



# PORT OF KENNEWICK

## PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

### **Port of Kennewick transforming Clover Island into a destination waterfront** *Community gathered to celebrate improved shoreline and public pathway*

*Kennewick, Wash.*—On Thursday, May 12, 2011 a crowd of more than 100 people gathered on the Columbia River shoreline levee to help the Port of Kennewick celebrate completion of habitat and recreation improvements to Clover Island's western shoreline. The shoreline was reshaped to enhance salmon habitat, and recreational and aesthetic improvements were completed in the form of landscaping; three scenic viewpoints; and a new shoreline trail. The Clover Island Riverfront Trail now offers safe pedestrian access to and from the island from downtown Kennewick and the regional Sacagawea Heritage Trail.

The \$700,000 west causeway project was a joint effort between the Port of Kennewick and the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Funding Board which provided a \$500,000 Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account grant to the Port. Larry Peterson, the Port's director of planning and development indicated that 8,000 tons of rock; 10,000 tons of dirt; 1,800 tons of topsoil; and nearly 7,000 plants were used in the project. In addition, ten large trees with root wads were placed below the water line to create a more complex shoreline—port staff identified, stored, and eventually recycled those trees, after the Washington State Department of Transportation removed them from the base of the Pioneer Memorial Bridge (blue bridge) during a highway 240 widening project.

According to Port officials, the 16-acre Clover Island visible today, was created by placing earthen fill on the highest part of the original, 162-acre island before McNary Dam was built in 1953. Over the years, concrete was used to control shoreline erosion and habitat

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became further degraded. The resulting shoreline was linear, simple, and sterile. The Port of Kennewick, which owns Clover Island, determined thriving fish and wildlife communities were a desirable urban amenity. Following the Commission's acceptance of the Clover Island Shoreline Improvement Plan in 2008, port staff began the process of permitting and applying for grants to enhance shoreline habitat and expand public access to the Columbia River waterfront.

Beginning in late 2010, the island causeway's western riverbank was reshaped to provide a shallower, more complex configuration beneficial to endangered salmon; and the concrete cavities, where salmon predators could lurk, were removed. Vegetation was added to provide shade, leaf litter, and insects to feed fish. The island's western causeway is now a spatially-complex, organic, living shoreline.

The west causeway project was the second phase of the overall Clover Island improvements which began in 2009/2010 when the Port constructed the entrance arch, lighthouse, and lighthouse plaza in partnership with the City of Kennewick. Those first-phase improvements were funded in part by a City of Kennewick Community Development Block Grant of \$322,350.

According to Tim Arntzen, Port of Kennewick executive director, the improvements to shoreline habitat and recreation represent an economic development partnership. Stated Arntzen, "We are transforming Clover Island; we're creating a 'sense of place' and a more desirable location for business. In short, we're creating a destination waterfront for the community, for visitors, and for future generations." Arntzen noted that the project wouldn't have been possible without the investment of local, state and federal grant dollars. "Our partners made significant investments in both recreation and habitat restoration," he said. "We truly feel that these improvements will become a catalyst for urban renewal of the community's waterfront and historic downtown Kennewick."

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