

Frequently Asked Questions about the Building Expansion and Remodel Campaign



Q. Why is the building expansion and remodel needed?

A. At present, all classes, programs, and meetings must compete for the use of the building's single room that also houses science exhibits and teaching materials. Staff must make the best of a narrow, cramped office. Storage is in short supply for chairs and tables and for programming and educational materials. The nearest parking lot is small, and the access road is in danger of washing away from river flooding. This severely limits our capacity to serve the community.

Q. What will the project include?

A. The project includes expansion of the current building, adding more than 5,000 square feet of space for education, offices, and community meetings. Visits to the Center will be enhanced by:

- a soaring atrium, community meeting room and separate classroom
- expanded area for interpretive exhibits
- a commercial kitchen and concession stand
- additional parking spaces out of the flood plain
- improved access to the Center and the Olympic Discovery Trail

Q. When will it be complete?

A. The first step, the parking lot expansion and new entry road, will begin in 2018. Dependent on meeting our overall funding goal, the building expansion and remodel is scheduled for completion by 2020.

Q. How much will it cost?

A. The total project cost is estimated at \$2.9 million. As of June 2018, lead contributors have pledged or donated 40 percent of the project's cost. Please see the budget page for details.

Q. Is Railroad Bridge Park a public park?

A. Yes and No. The Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe owns the land and facilities at the Center. A 2008 agreement among the Tribe, the Dungeness River Audubon Center (DRAC), and the Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society (OPAS) assures the Tribe will guarantee public access in perpetuity and provide other services to maintain the property. Public grant funds have provided for the acquisition of most of the land and facilities. There are no public taxes or regular public funding for development of new facilities, or on-going operations and management.

Q. How did the Tribe become a partner?

A. When the founders received state funding to purchase Railroad Bridge Park land next to the Olympic Discovery Trail and to build their natural history center, they needed a government sponsor. No other local entity felt able to accept the responsibility. The Tribe generously agreed to be the sponsor as a way to contribute to the community.

Q. How does the Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe contribute to the Center?

A. When the Tribal Council agreed to become the governmental sponsor for the Park and Center in 1993, they did so with the understanding that all of the River Center partners would share the responsibility for governance and direct services. The Tribe provides facilities maintenance and utilities; personnel administration; grants for educational programming; and staff time for project planning, implementation, and administration.

Q. How does the Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society contribute?

A. The Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society (OPAS) donates bird and other wildlife expertise, volunteers, funding, and other valuable support for Center programs and events year-round.

Q. How are the three partners contributing to the expansion and remodel?

A. One hundred percent of the 15-member DRAC Board has contributed to this capital campaign, as well as 100 percent of our Capital Campaign Committee, and 100 percent of the OPAS Board. The Tribal Council is contributing more than 30 percent of the total cost of the project. We are also reaching out to our members, partner members, and others in our community who support the River Center’s mission and its endeavors.

Q. Have you applied for grant funds for the River Center?

A. Yes. We began applying for grants in March 2017 and will continue to do so until we reach our campaign goal.

Q. How can I contribute?

A. You may give securely online at www.dungenessrivercenter.org. Click the DONATE button and select Building Fund. You may also mail your contribution. Checks may be made out to Building Fund and sent to the Dungeness River Audubon Center, PO Box 2450, Sequim, WA 98382. The Dungeness River Audubon Center is a 501 c 3 non-profit organization (EIN 91-1632949). Contributions are tax deductible to the extent of the law.

Q. Who should I contact if I have questions or want to get involved?

A. Contact Director Powell Jones at 360-681-4076 or Capital Campaign Chair Annette Hanson at 360-670-6774.