

KLOOTCHY CREEK COUNTY PARK

Location:	Located north of Hwy. 26 at milepost 2
Size:	25 total acres
Ownership Status:	County owned
Land-use zone:	Recreation Management (RM)
Classification:	Shared-use, Gateway

Description/Natural Features:

The park area is composed of a remnant coastal temperate rainforest. The largest Sitka spruce tree in Oregon and the U.S., as registered by American Forests' *National Register of Big Trees*, is located in the park:

- Species: *Picea Sitchensis*
- Circumference: 56'
- Height: 206'
- Crown Spread: 93'
- Age: 750+ years

In 1997, the Heritage Tree Committee, Oregon Travel Council, dedicated this tree as the state's first Tree Site.

This is a popular day-use facility located north of Highway 26. The main attraction at this site is the Big Spruce Tree, trails, and the observation platform. Picnicking is available. There are approximately 3,000 linear feet of river frontage along the Necanicum River for fishing. There is a small boat launch site for non-motorized boats.

Facility Inventory:

- Observation platform
- Garbage receptacle
- Chemical toilets
- Rock and log barricades to restrict vehicle parking
- 75' long concrete and steel stringer bridge over the Necanicum River from Highway 26 to the park
- A five-foot fence line along the east side of the park, between County and Weyerhaeuser Company property
- Picnic tables

Geological Significance:

The park area is located along the Necanicum River flood plain and does partially flood in the winter during periods of very high tides and heavy



storms

History:

Kloutchy Creek Park has been in existence since the 1940s when it was under private ownership. Crown Zellerbach Corporation developed the park as a campground and picnic area to take advantage of the “Big Spruce Tree” and access to the Necanicum River for a boat launch site and for fishing. Campsites, restroom facilities, water, and garbage receptacles were available for visitors. When Crown Zellerbach was sold to a foreign investor in 1986, the new company became Cavenham Forest Industries. Kloutchy Creek Park soon became surplus property and Cavenham sold the land to the county.

Acquisition by County:

Clatsop County purchased 4 parcels of land, known as Kloutchy Creek Park, and totaling 25 acres, from Cavenham Forest Industries on August 12, 1988. Purchase price was \$36,700. At the time of purchase, the park had 19 campsites, 9 picnic tables, 13 fireplaces and 4 outdoor toilets.

To enhance the size of the park, Clatsop County purchased 16.33 acres from the Carl W. Salser Trust on July 8, 1996 for \$80,000. It is unclear if a Resolution and Order has been given to this property by the Board to declare this as a county park.

