for recreational and educational uses. This forested parcel is located in the Tillamook floodplain, on flat topography, with Sitka Spruce and Red Alder as dominant tree species. In fact, the Hoquarton Forest contains one of the last vestiges of a plant community that is now rare in Oregon – Tidal Spruce Swamp. Predominant understory plants in this ecosystem include willow, salmonberry, swordfern, and skunk cabbage. These unique landscape characteristics serve both as an inspiration for design elements and as a challenge for construction.

The acquisition of this key piece of property at the edge of Tillamook's urban boundary adds incredible value to the overall trail project by allowing expansion of the Trail through land that has historical significance for many citizens of Tillamook. In addition, the city's stewardship of the property allows the land to continue to function as a crucial unobstructed floodway. Protection of the wetland will provide long term enhancement of the unique tidal ecosystem, and will serve as a strong foundation for education about these natural resources. The preliminary design plan calls for 2500-3000 lineal feet of trail, an informal classroom, view decks, and a trailhead at Highway 101 on the north edge of the property.



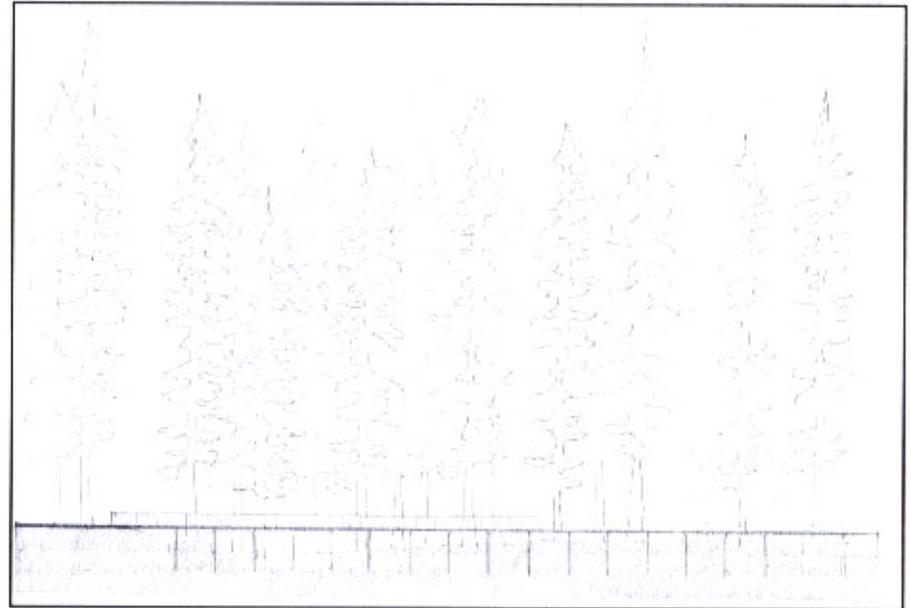
Hoquarton Forest

HOQUARTON FOREST – *Featured Design Element*

Boardwalks

The Hoquarton Forest consists entirely of wetlands. Therefore, access will be provided through the building of 2500-3000 linear feet of elevated boardwalk. This boardwalk will be designed to withstand frequent flooding events, and will be set at a continuous elevation of 11.5 feet, the ten year flood level. This continuous height will work as an interpretive element, creating a path along which the visitor becomes aware of the slight inundation of the land underneath while remaining level. This constant flat elevation, coupled with a 5-foot width for the entire length of this portion of the trail, also makes the boardwalk easily accessible for people with mobility challenges. In addition, the boardwalk will have ample seating that allows at least one wheelchair space next to each bench. Lastly, the 11.5 foot elevation sets the boardwalk 18 inches above the highest area of the Hoquarton Forest. This discourages visitors from leaving the trail, and ensures ample light penetration underneath the boardwalk to avoid shading the vegetation.

The boardwalk will wind among large spruce trees and the wettest areas of the site, showcasing the remnant spruce forest. The boardwalk will also be placed in such a manner as to not cut any trees larger than 10 inches in diameter. Within each 600 foot stretch of boardwalk at least one interesting tree with a diameter of over 12 inches will be “captured” inside the trail. From the trailhead, a short walk of less than 100 feet brings visitors to an interpretive kiosk and then loops back to the beginning. A longer loop of approximately 2000 feet brings visitors deeper into the forest and along some of the most interesting natural areas. Eventually, the boardwalk leads all the way to the slough, where a bridge will connect it to the Hoquarton Landing and to downtown Tillamook.



Boardwalk following 11.5 Foot Elevation



Tree “captured” in trail

HOQUARTON FOREST – *Additional Design Elements*

Gateway – Piling Sculptures

Three to five foot high piling “sculptures” placed as Gateway markers for the Forest trailhead and other trailheads will provide a distinctive way to integrate art into the trail. These could be built as mosaic concrete pilings with canoes, birds, fish or other local images integrated into the design. Another option would be to construct pilings out of pre-weathered steel and painted with colors used on historic bridges along the Oregon Coast. The pilings could also be planted with vegetation to mimic the historic pilings currently standing in the slough.

Informal Classroom/View Decks

The trail will widen to create a small platform approximately 1000 feet from the trailhead entrance. Seating will be incorporated in this area to support small group discussions. Targeted research stations to monitor environmental indicators could be included along view decks on the trail for use in data collection in school projects.

Interpretive Stories

Slough History: The land that houses the Hoquarton Forest was purchased by the Hamann family in the early 1960’s. Prior to their ownership the property was the site of the Coates Lumber Mill and served as a docking station for many of the large vessels that regularly used the slough.

Natural Resources: Ample opportunities exist to learn about the spruce forest ecosystem and the impacts of tides, floods and wetlands.

Planting Scheme/Habitat Restoration

An aggressive campaign to eradicate invasive plants such as Himalayan Blackberry and English Ivy from riparian zones is being undertaken. The reestablishment and preservation of natural plant communities historically populating this portion of the trail is a priority of the Trail Committee.



Sculpture Design Concept

HOQUARTON FOREST – *Future Opportunities*

Highway 101 Trailhead

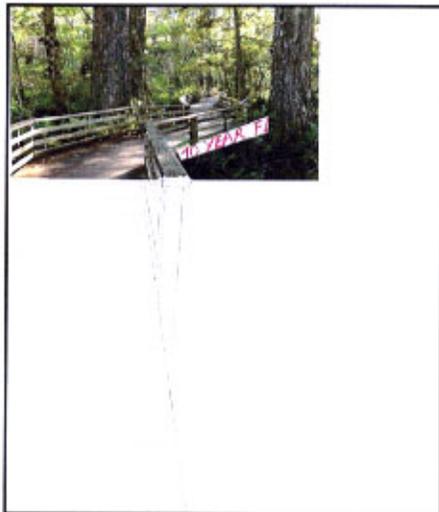
Ideally located in the center of the north Tillamook business district, the Trailhead at Highway 101 that leads into the Hoquarton Forest will attract thousands of travelers that navigate this road annually. Five Gateway Piling Sculptures will be situated at the entrance to the trailhead to signify each of the five rivers that flow into Tillamook Bay and to highlight this trailhead as another Gateway.

A public parking lot will be constructed, and a painted contour line on the parking surface will mark the 11.5 foot flood level in accord with that of the boardwalk elevation. A double restroom facility will be set on a platform at an elevation of two feet above the base flood level.

In consideration of the environmentally sensitive nature of the area, the parking lot and restrooms will be situated outside the wetland delineation. Plantings in and around the parking area will contribute to wetland restoration, and will filter runoff water before it reaches the forest. The plantings will also provide a sense of arrival to the Spruce Forest immediately after exiting the highway.

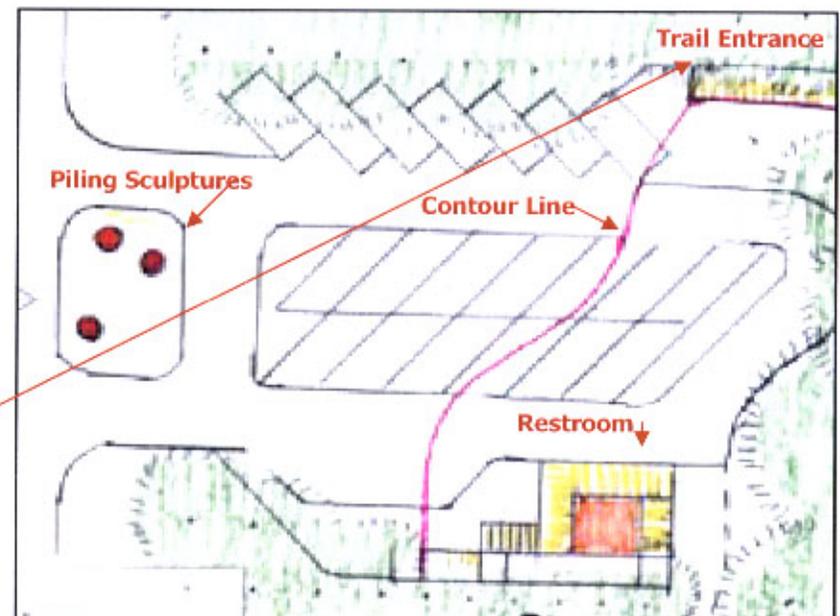


Current Entrance View



Proposed Entrance Design

Proposed Entrance
from Highway 101
Trailhead following the
Contour Line



Highway 101 Trailhead Concept

THE LARGER VISION - BEYOND PHASE TWO

The Trail Committee has articulated a larger vision of the trail that goes beyond the land owned by the City. This vision includes a trail that travels west from downtown Tillamook to Tillamook Bay reconnecting the historic path that brought early settlers to the "Land of Many Waters".

Extend West

Initial discussions have occurred with all 14 landowners who own property on the west side of the Slough as it flows into the Trask River. Varying levels of interest were generated, and the Trail Committee hopes that some of these sites may be used for a future trail as money becomes available and landowners express willingness to move forward with acquisitions or easements.

Regional Connections

Interest has been expressed by communities to the North and South of Tillamook about the potential of building a series of trails that would connect the entire county. Currently the section of Highway 101 that bisects the City of Tillamook is considered part of the Pacific Coast Bike Trail. The Hoquarton Interpretive Trail would provide an alternate route or byway as bicyclists travel the Oregon Coast.

Water Trail

Many users have already discovered the unique features of the Slough that can be enjoyed only on the water by boat, kayak, or canoe. As the trail develops further on land, floating docks and interpretive signage can be placed near water access points to encourage increased utilization by residents and visitors who enjoy this type of recreation. There is also a high potential for increased economic development in the form of boat rental facilities and dockside restaurants.



THE EPILOGUE... Maintenance and Management

The ideas and designs presented in this Trail Plan are concepts from which to develop site plans and construction drawings for development of the trail. In addition to physical site design, the Trail Committee recommends that the City of Tillamook formulate a long-term plan for maintenance and management of the trail.

Litter Control

Litter and debris can be an issue where people have access to the outdoors. Consequently, a joint effort is needed between users, the city, and the community to keep the area clean. Regular inspections and maintenance are important to control litter and vandalism. Litter receptacles will be provided at key locations throughout the route (designated landings and trailheads) as necessary. In addition, students, volunteers, businesses, and residents along the route can help with litter control and in reporting maintenance issues. It is likely that an 'Adopt a Trail' program will be implemented in which certain groups, organizations, and/or individuals assume responsibility for a section of the trail.

Volunteers

The Trail Committee recommends that the City of Tillamook develop and implement a volunteer program that encourages people to get involved with the day-to-day operations of the greenway.



Volunteer Opportunities

- ☞ **Civic groups, youth organizations, or businesses could adopt a section of the trail and take responsibility for litter patrol and light maintenance.**
- ☞ **Local groups could patrol the trail on bike (non-law enforcement) and provide visitor information and assistance.**
- ☞ **The local art community could incorporate art into the trail system**
- ☞ **A local conservation club or bird watching group could lead nature walks or help identify birds and wildlife.**
- ☞ **An annual trail cleanup day can be organized, to remove invasive species and maintain native habitat.**

Law Enforcement and Legal Concerns

The City of Tillamook Police Department has jurisdiction over the trail because of its location within the city limits, and will continue to keep the area within its patrol schedule. The most effective deterrent to vandalism is to encourage proper use of the trail. A steady stream of trail users such as trail clubs, families, and individual hikers will be an important component of keeping vandalism at a minimum.

Safety

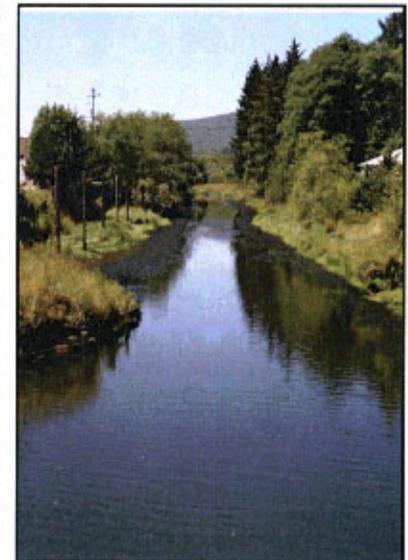
The physical safety of trail users is of upmost importance in designing the trail. Issues to be addressed include: grade and cross-slope dimensions, line of sight around corners, brush clearance, lights, railings, directional and warning signs, at-grade crossings and intersections, and congestion among multiple users. Vandal-resistant products and designs will be used wherever possible to discourage illegal activity, and trail volunteers will supplement police patrols of the area.

Coordination with Adjacent Landowners

Establishing and maintaining a "Good Neighbor" policy is a high priority for the Hoquarton Interpretive Trail Committee. Written and verbal correspondence was established early in the visioning process with everyone living adjacent to the greenway so that all information regarding the project is available to them. Trail neighbors know who they can contact with questions, comments, suggestions or concerns, and that their opinions will be respected. Once the permanent trail is opened, signs will be erected to encourage trail users to park in designated areas rather than on residential streets. It is anticipated that adjacent landowners can become another set of eyes and ears watching over the trail.

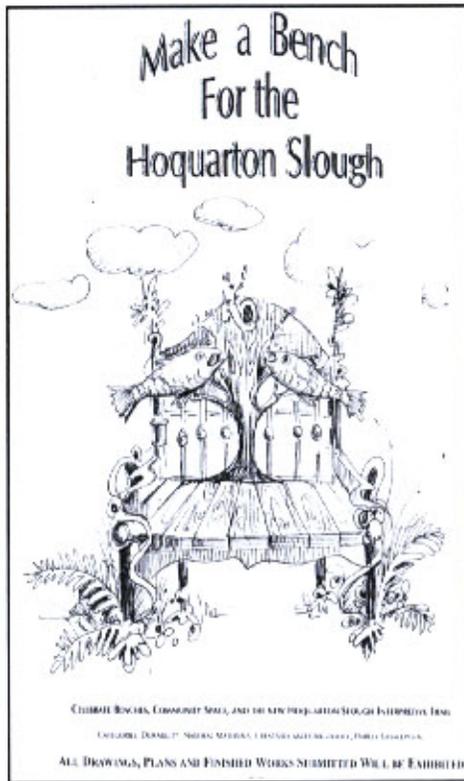
Natural Resource Protection of the Slough

While this trail is intended to provide opportunities for outdoor recreation, cultural learning, artistic expression, and economic development, an overarching goal for the trail committee is to highlight and protect the natural resources that make Hoquarton Slough so unique. To this end, several objectives have been outlined: management plans, or memorandums of understanding, will be developed with local resource organizations and landowners to address long term needs for riparian areas, water quality, flooding, habitat protection, and storm water runoff; off-trail activity will be strongly discouraged and trail materials well researched; motorized use will be limited to ADA requirements and maintenance and/or emergency needs; organized outreach and education efforts will be developed to address invasive species; and finally, a comprehensive stewardship plan will be developed so that all who either use or influence the use of the trail can be united in protecting the resources of Hoquarton Slough.

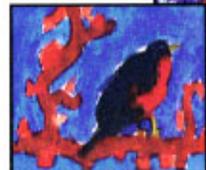


Funding

The Hoquarton Interpretive Trail Committee understands that making our vision of the trail become a reality will depend on funding from several different sources. A combination of federal, state and private grant programs and community support (both in-kind and cash) is necessary to help write the "final chapter" of the Story of the Slough.



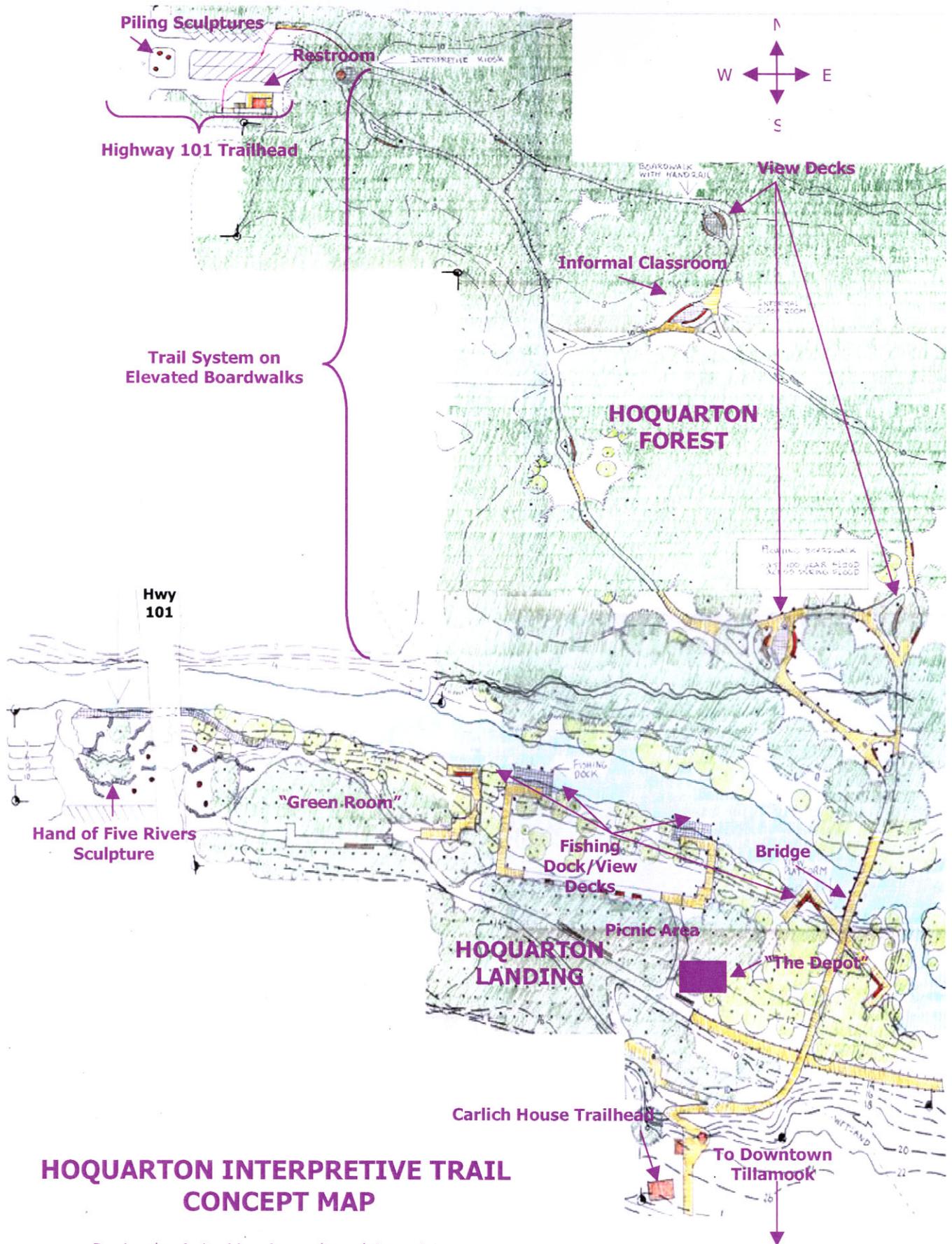
Artists make benches



Selling postcards at Tillamook Farmers Market

Grants/Donations Received by Hoquarton Interpretive Trail Committee

Grantor/Donator	Purpose
National Park Service	Technical Assistance developing Concept Plan
National Endowment of the Arts/New England Foundation for the Arts	Artists in Residence – encourage community involvement & support
Oregon Arts Commission	Technical Assistance of Landscape Architect
Tillamook Estuaries Partnership	Property Appraisal/Landscape Architect Contract
Annenberg Foundation	Art Supplies for Student Art
Tillamook Public Utilities District	Initial Carlich House Repairs
Habitat for Humanity	In-kind work on Carlich House Repairs
Transient Room Tax	Landscape Architect Contract
Tillamook High School Charity Drive	Art Supplies for Student Art
Oregon State Parks Department	Property Acquisition
Oregon Dept. of Land Conservation and Development	Property Acquisition
George Widmer/Dale Scott	Land Donation



**HOQUARTON INTERPRETIVE TRAIL
CONCEPT MAP**

Design by Anita Van Asperdt and Associates
with input from the Hoquarton Interpretive Trail Committee and the residents of Tillamook