

# La Center Bottoms Natural Area

## 4<sup>th</sup> Street, La Center

La Center Bottoms is a 166-acre wetland complex along 3,500 feet of shoreline of the East Fork Lewis River. It is part of a large greenway system to protect habitat along the river. The wetlands flood during high spring flows creating diverse habitat for wildlife to call home. The property is one of three state-designated "Watchable Wildlife" sites in the county. Facilities include a 0.66-mile crushed gravel walking trail, viewing blinds, and interpretive signage. The property abuts the City's Sternwheeler Park where parking is available just west of the park off of Aspen Avenue at the city facilities lot.

This property was purchased, in part, with Conservation Futures funds in 1993.

Trail condition: Easy Moderate Difficult

### Directions:

From the I-5 and La Center Road exit, go east towards the city. As soon as you cross over the river, turn east (right) on Aspen Ave. and make an immediate right. Parking is available at the lot at the bottom of the hill by the city facilities. Follow the trail through Sternwheeler Park.

### Facilities:

Walking trails - gravel surface  
No paved trails  
No restrooms in natural area  
No potable water  
No trash facilities

### Fees:

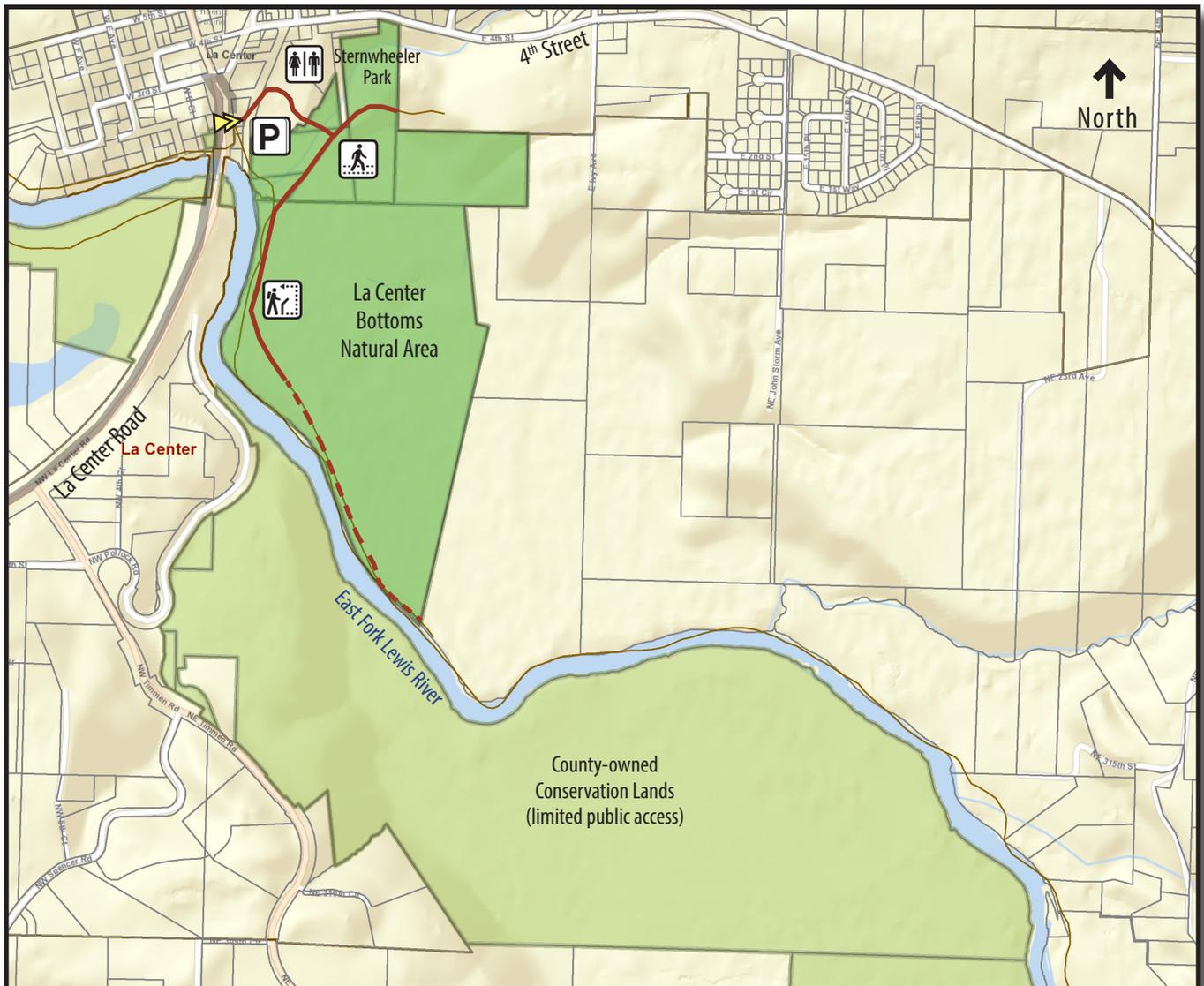
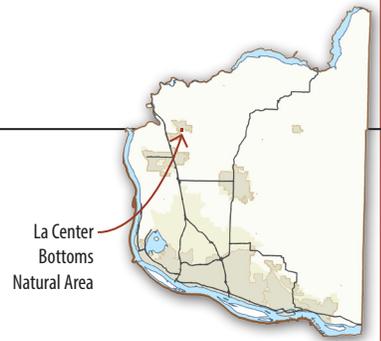
None

### Hours:

7 am to Dusk

### Legend:

-  Parking
-  Gravel Trail
-  Informal Foot trails
-  Access
-  Interpretive Information
-  Restrooms



[www.clark.wa.gov/legacylands](http://www.clark.wa.gov/legacylands)

0 1/8 mile 1/4 mile

01/2015

## See and do

- Hike 0.66 miles of gravel trails into the wetland areas. A mowed trail continues for several hundred feet. The trails are level to gently sloping throughout the property.
- The wetlands have been the focus of stewardship projects to replant native plants and remove invasive species. Bring your plant identification books and scout out your favorite flowers along the trail.
- As a "Washington Watchable Wildlife" site, you don't have to work too far to spot a variety of species that live along the river corridor. The site is home to many insects, reptiles, amphibians, and mammals.
- Bring your binoculars as this site is amazing for bird watching. A wildlife blind and interpretive panel describes some of the species common to the area.
- The East Fork Lewis River is a high quality river that is home to many protected fish species such as salmon and trout.
- Pack a picnic and rest in the City's Sternwheeler park just up the slope from the wetlands area. It is a beautiful park with numerous features and amenities.

## Need more information?

Visit [www.clark.wa.gov/legacylands](http://www.clark.wa.gov/legacylands)

Volunteer opportunities are available at this site.

Contact the volunteer coordinator at [www.parkhero.org](http://www.parkhero.org).

## Did you know?

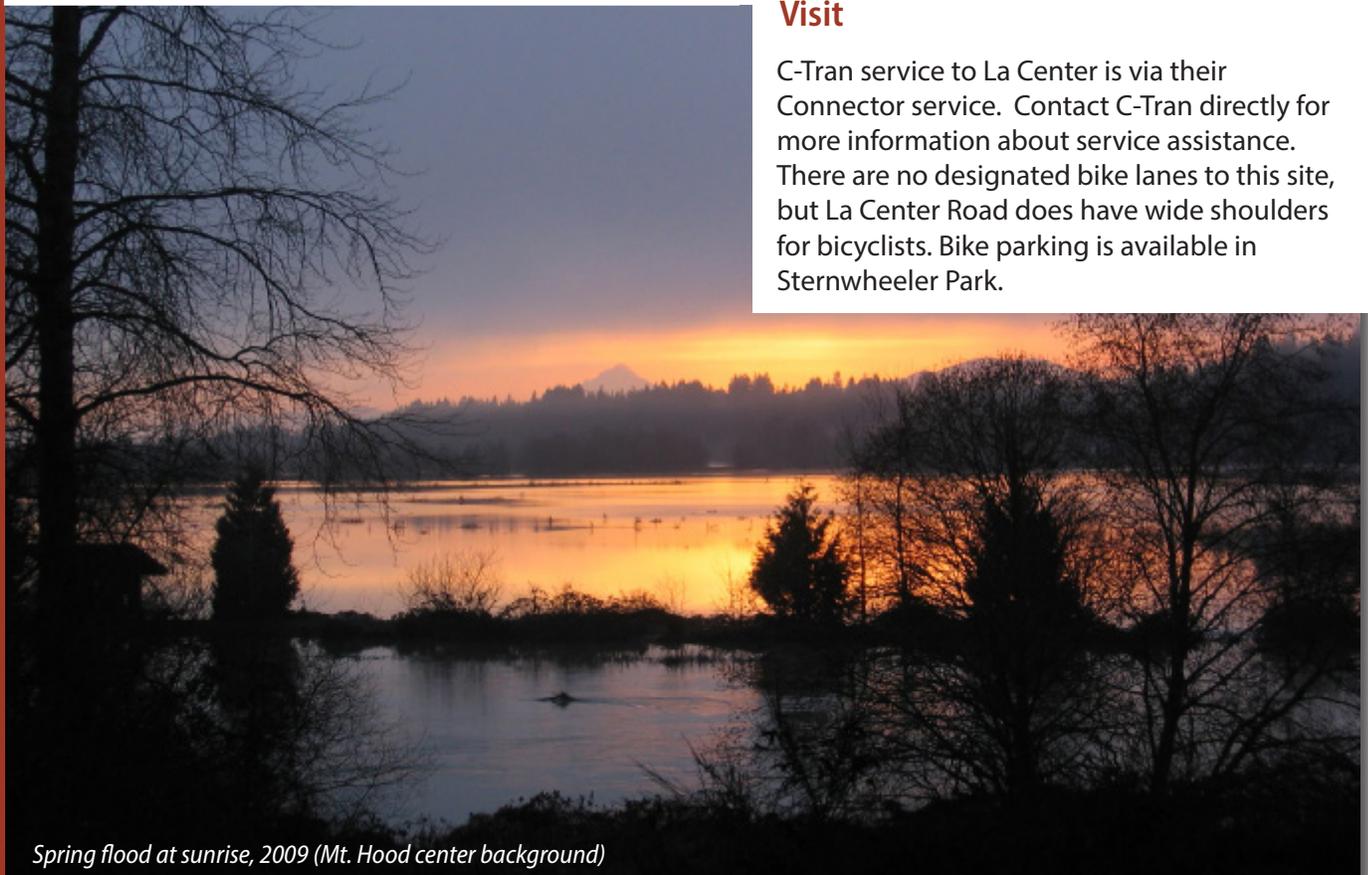
La Center Bottoms Natural Area is in the East Fork Lewis River watershed. The East Fork Lewis River watershed covers over 210 square miles. The majority of the watershed is in Clark County, but 25% is in Skamania County. In 2010, the watershed ranked from "poor" to "fair" in this portion of the watershed due to low biological quality. Restoration projects, like the restoration plantings on this site, will help protect the watershed for years.

## Know when you go

- The natural area is open from 7 am until dusk.
- There are no parking fees.
- The trail access is from the parking area off of Aspen Ave.
- Stay on the trails to minimize damage to plants.
- There are no trash or restroom facilities available on site, although facilities may be available at Sternwheeler Park. Be prepared for your visit.
- Pack out all trash from the site and dispose of properly off-site.
- Given the sensitive wildlife habitat on site, dogs are not recommended for this property.

## Visit

C-Tran service to La Center is via their Connector service. Contact C-Tran directly for more information about service assistance. There are no designated bike lanes to this site, but La Center Road does have wide shoulders for bicyclists. Bike parking is available in Sternwheeler Park.



*Spring flood at sunrise, 2009 (Mt. Hood center background)*

