

Parks: fast, green-covered getaways

In town

A network of city and county parks are just a bike ride away for students seeking an afternoon from stuffy classrooms.

The Eugene-Springfield map indicates the location of in-town parks.

Alton Baker Park is perhaps the most popular. Situated on the north bank of the Willamette River, the Lane County park offers picnic sites, fields and play areas.

The park is only a short walk or bike ride from the University. The fastest route from campus to the park is the bike path, which runs alongside the park. To get to the bike path, cross the Millrace and follow the signs. Turn left after crossing the bike bridge over the river.

Down the river and on the opposite side of Alton Baker Park is **Skinner's Butte Park**, maintained by the city. Skinner's Butte stretches from the end of High Street toward the Valley River Center bike bridge. Besides picnic sites and secluded areas, the park has fields, rose gardens and a replica of the log cabin of the town's founder, Eugene Skinner.

Fields for softball, frisbee and football, and the Owens Rose Garden, located at the park's west end, entice visitors to the park. The butte's summit offers a panoramic view of Eugene. The rock columns on the west side of the butte are used by local rock climbers to test their skill.

The bike path also runs along the edge of Skinner's Butte Park. To get to the park via the bike path, follow the above directions to Alton Baker Park, then cross the Ferry Street Bridge to the other side of the river.

Hendricks Park, located in the hills east of the University, is Eugene's "nature" park. Short hiking trails criss-cross the forested park, and its famed rhododendrons and azaleas attract people each spring. Hendricks also is a good spot for birding.

To get to Hendricks Park, take 15th Avenue to Walnut Street, turn right and follow the signs.

Amazon Park is right of Hilyard Street, a few blocks down from 24th Avenue.

The large park has softball, soccer and football fields as well as one of Eugene's swimming pools and a sawdust jogging trail.

The park also boasts a recreation center for residents that offers summer classes through the city parks department.

Eugene's newest park is the **Wayne Morse Park**, located at the late senator's 27-acre ranch at 595 Crest Drive off Willamette Street. The ranch — including the Morse family house — has been left in its natural state. The city also rents the house as a meeting place for \$1 per person per day.

Located downstairs is a "cartoon room" lined with copies and originals of political cartoons featuring Morse. At the end of the hall, visitors can gaze through a glass door at Morse's den, a small room with mementos from the senator's long public career.

Former horse fields now offer picnic sites and play areas.

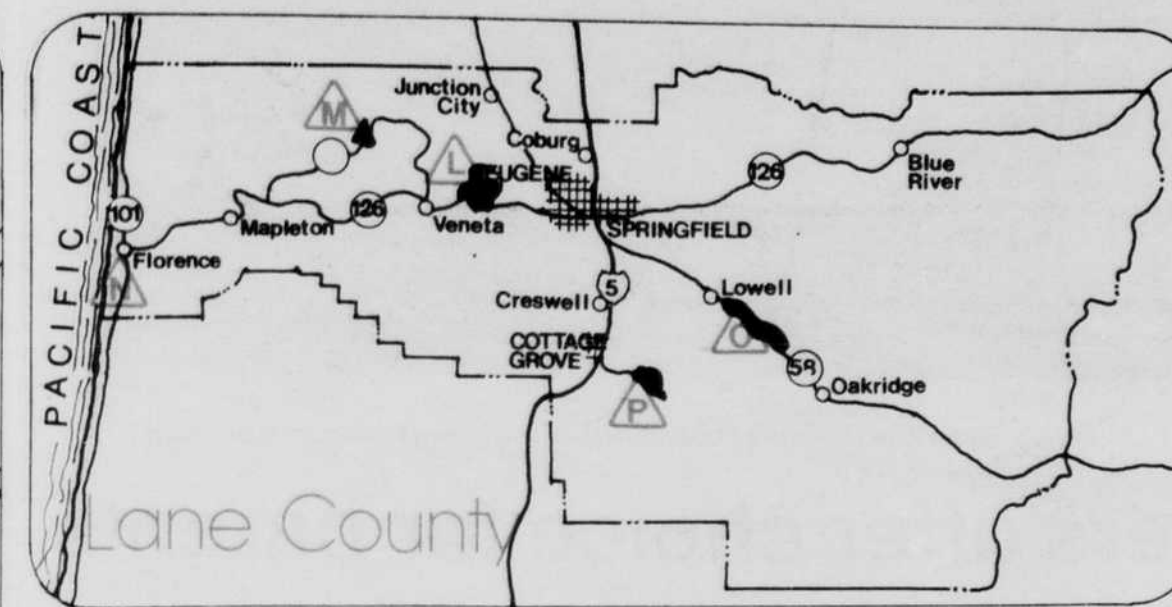
The Eugene parks department has copies of city parks maps for the public and also provides general information about city recreational activities. The department is located at 858 Pearl St. and may be contacted by calling 687-5333.

Springfield city parks also are close by, via the bike path.

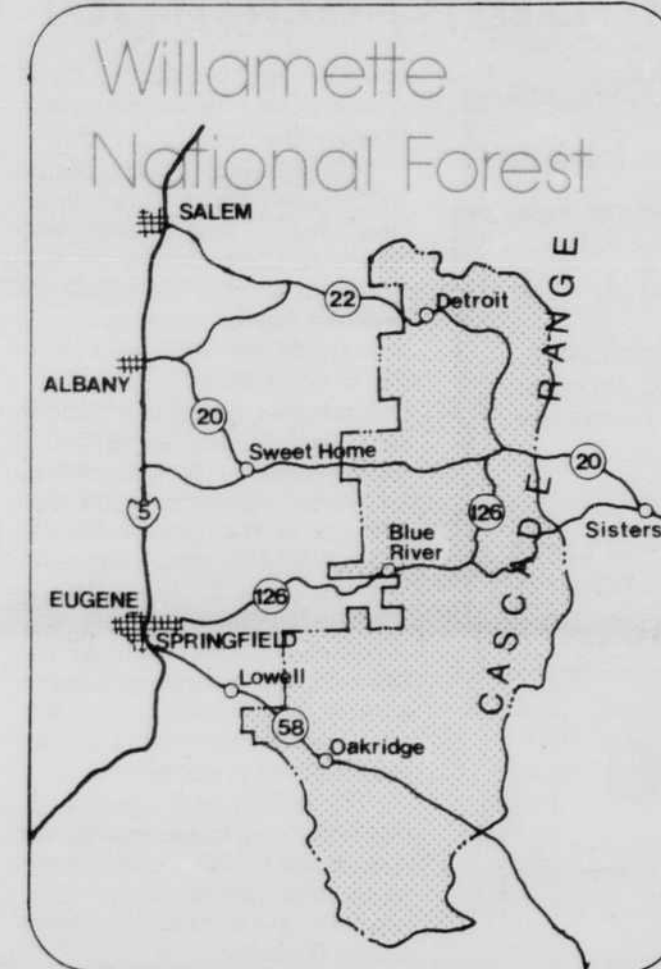
Willamalane Park is located at the corner of "F" Street and Mohawk Boulevard. The park boasts the largest indoor, year-round swim center in the Pacific Northwest, tennis courts, softball diamonds, picnic grounds and open fields.

Day Island Park is next to the Willamette River at the west end of "B" Street. The area is used mainly for picnics and swimming.

To get to Springfield on the bike path, turn right after the bike bridge near campus and follow the path to "D" Street in Springfield.



- A Alton Baker Park
- B Skinner's Butte Park
- O Hendricks Park
- D Amazon Park
- E Wayne Morse Park
- F Willamalane Park
- G Day Island Park
- H Armitage Park
- J Howard Buford Recreation Area
- K Spencer's Butte
- L Fern Ridge Reservoir
- M Triangle Lake
- N Honeyman State Park
- O Dexter Lake
- R Dorena Lake
- Willamette National Forest



Graphic by Max DeRungs

Out of town

Outside the city limits of Eugene and Springfield a variety of parks await those willing to venture away from city streets.

The most prominent — and well used — is **Armitage Park**, located north of Eugene along Coburg Road on the banks of the McKenzie River. Besides the usual picnic grounds and open fields, the park permits overnight camping, making it a good spot for a weekend away from town. The parks charge \$1 per car for day use and \$3 for an overnight stay. Bicyclists are offered free day use.

Six miles southeast of Eugene, Mt. Pisgah — officially known as the **Howard Buford Recreation Area** — is an undeveloped park area. The 3,150 acres of wooded hills are used for orientation practice and hiking. If you plan to hike there, beware of poison oak.

Also outside of Eugene is **Spencer's Butte**. Located south of Eugene via Willamette Street, the butte can be climbed along two trails. The trail along the east slope gradually climbs to the top, while the west trail is much steeper. The top offers one of the best views of the city.

All trails are marked and climbers are asked to keep within the trails' boundaries to preserve the area's delicate plant life and to avoid poison oak.

Spencer's Butte can be reached by bike and makes an excellent afternoon outing.

Fern Ridge Reservoir, west of Eugene toward Florence, provides a place for fishing, camping and picnicking in the Orchard Point Park. The reservoir is used by canoeists and sailboaters.

Further west there is **Triangle Lake**, a well-used summer fun site which offers everything from picnicking to boating.

And for those willing to spend an hour's drive, the beaches and parks surrounding Florence at the westernmost point in Lane County offer a nice change of pace.

The most used park in the Florence area is **Honeyman State Park**, south of Florence along Highway 101. Here people can camp, fish, bask in the sun, picnic, climb the northern end to Oregon's famous sand dunes or take a nice walk to the beach.

The dunes are part of the National Recreation Area maintained by the National Parks system.

Florence, nestled at the mouth of the Siuslaw River, is also a perfect spot from which to venture out onto the Pacific Ocean. Several charter boat firms are willing to cross the bar in search of salmon or bottom fish.

Other Lane County parks and forest areas include:

- **Willamette National Forest**, located east of Eugene along Highway 126. A myriad of parks, fishing holes and hiking trails abound within the national forest boundaries. Two major trails — Fall Creek Trail and the McKenzie River Trail — attract backpackers for afternoon or a weekend hikes.

Maps to the trails and the other sites within the Willamette National Forest can be obtained at the forest headquarters, located in the Federal Building on the corner of 7th Avenue and Pearl Street.

- **Dexter Lake**, southeast of Eugene. Besides fishing and the usual picnicking, the lake is a favorite of local yachtsmen. Sailboat races are held on the lake at various times during the summer.

- **Dorena Lake**, another fishing and picnicking site, east of Cottage Grove.

- **The Coburg Hills**, northeast of Eugene, which offers hiking and backpacking but no camp sites or picnic grounds.

A map of Lane County, specifying parks and recreation areas, can be obtained at the University bookstore in the map department for a nominal fee. The Lane County parks department, located in the Lane County Courthouse at 125 E. 8th Ave., also carries a map of county parks.

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	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6
Monday									
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Friday									

Comments:

Place an "x" in the spaces when you would be able to attend some of these programs — and what programs would you like to see?

Drop boxes for these questionnaires will be located in the EMU Main Lobby and at the EMU Main Desk or drop them in the EMU Program Office, Suite 2 EMU.