

Tillamook Forest Center

Tillamook State Forest, OR



After the forest fires—a home base for education programs

A series of devastating fires burned almost 500 sq mi of Tillamook Forest from 1933 to 1951. After, this land became the Tillamook State Forest. The Oregon Department of Forestry and friends restored the forest, and it is now one of America's best examples of a sustainably managed forest. Oregon Tourism gave them an outstanding Achievement Award for their interpretive efforts in 2006.

AldrichPears worked with the Department and architectural partners to create a seamless indoor-outdoor experience that includes a large amphitheater, an outdoor classroom and lab, and an interpretive center and series of trails. Inside the center, a full-sensory forest fire experience immerses visitors in its history. Exhibits expand their knowledge of local ecology and sustainable forestry practices. They can also hear stories from historical forestry figures. Outdoor experiences invite visitors to traverse a suspension bridge and encounter conservation exhibits and programming on the trails. APA delivered a full design package from design concept and detailed documentation to exhibit fabrication and installation management.

