

THE LAND...THE TRIBE...THE WATER...THE HISTORY

Both implicit and explicit in our mission is a deep understanding and acknowledgement that we are gathered on the lands of tribal members who loved this place long before settlers arrived, and who love it still. The McKenzie River Discovery Center honors and respects this history as well as the ongoing life's work and native influence of the tribes in the Willamette Valley watershed and beyond. Embedded in the Discovery Center will be opportunities to learn of native histories through stories, artifacts, demonstrations, and hands-on experiences both virtual and real. We are turning to our tribal friends, especially the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde, to help us shape these dimensions of indigenous culture in ways that both complement and contrast with the central storylines.

THE MISSION

Our mission is to create, develop, and sustain an exceptional, world-class educational and experiential portal to the McKenzie River and Valley. This portal will be anchored by a state-of-the-art Discovery Center that will weave convergent and compelling storylines linking the Valley's unusual geology, hydrology and ecology to the ways these have shaped the history of human settlement and use of the river. This Discovery Center will educate, illuminate, entertain, and engender a sense of wonder, as well as provide an opportunity to learn directly from the people who have shaped and been shaped by this landscape.

THE PAVILION

In line with our mission, we will create a state-of-the-art immersive and interactive visitor pavilion that will provide contemporary experiences that engage the visitor and tell the story of the McKenzie River in three "Story Zones:" River & Watershed, Fish & Ecology, and Boats & Guides.

Main Hall Education

Geology – Multiple touch screen and immersive displays will take the visitor on a journey through time and space that spans millions of years and thousands of miles, yet they will walk away with an understanding and appreciation of why the McKenzie is so unique and important to the region.

Climate – To understand the McKenzie is, in part, to understand the region's climate. Using multiple large touch screens, visitors will see how moist winds from the ocean, blowing from the west (climate) interact with the mountains (topography) and the young lava flows (geology) to set up this very unusual (at the global scale) geologic sponge that stores water (whether as rain or snow) and releases it slowly, mostly through big springs.

Region History – Our next exhibit deals with the history of the McKenzie River and surrounding area: the indigenous native American peoples, the settlers, the lumber and timber industries, the development of the drift boat unique to the McKenzie, and how this one main source of pure water travels from the high elevation aquifers hidden deep in lava beds, all the way down to join the Willamette River, bringing life to a good portion of the Willamette Valley.

River Guide Experience – In the center of the hall, visitors will be able to climb into a computer controlled, hand-made drift boat, attached to a 6 degrees of freedom motion base, surrounded by a high-resolution image system, to pilot down the McKenzie in real-time.



Salmon Splash – This is a big one for the little kids! Here we have a very tactile display of a shallow riverbed where salmon and trout can be seen life size working their way up- stream to spawn.

Whitewater Run Experience – Here we have repeated some of the technical components of the “Guide” experience and ramped them up to mimic in real-time a “Whitewater Rafting” adventure. One added feature of this experience will be allowing the guests to get an up close and personal lesson in water safety, including correct behavior and survival techniques when traveling on the river.

Rocks, Rivers, Trails & Trips – On the East wall of the Main Hall, there will be an exhibit focusing on all the wonderful places in the region that can be visited after you leave the MRDC.

East Hall Education

Fly Tying Tricks-n-Tips – This exhibit offers a tactile experience that will combine large format touch and gesture screen technology, marrying AR/XR/MR technology as an overlay, to help clearly illustrate the unique craftsmanship involved in the creation of various types of “flies” used to catch the McKenzie River fish.



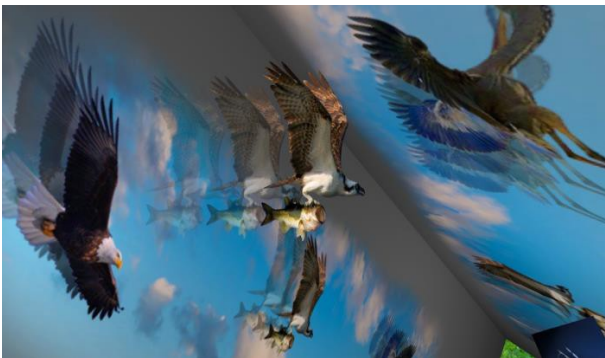
Trout Cam – Directly across the river from the MRDC site is the Leaburg Dam and the adjacent Leaburg Hatchery. This exhibit will be a live, 24/7 video feed, both underwater and above, that will give guests an up-close look at the hatchery fish and day-to-day operations.

Fly Fishing “LIVE” – This exhibit takes the guests to a virtual wading spot on the edge of the river to a popular fishing hole. Guests will see the full rod and fishing rod perform just like the real thing. There will be instructional grid overlays that teach the right arc of the cast, with virtual fish to catch. A fun and lifelike experience.

Boats of the McKenzie – There are approximately 22 boats and Native American canoes in the region that could be part of the collection. Hanging boats throughout, each with QR code for phone interaction and content exploration, and live demonstrations and lectures regarding boat building.

Build a Boat – This exhibit takes the viewer step by step through the boat building process via a series of high-quality personalized video demonstrations with a small “live” woodworking shop at the end of the hall.

The River's Edge – Here we find a touch screen interactive display dealing with all the plants and animals that live along the river. Directly adjacent to the touch display will be a photo mural of a beautiful section of the McKenzie River, approximately 10 feet tall and 30 feet long.



Fish Got to Swim – This is a fun whimsical and real 360 dome video experience, that takes the guests on an underwater adventure up the rivers and streams, from the ocean as an adult Steelhead, and then back down stream all the way to the sea again, as an egg, hatchling, fry and finally, a juvenile and young adult.

Birds got to Fly – As we wander through the exhibits, there will be projections on walls, ceiling and scrims depicting all the different birds that inhabit the region. Eagles, herons, hawks, owls and more will all be presented with these live captured or photo real computer graphics.