



Tillamook Mayor Suzanne Weber and other residents plant a peace tree in Carnahan Park on Fifth Street in Tillamook.

County's 'peace tree' represents strength after devastation

Trees do plenty of good things, including helping to clean the air. But one tree in Clatsop County stands for peace.

This week marks the 75th anniversary of the atom bombing of Hiroshima, which will soon be followed by the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II.

The county's peace tree, a ginkgo planted in Seaside's Cartwright Park, 1942 S. Franklin St., stands as a reminder that countries can heal from devastating wounds.

Oregon has 45 peace trees, one of the largest plantings of Hiroshima-origin peace trees outside of Japan.

Hiroshima survivor Hideko Tamura-Snider of Medford is co-founder of One Sunny Day Initiatives.

Launched in 2017, her hope was to bring the beautiful shade trees, which have rebounded in her native country, to her adopted state.

Tamura-Snider has been working with Michael Oxendine, an Oregon Community

Trees board member, to obtain and grow the seeds. The seeds come from Green Legacy Hiroshima, which collects them from trees known to have survived the 1945 bombing.

In addition to ginkgo, the group is growing and planting Asian persimmon trees.

The peace trees have been planted across the United States and in 36 countries around the world.

Conservancy plans to repair Tillamook estuary

The Tillamook Bay Estuary could look and act very different soon, a conservation group says.

North Coast Land Conservancy, which is based in Seaside, purchased 73 acres of wetlands south of Tillamook last year. The purchase is the first step in a proposed restoration of the tidal floodplain along the Tillamook River.

Restoration of Tillamook River Wetlands, a collaboration between the conservancy and Tillamook Estuaries Partnership, will complement similar projects already under way on the Miami, Kilchis, Trask and Wilson rivers.

"With this acquisition, and the restoration we're planning, all five major rivers that enter Tillamook Bay Estuary will have seen major progress in restoring wetland salmon-rearing habitat," said Jon Wickersham, the conservancy's associate director.

Many animals depend on the availability of tidal wetlands to complete their life cycle. But much of it on the Oregon Coast has been converted to agriculture and other development.

Activities such as levee construction, diking, draining, and filling have altered or eliminated 85 percent of Tillamook Bay's once-expansive tidal wetlands. It's led to a decline



Wetlands on the Tillamook River.

in the population of many species, including the threatened Oregon Coast coho salmon.

The agency and its partner plan to allow the Tillamook River to return to a large area of its historic floodplain. Currently, the property is separated from the Tillamook River by a berm and four tide gates.

By reconnecting the wetland to the river, the project will restore habitat complexity critical to healthy salmon and trout populations and other wetlands-dependent species,

the group contends.

The property has historically been used for agriculture but has not been actively hayed or used for grazing for more than a decade.

It was purchased from Tillamook Shooters Association, which retained 17 upland acres for possible use as a firearms safety range.

The acquisition was funded, in part, with grants from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife and the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board.

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