

The background image shows a lush green landscape. In the foreground, there are tall green reeds and a small stream. In the middle ground, there is a grassy area with a small wooden structure and a sign. In the background, there are more trees and a hillside.

# *Columbia Springs Environmental Education Center*

Presentation to  
NW FCC  
Northwest Fish Culture Conference  
Bellingham, WA  
December 2002





# *Partners*

- Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Clark Public Utilities
- Evergreen School District
- City of Vancouver/Clark County
- Clark College



# *Mission*

... to engage the community  
in environmental education  
within a historically  
significant urban setting



# *Vision*

... a community  
captivated by the  
magic of nature





# *Partnership Goals*

- Preserve habitat, water and wildlife
- Enhance and expand fish-rearing capabilities
- Promote environmental education
- Support compatible recreational and park use
- Develop and maintain historic and cultural aspects of the site



# *History*

- 1935 Washington State Game Dept. buys property from C.B. Unander
- 1938 Vancouver Trout Hatchery constructed as Works Progress Administration Project
- 1953 State Route 14 built through hatchery grounds, impacting spring water source
- 1959 Department of Game purchases property east of the hatchery
- 1989 Spring water availability reduced; fish production down from 120,000 to less than 60,000



# *Recent History*

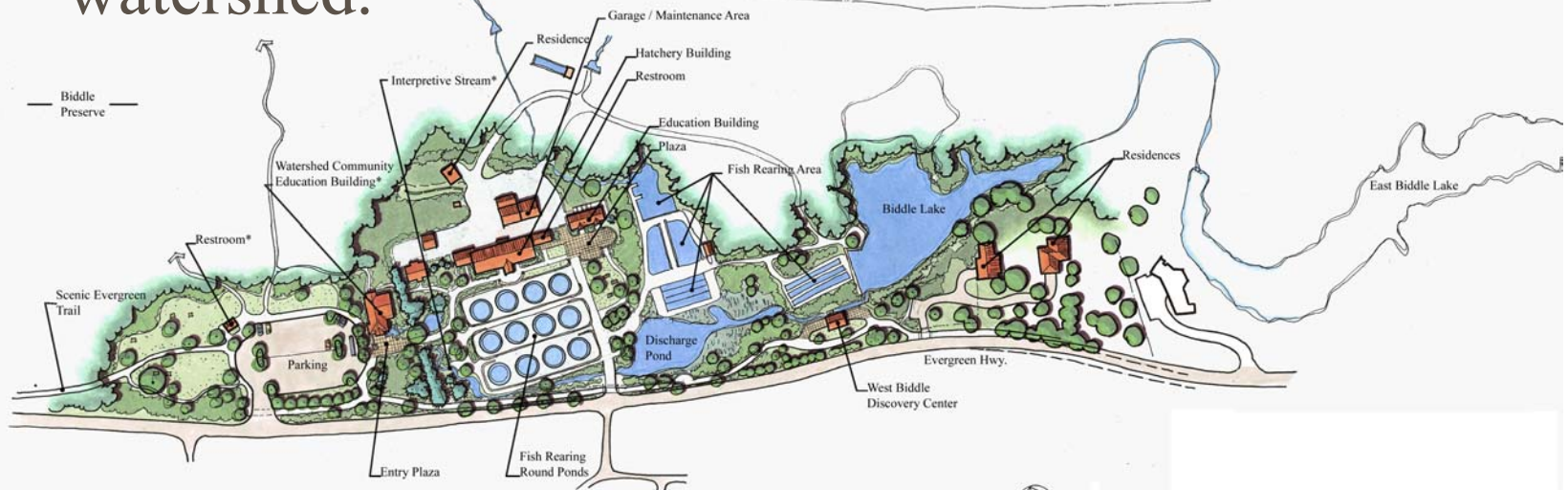
- 1994 Hatchery scheduled to close
- 1997 DF&W enters 20-year partnership with Clark Public Utilities to operate the hatchery
- 1997 Partnership expands to include Evergreen School Dist., City of Vancouver/Clark County and Clark College
- 1998 Biddlewood Nature Preserve added
- 2001 Dedication of site improvements





# Site Information

The Columbia Springs Environmental Education Center is located on the Evergreen Highway on the east side of Vancouver. The center consists of close to 100 acres within the Columbia Slope watershed.



\* Phase One planning refinements have reconfigured or relocated some improvements.



# *The Partners*

## Washington Dept. of Fish & Wildlife



- Dick Johnson, Hatchery Complex Manager, serves on the board of directors
- Oversees fish-rearing activities



# *The Partners*

## Washington Dept. of Fish & Wildlife



- The Vancouver Trout Hatchery
  - Staff of three
  - Trout raised from eggs
  - 90,000 rainbow trout and 30,000 brown trout produced in 2002
  - Fish are planted in SW Washington for year-round recreational purposes



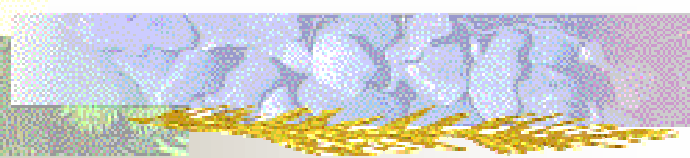
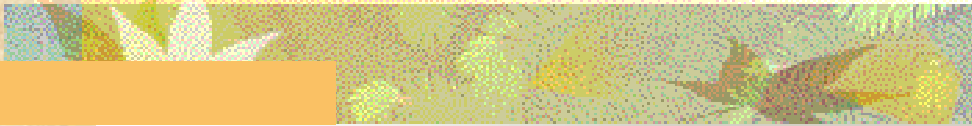
# *The Partners*

## Washington Dept. of Fish & Wildlife

- The Vancouver Trout Hatchery
  - Steelhead for Washougal Hatchery
  - Special event fishing derbies onsite
  - Fish for Region 5 derbies









# *The Partners*

## Clark Public Utilities



- Dean Sutherland, Communications Manager, serves on the board of directors
- Entered partnership with DF&W to fund hatchery in 1997



# *The Partners*

## Evergreen School District

- Mike Bjur serves on the board of directors
- Responsible for K-12 educational programs and activities
- Provides on-site teacher/coordinator
- SWIFT classroom



# *The Partners*

## City of Vancouver/Clark County



- Kelly Punteney serves on the board of directors
- Responsible for historic and cultural interpretation





# *The Partners*

## Clark College

- Travis Kibota serves on the board of directors
- Responsible for post-secondary and life-long learning educational programs and activities
- Environmental Studies major



# Looking Toward the Future





# *Looking Toward the Future*

- Environmental education building
- Visitor center
- Fish & Wildlife offices
- Additional fish-rearing facilities
- Interpretive stream
- Internal trails
- Lewis & Clark Discovery Greenway Trail



# *Looking Toward the Future*

- Increase educational activities
- Promote center as destination of choice
- Maximize fish production
- More students, more people, more fish

