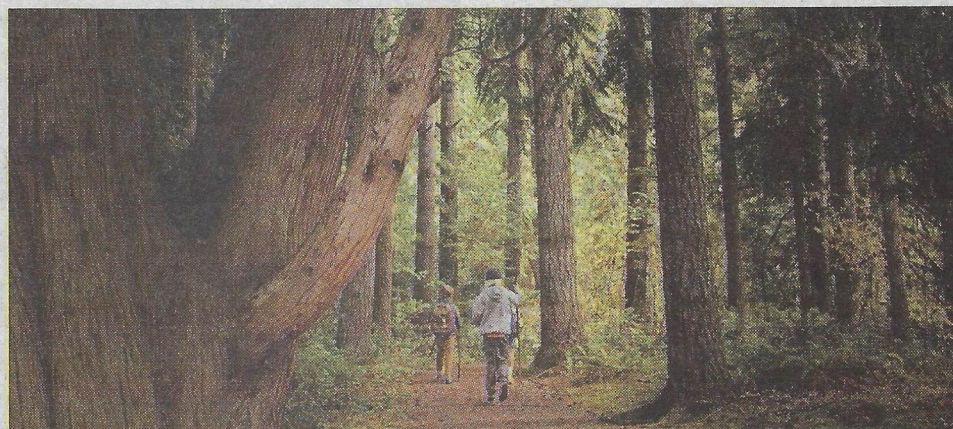


Clackamas County Tourism funds new Hopkins Forest app

By **JOHN BAKER**
Herald-Pioneer



MTHOODTERRITORY.COM

The Hopkins Demonstration Forest in Mulino has a new tool that visitors can use to make the experience even more memorable - a new app. (mthoodterritory.org)

The Clackamas County Office of Tourism (Oregon's Mt. Hood Territory), has provided a grant award to Hopkins Demonstration Forest through its 2024-25 Strategic Investment Program to create a mobile trail app that will transform how visitors experience one of the region's most accessible outdoor learning destinations.

The new Hopkins Forest App provides GPS-enabled navigation and interactive features that highlight the forest's trees, wildlife, and sustainable forestry practices.

Available in both English and Spanish, the free app expands access to forest education and supports a more inclusive experience for visitors.

The app is now available for download through both the Apple App Store and Google Play by searching "Hopkins Forest."

The Hopkins Forest App was made possible through a \$37,600 grant from the Clackamas County Office of Tourism, with \$7,131 in additional costs covered by Forests Forever, Inc.

The project also benefited from collaboration with Oregon State University's Forestry and Natural Resources Extension Program, whose volunteers provided educational content and photography for the app.

The app complements a

previous tourism-funded project at Hopkins - the installation of seven permanent interpretive panels across the property.

"The new Hopkins Forest App helps connect people to forests in a meaningful way," said Ken Everett, executive director of Forests Forever, Inc. "Whether you're a student on a field trip or a return visitor, the app helps you explore the forest safely while learning about the wildlife species that live there, including the gray fox, mountain beaver, bobcat, Northern pygmy owl, and lamprey eel. The app also helps visitors identify the ferns, herbs, shrubs, broadleaf trees, conifers, and fungus in the area."

Located in Mulino, the Hopkins Demonstration Forest is a 140-acre living classroom that offers year-round access to hiking trails, environmental education, and hands-on learning programs.

The new trail app builds

on the site's existing interpretive signage and expands access to information for visitors of all ages and backgrounds.

The new Hopkins Forest App includes:

GPS-enabled trail map.

Points of interest with educational content about forest features, trees, plants, and wildlife.

Bilingual access in English and Spanish.

Event and contact information.

Content aligned with Oregon natural resource education standards.

"Hopkins Demonstration Forest is a beloved local destination and a great place to hike and learn year-round," said Lizzie Keenan, executive director of the Clackamas County Office of Tourism. "Funding projects like the Hopkins Forest App helps us support environmental education, enhance visitor experiences, and ensure that more people can connect with nature close

to home."

The app's release coincides with the return of one of Hopkins' most unique winter activities: its bigleaf maple sugaring program.

From January through February, visitors can observe the entire syrup-making process - from tapping the trees to bottling - during educational demonstrations held at the forest's Sugarbush, a grove of bigleaf maple trees designated for maple syrup production.

Now entering its fourth season, the program highlights a growing Pacific Northwest specialty product and is supported by Oregon State University's Forestry and Natural Resources Extension Program.

The app was developed by Parthenon Software Group of Vancouver, Washington in partnership with Forests Forever, Inc., the nonprofit that operates Hopkins Demonstration Forest.

ICE to do their job a police officers and responders will do job."

Hodson noted wasn't immune anxiety and worry having ICE, an uncertainty they sent, within the community.

"Citizens of Canby to feel safe and the to feel heard," he said. "This is a situation ICE that is a little bit our hands in terms what ICE is doing - the country, not just in Canby. I watch news, I know what talked about on various channels. Is that going to happen here in Canby? I hope not. I believe is a different community in that regard."

"I can't say the situation isn't real, because it's added. The feelings about the matter are real. It's going to discredit the town."

After Hodson's comments, the council into liaison reports nearly all of them thought on ICE by town.

Councilor Jason said he did hear community regard presence of ICE.

"It is unfortunate the citizens are not feel this way," he noted that he'd like the information that Tro provided at the 2025 be posted to the website, instead of floundering on Facebook.

As for ICE a