

The Jacksonport State Park is showing off its new Visitors Center, which opened around Thanksgiving. A “Business After Hours” event from the Newport Chamber of Commerce on Thursday evening gave many people a chance to see the 5-million dollar, 10-thousand square foot facility.

Park Supervisor Mark Ballard says the modern building with high windows overlooking a lake has been a dream for the community for a long time.

MarkBallard2 :21 it’s been on books so to speak to be built for decades but over time things have occurred that haven’t allowed us to build it sooner. But it started construction in November of 2016 two years ago and we just opened here in November of ’18.

The building houses educational exhibits, like one that explores trade and travel on the White River during the 1800’s. The Visitors Center will be open for school tours, history lectures and other events.

EXTRA CUT:

Park Superintendent Mark Ballard says the Visitors Center has impressed everyone who’s seen it so far.

MarkBallard1 :16 oh, very positive. Lots of smiling faces and they’re really excited about what this building does for our community and the education value that it has for our schoolchildren, and adults alike.