

OREGON CITY **Around** **Town** SPRING/SUMMER 2013

**EVENTS &
Activities**

HOME Sweet HOME

Staycation in OC



Five great walks around Oregon City

By *Tamara Muldoon*
Three Rivers Artist Guild

There is nothing like a stroll in the fresh air to lift your spirits and boost your energy level. Oregon City boasts many fine parks and recreation areas that are ideal for taking a walk, and which offer scenic views or other interesting attractions. Here are five local walking routes which may entice you to get out and explore our community on foot.



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Difficulty Ratings

Downtown Riverfront – Easy, but with some stairs. Use caution along highway.

Clackamas River Trail – Easy. Good for families with children.

Waterboard Park – Moderate. Use caution where pavement is broken.

Hillendale Park – Easy. Good for families with children.

Hopkins Demonstration Forest – Moderate to challenging. Pick up a trail map at the entrance.

Directions & Information

Oregon City Parks & Recreation Department

www.orcity.org/parksandrecreation/parks, 503-496-1201

Hopkins Demonstration Forest

www.demonstrationforest.org, 503-632-2150

Downtown Riverfront

Begin at Jon Storm Park, where a floating dock provides a close-up view of the Willamette River. Follow the access road past Sportcraft Marina; then, take the stairway of basalt boulders up to the sidewalk along Hwy. 99E. Continuing toward Downtown, enjoy the ever-changing view of the Oregon City Arch Bridge and river below. Pause at the Willamette Falls viewpoint where the road curves away from the river, and don't miss the historic interpretive plaques there.

Cross 99E at the light and continue your stroll back along Main St. Enjoy window shopping, or browse in some of the unique shops. You'll find plenty of restaurants and places to stop for refreshments. At 12th Street, go left one block to the stoplight and cross 99E again. Then, retrace your steps back to the beginning.

Clackamas River Trail

The one-mile Clackamas River Trail skirts Clackamette Cove and leads to a pedestrian footbridge over the Clackamas River, connecting Oregon City to the neighboring community of Gladstone. To find the parking area for the trailhead, drive eastward along Main Street from Downtown to about 100 yards beyond the I-205 underpass.

This mostly-level paved pathway is suitable for baby strollers as well as walkers and runners. Picnic tables overlooking the Cove invite you to stay awhile. Unimproved trails lead down to the river where you can go wading or swimming during hot weather. Caution: the water in the river is very cold even during the heat of summer and you swim at your own risk.

Waterboard Park

Waterboard Park offers a pleasant walk beneath a canopy of native trees, surrounded by ferns and the amorphous shapes of ivy-covered boulders. The abandoned roadway that bisects the park begins at the Armory parking lot located at the west end of John Adams Street. The pavement has fractured in places due to earth movement, requiring caution in those areas.

The gradual uphill climb leads to an overlook at the end of Promontory Avenue, providing panoramic views of Oregon City and the Willamette River. On clear days you can see Portland skyscrapers as well as Mt. St. Helens and Mt. Adams.

Return the way you came, or continue on the trail past homes fronting the hilltop. This trail descends a wooded slope to emerge at the intersections of 5th and JQ Adams St. Left turns on 5th and again on John Adams St. take you back to your starting point. The entire loop takes about one hour, not including time to admire the view at the top.

Hillendale Park

This pastoral 16-acre park has paved walking paths with strategically-located benches. The combination of shade trees, open grass, and two children's play areas along with a stream and pond makes this an attractive outing for families with



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Facing page: Stairway from Sportcraft Marina to Hwy 99. Above: Waterboard Park.

children. The mostly-level pathways form several interconnecting loops, making it possible to explore the park without much backtracking.

Hillendale Park is located along Clairmont Way, in the Hilltop area of Oregon City. Restroom facilities and a picnic shelter are adjacent to the parking area.

Hopkins Demonstration Forest

Just ten miles from downtown Oregon City is the Hopkins Demonstration Forest, offering over five miles of hiking trails along with picnic facilities amid a 140-acre forest. Enjoy the sights and sounds

of nature as you hike on the intersecting network of trails and unimproved roads in this privately-owned woodland that is open to the public.

Hopkins Demonstration Forest is owned and managed by Forests Forever, a non-profit group that uses the facility to help educate the public on sustainable forestry practices. Hopkins is generally open daily during daylight hours. ●

Tamara Muldoon is a freelance writer and photographer based in Oregon City. She enjoys walking and hiking for fun and exercise and is a member of Three Rivers Artist Guild. You can contact her at tamara@tamaramuldoon.com or at 503-631-3929.



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