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**Clackamas County Tourism Announces Grant Awards to Enhance Visitor Experiences**

Oregon City, OR – May 1, 2024 – The Clackamas County Tourism Development Council, leading Clackamas County Tourism's work, announced awarding eight grants totaling \$615,680.24 through its Strategic Investment Program. With this program, the Tourism Development Council aims to bolster tourism and enhance the visitor experience within Clackamas County, reinforcing its dedication to nurturing a vibrant, sustainable tourism ecosystem. This commitment demonstrates support for tourism asset recovery and resiliency, enhancing tourism assets and experiences, increasing accessibility, advocating for alternative modes of travel and broadening visitation to new and underserved audiences. They selected the following entities for the most recent round of funding:

- AntFarm: \$143,128 to rebuild and reopen campgrounds and day-use areas in the Clackamas River Corridor impacted by wildfires and provide stewardship training to build recovery/resiliency capacity within Clackamas County.
- Mark Prairie Historical Society: \$100,000 to complete repairs and reopen the historic Mark Prairie School House, which sustained significant damage during a 2021 ice storm.
- Forests Forever, Inc.: \$27,822 to create and install interpretive panels at Hopkins Demonstration Forest.
- Clackamas River Water Providers: \$64,000 to create a Clackamas Water Trail website, signs and maps.
- Vintage Trolley, Inc.: \$60,000 to retrofit the trolley with an electric engine and battery, enhancing unique transportation experiences.
- Trailkeepers of Oregon: \$115,031 to complete trail work/repairs and stewardship training to build recovery/resiliency capacity within Clackamas County.
- Jackknife Zion Horseheaven Historical Society: \$49,000 to install mobility-friendly, multi-season paths at Philip Foster Farm.
- Clackamas River Basin Council: \$56,699.24 to install Indigenous art and interpretive panels at two locations across Clackamas County.

"These grants represent a significant investment in the future of tourism in Clackamas County," said Samara Phelps, Director of Clackamas County Tourism. "By supporting these diverse projects, we are not only enhancing the visitor experience but also contributing to our communities' economic vitality and sustainability."

Clackamas County's Transient Lodging Tax, paid by visitors staying in lodging accommodations, funds this program. All projects will take place within Clackamas County and should be completed within 18 months. This strategic funding initiative is expected to have a lasting impact on the region, ensuring that Clackamas County offers visitors and residents authentic, enriching experiences.

"We are grateful for the opportunity to partner on projects that enhance Clackamas County and support communities benefiting from tourism," added Phelps. "These projects reflect our commitment to innovation, inclusivity, and sustainability in tourism."

For more information about the Strategic Investment Program and the awarded projects, please visit [mthoodterritory.com/grant-programs#strategicinvestmentprogram](https://mthoodterritory.com/grant-programs#strategicinvestmentprogram).

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#### **About Oregon's Mt. Hood Territory**

Clackamas County Tourism, representing Clackamas County as the tourism destination Oregon's Mt. Hood Territory, is dedicated to developing and promoting tourism opportunities in Clackamas County. A nine-member industry-represented Tourism Development Council, appointed by the Board of County Commissioners, guides the work. Clackamas County Tourism focuses on enhancing visitor experiences, supporting local economies and protecting the region's natural beauty and cultural heritage. Funding for Clackamas County Tourism initiatives comes from the County's transient lodging tax, remitted by lodging operators.