

Artist rendering of Park's first building – SCJ Alliance



SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON Regional Agricultural Business and Innovation Park

The Southwest Washington Regional Agricultural Business & Innovation Park will establish a business park focused on value-added food-related manufacturing, processing, storage and packaging within the City of Tenino on a 13 acre parcel located next to the Tenino wastewater treatment plant.

The Park will also establish a business center which will focus on providing agriculture-related and rural development business services throughout the region. The Park itself will become an agri-tourism destination and will be promoted in a cohesive way with other north Lewis and south Thurston county attractions and as part of the Thurston County Bountiful Byway. Future phases of the Park may also include establishing research & educational components.

The Park will stimulate and generate economic development in a multitude of ways including:

- Onsite processing and manufacturing and affiliated job creation
- Onsite and offsite sales
- Innovation/new product development
- Shared marketing for park tenants and new market development
- Business technical assistance to increase viability and growth of regional rural businesses
- Technology, education and workforce development in partnership with WSU, PacMtn WDC & Centralia College
- Addressing identified gaps in needed regional infrastructure, expanding distribution and rebuilding regional food systems and supply chains
- Onsite processing sourcing from regional growers to increase local production

To date the project has received:

- Funding for the Park's first building through the 2019-2020 State Capital Budget in the amount of \$1.5M.
- Infrastructure funding through the 2017-2018 State Capital Budget in the amount of \$618K
- Mastering planning funding from the Port of Olympia (\$75K) & USDA Rural Development (\$37K).
- Funding (through the Port of Olympia) for a feasibility study and business plan for commercial kitchen space for Senior Services of South Sound (\$19K) in partnership with WSU.
- The City of Tenino has provided the site, signing a 15 year lease with the Thurston EDC at \$10 a year.

The Thurston Economic Development Council (EDC) is managing the project development & local engineering firm, SCJ Alliance, is nearing completion of the master planning process. Infrastructure construction was completed summer 2020 and the Park is projected to be open for business by the end of 2021.