



Community Nature Center

At the Ridgefield NWR Complex

Ridgefield, Washington

Project Update

Home to Incredible Stories

The Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge Complex is home to a living legacy of indigenous peoples, critical habitats, and species recovery. From accessible trails and hunting opportunities to cultural connections and family-focused education, your local Refuges provide diverse experiences for Southwest Washington communities to discover their personal connection to native fish and wildlife.

Gateway to Nature

With the help of partners like the City and Port of Ridgefield, local schools and area Tribes, significant progress has been made toward creating safe and inclusive access to the Refuge. However, we recognize the unmet ability to provide a transitional space for a diversity of audiences. A Community Nature Center is the missing element to provide a welcoming portal for everyone to see themselves as part of the landscape.

A Place for Shared Goals

The Center will integrate community, culture, education, and nature through accessible sensory experiences and multigenerational engagement. It will serve as a hub for wellness, natural resource career planning, wildlife observation, cultural and environmental education, interpretation and nature play. The facility will also provide increased ABA access and parking and customer service, that are currently unmet needs of our communities.

Honoring Community Voices

Community involvement has been essential in seeing this Center become a reality. Through partner support we have held public listening sessions and stakeholder focus groups to understand how this space can serve as a meaningful resource for the region. From building design to program planning we continue to seek unheard voices.



Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge Complex

- Welcomes 300,000 annual visitors (and growing)
- Engages 20,000 annual community members through programming on-site and in local neighborhoods
- Includes two high priority Urban National Wildlife Refuges, (Ridgefield and Steigerwald Lake) serving communities of the lower Columbia river

Project Status

- Phase 1: USFWS administrative building currently under construction and projected completion in August 2021
- Phase 2: Community Nature Center ranks as the #1 priority visitor center for the USFWS in the Pacific Region, programmed for FY22 at 5.3 million, but is currently not funded
- Updated construction cost for Phase 2 is \$7.79 million, based on 2020 estimates
- The USFWS is seeking partial funds to support access through Federal Highways project funding in the amount of 2.6 million
- The USFWS, Friends of the Refuge and community partners are moving building design from 30% to 100% in FY 21. The design will include LEED design standards and energy modeling

For more information:

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