

## Beauty of Longview

*Longview lands on Forbes' list of most beautiful towns, The Daily News Apr 2, 2012*



### Lake Sacajawea (*From Wikipedia*)

Lake Sacajawea is a man-made lake in Longview, Washington. It is named after the Shoshone woman named Sacajawea who guided Meriwether Lewis and William Clark during their expedition to the Pacific Ocean. The lake is made up of four sections, each separated by a bridged road. Several small parks are part of the larger Lake Sacajawea Park. Lake Sacajawea Park is a 67-acre park in the middle of the city. The lake's water is pumped into the north end from the Cowlitz River and flows to the south end where it exits into the Columbia River.

### Construction

A former slough, Lake Sacajawea was created during the construction of Longview. The lake was constructed in 1924 when what was then known as Fowler's Slough was dredged. Prior to dredging, Fowler's Slough was a channel of the Cowlitz River.

This project was part of the larger project of founding the town of Longview by Robert A. Long.

### Japanese garden

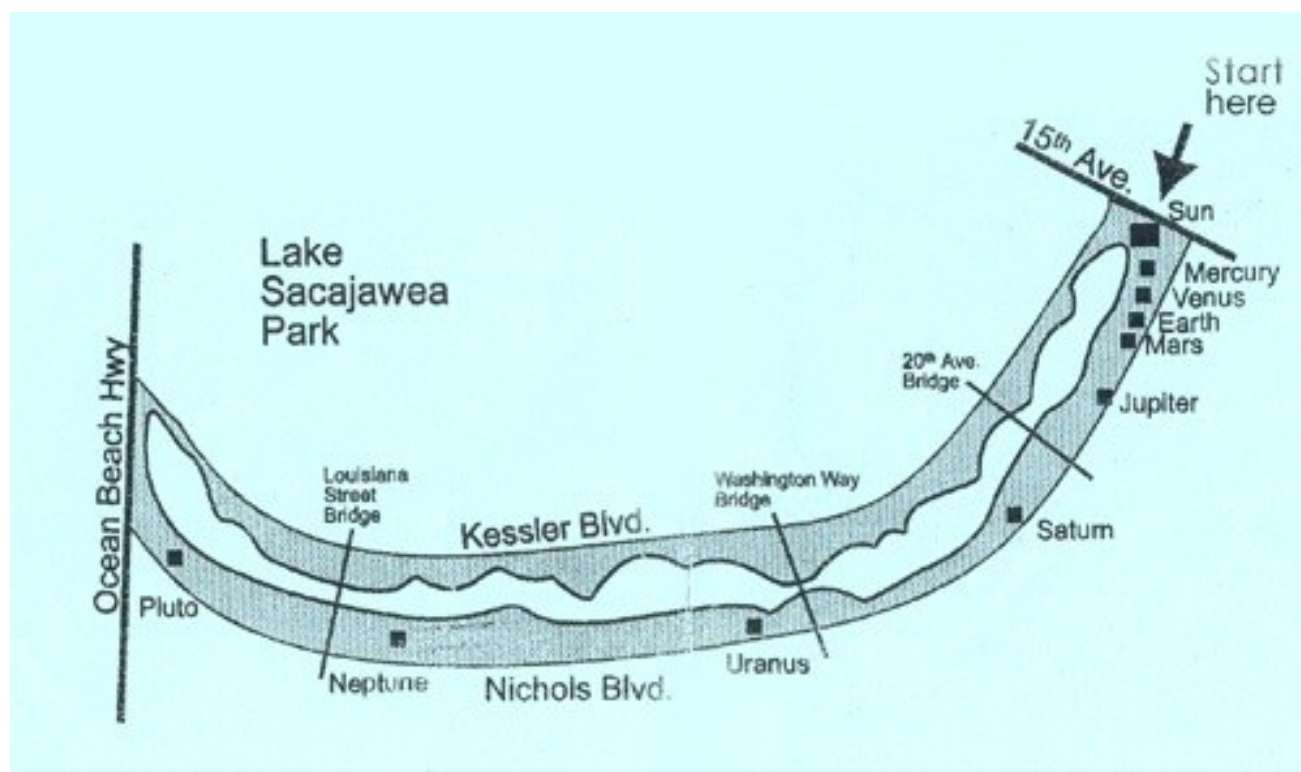
In 1990, the idea was conceived to create a Japanese garden on one of the lake's islands. Over the following years and with help from the community, the garden was developed. The idea and design for the garden came from then Longview Parks Superintendent Al George. He had the idea from seeing gardens while stationed in Japan during his time in the navy.

### Go 4th Festival

During the week of July 4th, Lake Sacajawea hosts an annual festival which includes a flea market, a parade, concerts, and a fireworks show. The festival began in the 1960s and attracts more than 30,000 people per year.

### Solar system walk

In 2001, the Friends of Galileo Astronomy Club installed plaques along the lake's trail. These plaques make up a scale model of the solar system which can be followed by walking along the west side of the lake. Each plaque provides details about the planet it represents.



## Trees

There are at least 119 identified trees in the park with signs as described in this brochure

<https://www.mylongview.com/DocumentCenter/View/417/Arboretum-Brochure-PDF>



## The Lewis and Clark Bridge

is a cantilever bridge that spans the Columbia River between Longview, Washington and Rainier, Oregon. At the time of completion, it had the longest cantilever span in the United States. The bridge was opened on March 29, 1930, as a privately owned bridge named the Longview Bridge. The \$5.8 million cost was recovered by tolls, \$1.00 for cars and \$.10 for pedestrians. At the time it was the longest and highest cantilever bridge in the United States. The state of Washington purchased the bridge in 1947.



## Some History of Longview

Located 90 miles from the Pacific Ocean at the confluence of the Cowlitz and Columbia Rivers, Longview is a relatively new city with a short but remarkable history. At the time of its conception, Longview was the only planned city of its magnitude to have ever been conceived of and built entirely with private funds. It was completely planned down to the last sidewalk and the last street name before construction ever began.

The first Euro-American settlers were led by Harry and Rebecca Jane Huntington, in 1849. The area was named Monticello in honor of Thomas Jefferson's home in Virginia. In 1852 a group assembled in what would be called the "Monticello Convention" to petition Congress for statehood to be called "Columbia". Congress agreed to statehood but as Washington, after President Washington, to avoid confusion with the District of Columbia. A monument to the convention is located near the Longview Civic Center.

The area remained sparsely populated for nearly 60 years, consisting mostly of farmland and wilderness. In 1918, Missouri timber baron Robert A. Long (1850–1934) decided to move his operation out to the west coast, owing to the Long-Bell Lumber Company's dwindling supplies in the south. The company bought a great expanse of timberland in Cowlitz County. A total of 14,000 workers were needed to run the two large mills as well as lumber camps that were planned. The number of workers needed was more than a lumber town, or the nearest town, Kelso, with a population of barely 2,000, could provide.

By 1921, Wesley Vandercook had decided to build a mill near the small town of Kelso. Then the Long-Bell company contracted with George Kessler, a city planner based in St. Louis, to build the city that would support the two mills that were now planned.

Kessler designed a masterpiece based on the nation's capital, with elements of Roman City planning. Its theme is rooted in the City Beautiful movement, which influenced urban design in the early 20th century. Longview was officially incorporated on February 14, 1924. A number of prominent buildings in Longview were purchased with R. A. Long's personal funds, including R. A. Long High School, the Longview Public Library, the YMCA building and the Monticello Hotel.

The initial growth period, lasting from 1923 to 1934, was very rapid. The city grew from a few thousand people to being the fourth largest city in the state by the 1930s. However, the effects of the Great Depression hampered further development of the planned city until the booming World War II economy, when the Port of Longview became a strategic location for loading cargo going into the Pacific Theater.

Suburban developments created neighborhoods in the western valley in the 1960s. The local economy has been in decline since environmental policies took effect in the 1970s and 1980s, causing the decline of the community. No major development occurred until a brief boom in the early 2000s, ended by the recession of the late 2000s.