

FREE FUN AT THE FORT

Explore Fort Stevens

BY SKYLER ARCHIBALD

The local state park, Fort Stevens, is a gift — literally.

Sometime in the years preceding 1960, Clatsop County gifted nearly 800 acres of natural space in Warrenton. Over the following years that land was bolstered by other gifts, leases and purchases from the county, local school district, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and private landowners. That land, now standing at 4,247 acres, become Fort Stevens State Park, the fourth largest state park in Oregon.

If You Go

Free day at Fort Stevens State Park

All day Wednesday

Fort Stevens, 100 Peter Iredale Rd., Hammond

Free admission and guided hikes

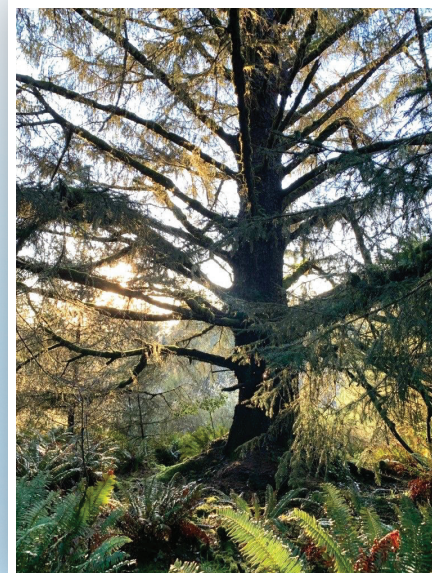
History today

Fort Stevens holds a great deal of history to be explored, with Battery Russell and the Peter Iredale Shipwreck being iconic favorites. But there are additional sites including the War Games Building and Battery Pratt

and the Civil War Fort in the northeast corner of the park, both which offer valuable, interactive glimpses at history.

Home away from home

Over the years Fort Stevens has served as one of my favorite local recreation spots, primarily due to its versatility. There are nine miles of paved trails perfect for bicycling or jogging. Coffenbury Lake is wonderful for swimming, boating and fishing. The lake features a loop trail that is tough to beat for scenery, solitude and wildlife viewing. I've even camped at



Skyler Archibald

ABOVE: Sun shines through the trees at the local state park. **BELOW:** A sunset seen from Fort Stevens State Park.

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