



Vancouver, WA



Vancouver, Washington, is located on the north bank of the Columbia River opposite Portland, Oregon. British Lt. William Broughton explored the Columbia River area in 1792 and named a point of land along the shore in honor of his commander, Capt. George Vancouver. The British Fort Vancouver was established here and became the center of all fur trading in the Pacific Northwest. In 1846, this area became part of the United States.

Fort Vancouver National Site interprets the stories of the Native Americans, British Hudson's Bay Company, the U.S. Army at Vancouver Barracks, early aviation at Pearson Field, the world's largest spruce mill, and the Kaiser Shipyards.

The Clark County Historical Museum's collection of artifacts includes prehistoric and historic archaeological remains; Native American basketry and beadwork; artwork and textiles; and industrial, medical, and household objects and tools from the territorial and statehood periods.

Performing arts venues in Vancouver include the Skyview Concert Hall, which is home to the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra. The Pavilion at Esther Short Park features a summer concert series. Magenta Theater is a community theater that promotes contemporary new works by local playwrights and musicians. The Bravo! Vancouver Concert Series includes performances of jazz and popular music at the St Joseph Catholic Church. Christian Youth Theater performs several Broadway-style musicals. Serendipity Players is a community theater company. Clark College Theatre blends theatre, music, dance, and art into award-winning productions.

Three Days of Aloha is a Polynesian festival that features Hawaiian dancers, drummers, and other performers.

NEIGHBORHOODS

The Esther Short neighborhood is the city's commercial, cultural, financial and municipal center. High-density condominiums and apartments are available, some of which line three sides of the Esther Short Park. Some historic homes have been converted to apartments, but others remain as single-family residences. Waterfront property in this neighborhood is in the early stages of redevelopment into mixed-use structures. The predominant architectural styles in Hough, a historic neighborhood adjacent to Esther Short, are early 20th-century bungalows, four squares, and Victorian. In the same area, Arnada is characterized by vintage homes and mature trees.

The Old Evergreen Highway and East Old Evergreen Highway neighborhoods are located along the Columbia River and offer large houses on large lots with a semi-rural feel. These neighborhoods include some of the city's oldest and newest housing. Houses in Riverview, which is adjacent to the Old Evergreen Highway neighborhood, are almost exclusively contemporary in style and are situated on large lots.

North Garrison Heights consists of primarily ranch-style, single-family homes that were built during the 1950s and 1960s on small lots. The northern part of the neighborhood has several new developments of two-story houses. The Peace Health Southwest Medical Center is located within this neighborhood.

Bennington is one of the newest neighborhoods and consists of mostly two-story houses on smaller lots. Most of the houses were built during the 2000s.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Vancouver-Clark Parks and Recreation Department operates 108 parks in Vancouver that include recreation centers, a tennis center, sports fields, skate parks, outdoor and indoor pools, off-leash dog parks, boat launches, community gardens, sand volleyball courts, a disc golf course, and equestrian trails.

Esther Short Park, which was dedicated in 1855, is the oldest public square in the Pacific Northwest and is the heart of the downtown district. This park contains a public plaza, water features, flower gardens, a Victorian themed playground, a bronze statue of "The Pioneer Mother," walkways, and the Salmon Run Bell Tower. The park hosts free summer concerts and movies and the Vancouver Farmers Market.

Frenchman's Bar Park is a regional park located on the Columbia River and offers an outdoor amphitheater, playground, sand volleyball courts, beach access, walking trails, and fishing. A 2.5-mile multi-use trail connects this park with Vancouver Lake Park, another regional park. This park offers swimming, windsurfing, and sand volleyball courts as well as views of Mt. Hood, Mt. Adams, and Mt. St. Helens. Marine Park offers walking trails, play equipment, and a boat launch and is part of the Waterfront River Renaissance Trail.

The Columbia Springs Environmental Education Center is located in the unique surroundings of the historic Vancouver Trout Hatchery, which raises rainbow and brown trout. The Water Resources Education Center offers hands-on activities, art work, an aquarium, and a panoramic view of the Columbia River.

Professional sports teams include the Vancouver Volcanoes (basketball) and the Vancouver/Clark County Vipers (football). The Clark County Saddle Club hosts the annual professional Vancouver Rodeo in July.

EDUCATION

Two school districts serve Vancouver. Vancouver Public Schools educates approximately 22,000 students in 21 elementary schools, 6 middle schools, 2 specialized schools for grades 6 through 12, and 5 high schools. The district offers elementary language programs, college- and career-focused programs for high school students, and programs that support home schooling and online learning. Evergreen Public Schools educates approximately 27,000 students in 21 elementary schools, 6 middle schools, and 4 high schools. This district also has an alternative high school, skills center, and home choice academy.

Higher education is available at Washington State University Vancouver campus, which offers 20 bachelor's degrees, 9 master's degrees, 2 doctorate degrees in education, and more than 37 fields of study. Clark College is a community college providing two-year transfer degree studies, technical training and basic skills classes.

Career focused education is provided by Charter College, Northwest Renewable Energy Institute, International Air and Hospitality Academy, and Everest College in Vancouver.

HEALTH CARE

Vancouver is served by one hospital in the city with 450 licensed beds and another in the adjoining county area with 220 beds. In addition, the city has a long term acute care and rehabilitation facility and behavioral health services.

CITY STATS

2011

City Population	164,036
Metropolitan Statistical Area Population	2,262,605
Per Capita Personal Income, Portland-Vancouver-Hillsboro, MSA	\$41,302