



tumwata village

## Frequently Asked Questions

### What is Tumwata Village?

Tumwata Village is the name of the 23-acre site owned by the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde on the banks of the Willamette River near Willamette Falls in Oregon City. The site had formerly been home to the Blue Heron paper mill.

### When did the Grand Ronde Tribe acquire the property?

The Tribe acquired the property from a private owner in 2019.

### Why did the Tribe want to own this site?

The Tribe's connection to Willamette Falls goes back ages. Lands in the area were once home to the Grand Ronde's ancestors, including the village of the Clowewalla – the Willamette band of Tumwaters – and the Kosh-huk-shix Village of Clackamas people. They lived in the area and hunted and fished, both for sustenance and ceremonially. The federal government forcibly removed the tribal populations from the Willamette Falls area beginning in 1855. With the 2019 acquisition of the site at Willamette Falls, the Grand Ronde Tribe reclaimed part of its history and its role as stewards of the land and the falls.

### What does the Tribe plan to do at the site?

The Tribe's vision for the site includes environmental and cultural restoration alongside thoughtful new development and restored public access. Focused around the central idea of healing, the vision is also guided by the values of spirit, place, people and prosperity. You can learn more about our vision for Tumwata Village here.

### Has any work been done yet?

The Grand Ronde Tribe has already made significant progress in bringing its vision for Tumwata Village to life. After announcing its vision in early 2021, the Tribe received an \$800,000 environmental restoration grant from the Environmental Protection Agency. The first round of demolition at the site began in September 2021, and a second round commenced in April 2022. In the coming years, there will be further rounds of demolition, as well as environmental restoration, improved public access and mixed-use development that will visually and physically connect to the restored landscape.

### What kind of environmental cleanup needs to be done?

Because the site was used for industrial purposes for more than 100 years, there is the possibility that some hazardous substances are on the property and need to be removed. The Tribe will be testing for and removing these substances, as well as decommissioning underground storage tanks.

### When will Tumwata Village be completed?

The Tribe anticipates that work at Tumwata Village project will take place over multiple years, with no firm completion date due to the nature of such a complex and unique restoration and development project.

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For more information, please contact the Grand Ronde Tribe at 503-879-5211 or [media@grandronde.org](mailto:media@grandronde.org).

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