

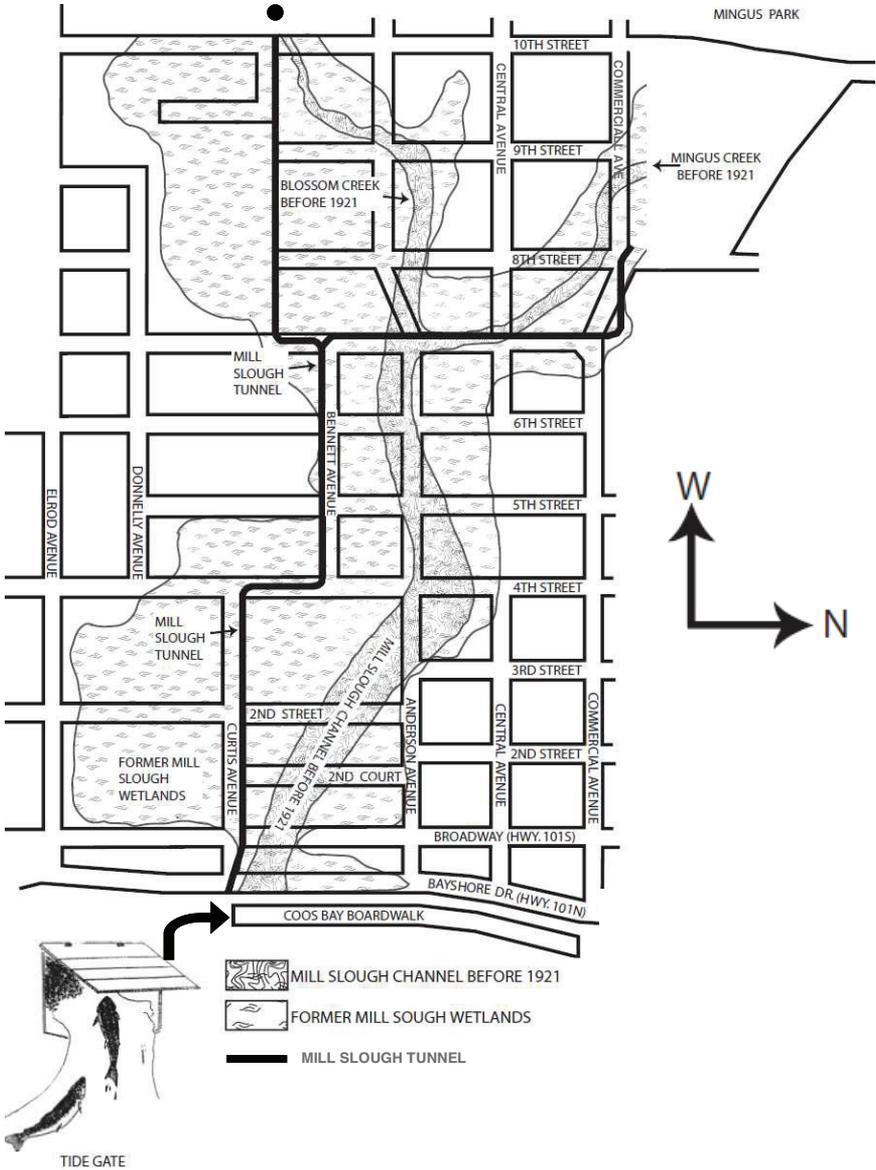
Coos Bay Then and Now Quest

Oregon Coast Quests is an Oregon Sea Grant program based at Oregon State University's Hatfield Marine Science Center.



Use this map to help you solve the following Quest!

The stream daylight here →



The Mill Slough tidegate is closed at high tide. It opens at low tide, allowing freshwater to empty into the bay and salmon to migrate upstream. You can see it at the south end of the boardwalk.

Coos Bay Then and Now Quest

Established: 2011 by a group of local volunteers and community partners, including the Bay Area Chamber of Commerce, South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve, Coos Historical and Maritime Museum, Oregon International Port of Coos Bay, Wavecrest Discoveries, Coos Watershed Association, and Oregon Sea Grant/OSU Extension.

Box Monitor: Cheryl Crockett, Coos Bay Visitor Information Center; and Jamie Doyle, Oregon Sea Grant

This Quest will take you on a walking tour of downtown Coos Bay. It takes about an hour. Follow the clues to learn how Coos Bay has changed since it was founded as the city of “Marshfield” in 1853. J.C. Tolman, of the CB Company, built a cabin and named Marshfield after his hometown in Massachusetts.

“Marshfield” was a marsh, or wetland, called Mill Slough, and it had two streams—Blossom Creek and Mingus Creek—that flowed into Coos Bay. A slough is a sluggish side channel of a river, or a marshy, saltwater inlet. These wetlands have been filled in and now have buildings on top of them. If you look at your map (previous page), you can see where the streams and marsh used to be. We’ll be following these streams as we make our tour of Coos Bay. As you go, fill in the clues on page 170!

The Quest begins at the Visitor Information Center, located at 50 Central Avenue in Coos Bay. Its hours are

Winter

Monday–Friday 9 am to 5 pm
Saturday 11 am to 3 pm

Summer

Monday–Friday 9 am to 5 pm
Saturday–Sunday 11 am to 3 pm

Here is the Quest
with so much to see
and tales of how Coos Bay
once used to be.

Now let's take a walk
and find clues on the way.
We'll piece them together
to the words of a phrase.

Starting inside
the Visitor Center,
we hope it's not raining
or cold, like in winter.

With shelves of books,
information amassed,
your back to the counter
you face the front glass.

Which way are you facing—
a directional test.
Look out the front windows.
You're now facing _____.

To the left is the south.
To the right is the north.
Go to the left
and out the south door.

Southeast on the patio,
prevailing wind at your back,
find two running legs
of concrete abstract.

Go to the sculpture
and look on the plaque.
You'll find a memorial
to a runner of track.

1974 was the year,
two miles was the run.
The first letter of the country
is clue number 1.



Steve Prefontaine, 1970s. Photo World Newspaper

*Steve Prefontaine was a famous runner
from Coos Bay! There are movies about
his life.*

If you look past the sculpture
and out toward the bay,
there's a large wooden sign.
What does it say?

Not exactly in order . . .
BOARDWALK
WELCOME
COOS BAY

We won't go there now,
but if you go there you'll see
stories of boats, the bay,
the rivers, and trees.

Now we walk south
to Anderson street.
Keep right on walking
'til a hydrant's at your feet.

(Anderson and North 101)
Turn right at the corner.
Could this be a test?
Which way are you going?
The answer is _____.

Going away from the bay
to your left you will see
a colorful mural
on a building there be.

(Anderson and South 101)
When the corner you reach
southbound you'll go
toward that beautiful mural
and a king crowned in gold.

The name of the country
where King Tut did rule
is where he was found
in a pyramid tomb.

If you can name the country,
then you found the clue.
The first letter of this name
is clue number 2.

The Egyptian Theater is old.
Here's something profound:
this building was built
before there was sound.

As the movie was reeled,
the words were portrayed;
on a Wurlitzer organ
live music was played.



Broadway Marshfield, 1920s CHMM 997 – D18. Photo provided by Coos Historical and Maritime Museum.

There were about 100 Egyptian Theaters in the U.S. in the 1920s.



Coos Bay Post Office, 1949 CHMM 994-1.5254. Photo provided by Coos Historical and Maritime Museum.

What is this building today?

No, we're not going to go
to the theater today.
Cross South 101;
on Anderson we stay.

Which way are we going—
the same silly test.
For several more blocks
we're still going _____.

See the photo just above.
Can you find the building?
It used to handle letters
but now has many a painting.

In front of this building
soon you will see
a rust-colored sculpture
next to a tree.

Look down in the base
of the sculpture to see
there's a plaque with a title;
the third letter is clue number 3.

Keep walking west
past Coos Art Museum.
Could be salmon below you
but you just cannot see 'em.

Yes, the river is there
right under your feet,
where salmon still travel
under the street.

(Where are the salmon going?)

When you cross 4th Street
you'll find a new clue
on a brick wall—
the name of a slough.

The name's on a plaque.
Can't tell you much more.
The first letter of the name
is clue number 4.



Mill Slough, ca. 1905. 3rd St & Anderson St. CHMM 992-0-1190. Photo provided by Coos Historical and Maritime Museum.

Stop and look around. This photo was taken where the Coos Art Museum is now!

You go south on 4th Street,
one block you will go
to follow the slough
where waters still flow.

That's left onto 4th
until you reach Bennett.
Turn right with the channel
but you can't fall in it.

(Why? Because it's under the street!)

Which way are you facing—
an obvious test.
You're on the right route.
Yes, that way is _____.

What ocean is that way?
Now let's be specific.
What else could it be?
It's called the _____.

As you pass 5th Street,
look left with your head.
See our new fire station?
It's brick and it's red.

On Bennett to 6th Street,
then north you will go;
right around the library,
where knowledge does flow.

*(There's a restroom inside, if
you really must go.)*

From 6th and Anderson,
look and you'll see
the Myrtle Arms Apartments,
as old as can be.

The river ran by
that building like a moat.
Where they once would deliver
their milk in a boat.

Now which way on Anderson?
I think you can guess.
We're gonna turn left.
Yes, that way is _____.

Further on Anderson,
by the Monkey Puzzle tree,
under the bench
is where the next clue will be.

A pretty red bug
in a mosaic is fixed.
The first letter of its name
is clue number 6.

Two streams pass through it
where they meet like a funnel.
This structure fish pass through
is not a trench, but a _____.

You can visit the garden
and the people who tend it.
They weed and they water;
what's broken, they mend it.

The first letter of this structure
is clue number 5.

Keep looking westward,
and headed that way
cross 7th, keep walking
away from the bay.

Look to your right,
where a garden does grow.
To the arched entrance
is where you must go.

This community garden was
an abandoned lot for 40
years before a local group
created it. It has 60 garden
plots, handicap-accessible
beds, and in 2009 donated
880 pounds of vegetables to
the food shelter!

Myrtle Arms Apartments



Marshfield from Telegraph Hill, September 1914 CHMM 992-8-1432. Photo provided by Coos Historical and Maritime Museum.

The Myrtle Arms is one of the oldest apartment buildings in Coos Bay. In the photo, can you see how it's surrounded by what used to be water?

Now let's get ourselves
back to the Quest.
We're going back on Anderson.
You guessed it, going _____.

Looking up Anderson,
notice the hill.
Where you stand was once wetland,
but that was dry still.

At 10th street we go north;
that's the right way to go.
But down to the left,
the stream "daylights," you know.

**Daylighting is when you can
see a stream before it goes
underground.**

Walk right up 10th,
crossing Central Street.
Stop at the northeast corner,
take 14 paces east.

There's an optometrist's office.
Oh say, can you see?
Her garden is special.
Now what can it be?

The shape of the hedge,
which is looking to Heaven,
the letter it sounds like
is clue number 7.

Oh, now back to 10th Street,
then north you must go.
Look to your left
at the park down below.

Mingus Park has a pond—
a Japanese Garden to see.
There's a red bridge to go on
and maple trees.

Of course, you can go there
after the Quest.
No, we can't go there now . . .
'cause that way is west!

If you go anyway,
we can't stop you now.
You'll find your way back,
and I'll tell you how.

From the southeast corner
of Mingus Park
go east 'cross the parking lot
before it gets dark.

Follow the sidewalk
past the ball field in an arc,
and at the end of your stroll,
you'll see a skate park.

Now, at the corner
of Commercial and 8th,
there is an old building
that used to be great.

McAuley Hospital
it was once proudly named.
Cross 8th and go eastward.
and think how it's changed.

(stay on the same side as the hospital)

Now travel on Commercial;
head east toward the bay.
If you make it to 5th Street,
you went the right way.



Wesley Hospital, Marshfield, 3/29/1930. Photo CHMM 987-5168.

McAuley Hospital has had other names, including Wesley Hospital and the Ken Keyes College.

At 5th and Commercial
look left up the hill.
Old Carnegie Library
is standing there still.

In the year 1914
on that hill it was built.
'Cause where you're standing,
it would need pontoons or stilts.
(Can you guess why?)

Go east, down to 4th Street,
and look on the ground.
A sign by the storm drain
says something profound.

What's so important
about this sign by the grate?
The first letter of the phrase
is clue number 8.

Now, facing south,
cross Commercial and see—
on your right a few paces—
a mural there be.

Up ahead you will come to
three metal posts in the ground.
To your west
a Firemen's Memorial can be found.

From this point you see
City Halls old and new,
and historic old buildings—
there are quite a few.

Turn east down Central
for something to do;
look for a clock face—
first there's one, then two.

Find the clock on a pole
and then check the time.
On its face, the second letter of the second
word is clue number 9.

That's it! You're finished!
All the letters you've entered.
Now go back where you started,
to the Visitor Center.

Past stone running legs
and off to the right,
two curved benches
soon come into sight.

Sit down on this bench;
read the text on the sign.
It tells what Coos Bay
was like in past times.

We hope you enjoyed
learning a bit about our city;
how it changes through time;
It's been both gritty and pretty!

Now here where you sit,
find a green, circular lid
on the ground near the bushes.
It's where the box is hid(den)!



Mill Slough, date unknown CHMM 005-28. Photo provided by Coos Historical and Maritime Museum.

Mill Slough and downtown Coos Bay.

Coos Bay will continue to change, as . . .

5 7 4 2

1 9 7 6 1

3 8

If you enjoyed this Quest, check out the Oregon Coast Quests Book, which contains maps and directions for more than two dozen clue directed hunts in Oregon. Collect stamps from them all! For more information, visit hmsc.oregonstate.edu/quests