

Welcome to Sacajawea State Park and Interpretive Center, the place where two rivers meet. The mingling of these waters symbolizes the gathering place of many peoples and many cultures. The confluence of the Snake and Columbia rivers has long been a place of reunion, celebration and song.

## History



During the last Ice Age, the confluence of the Snake and Columbia rivers looked very different. Rushing floodwaters were slowed by the narrow opening at Wallula Gap, backing up to form a huge temporary lake. Repeated floods covered

the area under as much as 800 feet of water in a temporary slack-water basin now known as Lake Lewis.

For thousands of years, the site of Sacajawea State Park was a traditional gathering, fishing and trading place for Native peoples. Sahaptian-speaking Indians came to trade and to catch and dry fish for winter. Some people remained through the winter at this popular gathering place.

On Oct. 16, 1805, the Lewis and Clark Corps of Discovery arrived at the confluence of the two rivers and stayed for two nights. They explored the area and traded with the friendly Native people before paddling down the Columbia River to the Pacific Coast. The park was eventually named for Sacagawea, the Agaiduka Shoshoni Indian woman who accompanied the Expedition.

The Northern Pacific Railroad established a construction site at the confluence of the Snake and Columbia rivers in 1879. The site quickly grew

into a town, which the railroad company named Ainsworth. The town peaked with a population of 1,500 people, but after Northern Pacific moved its construction work to other locations, the town eventually disappeared. Today, most of the original town site is within Sacajawea State Park.

In 1927, Thomas and Stacie Carstens donated an acre of land to the Daughters of the Pioneers of Washington — Pasco Chapter to help preserve the original Corps of Discovery campsite. The women hand carried buckets of water to care for trees they planted to mark

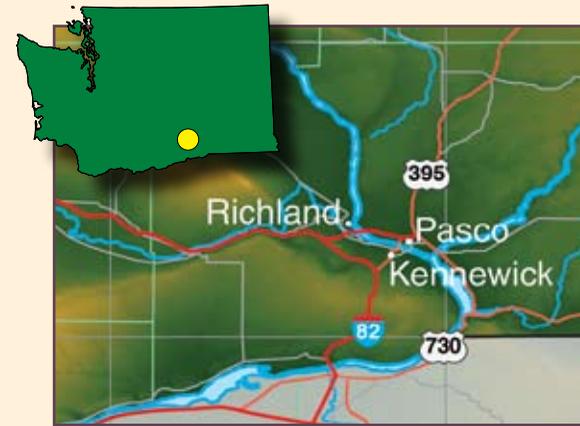


*In 1927, Captain William P. Gray, Pasco Mayor Alvin Parker Gray and his wife and others place a marker at the Corps of Discovery campsite.*

the location of the campsite and led the effort to erect the monument that still stands today. In 1931, the women deeded the land to Washington state, and the land was designated as a state park.

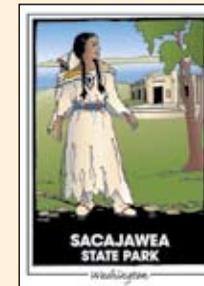
With support from the local communities and the state, the Works Progress Administration (WPA) constructed a museum at the park in 1938. The Sacajawea Museum was built to display Native American artifacts from the tribes of the Columbia Plateau. The museum, now known as the Sacajawea Interpretive Center, and three other WPA buildings are still in use.

Today, visitors to Sacajawea State Park can enjoy many activities, including picnicking, swimming,



**Sacajawea State Park**  
2503 Sacajawea Park Road  
Pasco, WA 99301  
(509) 545-2361

Located five miles southeast of Pasco, at the confluence of the Snake and Columbia rivers.



**State parks information:**  
(360) 902-8844  
or [www.parks.wa.gov](http://www.parks.wa.gov)

The park is open to day use only.

Summer: 6:30 a.m. to dusk.  
Winter: Closed Oct. 29,  
re-opens March 28.

### Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission



P.O. Box 42650  
Olympia, WA 98504-2650  
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[www.parks.wa.gov](http://www.parks.wa.gov)

Commission members:

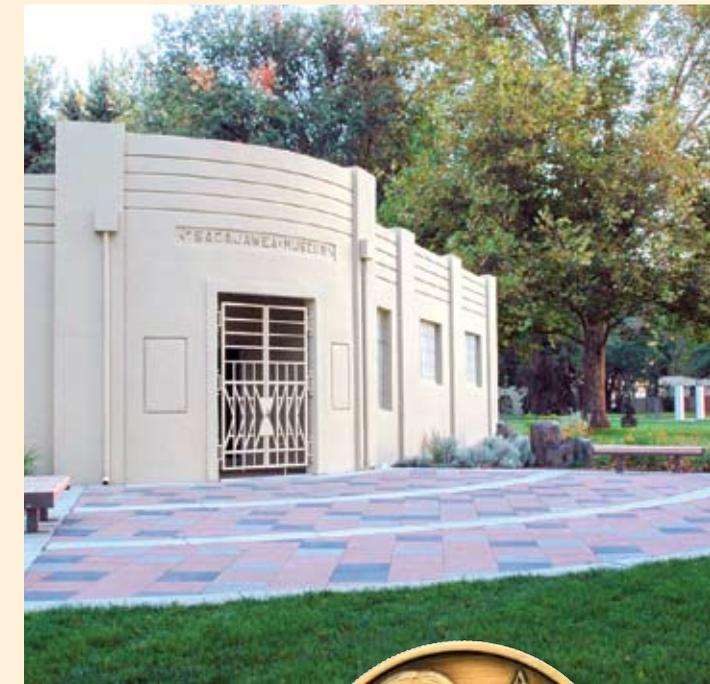
Mickey Fearn	Joe Taller
Fred Olson	Joan Thomas
Bob Petersen	Cecilia Vogt
Eliot Scull	

Agency director: Rex Derr

*Washington state parks are developed and maintained for the enjoyment of all people.*

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# Your guide to Sacajawea State Park and Interpretive Center



boating, fishing, bicycling, hiking, bird watching and wildlife viewing. A volleyball court and two horseshoe pits also are available. The park plays host to a variety of special events and festivals (for a schedule, visit online at [www.parks.wa.gov](http://www.parks.wa.gov)).

### Sacajawea Interpretive Center

The interpretive center at Sacajawea State Park is an outstanding display of the meeting of cultures at the confluence of the Snake and



Columbia rivers. The Corps of Discovery, Sacagawea, the Sahaptian-speaking Native Americans and area history are the focus of the exhibits. Visitors can touch items, listen to songs and feel what it was like to pull a bow or use a pestle. The interpretive center is normally open seven days a week from April through October. Call the park office or visit the Web site. for current hours.

Versión en español del texto principal de la exhibición. Ya que termine su tour del centro interpretativo, por favor devuelva ésta guía a la recepción.



-  Hiking
-  Boating
-  Ranger station
-  Fishing
-  Swimming
-  Picnic area
-  Boat launch
-  Parking
-  Campsite
-  Moorage buoy
-  Park boundary

