

VBSP Breaks Ground on Dirt Jumps and Skills Area

By Scott Laird



Robert Watts helps clear the area for the Dirt Jump Park

The Vernonia Bicycle Skills Park (VBSP) has broken ground on the planned Dirt Jump Park and Skills Area with its first Build Day of the fall season. The section of the park currently being built was planned by Alta Planning and Design, and construction is being led by Westside Trail Federation -- a group of volunteers and experienced trail builders dedicated to helping design, build and support sustainable single-track, free-ride and downhill mountain biking trails near Portland, Oregon. Local Vernonia contractor Robert Watts helped clear the area for the Jump Park, and twelve volunteers spent Saturday, October 25, beginning to build the first stunts in the skills area.

Future Build Days are scheduled for Saturday, November 15; Sunday, November 30; and Sunday, December 14. The Vernonia community is invited to join in. Please bring work-boots and gloves, drinking water and a snack, power drills and saws, shovels, and your BMX or mountain bike. Follow signs from the Vernonia Lake parking area into the OA Mill site. For more information, contact Scott Laird at 503-367-0098 or go to www.westsidetrailfederation.org.

This project is funded by grants from the Oregon State Parks Department, Cycle Oregon, and Bikes Belong Coalition.



Volunteers start work on the Skills Area (above); A Technical Trail Feature is partially complete (left).

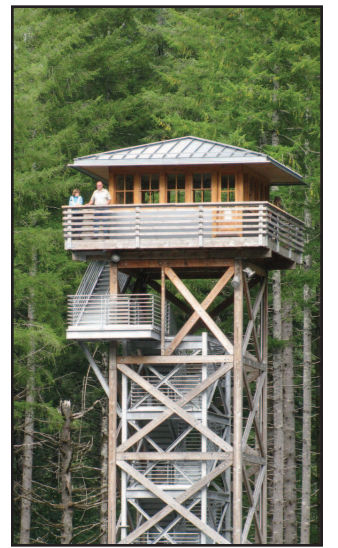
Worth The Trip: The Tillamook Forest Center

By Scott Laird

For families looking for a short day trip that is educational and interesting, but by no means boring-- the Tillamook Forest Center is just the ticket. And in these tough economic times, the price is right too--it's free!

Located on Highway 6 in the heart of the Tillamook State Forest, thirty-one miles from Vernonia, the center offers hands-on activities, displays and exhibits that showcase history, early settlers, logging, wildlife, and a host of other interesting facts. There is an award-winning fifteen-minute film that recreates the Tillamook burn, complete with wildfire smoke smells that make you feel like you are right there fighting the fire yourself.

Kids and adults might enjoy climbing to the top of the forty-foot replica fire-watch tower, and see what it was like for those hardy souls who spent their summers above the treetops.



The Fire Lookout Tower

There is a beautiful 250-foot suspension bridge that gives a great view of the Wilson River, and, if you time it right, maybe a salmon or two. There are miles of trails-- pick one and spend part of your visit exploring your state forest lands.

For an educational experience that will feel more like an adventure, try a short drive to the Tillamook Forest Center.



The Suspension Bridge

Hours of operation for Fall, Winter and Spring are Wednesday – Sunday, 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM (Closed Mondays and Tuesdays and Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's days).

You can find out more at their website: www.tillamookforestcenter.org

Cole Hauser, age 3, from Cornelius, tries on some firefighting gear.



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It's also comforting to know that your 9-1-1 call center is staffed with highly trained professionals supported by the latest computer and communications technology. While citizens have approved operating funding for Columbia 9-1-1 to provide this vital service, the Board and staff have also brought in significant state and federal grants to enhance technology and boost efficiency.

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• 910 Riverside Drive: Toast your toes by the cozy woodstove in this 2 bedroom, 1 bath bungalow on ½ acre w/riverfrontage. Home was high & dry in Dec. '07. Also includes a large carport, covered deck, fruit trees, grapes and majestic fir trees. Asking \$162,500



• 830 Texas: If you're just starting out or deciding to scale down, you'll love this cozy 2 bedroom, 1 bath cottage w/easy care vinyl siding plus an oversized detached double car garage w/concrete floor & power door opener. Sitting on 2 large lots it's a good deal at \$170,000



• 981 Fairway Lane: In a newer neighborhood but off the beaten path just minutes for city center you'll find this 2800 sq.ft., 4+ bedroom, 2 bath, 2 story home on 1/3 acres. Large shade trees & new deck. Included is a work/hobby shop. \$235,000 Adjoining lot \$73,500



• 814-816 E Bridge Street: Super nice duplex! Each unit has 2 bedrooms & 1 bath plus a single car garage. New roof & gutter in 2007, window & exterior paint approx. 5 years old. Plenty of off-street parking & landscaped yards. Make that investment now! \$209,000

Additional Properties...

- This home on over 2 ½ acres has so much it is hard to put on paper. Here you can golf, fish, swim, boat, hot tub and more. Call for more details. \$650,000
- Close in w/a country feel this, 100'x100' building lot is offered at \$66,500 with a 100'x 200' site next door for \$94,000. You won't cramp your style here!!
- Near the end of a country road you'll find a wooded 1.64 buildable parcel for \$75,000. Ideal for a cabin retreat or just to live in full time peace and quiet.
- Great riverfront building site or nice get-a-way property. Over 2 ½ acres along the Nehalem. Build new or fix up old mobile. \$119,000

On November 4, voters have the opportunity to keep this essential 9-1-1 service working for all of us. The renewal measure on the ballot would maintain this valuable service at a rate lower than voters first approved in 1998. Please vote and return your ballot in time for it to count. Thank you. For more information, go to www.columbia911.com or call 503-397-7255.