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A NEWS UPDATE FROM THE Port of Vancouver USA

FALL 2026



2 Million Subaru Vehicles and Counting

A blue Subaru Trailseeker at the center of a crowd at the Port of Vancouver USA recently marked a major milestone: the 2 millionth Subaru vehicle delivered through the port.

The milestone celebrates a 33-year partnership between the port and Subaru of America, Inc. (SOA) that has supported local jobs, regional economic activity and vehicle imports to customers across the country.

"We take pride in our association with Subaru and the longevity of this successful partnership. Every single one of the 2 million Subaru vehicles that has rolled across our docks equates to jobs," said port CEO Julianna Marler. "We'll keep counting, and we're confident our partnership with Subaru will continue delivering positive benefits to our community for years to come."

The port and SOA recently extended their partnership through 2040, further strengthening a relationship that has grown over more than three decades. The agreement also expands SOA's leasehold at the port from 40 to 43 acres.

The first Subaru arrived at the port on Jan. 7, 1993. More than 30 years later, hundreds of local workers help unload Subaru vehicles from vessels, install accessories and prepare the vehicles for transportation to markets across the country.

In 2023, more than 98,000 Subaru vehicles were delivered through the port, the most in a single year.

The 2 millionth vehicle was a milestone worth celebrating, but was also a reminder of the people and partnerships behind every vehicle that moves across the docks and the economic activity those operations create in our community.

The Power of Partnerships

Julianna Marler, CEO



When the first Subaru (a blue Impreza) rolled across our docks in 1993, a cornerstone was laid.

What we were building was a durable relationship. Fast forward to August 2026 when a crowd cheered the arrival of the 2 millionth Subaru vehicle.

That crowd included longshore workers, stevedores, logistics experts and others who are both responsible for and benefit from the port's 33-year relationship with Subaru.

And relationships are the core of our success. Yes, moving cargo and maintaining assets is important, but relationships truly power this economic engine.

Port activity delivers benefits not only here locally – nearly 20,000 regional jobs – but also prosperity for communities around the globe.

United Grain Corporation, a port partner for 57 years, helps feed the world.

Steel, aluminum (and soon soda ash) that move through here are economic building blocks.

Tenants manufacture and transport products people use every day.

The port and businesses located here will continue to evolve and grow. What won't change is our focus on building trust, providing consistency and offering partnership that can stand the test of time, whether that's 33 years or longer.



Purple Martin Conservation Efforts Mark 15 Years

Fifteen years after the port welcomed its first purple martins, the birds continue to return from South America each spring to nest along the Columbia River. The species remains a Species of Greatest Conservation Need in Washington, where the population is considered low but stable and possibly increasing. Purple martins rely heavily on human-made nesting structures, making habitat programs like the port's key to population health.



The port launched its program in 2011 with 16 nesting gourds at its Columbia River Wetland Mitigation Bank, in partnership with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and volunteer bird experts from Friends of Steigerwald Wildlife Refuge. Today, the habitat includes 40 gourds. Hatchlings were banded for population monitoring beginning in 2011. In 2023, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife determined banding was no longer necessary, citing the program's success. In 2025, the colony reached a record 92 hatchlings.

Port staff continue to monitor the gourds and make adjustments to support each nesting season. 2026 saw 82 hatchlings, marking another successful year.

This year, the conservation effort expanded beyond Vancouver as the Port of Ridgefield installed its own purple martin gourd array in partnership with Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge. The new habitat joins a growing network of nesting sites across Southwest Washington.



Vancouver Bulk Terminal Project Nears Completion

The finish line is in sight for Vancouver Bulk Terminal's new soda ash export facility at Port of Vancouver USA! Soda ash is a naturally-occurring commodity essential for products such as detergents, glass, lithium ion batteries and more. The massive storage building, the largest structure contractor JH Kelly has constructed, is nearly complete, along with the bright blue ship loader and fully enclosed conveyor system that will move soda ash from storage to ship. Construction of the export facility is wrapping up now, with shipments expected to begin in the coming months.



Terminal 1 Dock Project Taking Shape; Public Market on the Horizon

The replacement of the port's century-old Terminal 1 dock on the Vancouver Waterfront entered its final phase this fall, marking another major milestone toward the future public market.

The project has progressed at a pace dictated by "in-water work windows" — four-month portions of the year when construction is allowed in the Columbia River.

Since construction began in 2023, crews have removed the old dock, strengthened the shoreline and improved habitat for fish and other aquatic life. Work on the new dock has continued above the river throughout 2026, with crews installing pile caps, temporary supports and precast concrete deck panels.

From October through January 2027, crews will complete remaining dock and pile elements, install electrical and utility infrastructure and add a protective fendering system designed to help safeguard the dock when river cruise vessels return to Vancouver.

Once the dock is complete, work will shift toward construction of the 40,000-square-foot public market, anticipated to open in 2030. The project will build on Vancouver Landing, the Renaissance Trail and other spaces the public enjoys at Terminal 1.



The port's Terminal 1 development is located on the Vancouver Waterfront next to the I-5 bridge.

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Floating Wetlands Get a Fresh Start

It was a bright, sunny day for getting the port's floating wetlands back in the water.

Floating treatment wetlands are one of the port's nature-based methods of stormwater management. The plants grow on floating platforms covering about 500 square feet, their roots extending into the water below. Those roots help remove algae, heavy metals, nutrients and suspended solids from stormwater while providing habitat for aquatic life.

In June, port staff planted approximately 800 native sedges and rushes across 10 new floating platforms before carefully lowering the completed structures into one of the port's stormwater ponds. The new wetlands replace the original system, which after a decade of service were removed in 2024.

While these wetlands are just one way the port uses nature-based solutions to manage stormwater, the role they play in protecting water quality along the Columbia River is vital.



Port Partnership with Cascadia Tech Earns National Recognition

A unique port partnership to help prepare the next generation of maritime workers is now award-winning!

The Port of Vancouver USA received three awards for supporting the launch of the region's first Maritime Technology Program for high school students in the 2025-26 school year.

At an annual event hosted by the American Association of Port Authorities in September, the port was commended for its partnership with Cascadia Technical Academy that offers tuition-free career and technical education to Southwest Washington high school students.

"From key roles supporting vessel operations to logistics and maintenance, building a strong workforce for the future of the maritime industry is essential," said Julianna Marler, port CEO.

To give students firsthand exposure to the industry, the port made an existing facility along the Columbia River available as a classroom. Cascadia Tech worked with the Port of Vancouver USA along with other regional ports and industry partners to align its curriculum with local employers and Southwest Washington career opportunities.

"We so appreciate our partnership with the Port of Vancouver USA that allowed this maritime training program to come together," said Colton Edmiston, Cascadia Tech's Maritime Technology Program Instructor. "Nothing can inspire high school students to pursue these careers like putting them at a port where they have a front row view to a working river environment."



2026 Tours Wrapped



"Every year, the port hosts 10 free public tours where community members go behind security gates to get a closer look at the work happening every day. September 26 marked the end of my inaugural season as the port's new tour guide, and I'm already excited for next year! It's been rewarding to show the community what a day on the marine terminals looks like, how the Port of Vancouver USA (POV) connects our region to the global market and sharing my favorite fun facts! While this year's tour season has concluded, sign up for our e-newsletter to be notified about next year's tour dates and more. I hope to see you there!"

– Erin Masterson, Community Relations Specialist

***Click here** or scan the QR code to sign up for our newsletter*



The port's new Community Relations Specialist, Erin Masterson, prepares to take tour participants behind the scenes of the port.

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A Packed House for Taming the Mouth

It was a packed house at Vancouver's historic Kiggins Theatre on a warm, sunny evening in late September.

Attendees were there to screen a brand new documentary about the Columbia River jetty system, *Taming the Mouth*. This incredible system makes one of America's most important transportation routes passable for commerce.

For generations, the treacherous waters where the Columbia meets the Pacific earned the nickname "Graveyard of the Pacific." The documentary explores the history, engineering and ongoing work behind the jetties that improve conditions for vessels entering and leaving the river.

Interest in the screening was high, with all 335 seats reserved within a few days. Following the film, attendees were able to ask questions of a panel of filmmakers and industry professionals, including the port's chief commercial officer Alex Strogen who appears in the documentary.

The movement of cargo on the Columbia River supports 40,000 jobs in this region. Keeping this liquid highway navigable requires ongoing maintenance and investment, and the Port of Vancouver USA works with other ports and countless partners to maintain the river's navigation infrastructure.

Taming the Mouth provided hundreds of moviegoers with a glimpse into the how and why these efforts take place.





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To speak to the commissioners by telephone, please call the port office at 360-693-3611 for contact information.

Written comments can be addressed to:

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3103 NW Lower River Road
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Starting the school year strong

Port employees and partner organizations came together this summer to collect school supplies for students across Vancouver Public Schools. We were happy to donate folders, pens and other supplies to the Foundation for Vancouver Public Schools and help local kids start the school year with the things they need to succeed.

Follow Us on Instagram!

Follow @portvanusa for stunning photos and fun facts about trains, grains, cranes and all the great work we do here at the Port of Vancouver USA.

BE SURE TO FOLLOW US ON ALL OUR SOCIAL CHANNELS:

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