


Digging for history

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Archaeological excavation in Old Town makes way for LO-Tigard pipeline



Photo Credit: REVIEW PHOTOS: VERN UYETAKE - Anne Parfitt (foreground) and the rest of her team from Archaeological Investigation Northwest sift through soil thought to contain artifacts dating back to prehistoric times.

The Lake Oswego-Tigard Water Partnership paused in its pipeline construction to do a little due diligence — for history.

Because the pipeline alignment runs through a potential archaeological site, the partnership is required to do some mitigation, explained Jane Heisler, communications director for the organization.



Photo Credit: REVIEW PHOTOS: VERN UYETAKE - Lea Loisel excavates the site at Durham and Wilbur streets in Lake Oswego Old Town neighborhood.

That means five excavation sites, each a little over 200 square feet, along Durham Street in Lake Oswego's Old Town neighborhood — an area that has been deemed eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places.

The partnership presented its mitigation plan to the state's Historic Preservation Office, which consulted with the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde and ultimately gave the go-ahead. Excavation began in mid-September, and is led by Archaeological Investigation Northwest.

As part of the mitigation, a cultural resources exhibit will be developed related to the Chinookan peoples' life in the area. That exhibit, which would be supervised by a committee that includes representatives from the Historic Resources Board, the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board and the Arts Council, will be installed in George Rogers Park, Heisler said.

The exhibit would likely open in spring 2015, Heisler said.



Photo Credit: REVIEW PHOTOS: VERN UYETAKE - Dave Cox examines stone fragments thought to be the byproduct of primitive tool making. During the excavation, the crew unearthed a spearhead which could date back 9,000 years.



Photo Credit: REVIEW PHOTOS: VERN UYETAKE - Stone fragments unearthed in Old Town are thought to be the byproduct of primitive tool making.

