

BLUE LAKE NATURE PARK

FAIRVIEW | OREGON

Historic Resource Plan

May 2015



Metro





PREPARED FOR METRO

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COVER PHOTOS

Clockwise from top: 1862 Plats of public lands (Surveyor General's Office) | View of Blue Lake in 2015 (MIG) | Boys fishing in Blue Lake (Unknown time period, pdxhistory.com) | 1966 Aerial of Blue Lake (Oregon Historical Society).

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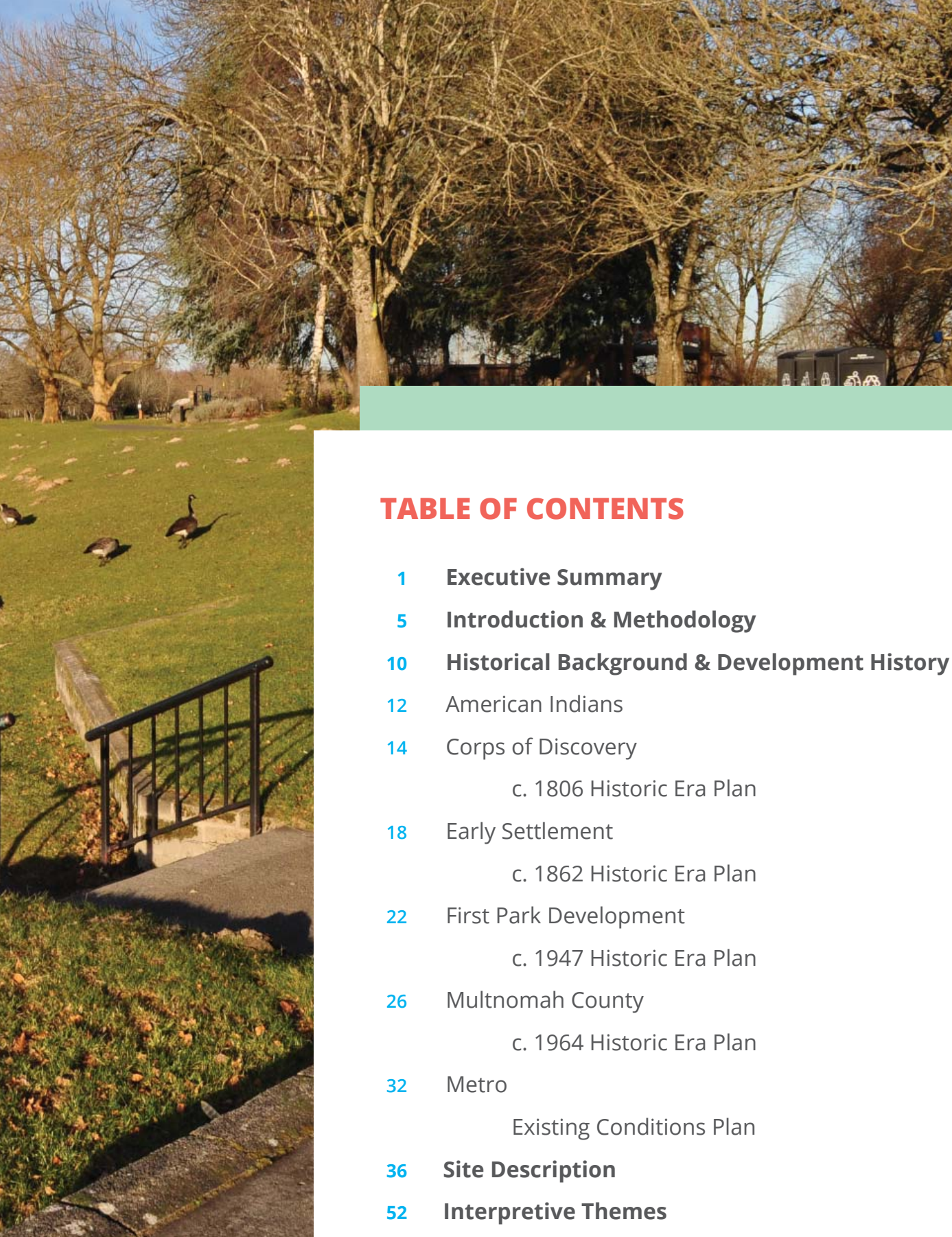
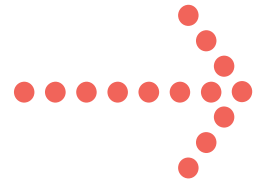


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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



Blue Lake Nature Park has been a significant gathering place for the region for centuries. The site's history intersects with six primary regional and national historic themes that can be incorporated into future interpretive elements and designs for the park. Though this site is primarily a recreational draw, it possesses incredible potential in terms of the stories it can tell and the regional context it can share with those who frequent Blue Lake's shores.

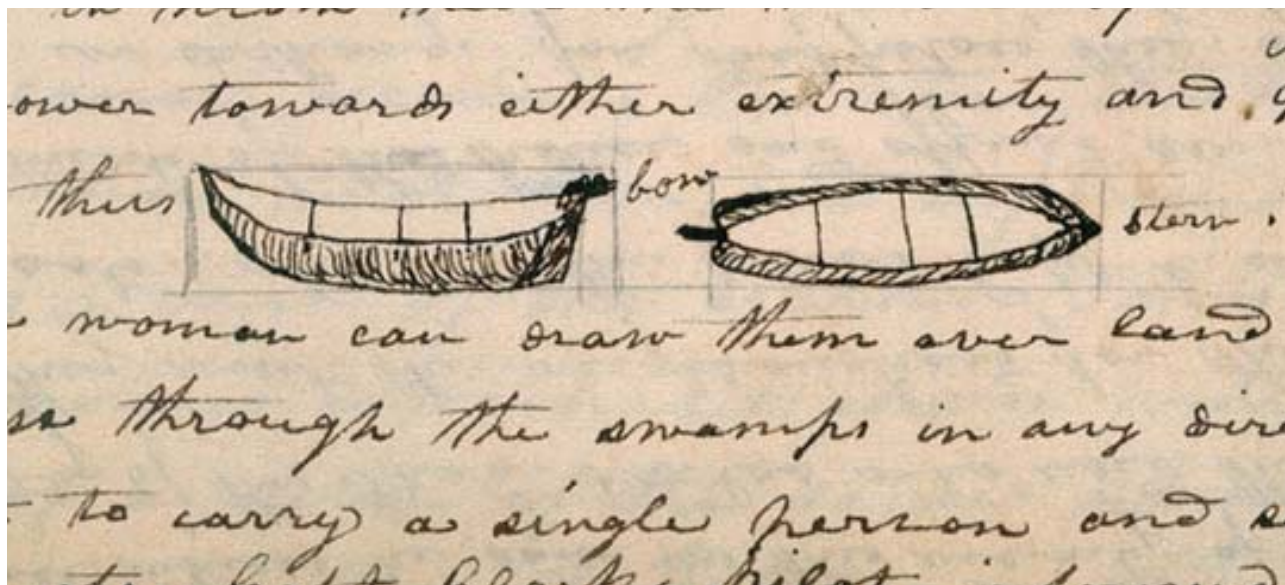


Blue Lake Nature Park has been a significant gathering place for the region for centuries, beginning with members of the Chinook tribe that had a seasonal village on the lake's banks. It also served as a point of critical interaction in April 1806 between William Clark, co-leader

of the Corps of Discovery expedition, and the American Indians. Clark was traveling east after spending the winter of 1805-1806 at Fort Clatsop, when he stopped at Blue Lake to talk with members of the Nichaqwli (also known as Nechacokee and Ne-cha-co-lee) Village who were living there at the time.



View of wetland at Blue Lake Nature Park (2015).



Clockwise from top: 1806 Canoe Drawing from Lewis and Clark Expedition Journal (American Philosophical Society) | 1936 Ad for Blue Lake (pdxhistory.com) | Blue Lake Concession Stand (unknown time, pdxhistory.com)

They exchanged information about the location and character of the Willamette River, which the Lewis & Clark expedition had apparently missed when they passed by this area in 1805, and about how smallpox had affected the native population. By the mid-19th century pioneers were arriving, settling the site and farming its lands, likely being drawn to the rich soils located in the flood plain of the Columbia river. Beginning in the 1920s the site transitioned into a park, a recreation-centered gathering space under private ownership and management. The park

was transferred to public ownership in 1960 when it was purchased by Multnomah County.

Though many park elements and facilities have changed, the focus of activity over the past century has always centered on Blue Lake to include swimming, boating, picnicking, hiking and active play. In more recent years, under Metro's ownership and management, it has served as a prime spot for observing native flora and fauna, including migrating birds and beavers, and reflecting on the site's American Indian history.

The site's history intersects with six primary regional and national historic themes that can be incorporated into future interpretive elements and designs for the park. The themes are:

A. American Indian life (pre-contact to early contact)

B. Corps of Discovery/Lewis & Clark Expedition (1805-1806)

C. Pioneer Settlement (1850-1865)

D. Early 20th Century Parks Movement (1925-1935)

E. Mid-century Modern (1960-1965)

F. Early Environmental Movement (1965-1975)

For nearly all of the themes there are physical features on site that date to the corresponding historic era, which could be preserved and/or incorporated into interpretive, educational, and recreational play elements. For example, the view of Mt. Hood from the west end of Blue Lake and the site's relationship to the lake are particularly important to the first two themes. How this site relates to other regional natural features including the Columbia River, Willamette River and Sandy River, and Mt. St. Helens speaks to why this has been and continues to be a prime location for gathering, and can also be incorporated into interpretive elements related to the first two themes.

For the theme associated with pioneer settlement, the site's location between the lake and the river is critical, since this likely made the site an attractive plot of land for early settlers who farmed the property. Few other aspects of this era remain, but interpreting the location of the original survey plot lines and/or the agricultural use of the property could be done.

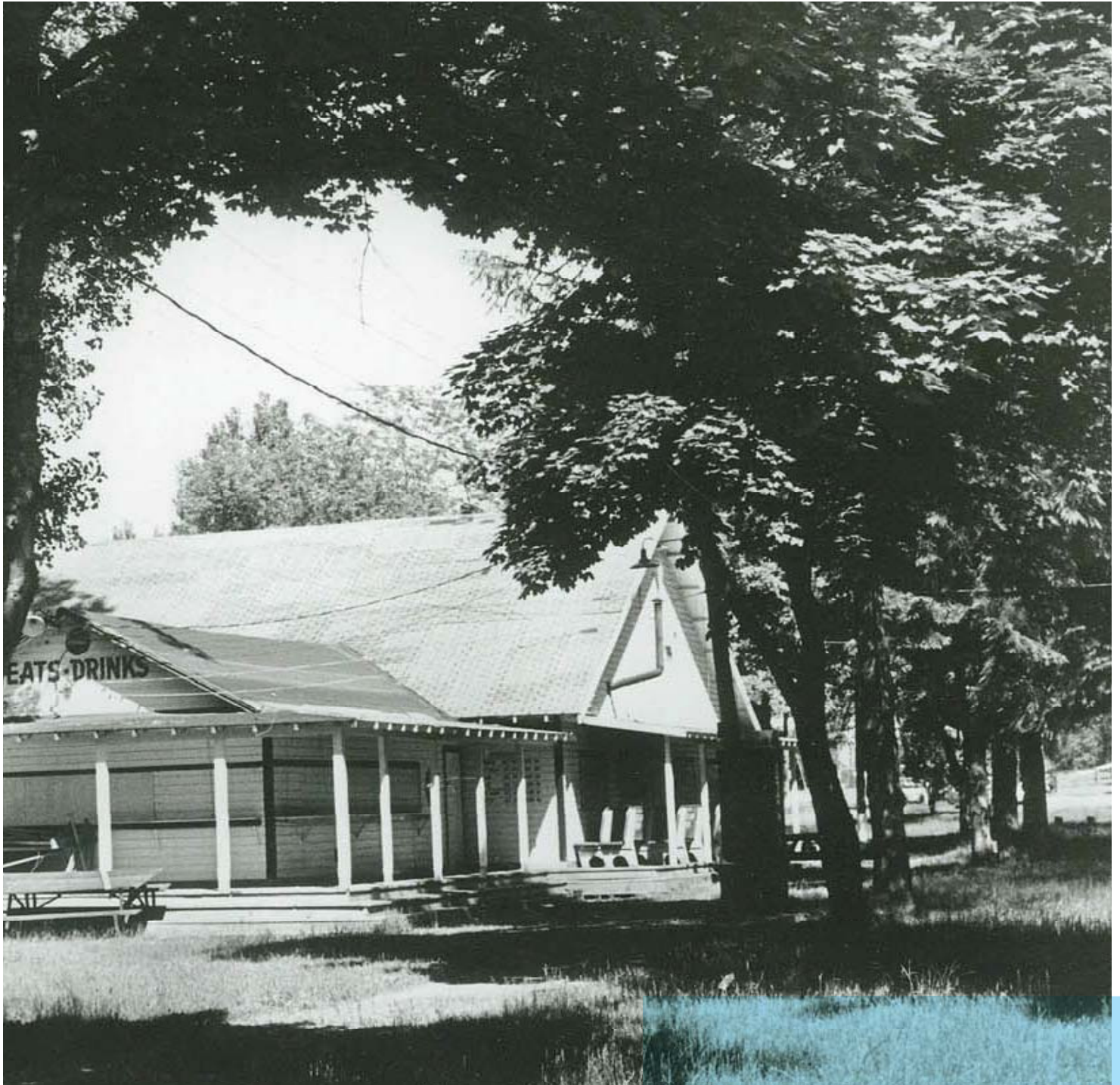
Though this site is primarily a regional recreational draw, it possesses incredible potential in terms of the stories it can tell and the regional context it can share with those who frequent Blue Lake's shores. This historic resource plan provides baseline content for the development of design elements and interpretive themes, which are discussed in more detail in chapter 4.

Due to the sensitive nature of cultural and historic resources on site, the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) should be included in discussions pertaining to planning and designing physical changes to the park. In particular, guidance by the Oregon SHPO and those who meet *The Secretary of the Interior's Guidelines for the Treatment of Historic Properties* for qualified professionals can provide valuable assistance and guidance associated with any planned changes or modifications to the character-defining landscape characteristics and features identified in chapter 4.



INTRODUCTION & METHODOLOGY

In anticipation of the launch of a master planning effort for Blue Lake Nature Park, Metro contracted with MIG to research, review and evaluate historical information relating to the site's evolution. In particular, to develop a better understanding of the site's history, identify extant landscape characteristics that relate to historic eras, and outline their relationship to historic themes so that future planning and interpretive plans are grounded in the site's rich and layered history.



View of the Blue Lake Dance Hall and the Merry Mix-up Swing Ride. The original Dance Pavilion burned in 1928 and was replaced with the building above (July 3rd, 1960).



**BLUE LAKE
—PARK—**

SWIMMING FISHING
BOATING CAMPING
DANCING

Here you will find a most delightful place to spend the week-end. Occupying over 25 acres, this Park includes every pleasure you desire. Ample space for camping, a modern dance hall, boating and swimming in a lake where the water is being constantly re-fed from the springs and has a temperature that is simply delightful.

To reach this park, drive west on Sandy Boulevard or Lee Line Road and turn to the left on Fairview Avenue, which is a direct road to the camp.

Come today and bring the family.
You will enjoy being here.

**GRAND
OPENING**
July 3rd-4th-5th

Swimming Races—
100-yard Dash for Men
50-yard Dash for Women

Boating Races—
2-oar Skiff Race
4-oar Skiff Race

Diving Contest

Prizes for the Winners

Entries for any of the events must be made the morning of July 3rd in person at the office on the grounds.

Also Many Other Novel Stunts
Be Sure You Are Here

Come and See Oregon's Newest



Clockwise from top: Fishing at Blue Lake (unknown time, pdxhistory.com) | 1925 Portland News clipping (pdxhistory.com) | 1950s Beach and Swim Area at Blue Lake Beach (This Week newspaper, 1987).

Blue Lake Nature Park is a 185-acre fee-based public park located on the banks of Blue Lake, a natural spring-fed lake just south of the Columbia River. A wide range of activities are available at the park including: picnicking, special event rentals, boating, fishing, hiking, disc golf, playgrounds, swimming, interpretive elements related to American Indian Chinook tribe settlement, water play, basketball, volleyball, softball, soccer and horseshoes. It attracts a broad range of wildlife including migrating birds and beavers.

HISTORY SUMMARY

Blue Lake has been a gathering space for at least the past few centuries, beginning with seasonal villages of the Chinook tribe of American Indians. The site was visited by members of the Corps of Discovery in April 1806 as members of the expedition led by Meriwether Lewis and William Clark were traveling back west after spending a winter at Fort Clatsop. William Clark described the area and his encounter with the Nichaqlwi Villagers that were living on the banks of the lake.

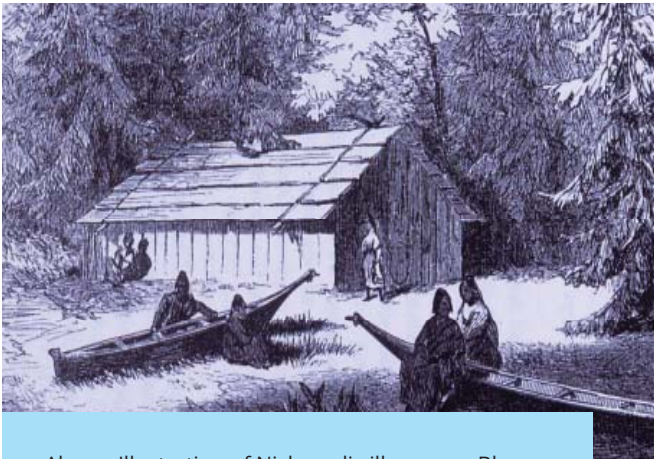
The land around Blue Lake was first surveyed in 1855 and settled by European Americans around this time. Another survey, dated 1862, depicts ownership of various plots of land. The 185-acre property, known today as Blue Lake Nature Park, was primarily owned by John and Rachel Crosby who laid claim to 642.5 acres in 1865. It's quite possible that the Crosby's had settled the land prior to 1865 which was typical of the time. It's not clear from the 1862 survey if the Crosby's owned the entire portion of the current park or just a major portion of the east side of the park. Their donation land claim, first filed in 1865 and then later codified in 1890, stretched from the area now known as Blue Lake Nature Park to the east and south of the Columbia River.

In the mid-1920s people started building summer cottages on the banks of Blue Lake and the park was first established. It wasn't until 1927 when Nick Welsh took over management that the park, which included a dance hall, concession stand and swim pavilion, began to thrive. Welsh purchased the 35-acre park in 1935 and owned it until 1960. During this era the park was popular for picnicking, swimming, boating, fishing, field sports, and indoor dancing. In the early 1940s the levee, upon which Marine Drive exists, was built to prevent seasonal flooding

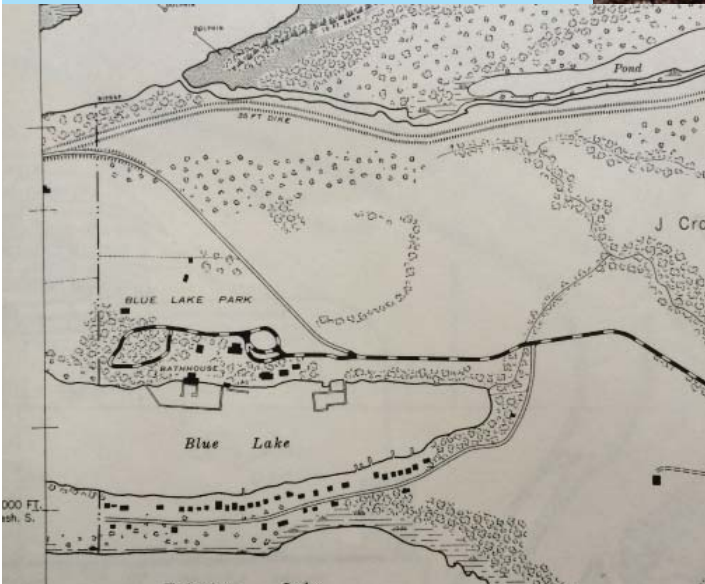
of the park by the Columbia River. In 1948, a major flooding event affected the region. It's not clear if this event impacted the park or if the levee was able to provide protection.

In 1960, Multnomah County purchased the Welsh property, which they combined with adjacent lands they either already owned or purchased to total approximately 200 acres of park land. They made several changes to the park's infrastructure, buildings and recreational amenities. The architectural aesthetic now commonly referred to as "mid-century modern" characterizes many of the buildings and landscape features developed during this period. Reports conflict on whether the park was open during the primary construction period (1960-1964), but use was likely impacted at different times during this period.

In the mid-1980s there was heightened interest in developing plans and designs for the park. Some work was completed, but implementation of an overall master plan for the park was not. By 1994, Multnomah County parks merged with Metro, thereby transferring ownership and management to a new public agency. Today, the park is one of the most popular in the collection of parks owned and managed by Metro and can accommodate around 1900 people in rental picnic shelters.



Above: Illustration of Nichaqwli village near Blue Lake | Top Right: Blue Lake, looking south toward Interlachen Ridge, circa 1900. Interlachen was the main burial ground of Nichaqwli Indian tribe.



Above: Life Saving Class at Chateau Swim Pavilion (circa 1939). Mary Lou (Welsh) Johnson, daughter of the park's owners, is in the second trio from the right, in the back. | Left: Aerial of Blue Lake Nature Park (circa 1944).



Above: View of Blue Lake Nature Park (2015)

METHODOLOGY

This Historic Resource Plan incorporates information from previous documentation efforts, reports and studies which are relevant to the current understanding and future planning of the park and open space. It is a guiding document more than a prescriptive document; a resource which helps guide decisions rather than making them outright.

It culls historic and current information, brings it together in one place and provides contextual information and analysis for future decisions affecting Blue Lake Nature Park. In essence it documents extant landscape characteristics and features and evaluates their relationship to established or potential historic eras. This Historic Resource Plan provides a solid base of information for stewards of Blue Lake Nature Park to achieve a balance between preserving historic fabric, interpreting the layers of history that have occurred on this site, establishing and meeting current community recreation needs for a place that has been the center of community gatherings since the prehistoric era.

The Oregon State Historic Preservation Office should be consulted when discussing changes or modifications to the character-defining landscape characteristics and features outlined in chapter 4. Modifications are possible as long as the proposed changes meet *The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation*.

TO PREPARE THE HISTORIC RESOURCE PLAN, MIG:

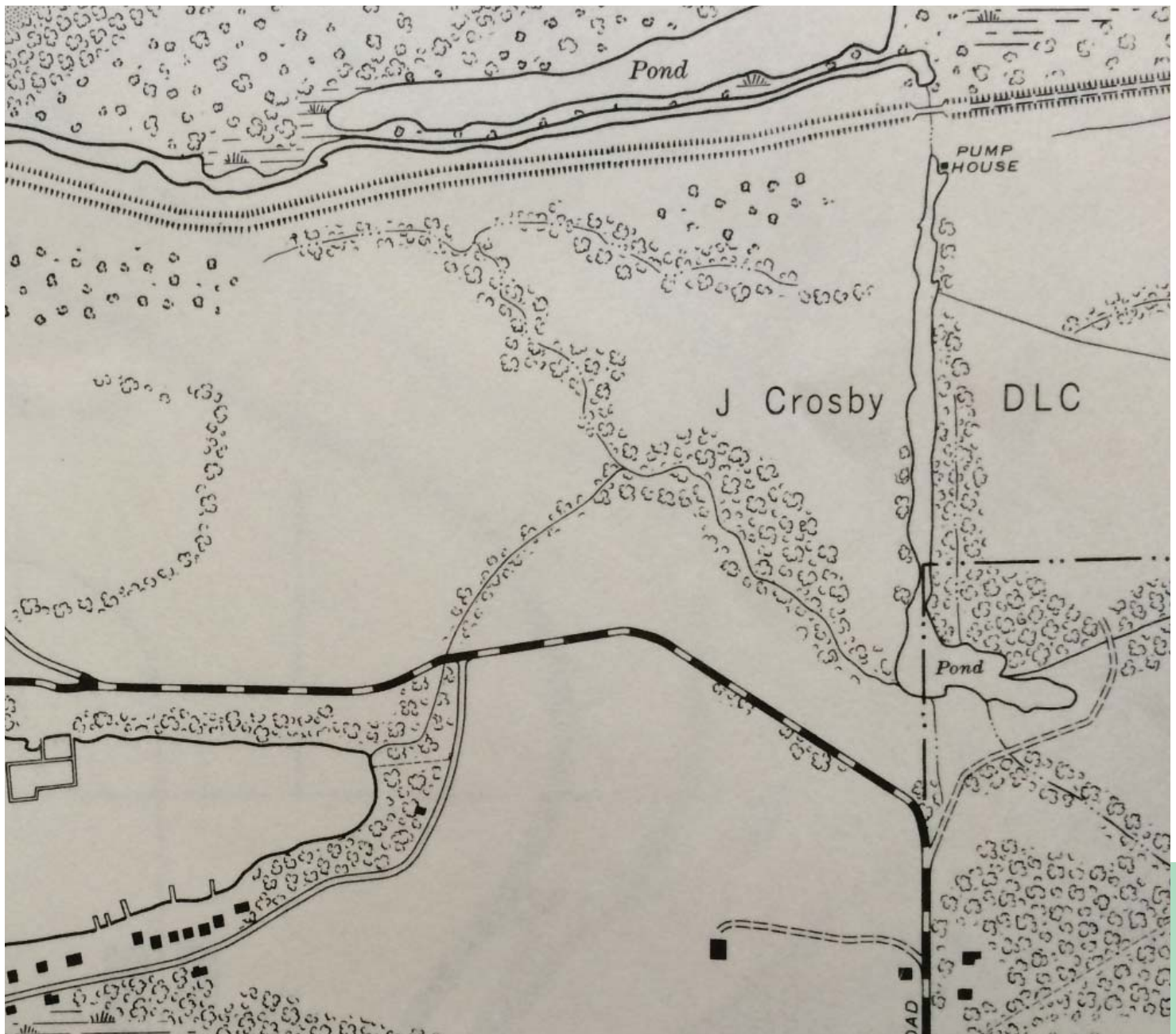
- Conducted a site visit in January 2015 to examine, photograph and document the site and its landscape characteristics and features;
- Completed a thorough review of major online archival sources of information relating to the history of the site, including The Oregonian, Library of Congress, Multnomah County Library, Oregon Historical Society, Bureau of Land Management General Land Office, and National Park Service.
- Visited select archives and repositories in December 2014 and January 2015 that, based on the initial review of sources, were known to hold critical written and graphic materials relating to the history of Blue Lake Nature Park, including the Oregon Historical Society, Multnomah County Library, Multnomah County Archives, and Metro Archives.
- Reviewed information which provided context for the evaluation of significance and analysis of extant landscape characteristics and features.



HISTORICAL BACKGROUND AND DEVELOPMENT HISTORY

This site has experienced many changes over hundreds of years and served as a gathering place for American Indians, the Corps of Discovery, early settlers to today's regional residents.





Circa 1947 Map of Blue Lake Nature Park
(Multnomah County Library)

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND AND DEVELOPMENT HISTORY

AMERICAN INDIANS

YEAR	ENTRY FROM CHRONOLOGY
0	Area likely inhabited from AD1250-1750 after the Cascade Landslide Flood. Inhabitants possibly spoke Chinookan language variant. The Blue Lake site was likely the location of major American Indian village that served as a place to live during seasonal resource collection, processing and a burial ground.
0	The area has likely been inhabited for at least the past 1,200 years (to 785 AD) due to abundant resources of Columbia River, Blue Lake and the surrounding floodplain. Blue Lake, thought to be caused by geologic activity centuries ago, is a 64-acre natural lake fed by underground springs, rainfall, and runoff in its watershed. A fault line runs diagonally under Blue Lake towards the Columbia River and under the current Fairview Lake Dam.
1776	Smallpox affected Nichaqwli Village around this time. By 1806 when William Clark was exploring the area he met a woman who was pockmarked and it was understood she had survived the disease nearly 30 years earlier. It's thought that small pox was brought to the west coast by Captain Cook's visit to the mouth of the Columbia River. Nichaqwli were related to other Upper Chinookan tribes along the lower Columbia.
1800	In the early 1800s, site conditions were likely low-lying marsh, seasonally flooded, lying between the natural river level and spring-fed lake against a ridge of rock on South shore. During the drier seasons, the marsh may have appeared as a prairie. Adjacent to evergreen forests. Site supported Camas, Wapato, and waterfowl. Heavy rock outcroppings are from Troutdale Formation, conglomerate from middle of Pliocene era. 25 and 100-year floods inundated the area. Columbia River annually flooded from the west, scouring vegetation, restocking fish in Blue Lake and laying down Sauvie silt loam.
1800	Salmon was critical to life of American Indians with two runs a year. Elk and deer were plentiful providing meat, hides and bones for tools. Waterfowl and birds were also important food source.
1820	Up until the 1820s, Nichaqwli Indian tribe (Upper Chinookan people, Eloot nation) camped at the western end of Blue Lake.
1830	Main burial ground for Nichaqwli was located at the ridge between Blue Lake and Fairview Lake.
1832	Great plague wipes out estimated 90% of existing native population along the Columbia. Known as "cold-sick" and "fever and ague" it started with fever, followed by stiffness and soreness in the limbs and violent cold shakes and ending in a coma. "Many died daily, and the cries of the mourning relatives were heard in every village...."



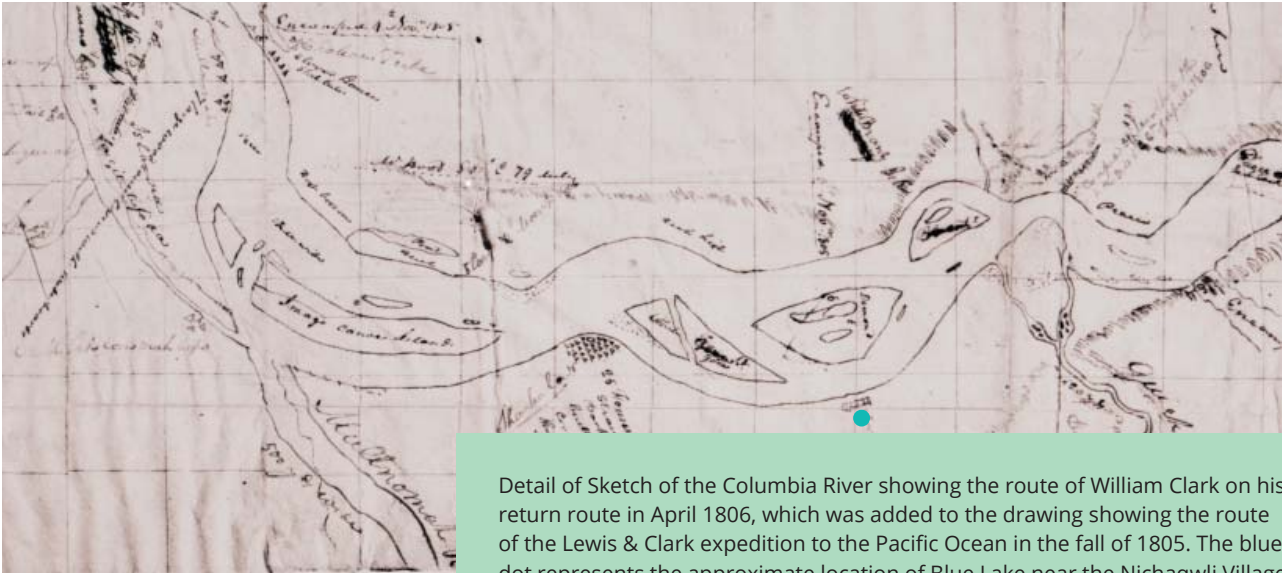
Left: William Clark and Meriwether Lewis (thedayintech.wordpress.com) | Above: Part of Nichaqwli Monument at Blue Lake Nature Park



Clockwise from top: Wapato tubers |
Wapato plant | Camas field | Camas flower
| American Indians preparing Salmon | Part
of Nichaqwli monument framing Mt. Hood

CORPS OF DISCOVERY

YEAR	NARRATIVE
1806	"... at 8 miles passed a village on the South side. At this place my Pilot informed me he resided and that the name of his tribe is Ne-cha-co-lee (Nichaqwli), this village is back or to the South of Diamond island, and as we passed on the North Side of the island both descending & ascending did not See or know of this Village. I proceeded on without landing at this village ..." [Clark, April 2, 1806]
1806	On April 3rd, 1806, Nichaqli village was mentioned in journals of the Lewis and Clark expedition. Estimated population in the village was 100.
1806	Lewis' journals noted "the wreck of 5 houses remaining of a very large Village," near what is now Blue Lake. The Blue Lake village was called Nechacokee or Nechacolee, meaning "Stand of Pines", now named Nichaqli.
1806	William Clark counted five plank houses that looked abandoned and in need of repair.
1806	On April 3rd, William Clark wrote, "we had a view of mount St helines and Mount Hood. The 1st is the most noble looking object of its kind in nature. It's figure is a regular cone..."
1806	This area "abounding with roots of different kinds, which the natives use for food especially the Wapto roots... The timber is mostly of the fir kind... and a variety of shrubs which bear fruit of a fine flavor..." Wapato (Sagittaria latifolia, found in shallow wetlands, produces edible tubers that were eaten by American Indians. Also known as broadleaf arrowhead, duck-potato and Indian potato. They can be cultivated and are typically harvested in the fall. They can be eaten raw or cooked. They taste similar to potatoes or chestnuts and can be prepared in similar fashion: roasting, frying, and boiling. They can also be dried and prepared into flour. [Clark, April 6, 1806]
1806	"Captain Clark directed his course along the south side of the river (Columbia) where... he passed a village of the Nechacokee (Nichaqli) tribe, belonging to the Eloot nation. The village itself is small, and being situated between Diamond Island (Government Island), was concealed from our view as we passed... along the northern shore." [Clark, April 3, 1806]



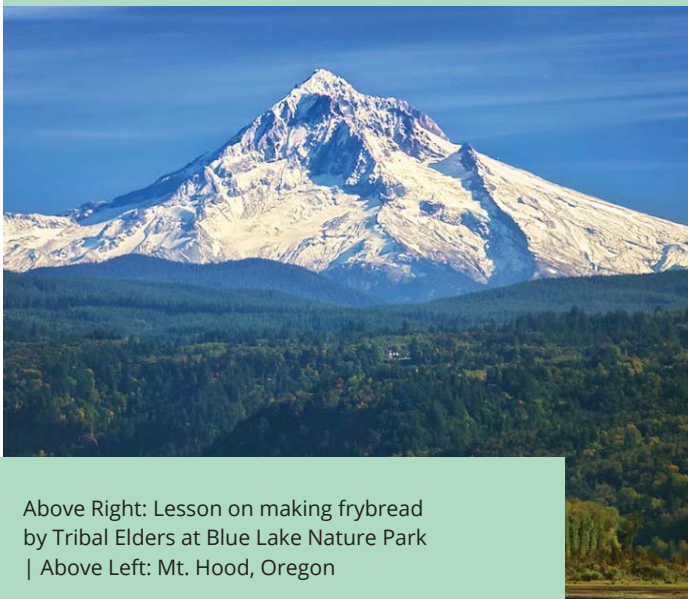
Detail of Sketch of the Columbia River showing the route of William Clark on his return route in April 1806, which was added to the drawing showing the route of the Lewis & Clark expedition to the Pacific Ocean in the fall of 1805. The blue dot represents the approximate location of Blue Lake near the Nichaqli Village that is depicted by Clark. Multnomah River is now known as the Willamette River, and the Quicksand River is now known as the Sandy River. (ORHi 99499)



Top Left: Detail of map of Lewis & Clark's track across what is now Northwestern Oregon. The blue dot represents the approximate location of Blue Lake in between the Willamette River (nee Multnomah) and the Sandy River (nee Quicksand). This map was drawn by Samuel Lewis based on original drawings by William Clark. | Above: View of the plank houses near Blue Lake



Above left: Guided by a native from a village known as Nicháqqli, William Clark and a small party of men headed down the Columbia in April 1806 | Right: Erecting the Nichaqqli monument in the park

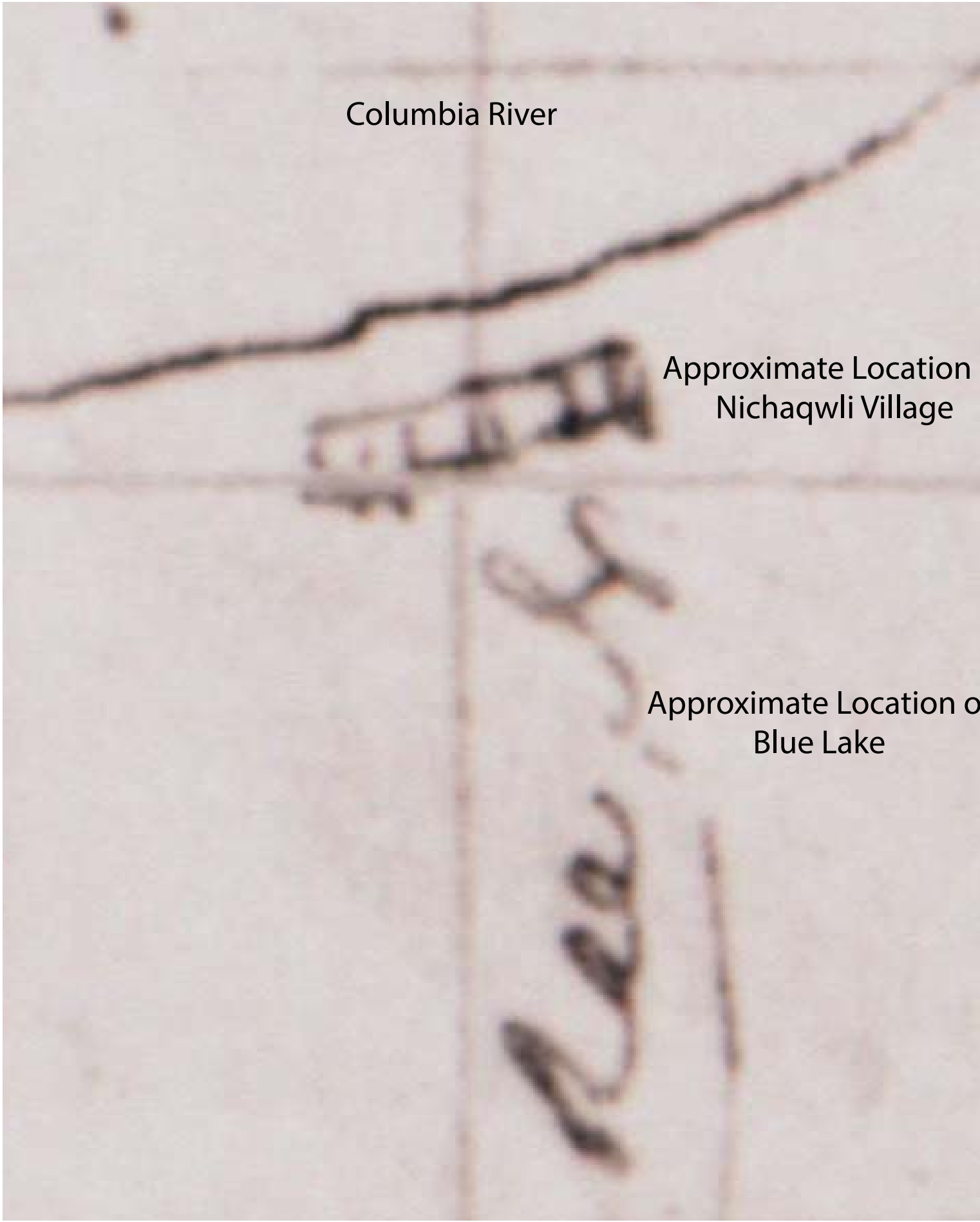


Above Right: Lesson on making frybread by Tribal Elders at Blue Lake Nature Park
| Above Left: Mt. Hood, Oregon



Public Affairs Director Siobhan Taylor (middle) gets a lesson on making frybread from Tribal Elder Pat Allen (l) and Tribal member Lisa Archuleta.



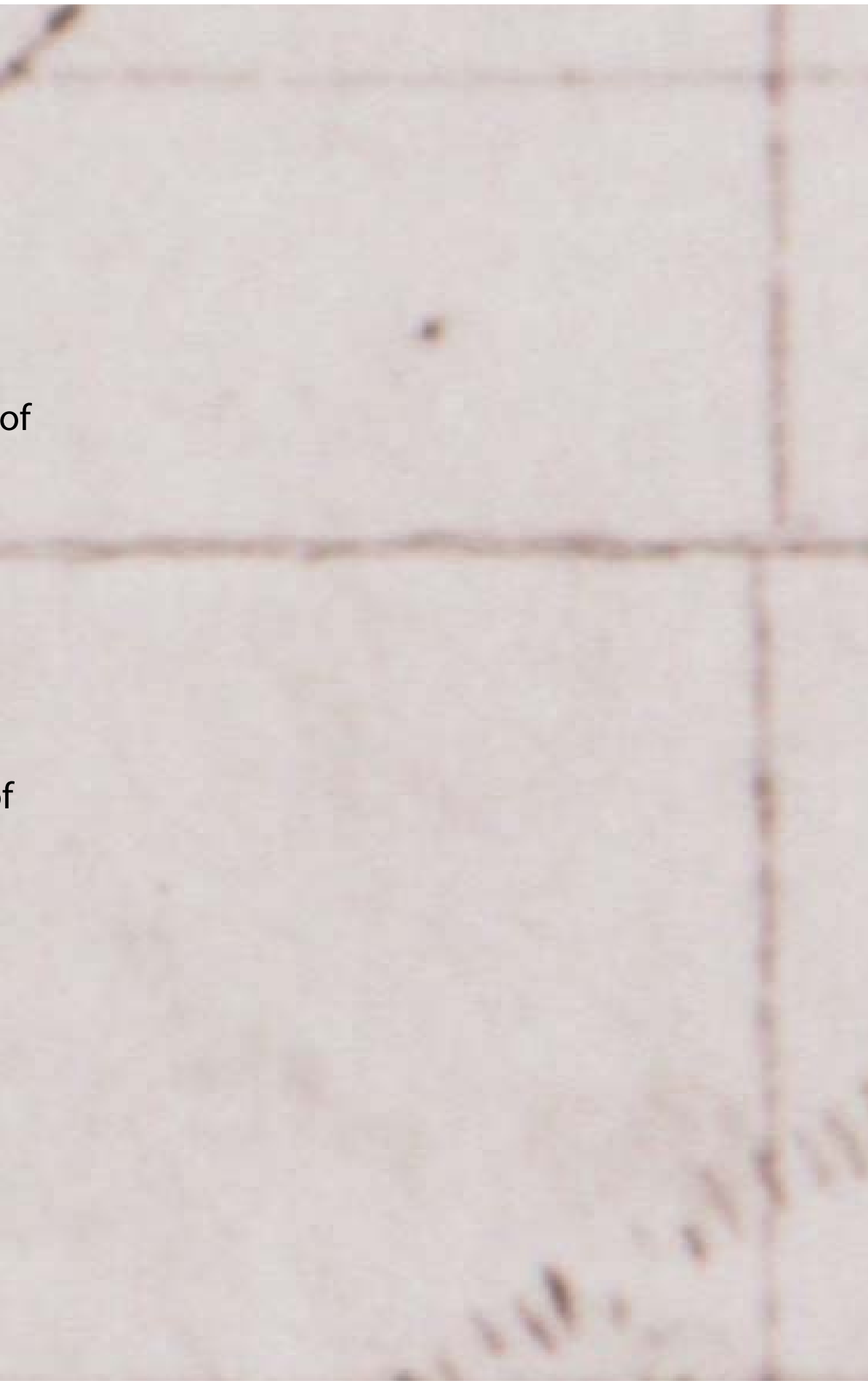


A hand-drawn map on a piece of paper with a vertical and horizontal line intersecting. A wavy line representing a river flows from the top left towards the right, crossing the vertical line. Below the river, there is a small cluster of rectangular shapes representing a village. Further down, there is a small, irregular shape representing a lake. The word 'Nichaqli' is written vertically in a cursive script below the lake. The word 'Blue Lake' is written vertically in a cursive script below the lake.

Columbia River

Approximate Location
Nichaqli Village

Approximate Location of
Blue Lake



Blue Lake Nature Park

Historic Resource Report

PERIOD PLAN Circa 1806

SOURCES:

1. William Clark, Sketch of the Columbia River from the forks between the 19th of October 1805 to the 1st of January on the Pacific Ocean, which also indicates camping places on the return journey in April 1806, from atlas accompanying the original journals of the Lewis & Clark Expedition, 1804-1806, published by Dodd, Mead & Company, 1905. (Oregon Historical Society ORHi 99499)

NOTE:

Scale and placement of the river and Nichaqlwli Village are rough estimates based on scant documentation available.



1 inch = 500 feet

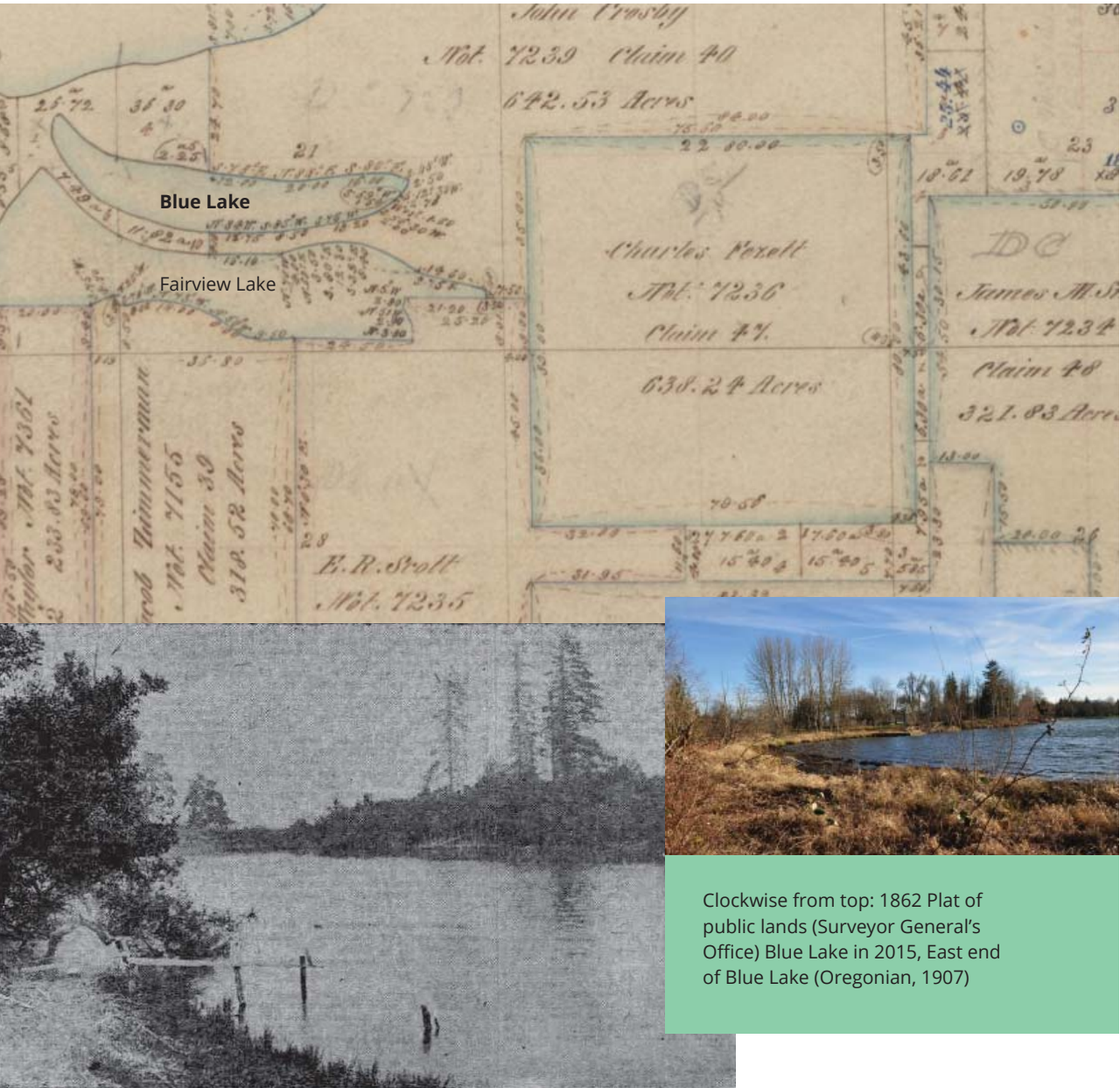
0 250 500
feet

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND AND DEVELOPMENT HISTORY

EARLY SETTLEMENT

YEAR	ENTRY FROM CHRONOLOGY
1850	In the mid-19th century, early settlers cleared area of trees for livestock and farming.
1850	Around 1850, alluvial soils of area around lake have been used for farming and grazing since mid-19th century
1855	The Blue Lake Site and nearby lands owned by John Crosby.
1860	Around 1860, the families that held the Fairview donation land claim were E.R. Scott, John Crosby, Jacob Zimmerman, Charles Fizett, Addison C. Dunbar.
1862	The area around Blue Lake was designated as a "state swamp"
1863	On 21st December, a serial land patent was issued in the name of Hiram Smith for 341.31 acres. It was located in Township 1 North, Range 3 East; Section 21; Lot 4 (west half of SW quarter) and Lot 10 (NWSW quarter).
1865	On November 13th, a serial land patent was issued in the name of John and Rachael Crosby, which was later voided and reissued for the same parcels of land in 1890, for 642.53 acres. It was located in Township 1 North, Range 3 East; Sections 14, 15, 16, 21, 22 and 23. The majority of Blue Lake Nature Park is in Section 21 and the Crosby's owned the north half of Section 21.
1866	On March 19th, a serial land patent was issued in the name of Emsley and Martha Scott for 644.90 acres. It was located in Township 1 North, Range 3 East; Sections 21, 22, 27, 28, 33, 34. The majority of Blue Lake Nature Park is in Section 21, but the Scotts' land did not include any part of what is currently known as Blue Lake Nature Park. They owned property south of the current park.
1879	On June 30th, a serial land patent was issued in the name of Jacob and Leboldine Zimmerman for 317.14 acres. It was located in Township 1 North, Range 3 East; Sections 20, 21, 28, 29. The majority of Blue Lake Nature Park is in Section 21, but the Zimmermans' land did not include any part of what is currently known as Blue Lake Nature Park. They owned property south of the current park.
1882	By 1882, the entire area, currently known as Blue Lake Nature Park, was privately owned.
1890	On July 22nd, a serial land patent was issued in the name of John and Rachael Crosby for 642.53 acres. This patent was reissued from the original filed in 1865 for the same parcel of land.
1890	On August 25th, a serial land patent was issued to the State of Oregon for 5095.87 acres by the authority of the 1850 Swamp Land Grant Patent. It was located in Township 1 North, Range 3 East; Section 21, Lot 5. The majority of Blue Lake Nature Park is in Section 21, but it's not clear from the information available if this swamp land is related to marshlands associated with Blue Lake or the nearby Columbia River.

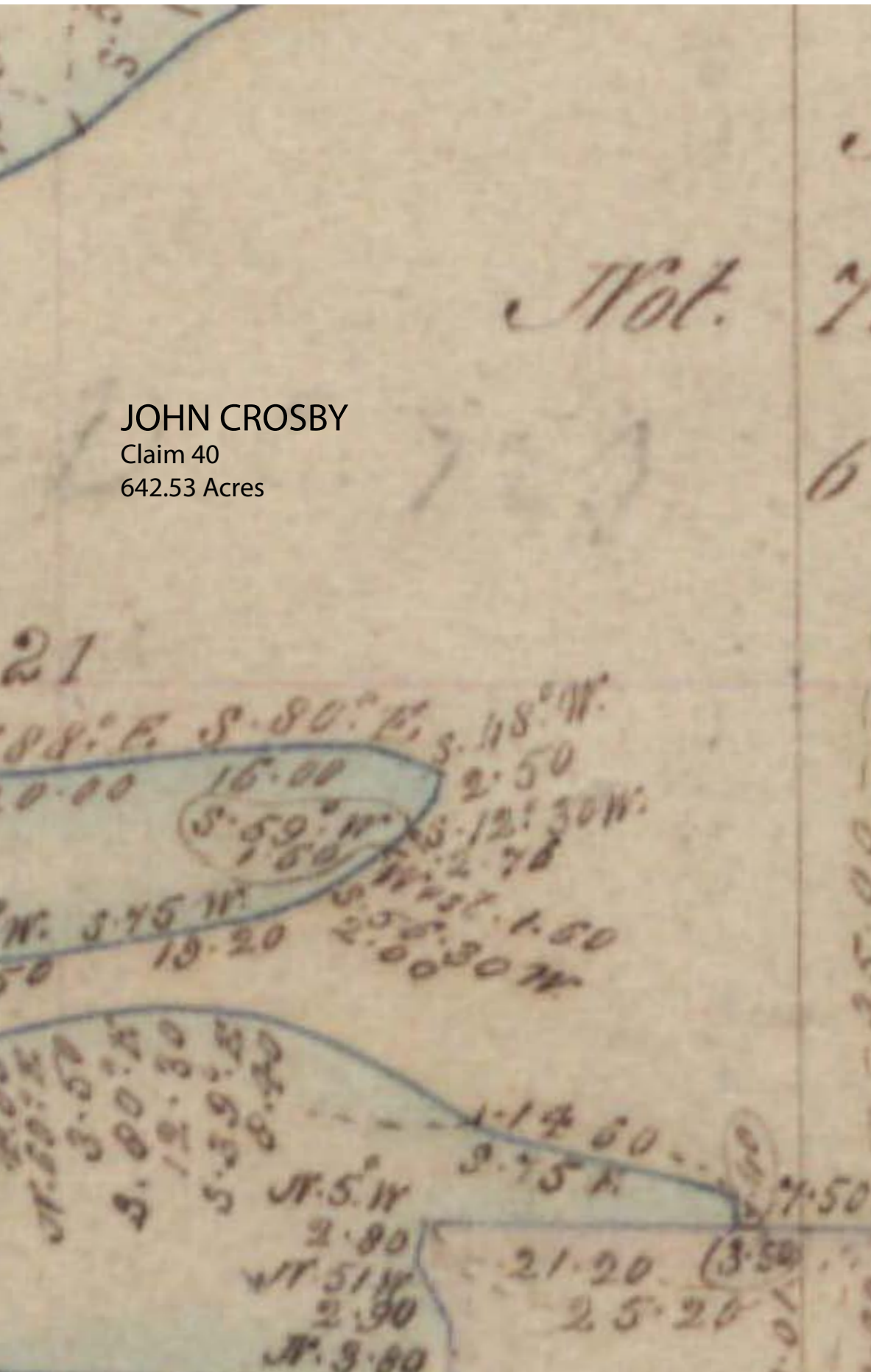
YEAR	ENTRY FROM CHRONOLOGY
1900	In the early 1900s, the area was used to grow potatoes.
1900	In a photograph looking south from Blue Lake, the hillside that separated Blue Lake from Inter-lachen Lake was covered with riparian vegetation and some evergreen trees, which appeared to be Douglas fir.
1900	Around this time, sketches of the area depicted a collection of lakes and water bodies including Fairview Lake, Sundial Lake (to the east), wetlands and other small water bodies.
1901	On April 26 th, the claim that Hiram Smith filed in 1863 for the north half of Section 21, which was previously stated as being owned by John and Rachael Crosby, was cancelled. On May 8th, Hiram Smith purchased 82.33 acres of property in Township 1 North, Range 3 East, Sections 20 and 21, which may have included small portions of the western side of Blue Lake Nature Park.



Columbia River

Blue Lake

Fairview Lake



JOHN CROSBY

Claim 40

642.53 Acres

Blue Lake Nature Park

Historic Resource Report

PERIOD PLAN Circa 1862

SOURCES:

1. Aggregate area of public lands in Township No.1 North Range No3, East Willamette Meridian, Sections 20 and 21.
- From the Surveyor General's Office, 1862



1 inch = 500 feet

0 250 500
feet

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND AND DEVELOPMENT HISTORY

FIRST PARK DEVELOPMENT

YEAR	ENTRY FROM CHRONOLOGY
1920	Between 1920 to 1922, a levee (natural or man made) extended from Interlachen Ridge flanked by Blue Lake and Fairview Lake to Taggart's Bluff in the northwest.
1925	On July 3rd, Blue Lake Nature Park opened as a private park. It Included attractions such as the Blue Lake Dance Hall, the Merry Mix-up Swing Ride, a Concession stand and the Chateau Swim Pavilion.
1925	People began building summer cottages on south side of Blue Lake.
1925	The park was managed by the Welsh family. They lived upstairs from the boathouse in quarters without indoor plumbing. Later they combined three of the original country club cottages into their on-site home.
1927	In March 1927, the Blue Lake Company was formed by private investors to develop a 35-acre country club with 400 feet of beach, a bathing pavilion, diving platforms, water toboggan, dance pavilion and stage. An 18-hole golf course was planned, but was never built due to Great Depression.
1927	Nick Welsh took over management in 1927, which many believe marks the beginning of the success of this park. He operated the park on a lease basis until 1935 when he purchased the property. In 1960, he sold it to Multnomah County.
1928	In the late 1920s, cottages were first built on the north side of Blue Lake.
1928	The original dance pavilion burned down and replaced by a new building.
1928	Nick and Maidie Welsh bought the boat and canoe rental concession and went on to purchase the park's original 35 acres in 1935.
1930	In December 1930, private acquisition of Blue Lake was fought by the State Game Commission.
1930	In 1930, Blue Lake was used for swimming and sunbathing as seen from photographs taken during this era.
1930	Fairview Country Club Tract was platted in 1930 along the southeast shore of Blue Lake.
1930	Sand for the beach was hauled to the park site each year from the Sandy River.
1930	Around 1930, Blue Lake had a wooden floating dock and diving platform.
1930	Around 1930, Nick Welsh devised a system to ensure good water quality with water drawn from a well that was chlorinated and sprayed into the swimming area from a system of pipes located underneath the dock.

YEAR	ENTRY FROM CHRONOLOGY
1935	Nick Welsh purchases 35-acre park property and further develops it as a recreational resource. Blue Lake became popular for picnicking, swimming, boating, fishing, field sports, and indoor dancing.
1935	In 1935, people are pictured swimming and playing in water along shore with a building located in background (likely the swim pavillion).
1935	The U.S. Wildlife Commission planted aquatic weeds in Blue Lake in the mid 1930's. Nick Welsh reported that they were no aquatic weeds in the lake before that, but that they've been a continuing problem since.
1936	By 1936, Fairview Country Club on southeast shore of the lake was platted.
1936	Blue Lake waters were declared to be State of Oregon waters per the Luscher vs. Reynolds Oregon Supreme Court ruling. Luscher was likely a nearby property owner.
1936	A dock was constructed in 1936.
1938	"...development of the park has been carried on with the ideal of making it a fine, clean, decent place for the youth of the community, and [the Welshes] have spared no pains, time or expense to accomplish that purpose. Blue Lake Nature Park is one of the rare spots where parents permit their children to go with full confidence that they are safe and clean, adequately supervised surroundings."
1939	A picture taken on 7th August showed that lifesaving classes were held on the dock at Blue Lake Nature Park.
1939	By this year there were approximately 50 residences around the lake.
1942	A levee was constructed by the old river road (now N.E. Marine Drive) that prevented Columbia River from reaching Blue Lake during high flood events. Some sources state that the levee was built later in 1947.
1942	Drainage work, along with levee construction on Marine Drive used dredge spoils as infill and built houses on them.
1942	By the early 1940s there were at least 60 toilet and shower facilities in the park.
1946	Joseph D. Meyers conducted informal archaeological investigations around Blue Lake. He uncovered fish net sinkers, anchor stones, stone pestles, mortars, bowls, arrowheads, stone wedges, mauls, hammerheads, gravers and carbon soil.
1947	Plan drawn around 1947 for Blue Lake Nature Park showed circulation features, areas of vegetation, and the character of the bath house area.
1948	A major flood event occurred in the region in late May and early June and the Columbia River rose to 21 feet. The 100 yr flood is normally 17 feet.

Columbia River

MARINE DR

N E MARINE DRIVE (ROAD ON 30 FT DIKE)

MULTNOMAH COUNTY

MULTNOMAH COUNTY DRAINAGE DIST. No. 1

VINCENT

SEAWALL

Pond

Blue Lake

A. LAWSON

6



Blue Lake Nature Park

Historic Resource Report

PERIOD PLAN Circa 1947

SOURCES:

1. 1944 Metzger Atlas, Multnomah County Library
2. 1947 Blue Lake Plan
3. Narrative sources from this era

DRAWN BY:

Mathangi Murthy, MIG Inc.
Adobe Illustrator CS6

LEGEND:

- Blue Lake Park Boundary
- Wetland
- Lake/waterbody
- Tree canopy
- Specimen trees
- Road/ pathway/ trail
- Levee
- Residences
- Unknown Buildings
- Plats (Metsker's Atlas)

- 1 Bathhouse
- 2 Dance Hall
- 3 Band Stand
- 4 Fishing Pier
- 5 Rest Room
- 6 Dock
- 7 Multnomah County Building



1" = 300 feet

0 250 500
feet

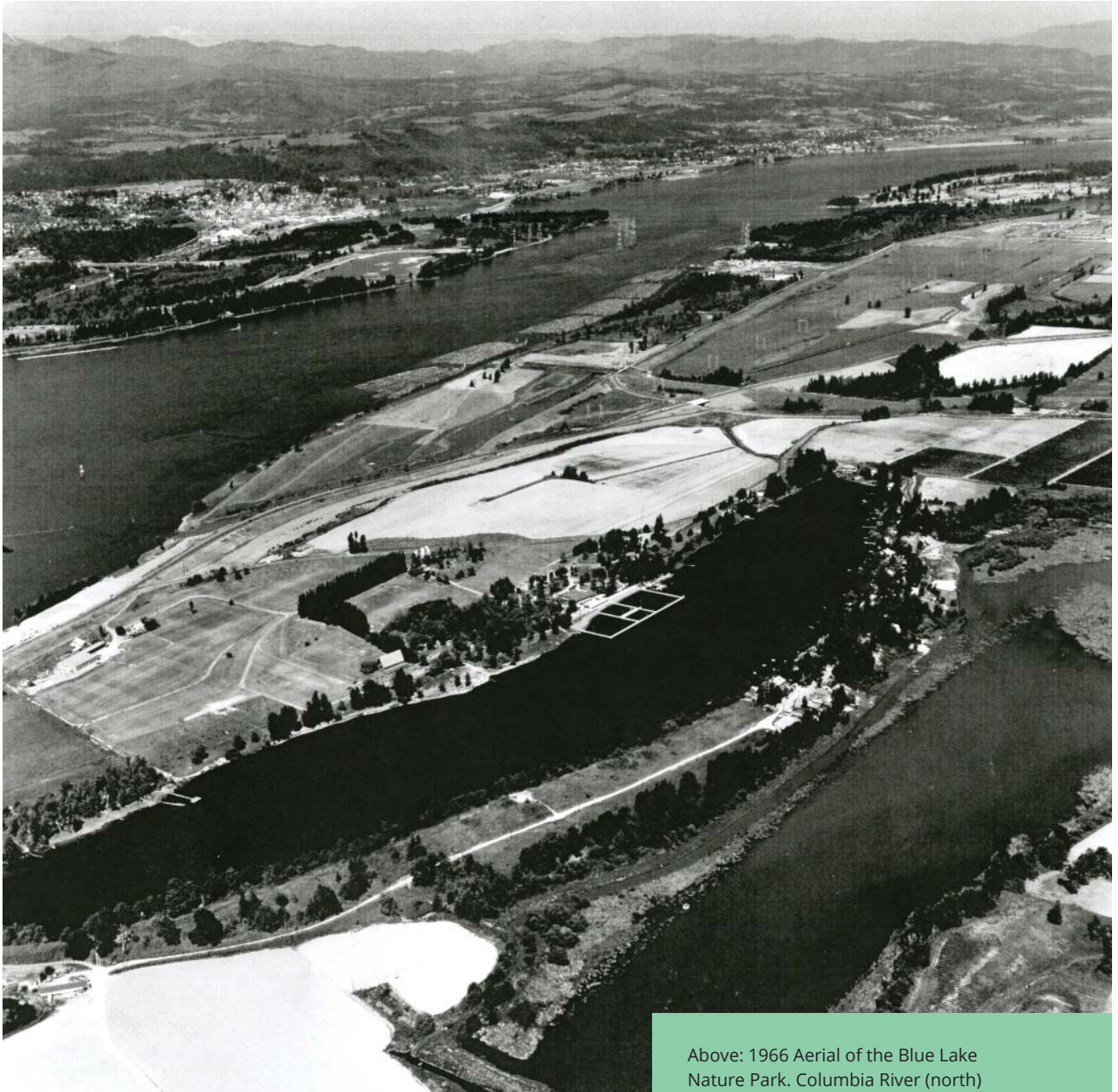
HISTORICAL BACKGROUND AND DEVELOPMENT HISTORY

MULTNOMAH COUNTY

YEAR	ENTRY FROM CHRONOLOGY
1960	Multnomah County acquired three parcels of land north and west of Blue Lake Nature Park, including the core of Blue Lake Nature Park from the Welsh family. The County's purchase of the land totaling around 200 acres followed increased public use of park and Oregon State Game Commission's interest in the lake's fishery.
1960	In the 1960s, Blue Lake Nature Park was home to turtles, turtle nesting sites, heron nests, and bald eagle perches.
1960	Aquatic weed control was carried out by local homeowners for several years during this era. It was directed at sago pondweed and algae.
1960	Black crappie and largemouth bass were stocked in Blue Lake and counts were completed at various times to track the population in 1961, 1962 and 1963.
1960	Following its purchase, the County almost completely rebuilt the park. Beginning in 1960 and through 1984 Multnomah Co. led many changes to the park's built environment. They removed amusement rides and replaced the swimming/boating/food concessions buildings, constructed information and parking fee booths, built warehouse and shop buildings, remodeled 2 park residences, and installed permanent family and group picnic areas. This included replacing wood fireplaces with electric stoves and the construction of two A-frame picnic shelters. The County realigned and paved park roads and parking areas, installed paved walks including a concrete path along the lake's northern shore, and paved Blue Lake Road. They installed sanitary sewers and replaced the park's water system and outflow controls to Blue Lake. They rip-rapped the lake's bank and constructed three islands. They also planted trees, shrubs and flowers throughout the park. The County installed five primary and ten secondary play areas for children, five ball fields, an archery range, and volleyball and horseshoe courts. Included is "Old Blue The Lake Monster" and "Slurpy the Little Eater".
1961	On 2nd May 1961, Blue Lake was chemically treated to remove the carp-dominated fish population and return the lake to production of desirable warm-water game fish species. Black crappie reproduced in 1961 after being reintroduced in mid-summer. Bass reproduction was reported in 1962.
1962	Multnomah County constructed four additional comfort stations and remodeled central rest rooms, including the installation of sanitary sewers that replaced a septic tank and drain field.
1962	Sampling of the fish population beginning in 1962 showed that bluegill sunfish, carp, rainbow trout, squawfish, sockeye salmon, tench, green sunfish and brown bullhead were present in the lake during this era. Rainbow trout and bluegill were introduced illegally. Bullhead, carp, tench and sockeye salmon were pushed in by a flood in late 1964.
1962	From 1962 to 1963, the Oregon Game Commission killed all the fish and restocked the lake with bass, crappie and blue gill fish.
1963	Multnomah County replaced and extended the central water system.
1963	In January 1963, Multnomah County bought additional park land for \$71,000. The price was set by a jury, but no details about what plot of land this relates to have been found to date.
1963	Following the purchase of Blue Lake Nature Park by Multnomah County, many sources note that the park was closed while built elements were being repaired, replaced or built. Various sources note the park reopening in June 1960, 1961 and 1963. It's unclear exactly when the park was closed or if it was just closed during the off-season during the early 1960s to accommodate the construction.
1964	Sometime after 1964, Multnomah County installed an underground irrigation system, regraded the area and then planted 60 acres of lawn.
1964	Following a master planning process, the Blue Lake Nature Park plan was approved in October 1964.

YEAR	ENTRY FROM CHRONOLOGY
1964	West Interlachen, a nearby residential development, was platted in 1964.
1964	Blue Lake was flooded. The flood washed out the lake's outfall control and undesirable fish species re-entered the lake.
1965	New research done by the State of Oregon cited evidence of Blue Lake's volcanic origin.
1965	Prior to 1965, an arsenic base spray was used to control weeds and copper sulphate was used to control algae. Riley Matsler, the park's superintendent) became skeptical of this practice and theorized it was impacting the game fish population. He sought advice from Oregon Game Commission and Extensive Service.
1965	Leonard Stout, a biologist with the Oregon Game Commission, studied Blue Lake and found high concentrations of arsenic and copper in the bottom of lake. He indicated that if this practice of spraying chemicals continued, the lake may be rendered unusable.
1965	While crayfish reproduction was very successful, freshwater clams (once abundant) were not seen during this time.
1965	On 9th August, weed control efforts killed many fish after a faulty application of chemicals at high concentrations. "By the time the applicator was finished, many fish were dead. The next day the lake was calm and thousands of dead fish were floating on the placid surface". Frogs, polliwogs and crayfish were also killed. Removal of fish carcasses lasted for at least a week or more. Aquatic plants were dead in treated areas (shallow portion of lake) but were unaffected in closely adjoining areas.
1966	Multnomah County received a grant that allowed for further expansion of Blue Lake Nature Park area. No documentation was uncovered outlining details of the expansion, but it's possible that this relates to the purchase of additional property in 1974.
1966	During the summers of 1966-1967, Henry Carsner, a professional biologist, applied Aquatol to control weeds. Aquatol was effective on all weeds except chara (a native plant-like algae).
1967	Lakesend Estates, a nearby residential development, was platted in 1967.
1968	From 1968-1970, Casaron was used to control weeds (based upon a national survey of federal and state agencies). During this period when Casaron was sprayed (1968-1970), there were some noticeable changes observed: marked decrease in crustaceans and frog populations and swallows no longer flew over the water. This was discussed with federal and state agencies who recommended the County to harvest and remove weeds from the lake.
1970	The County built a weed harvester which was used for four summers to remove 2000 cubic yards of weed annually. Weed growth had increased threefold or more since 1970s.
1970	Around 1970 it was observed that the quality of the lake's water had declined. Oregon's Department of Environmental Quality, Wildlife Commission, and Department of Agriculture offered 6 recommendations, including dredging the lake, pumping water into the lake to neutralize nutrients and discourage weeds, removing ducks, controlling fertilizer usage, separating the swimming area and discontinuing use of copper sulphate.
1974	In August 1974, the Board favored land acquisition. The final two parcels of land located on the north shore of Blue Lake were added to round out park boundaries.
1974	During peak usage of Blue Lake Nature Park, around 666,000 visitors were recorded.
1974	Lachenview, a nearby residential development, was platted in 1974.
1975	Swim fees were imposed for visitors.
1975	U.S.G.S. estimates that a study of lake's condition will cost \$94,000 of which the county would be expected to contribute \$47,000 (\$9,000 of labor) over two fiscal years. It's not clear if this was completed, but the issue was addressed again in 1976.
1975	An internal proposal was made to move the boat docks from their present location east of the swimming area to west of the pool area since it was thought this would provide greater security, improve public access and simplify concession management, and provide room for expanding existing dock area. It's not known if this plan was implemented.
1976	Blue Lake was closed due to high turbidity and algal growth.

YEAR	ENTRY FROM CHRONOLOGY
1976	A committee requested that Multnomah County Department of Environmental Services should come to an agreement with the Water Resources Division of the U.S.G.S. to do a study about how to reverse the deteriorating condition of the lake. The committee doesn't feel that Multnomah County had the expertise to address this issue.
1976	"...the Lake's demise is a result of years of growth of aquatic plants and their purification combined with the excessive use of chemicals for the control of aquatic weeds. The wastes of wildlife, swimmers, motor boats, sewerage drain fields and the uncontrolled use of fertilizers have all been contributory factors."
1977	Some archaeological materials were accidentally unearthed as part of routine maintenance operations in Blue Lake Nature Park.
1977	Multnomah County entered into an agreement with City of Portland to dig a test well at Blue Lake Nature Park. It was understood that the City would drill the well for testing purposes and there would be no cost to the county except the pump cost which could be used for irrigation purposes.
1980	The last section of West Interlachen, a nearby residential development, was platted in 1980.
1982	Multnomah County and the Environmental Protection Agency developed a rehabilitation and management plan.
1983	In June the swim center reopened after an eight year ban was lifted.
1984	In May, Blue Lake was closed to fishing and swimming.
1984	Around July, Blue Lake swim area opened again.
1985	A spray of herbicides prompted closure of the lake (Eurasian milfoil).
1985	Multnomah County appointed a citizen task force to plan for development of Blue Lake Nature Park. Plans included providing protection and interpretation of prehistoric archaeological site.
1985	A modified master plan for Blue Lake Nature Park is approved. Details of the modified plan are not known, but a project focusing on interpretation and the site's pre-historic history may have been part of the plan.
1985	Multnomah County developed an interpretive plan focusing on the pre-history of park to include development of regional center focusing on native cultures and prehistory of region. The "reward will be increased public awareness and interest in cultural resources and the native cultures of the lower Columbia..." The county acknowledged that this plan would provide an "opportunity to develop a regional interpretive program on Native American cultures unmatched elsewhere in the United States." The regional center was never developed.
1985	Alternative swim sites were evaluated at Blue Lake Nature Park, both of which were located west of the dock area.
1985	Traffic and circulation were studied for incorporation in planning and preparation of the master plan. Four key issues were identified: visitor arrival sequence, collection of park entrance fees, capacity of Marine Drive/Blue Lake Road intersection, and amount of land required for parking.
1985	A study was completed to determine the feasibility of a family recreation center at Blue Lake Nature Park which would encompass 10-12 acres of land and include rides for all ages, games, food and beverage facilities, and a free entertainment pavilion. The family recreation center was never developed.
1986	In April, Multnomah County funded Blue Lake Nature Park improvements for the next five years for \$9.2 million.
1987	In November, improvements related to the \$9.2 million funding began.



Above: 1966 Aerial of the Blue Lake Nature Park. Columbia River (north) and Fairview Lake are also seen in the picture (Multnomah County Archives)





Blue Lake Nature Park

Historic Resource Report

PERIOD PLAN Circa 1964

SOURCES:

1. 1961 Existing Site Plan, Metro Prepared for Multnomah County Commissioners
2. 1966 Oblique Aerials, Delano Files, Oregon Historical Society
3. 1964 Plan View Aerial, Delano Files, Oregon Historical Society
4. Narrative sources from this era

DRAWN BY:

Mathangi Murthy, MIG Inc.
Using ArcMap GIS 10.2 and Adobe Illustrator CS6

- Blue Lake Park Boundary
- Lake
- Tree canopy
- Specimen tree
- Road
- Road/ path under vegetation cover
- Levee
- P Surface parking
- Building/shelter/paving
- Picnic shelter

- 1 Lake House
- 2 Concession
- 3 Bath house
- 4 Fishing piers
- 5 Pump house
- 6 Dock
- 7 Maintenance shop
- 8 Unknown building
- 9 Refreshment stand
- 10 Multnomah County Building

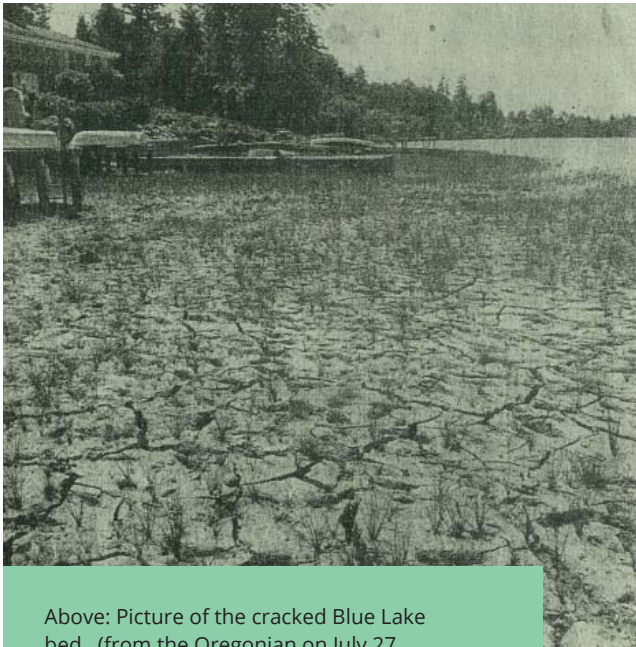


1" = 300 feet
0 250 500 feet

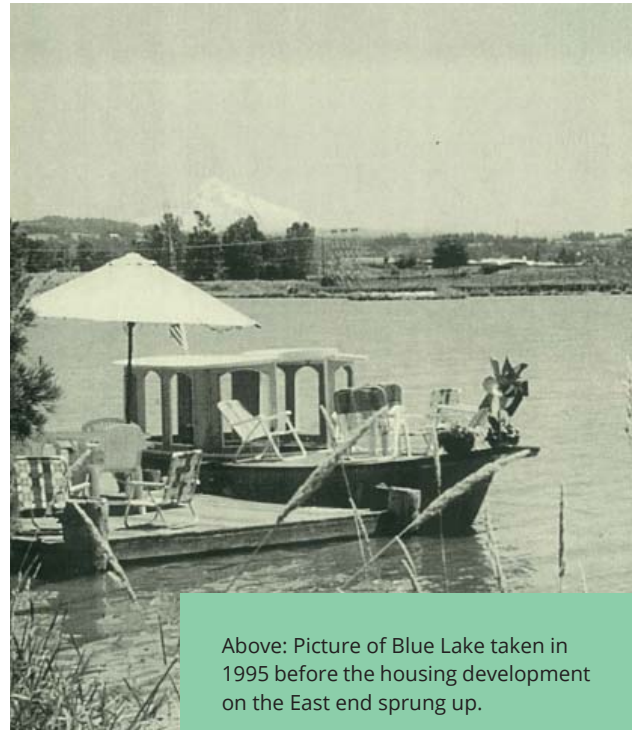
HISTORICAL BACKGROUND AND DEVELOPMENT HISTORY

METRO

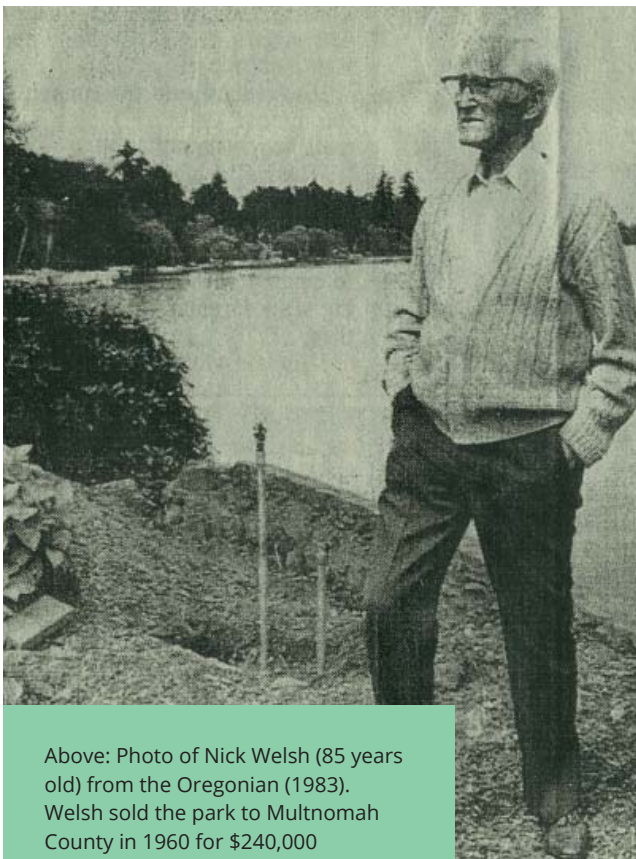
YEAR	ENTRY FROM CHRONOLOGY
1994	Multnomah County Park Services Division merged with Metro Greenspaces to become Metro Regional Parks and Greenspaces. Ownership of Blue Lake Nature Park was transferred to Metro.
1996	In 1996 a major flooding event reached 14 feet in the area around Blue Lake Nature Park.
2001	In 2001, Blue Lake Nature Park had a \$700K annual budget and \$400K in revenues resulting in \$300K deficit. Metro commissioned the Economic Feasibility Study and Facility Design Concept in July 2001. This document addressed the deficit issue and also addressed the areas that the 1985 Master Plan hadn't implemented yet.
2001	In 2001, Blue Lake Nature Park occupied 185 acres along Columbia River in Fairview, Oregon and was visited by approx 300,000 people annually. That number has declined in recent years. Note: the park's acreage hovers around 200 acres in most documents.
2005	On 6th August, 2005, a dedication ceremony for the Nichaqwli Monument Site was held at the Blue Lake Nature Park. The Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde collaborated with artists Fernanda D'Agostino and Valerie Otani to create a group of sculptures that evoke Chinook presence in clearing at the edge of Blue Lake. Cedar canoe forms, hewn by Grand Ronde Tribal Elder Don Day, refer to importance of cedar, life on the water, and the gathering of wapato along lake's edge. A large fishing net sinker stone anchors the site and provides viewing hole focused on Mt. Hood Artists Tony Johnson and Adam MacIsaac carved cedar house posts that remind us of culture of the generations who have lived here. The sculptures serve as a reminder of the Chinook village that occupied shores of Columbia River and are meant to create a contemplative spot to soak in the natural beauty and to reflect on the deep connection of native people to the land.
2006	A water spray ground was installed in the park.
2009	Historical Research Associates Inc. completed an archaeological study of Blue Lake Nature Park. Previously recorded archaeological resources and areas that have high potential for yielding archaeological resources were mapped.
2011	Boat rentals were provided by River Trails Inc. from 2011 through 2015.
2012	A gold level disc golf course added to Blue Lake Nature Park, on the north side of the Blue Lake Road.
2014	According to a property inventory, Blue Lake Nature Park can bring in up to \$2,290 a day in rentals for up to 1965 people in its rental picnic shelters.
2014	According to an informal parking study, Blue Lake Nature Park has 3,046 parking spaces, nearly half of which are overflow spaces.
2015	Metro begins working with MIG Inc. to develop a master plan for Blue Lake Nature Park.



Above: Picture of the cracked Blue Lake bed (from the Oregonian on July 27, 1982). This was the result of the County's attempt to kill milfoil weeds that were plaguing much of the lake at that time.



Above: Picture of Blue Lake taken in 1995 before the housing development on the East end sprung up.



Above: Photo of Nick Welsh (85 years old) from the Oregonian (1983). Welsh sold the park to Multnomah County in 1960 for \$240,000



Above: Mary Lou Johnson, daughter of Nick Welsh giving a firsthand account of life at Blue Lake Park

Columbia River



MARINE DR

8

4

P

P

5

Swim beach

7

INTERLACHEN LN

Fairview Lake



Blue Lake Nature Park

Historic Resource Report

EXISTING CONDITIONS 2015

SOURCES:

1. 2013 Metro Regional aerial ortho photos
2. Metro GIS shapefile data

DRAWN BY:

Mathangi Murthy, MIG Inc.
Using ArcMap GIS 10.2 and Adobe Illustrator CS6

LEGEND:

- Blue Lake Regional Park Boundary
- Wetland
- Lake
- Tree canopy
- Specimen tree
- Road
- Surface parking
- Overflow parking
- Trail/ pathway
- Building/shelter/paving
- Picnic shelter
- Nichàqwli monument
- Taxlot
- Restroom

- 1** Lake House
- 2** Refreshment stand
- 3** Park office
- 4** Maintenance shop
- 5** Bath house
- 6** Fishing pier
- 7** Dock Remnants
- 8** Multnomah County Buidling



1 inch = 300 feet

0 250 500
feet



SITE DESCRIPTION

Blue Lake Nature Park is a 185 acre park located on the banks of Blue Lake, a natural spring-fed lake just south of the Columbia River. The park; located in Township 1 North, Range 3 East, Sections 20 and 21; is a mixture of grasslands, woodlands, wetlands and the lake. It attracts a broad range of wildlife including migrating birds and beavers.



A wide range of activities are available at the park including: picnicking, special event rentals, boating, fishing, hiking, disc golf, playgrounds, swimming, interpretive elements related to American Indian Chinook tribe settlement, water play, basketball, volleyball, softball,

soccer and horseshoes. Blue Lake Nature Park; located at 21224 NE Blue Lake Road in Fairview, Oregon; is separated from the Columbia River by Marine Drive, which runs along the top of a levee. It was named Blue Lake by local hunters: Pete and Jim Odell and Jake Lenz.



2015 Aerial of Blue Lake Nature Park (Metro)

Columbia River



MARINE DR

MARINE DR

BLUE LAKE RD

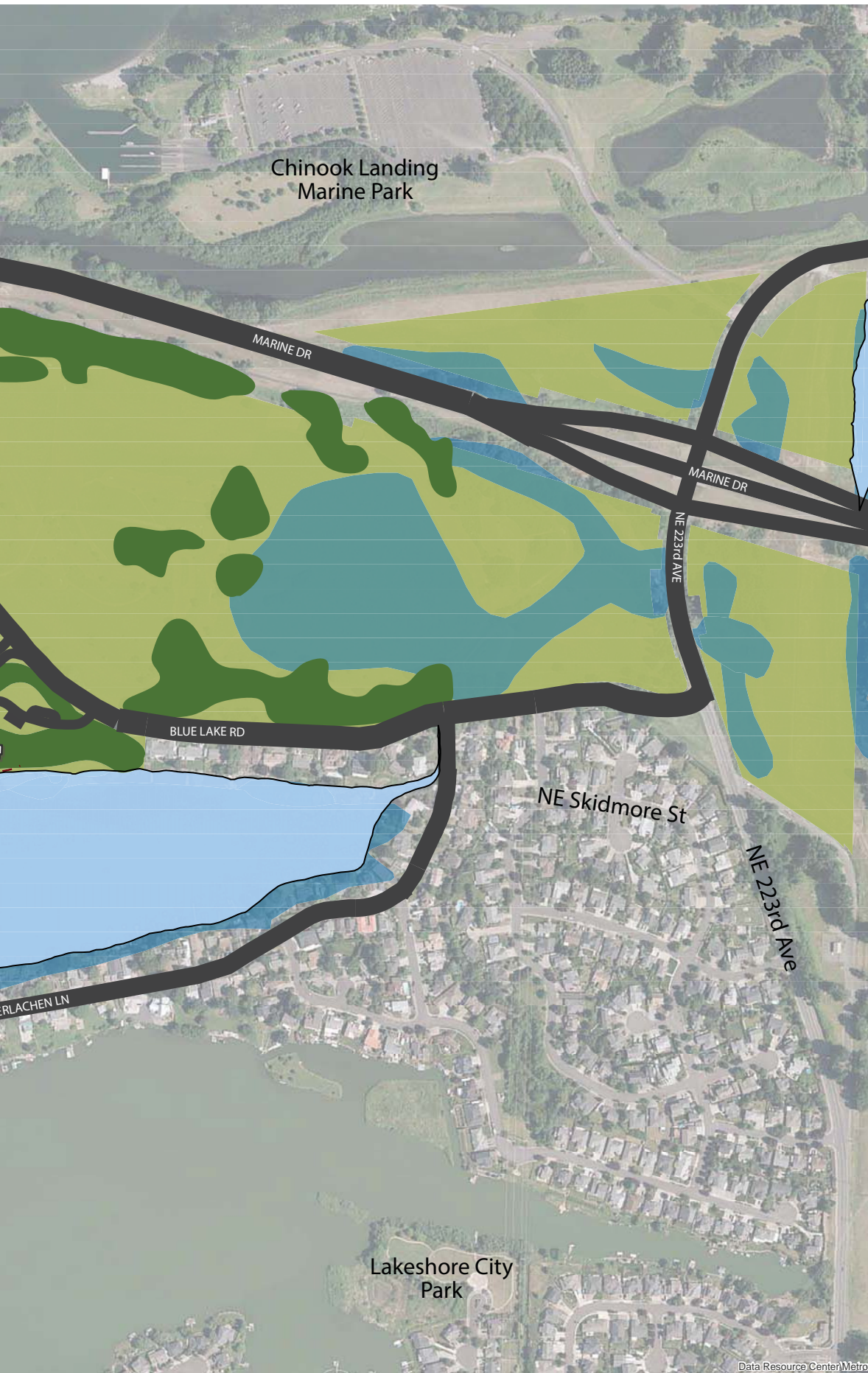
swim beach

INTERLACHEN LN

Fairview Lake Way

Blue Lake

Fairview Lake



Blue Lake Nature Park

Historic Resource Report

SITE PLAN | 2015

SOURCES:

1. 2013 Metro Regional aerial ortho photos
2. Metro GIS data

DRAWN BY:

Mathangi Murthy, MIG Inc.
Using ArcMap GIS 10.2 and Adobe Illustrator CS6

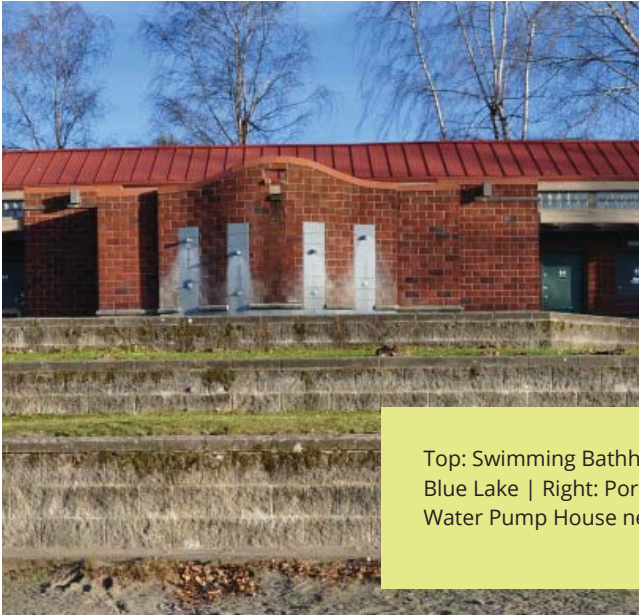
LEGEND:

- Blue Lake Nature Park
- Wetland
- Lake/waterbody
- Tree canopy
- Specimen trees
- Road
- P Surface parking
- Trail/ pathway
- Building/shelter
- Nichàqwli monument



1 inch = 500 feet

0 250 500



Top: Swimming Bathhouse located on Blue Lake | Right: Portland Water Bureau Water Pump House near west end of park



BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES

Three-dimensional constructs in the landscape, such as houses, garages, barns, stables, retaining walls, bridges, windmills, gazebos, dams, and memorials that exist in the landscape. Buildings are constructs for human shelter, while structures are not designed for human shelter.



Left: Dock on Blue Lake | Below: One of the Picnic Shelters in the central area of the park



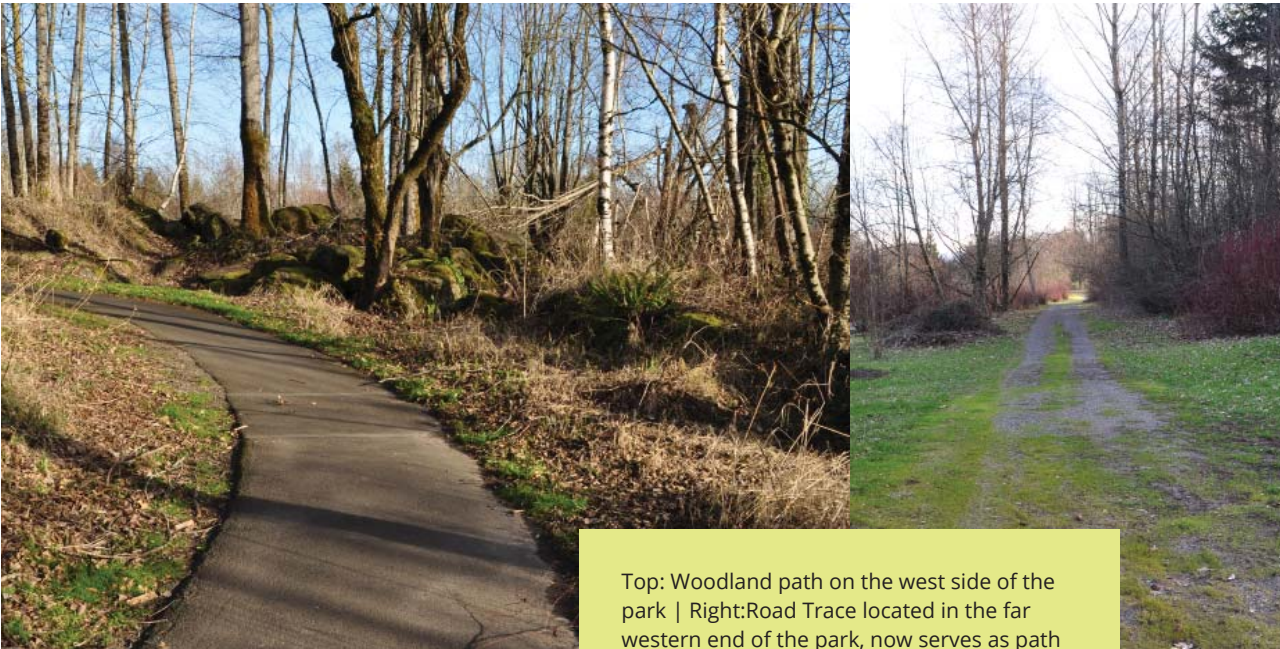
Left: Boat rental building | Above: View of the rear of warehouse building located in the northern part of the park



Top: Concessions/Refreshment Stand | Right: Typical restrooms in the park



Left: Lake House located in south east part of Blue Lake Nature Park | Top: Park Office Building



Top: Woodland path on the west side of the park | Right: Road Trace located in the far western end of the park, now serves as path



Top: View of the path that leads from the dock to the Lake House | Bottom: View of the park road that provides main access to parking lots

CIRCULATION

The spaces, features and materials that constitute systems of movement through the landscape, which include paved and gravel roads, paved and earth paths and stairs.

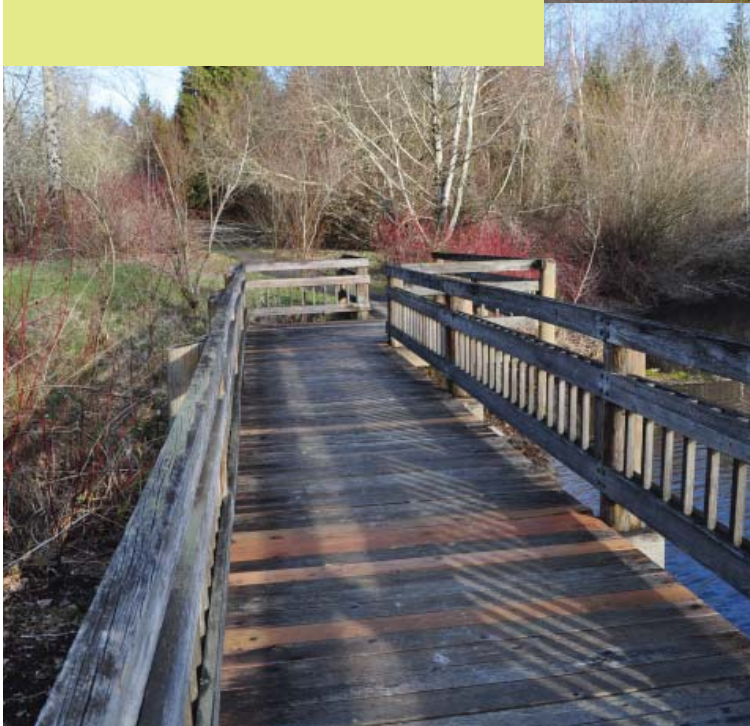




Left: View of the West Service Road | Above: Park Road lined by cherry trees leading towards main parking lot



Top: Blue Lake Road | Right: Concrete path along Blue Lake located east of the dock



Top: View of the steps leading north to the Lake House from a concrete path | Left: Boardwalk near the Wetland



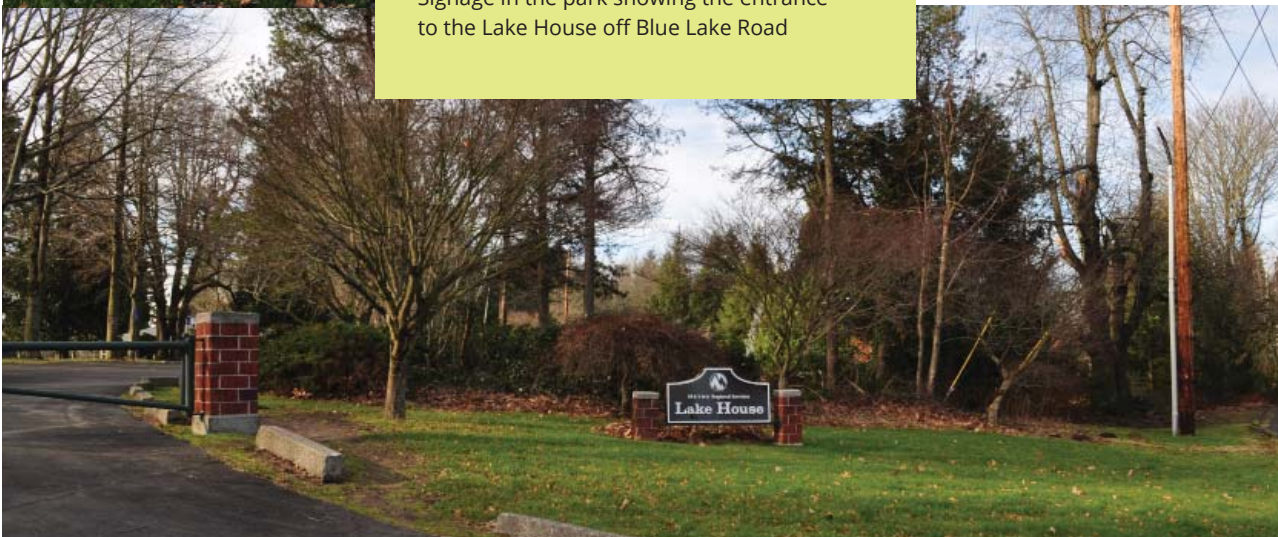
Bottom: Benches located along Blue Lake to the east of the dock and boat rental area



SMALL SCALE FEATURES

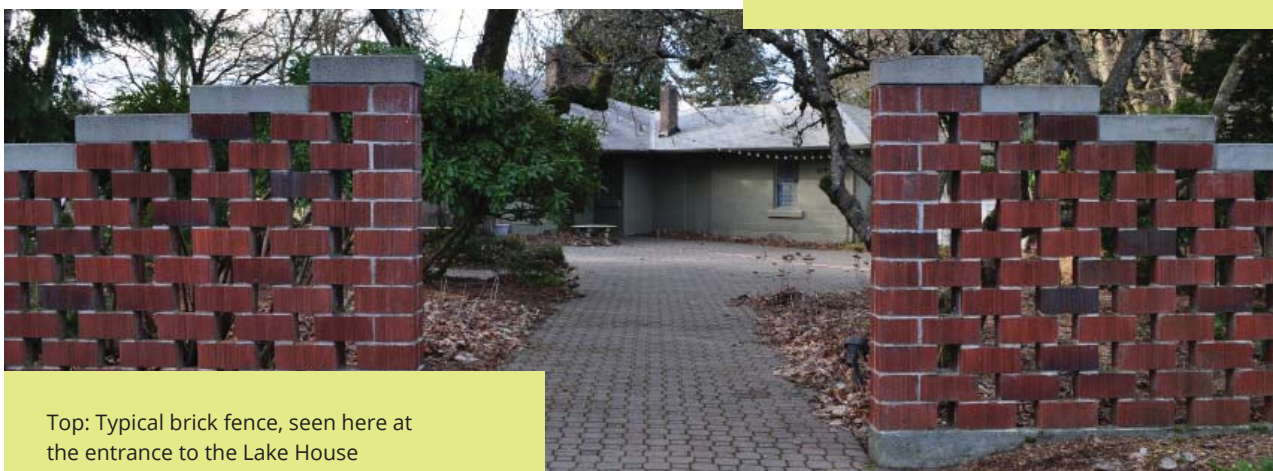
The elements which provide detail and diversity for both functional needs and aesthetic concerns in the landscape.

Top: Sculpture within the park | Bottom: Signage in the park showing the entrance to the Lake House off Blue Lake Road





Left: Trash can area in the park | Top: Disc golf signage in the park, located on the north side of Blue Lake Road



Top: Typical brick fence, seen here at the entrance to the Lake House



Top: Drinking fountain in the park with the arbor in the background | Left: Signage near the Nichaqli monument



VEGETATION

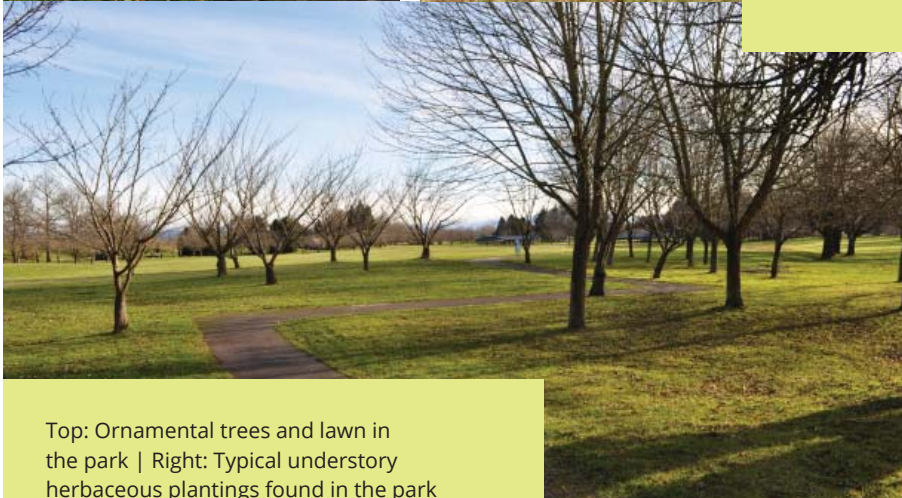
The deciduous and evergreen trees, shrubs, vines, groundcovers, and herbaceous plants in the landscape, including both indigenous and introduced.

Top: View of the lawn and trees within the park | Below: View of the allee of cherry trees in the park





Above: Woodlands in the eastern part of the park | Left: View of the a restoration Area in the western part of the park



Top: Ornamental trees and lawn in the park | Right: Typical understory herbaceous plantings found in the park



Top: Portion of the riparian woodland | Left: Open lawn in Blue Lake Nature Park



Above: View of path along the northern shore of Blue Lake | Below: View of Blue Lake and the docks

WATER FEATURES

The natural or built features and elements which utilize water for aesthetic or utilitarian functions in the landscape.

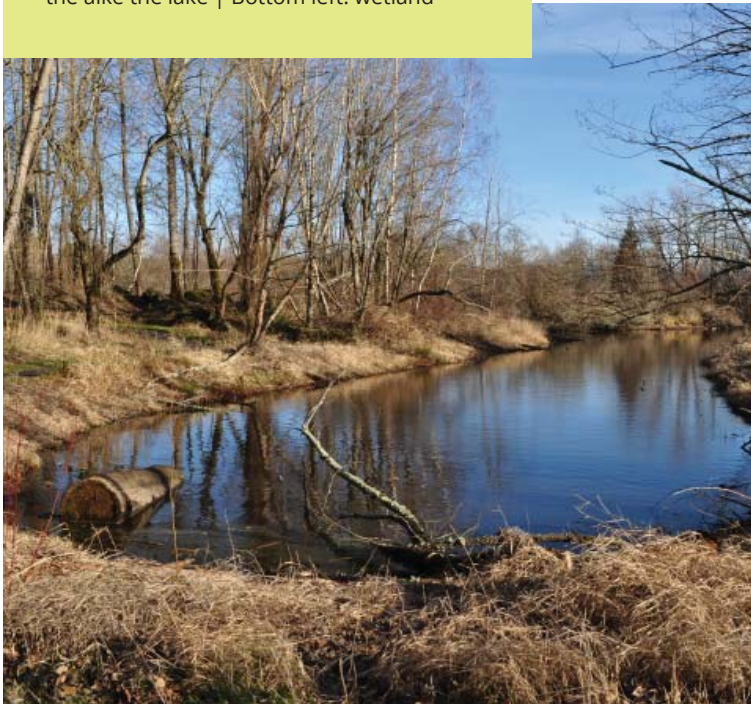




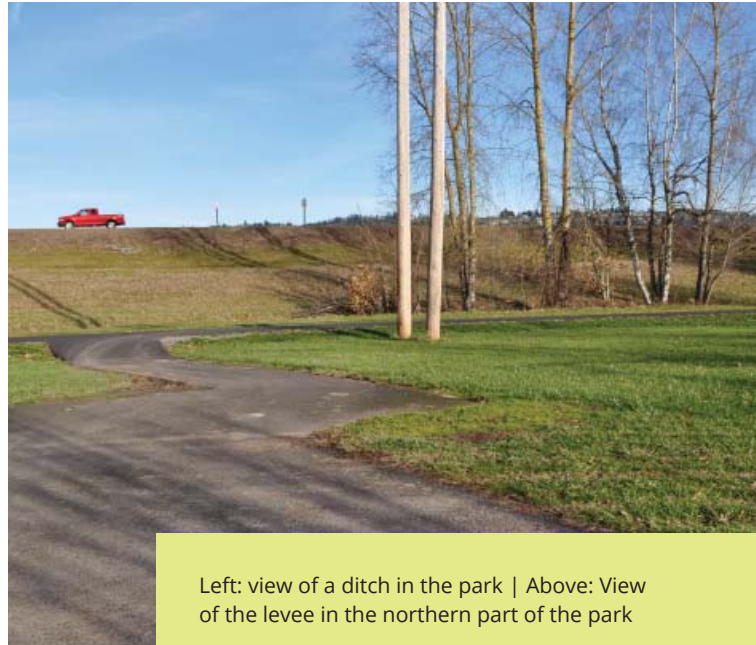
Left: View of spray ground in the park | Top: Wetland located on the western side of the park



Above: View of swimming area and beach located on the northern side of the lake | Bottom left: wetland



Above: View of culvert and connection between wetland and the lake



Left: view of a ditch in the park | Above: View of the levee in the northern part of the park

TOPOGRAPHY

The three dimensional configuration of the landscape surface characterized by features (such as slope and articulation) and orientation (such as elevation and solar aspect).

VIEWS AND VISTAS

The features that create or allow a range of vision that is designed or controlled. Views are broad prospects of a general area, while vistas are designed and directed views of a particular scene or feature.

Below: View of Mt. Hood from Blue Lake





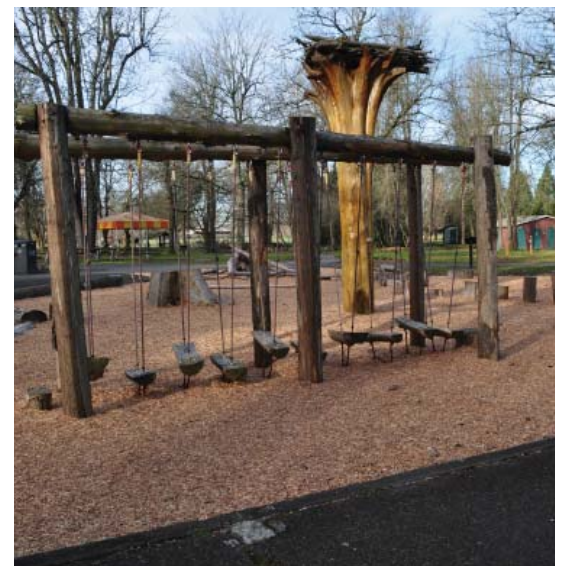
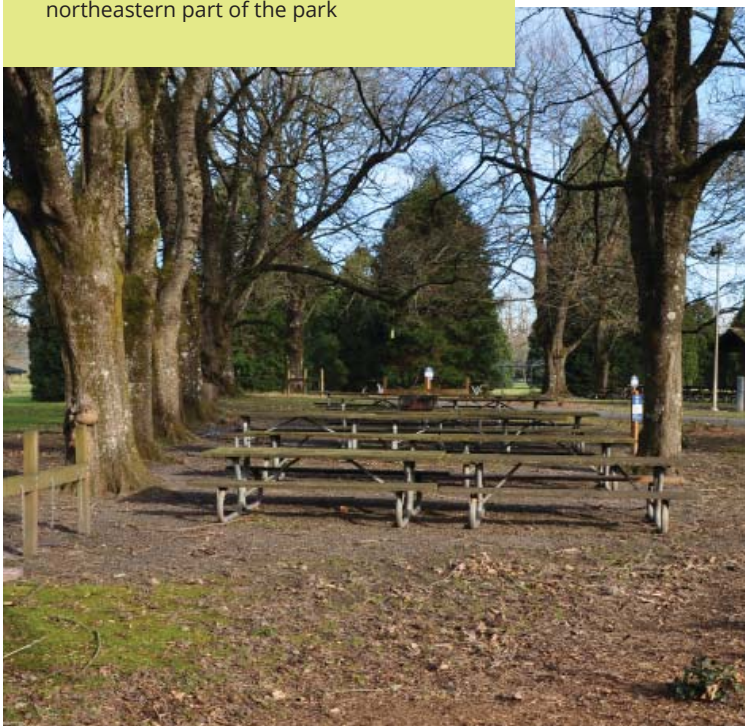
Left: Playground in the park |
Above: Boat rentals in the park



Above: Disc golf tee area in the
northeastern part of the park

LAND USE

The principal activities in the landscape that have formed, shaped, or organized the landscape as a result of human interaction.



Bottom left: Typical uncovered picnic
area in the park | Above: Nature
playground area within the park

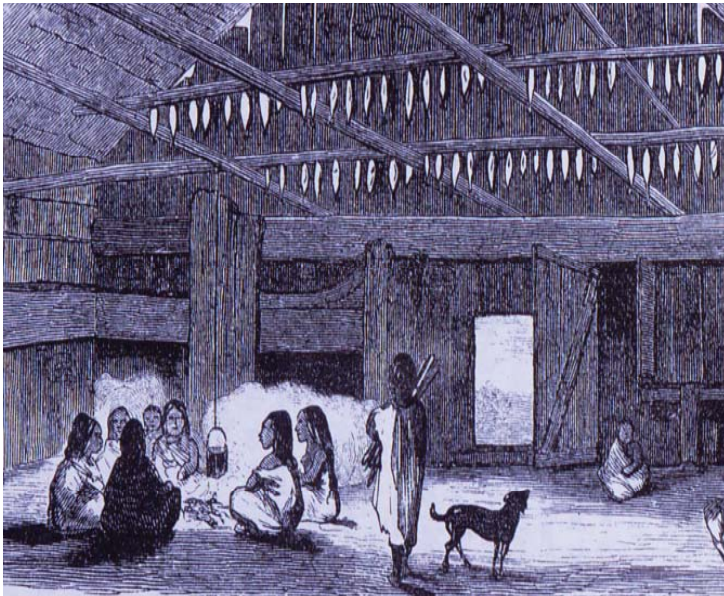


INTERPRETIVE THEMES

Today, Blue Lake Nature Park retains aspects of its history – cultural, agricultural, ecological and communal – and continues to have the potential to revive the spirit of human gathering and discovery in this place. Its value is a reflection of these elements, but that value can only be understood by the public through revealing the site's history in overt and subtle ways through design and interpretation.



Part of the Nichiqwali Village interpretive area in Blue Lake Nature Park, located on the western side of the park.



Clockwise from top: Plank houses in Nichaqwli village near Blue Lake | Lake House located in south east part of Blue Lake Nature Park | View of the concession stand at Blue Lake Park | Blue Lake in 2015

Blue Lake and its surrounding landscape symbolize a story of gathering, sustenance, discovery, health and wellness, and our region's natural systems – both how they were formed and how they've supported a rich array of uses over the centuries. For thousands of years, people have gathered here, supported by the natural resources that are abundant in this rich ecosystem nestled near a fresh water lake and a major river.

OVERVIEW

It's been a source of **discovery**, most notably by members of the Lewis & Clark expedition and later to early pioneers who were led here by the Oregon Trail.

The site has **supported food gathering** and growing, first for American Indians who cultivated and ate foods such as camas and wapato, hunted animals coming to feed at the lake, and fished for salmon migrating up the Columbia River to spawn. During the late part of the 19th century, settlers tried their hand at agricultural pursuits, establishing farms on the flat rich soils.

During the 20th century the focus shifted to **recreation, health and wellness**, but was still rooted in the site's natural features that had supported previous uses.

It's taken different forms, but **the same elements that drew the American Indians to this location are what continues to draw people here today** – namely the freshwater lake, the ridges, the open spaces and woodlands, and the proximity to the Columbia River. The land is a living thing.

Today, Blue Lake Nature Park **retains aspects of its history** – cultural, agricultural, ecological and communal – and continues to have the **potential to revive the spirit of human gathering and discovery** in this place. Its value is a reflection of these elements, but that value can only be understood by the public through revealing the site's history in overt and subtle ways through design and interpretation.

Metro has an incredible opportunity to achieve that as they embark on the development of a master plan for the nature park. The following section outlines the historical themes that are present on this site and what primary physical landscape characteristics and features embody those themes. This information can be used to inform future planning and design efforts associated with Blue Lake Nature Park.

HISTORICAL THEMES

Blue Lake's history intersects with six primary regional and national historic themes that can be incorporated into future interpretive elements and designs for the park. The themes are:

- **American Indian life (pre-contact to early contact)**
- **Corps of Discovery/Lewis & Clark Expedition (1805-1806)**
- **Pioneer Settlement (Oregon Trail) (1850-1865)**
- **Early 20th Century Parks Movement (1925-1935)**
- **Mid-century Modern (1960-1965)**
- **Early Environmental Movement (1965-1975)**

For nearly all of the themes there are physical features on site that date to a corresponding historic era, which could be preserved and incorporated into interpretive, educational, and recreational play elements. For example, the view of Mt. Hood from the west end of Blue Lake and the site's relationship to the lake and the Columbia River are particularly important to the first two themes. Additionally, the first two themes could point to how this site relates to other regional natural features including the Willamette River, Sandy River, and Mt. St. Helens speaks to why this has been and continues to be a

prime location for gathering. As another example, in terms of interpreting Pioneer Settlement, the site's location between the lake and the river made it an attractive plot of land for early settlers who farmed the property. Few other aspects of this era remain, but interpreting the location of the original survey plot lines and/or the agricultural use of the property could be done.

To understand the link between the historical themes and the extant property, a list of extant landscape characteristics and features has been developed for each theme. These characteristics and features remain present today and can be preserved or used in future design and interpretation projects to link the site's history to the present day.

CONTRIBUTING LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISTICS AND FEATURES

BLUE LAKE

- American Indian Life
- Corps of Discovery
- Pioneer Settlement
- Early 20th Century Parks Movement
- Mid-Century Modern

VIEW TO MT. HOOD AND MT. ST. HELENS

- American Indian Life
- Corps of Discovery

SITE'S RELATIONSHIP TO COLUMBIA, WILLAMETTE AND SANDY RIVERS AND FAIRVIEW LAKE

- American Indian Life
- Corps of Discovery

- Pioneer Settlement
- Early 20th Century Parks Movement¹
- Mid-Century Modern¹

SITE'S RELATIONSHIP TO GOVERNMENT ISLAND (DIAMOND ISLAND)

- Corps of Discovery

SITE'S RELATIONSHIP TO OREGON TRAIL

Especially the river route from The Dalles to Fairview and associated spur trails like the Barlow Trail.

- Pioneer Settlement

PRE-HISTORIC ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

The location of these are not noted in the plan, but they should always be factored into planning design elements to ensure that any known sites are not disturbed.

- American Indian Life

ALLUVIAL SOILS

- Pioneer Settlement

FLORA

Namely any plants used for food, clothing, shelter and/or ceremonies, such as camas or wapato that the American Indians used for food (see interpretive goal 4)

- American Indian Life
- Pioneer Settlement

¹ For this historic theme the relationship is tied solely to the Columbia River and Fairview Lake

FAUNA

Namely any animals used for food, clothing, shelter and/or ceremonies

- American Indian Life
- Pioneer Settlement

ROAD TRACE

Private road on western side of site during this era

- Early 20th Century Parks Movement
- Mid-Century Modern

WETLAND AND POND ON WESTERN SIDE OF BLUE LAKE

- Early 20th Century Parks Movement
- Mid-Century Modern

SITE'S RELATIONSHIP TO LEVEE AND MARINE DRIVE

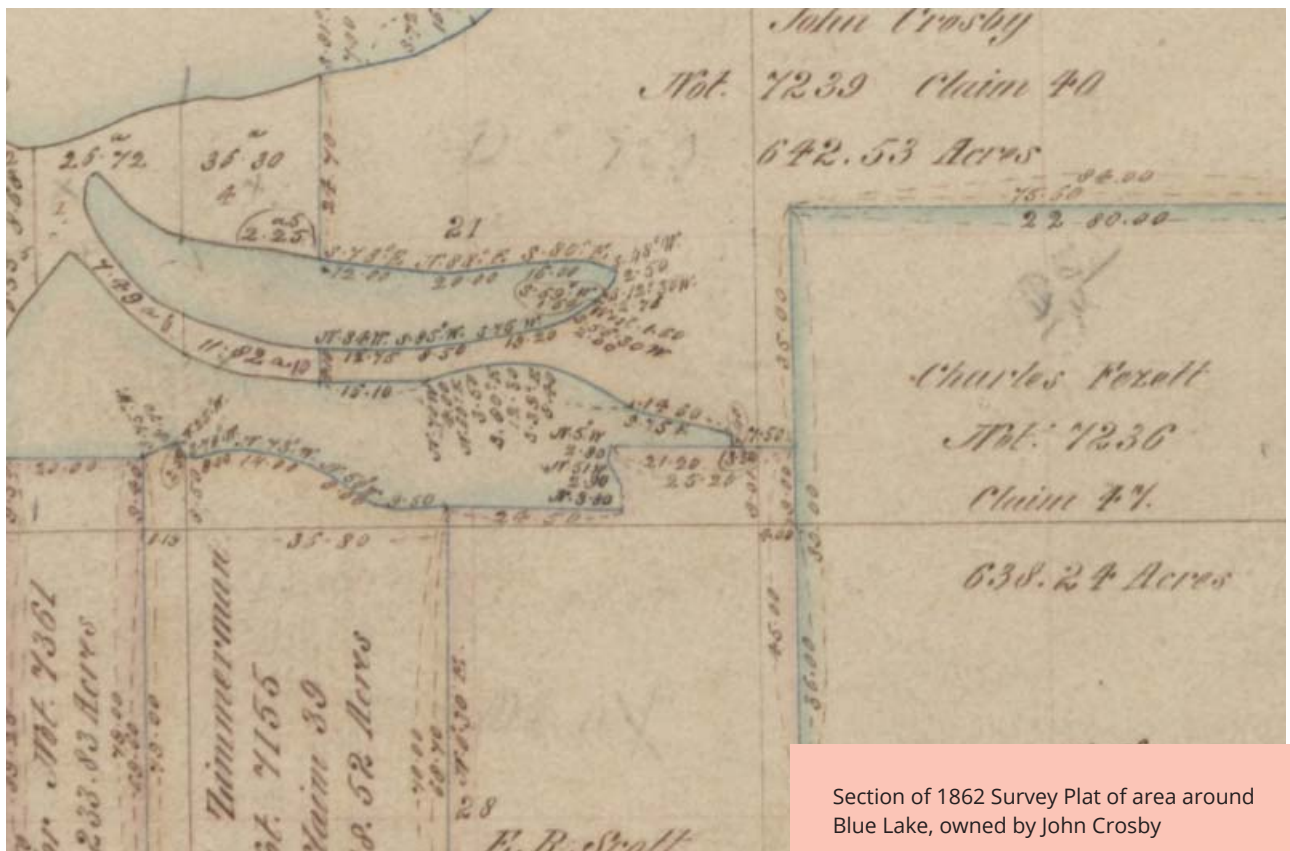
- Early 20th Century Parks Movement
- Mid-Century Modern

BLUE LAKE ROAD

- Early 20th Century Parks Movement
- Mid-Century Modern

REMNANT DOCKS ON WESTERN SIDE OF BLUE LAKE

- Early 20th Century Parks Movement
- Mid-Century Modern



Section of 1862 Survey Plat of area around Blue Lake, owned by John Crosby

WOODLANDS AND SPECIMEN TREES LOCATED IN THE CENTRAL PORTION OF LAND NORTH OF BLUE LAKE

- Early 20th Century Parks Movement
- Mid-Century Modern

WOODLAND ON EAST SIDE OF BLUE LAKE ROAD

Area of current Frisbee Golf Course

- Mid-Century Modern

MULTNOMAH COUNTY BUILDING

See period plans for 1947 and
1964 for more information

- Mid-Century Modern

REFRESHMENT STAND

- Mid-Century Modern

LAKE HOUSE

- Mid-Century Modern

MAINTENANCE BUILDING/SHOP

- Mid-Century Modern

EASTERN PORTION OF FISHING PIERS

- Mid-Century Modern

INTERPRETIVE GOALS

The following foundational goals can help guide the development of interpretive themes and design elements at Blue Lake Nature Park, and will serve as guiding principles for future planning and design efforts.

- Goal 1: Emphasize gathering, discovery, sustenance, and health and wellness, and the historic relationship between natural systems and features located on site and the cultural history of Blue Lake.
- Goal 2: Focus on tying the past, present, and future of Blue Lake together to foster connections and understanding of the site's history and our relationship to it.
- Goal 3: Use a layered approach to offer a multi-sensory and interactive visitor experience allowing for different degrees of discovery and learning.
- Goal 4: Incorporate developing technologies, which can encourage reflection and deeper understanding, and has a light impact on the land.
- Goal 5: Consult with members of the Confederated Tribes of the Grande Ronde regarding the development of design and interpretive elements that reflect the history and culture of American Indians in the region, respecting the sacred quality of the landscape and the site's cultural resources and rich heritage of oral traditions.
- Goal 6: Incorporate seasonal elements that ensure visitors always find new things to explore at Blue Lake.
- Goal 7: All interpretive content will be developed to deepen visitors' personal, emotional connections to Blue Lake thereby cultivating true public stewardship,

improve knowledge and encourage responsible actions and behaviors.

- Goal 8: Interpretive kiosks, exhibits, signage and other interpretive features will be universally accessible (ADA).



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