

NATURAL RESOURCE MITIGATION

Wetland banking means investing today in wetland improvements for tomorrow's development. Wetland banks provide an opportunity to proactively build and improve healthy wetlands, ensuring they are in place and functional before development occurs.

The port in partnership with Clark County Mitigation Partners LLC, and Ducks Unlimited created the Columbia River Wetland Mitigation Bank, the first of its kind in Clark County. Located adjacent to Vancouver Lake, the bank provides a highly effective way to preserve valuable habitat and ensure responsible development by improving wetlands in the Lower Columbia River watershed. The Columbia River Wetland Mitigation Bank enhances approximately 88 acres of wetlands, creates an additional 27.1 acres of wetlands and improves other natural areas, including songbird habitat.

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP / BY THE NUMBERS



155-ACRE

wetland mitigation bank supporting numerous bird and plant species



1,950+

square feet bird-safe window treatments



435 K

average tons of scrap metal recycled by port tenants yearly



1,260

plants treating stormwater in floating wetlands



100%

electricity offset through renewable energy certificates



1.6M+

annual energy savings of kilowatt hours due to lighting system upgrades throughout the port

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP



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OUR ENVIRONMENT OUR REGION

At the Port of Vancouver USA, we believe that a strong economy and healthy environment are vital to a strong region. By incorporating pollution prevention measures, habitat management, and sound environmental practices into our daily operations, the port is protecting our natural resources while strengthening the region's economy.

WATER

STORMWATER TREATMENT

The port's stormwater management program uses a variety of best management practices to handle stormwater. Runoff from port property is treated through the use of detention ponds, bio-filtration systems, swales, hydrodynamic separation units and filter vaults before it is released to surface waters.

PROTECTING DRINKING WATER

We were one of the first U.S. ports to implement a drinking water Environmental Management System with a comprehensive approach to drinking water protection and contamination prevention. The port's water system provides clean drinking water for industrial tenants, marine vessels, irrigation and fire protection, meeting or exceeding state and federal health standards.

Port staff Mary Mattix and Matt Graves adding plants to a Grattix unit.



INNOVATIVE STORMWATER SOLUTIONS

The port has a variety of industry-leading programs designed to preserve and protect our region's water quality. Two examples of innovative designs created by our environmental team are highlighted below.

GRATTIX

Basically a rain garden in a box, this system removes zinc in stormwater from galvanized metal roofs and downspouts on the terminal. Inventors Matt Graves and Mary Mattix call the stormwater treatment system the Grattix (a combination of their last names), but many others in the environmental community are just calling it innovative, inexpensive and effective.



Floating Treatment Wetlands.

FLOATING TREATMENT WETLANDS (FTW)

Designed to reduce metals in the port's Terminal 4 stormwater detention pond, which can be harmful to fish in the Columbia River, FTWs use buoyant material that floats on top of a body of water. Vegetation planted on top forces roots to grow down into the water, attracting and absorbing sediments and metals. Environmental Manager Matt Graves and Environmental Specialist Phil Martello took a DIY approach to FTW construction.

LAND

Sustainability has come to the forefront in the wake of increased global understanding that economics, environmental health and human well-being are interconnected and interdependent. The Port of Vancouver USA has taken a leadership role in understanding and promoting sustainability, including how we approach land management.

MITIGATION

The port's mitigation efforts, which include enhancement, restoration, creation and preservation of trees, wetlands and riparian areas, are aimed at offsetting unavoidable impacts due to development. The port continues to monitor our mitigation sites beyond regulatory requirements.

BROWNFIELD REDEVELOPMENT

The port has inherited contamination from historic uses at several older sites. We work closely with environmental regulators to remediate these sites for redevelopment. Over 250 acres of land have been successfully remediated and returned to productive industrial use. Current port programs aim to protect property to avoid the need for future cleanup efforts.

GOOD STEWARDS

The port's Tenant Environmental Management Program is a comprehensive approach to minimizing environmental impacts associated with our approximately 50 tenants. This program assesses a tenant's environmental needs prior to entering a lease with the port



Port staff show youth the wildlife present around the port.

and remains in place through the end of the lease term. Successful program elements include tenant pre-screening; periodic audits of environmental practices; outreach and communication; sharing best management practices; and inspecting property condition prior to tenant departure.

AIR

Our commitment to the environment extends to the air around us. The port has taken steps to reduce the carbon footprint associated with electricity consumption by purchasing Green e-certified Renewable Energy Credits equivalent to 100 percent of our estimated annual electricity usage. To reduce emissions, the port uses ultra-low sulfur diesel in all equipment, implemented a successful anti-idling initiative, added two hybrids to the vehicle fleet, and performed an emission inventory. It also established an appointment system for cargo receipt and delivery to reduce gate wait times, and have introduced flex schedules and other commute trip reduction options for employees.

The port's efforts to protect air quality help ensure that our region continues to meet local, state and federal ambient air quality standards.

BIRD-SAFE PROGRAM

The port's location along the Pacific Flyway, a north-south migratory flight path, coupled with its proximity to the Columbia River and Vancouver Lake Lowlands, makes the area ideal habitat for many types of migratory and resident birds. It also increases the importance of bird-safe buildings, a concept based on the link between avian injuries and building strikes.

Efforts to reduce the potential for avian building strikes at select port buildings include installation of non-reflective coverings on the exterior of high-risk windows. The coverings allow staff working inside the building to see out, but present a visible and physical barrier to our passing avian friends.

