



**US Army Corps  
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Walla Walla District  
Public Affairs Office

# Joint News Release

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## Improved trail along Columbia River opens July 17

**Walla Walla, Wash.** -- A trail that is accessible to walkers, mountain bikers and horse riders will officially open July 17 in conjunction with on-going Lewis and Clark commemorative activities. The trail-opening ceremony is set for 10 a.m. at Hat Rock State Park.

The trail extends from the Washington state line near Sand Station to the Morrow County line.

The multi-agency project included the Umatilla County Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Steering Committee, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Walla Walla District, the Oregon State Parks and Recreation Department, the City of Umatilla, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

While the Sand Station to Warehouse Beach trail is still undeveloped, the seven-mile section from Warehouse Beach to McNary Beach offers a variety of amenities. Warehouse Beach now has a horse-staging parking area, and Hat Rock State Park installed horse watering facilities and interpretive kiosks. The horse staging facilities will be available at both McNary and Warehouse Beaches later this year. Visitors will find an improved trail with interpretive signs pointing out various features along the trail. This segment of the trail ends at McNary Beach.

The third leg of the trail traverses the hills overlooking McNary Dam. To the east, visitors can view Wallula Gap in the distance. On a clear day to the west, Mt. Hood is visible. The trail travels past McNary Golf Course, providing users with an opportunity to stop and rest. Once the trail drops off the hills, visitors come to McNary Lock and Dam operated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. There, the Pacific Salmon Visitor Information Center and the Powerhouse Display Gallery are open

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to the public. From the dam, the trail winds through nature trails and ponds until it passes under the freeway bridge to the Oregon State Visitor Center.

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## **Trail/2-2-2**

The fourth leg of the trail continues on 3rd Street in Umatilla to Nugent Park, a designated Lewis and Clark location. The final leg of the trail crosses the Umatilla River and follows the river north to the Columbia. The trail continues along the Columbia to the Morrow County line.

The trail is one of three major projects coordinated by the Umatilla County Lewis and Clark Committee. In addition to the trail, the committee is developing a series of kiosks located at strategic entryways to the county. The kiosks will feature information about Lewis and Clark, general historical information about Umatilla County and localized information. Maps showing the various locations will be included in the interpretive panels of the kiosks.

The group is also preparing for the celebration of the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Corps of the Discovery visit to the region. Marketing materials and event planning are underway to ensure a fun and historically accurate event.

The Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Steering Committee is a county-appointed group of volunteers given the task of promoting Lewis and Clark in the region and increasing tourism to the area. Members represent all the major communities in Umatilla County, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, the Oregon State Parks Department, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and local groups with an interest in the Lewis and Clark trek.

Funding for the materials to build the trail was purchased with grant money received from the Wildhorse Foundation, the Oregon State Parks Department and Umatilla County. The Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Steering Committee played a major role in spearheading this project and procuring the funds to make it happen.

A significant challenge to completing the trail was a large washed-out area located on land managed by the Corps. After considering several options, Corps planners decided to stabilize, rebuild and widen the trail. Design and safety engineers from the Walla Walla District surveyed the site and

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came up with a plan that was implemented by members of the McNary Dam Natural Resource Management maintenance crew. Work on other parts of the trail was done by the Youth Conservation Corps, community volunteers, Umatilla County and the Oregon State Parks Department.

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