

State Capitol STATE PARK

Yes, the Grounds of Our State Capitol Are a State Park!

State Capitol State Park flanks the Oregon Capitol and includes the Capitol Mall with its many historic markers and fountains. But probably the most memorable feature of the park are its cherry trees. Two aisles of trees flank the walkways that hem the Mall on either side, enveloping park guests in shade and greenery for most of the year. And, if they arrive in springtime, visitors might even lose themselves within billowing, pink frills of cherry blossoms.

Why Cherry Trees?

The significance of the park's cherry trees changed over the years. They still represent an important Willamette Valley crop, but one whose significance declined as many local orchards gave way to vineyards and wineries. Today, the cherry trees also host Japanese-style Sakura events, allowing Oregonians to appreciate their flowering beauty during an unhurried stroll or even from a picnic blanket spread beneath the branches. The trees grew to honor Oregon's strong connections with Japan, including Oregon's many Japanese sister city relationships (27 cities in Oregon and southwest Washington currently have Japanese sister cities).

Celebrating 100 Years of Oregon State Parks

This year, as we look back on 100 years of Oregon State Parks history, we're proud to see how the parks continue to evolve. In the case of State Capitol State Park, the iconic cherry trees not only remind us of a historically important local crop, but they help us explore a more international and inclusive future. When you play lottery games, you help provide our state parks with the funding they need to step into their next century. Thank you for helping us celebrate both their rich history and their bright future!

Learn more at: oregonlottery.org/programs/state-capitol-state-park/

