

# Rivers, lakes in area offer break from the heat

## Several recreation sites close by

By Brian Bloch  
Emerald Associate Editor

The warm, sunny weather and light class loads typical of summer term give students a chance to get off campus and enjoy some of Eugene's unique outdoor offerings.

Whether you're a returning senior squeezing in a few graduation requirements or a first-term freshman, you won't have to travel far to enjoy scenic rivers and lakes in and around the Eugene/Springfield area.

If you're into fishing, boating, hiking, swimming or just catching up on your tan, there's a place nearby for you.

Fall Creek Reservoir is one of the area's top swimming, boating, water-skiing and all around recreational areas. Located approximately 20 miles southeast of Eugene off Highway 126, the lake is nestled in the outskirts of the beautiful Willamette National Forest and is a perfect day-trip getaway.

Also east of Eugene off Highway 126 is Blue River Lake. About 50 miles from Eugene, Blue River Lake is just north of Cougar Lake, alongside the churning McKenzie River. Highway 126 abounds with recreation areas, day sites and camp sites on route to these lakes.

The McKenzie River is an ideal waterway for fishermen and thrill seekers who brave its rough waters on rafts and drift boats. After turning east in the Eugene area, the river stretches into the Willamette National Forest, with plenty of access

along Highway 126. This time of year, the McKenzie is relatively warm for swimmers and boasts Spring Chinook salmon, steelhead and trout for anglers.

Leaburg Pool, just above Leaburg Dam about 20 miles east of Eugene along Highway 126, is also excellent for swimmers and fishermen. Formed from the McKenzie, Leaburg pool is much like a quiet lake with boat access, swimming docks and plenty of trout.

About 20 miles south of Eugene, near Cottage Grove, are two more excellent recreational areas. Cottage Grove Lake and Dorena Lake are popular among boaters and fishermen, but also offer picnic areas and campgrounds for sun bathers and day-trippers. Cottage Grove Lake is just south of Cottage Grove while Dorena is a few miles east of the city.

Traveling along Highway 58 southeast of Eugene, Dexter Lake, about 15 miles, and Hills Creek Lake, approximately 50 miles, offer more all-around recreational opportunities. Fishing, hiking, boating and swimming areas abound along the route as well as incredibly scenic and quiet camping areas.

Also along Highway 58, about 10 miles southeast of Oakridge, are the Kitson Hot Springs. When the temperature cools off at night the springs can't be beat for relaxation. The steaming pools are tucked right against the cold waters of Salt Creek, just off Highway 58, and are easy to miss from the road. Look for a small, gravel turn off and campground just before the springs or, to be safe, ask at

Dink's Market just outside Oakridge.

To the west along coast Highway 126 is Fern Ridge Reservoir, about 15 miles outside Eugene. A recreation area with campsites, two boat ramps and Perkins Peninsula State Park make this a perfect area for those who don't want to travel very far.

If you feel like traveling west there is, of course, the beautiful Oregon Coast. Florence is about 65 miles west of Eugene and just south of that is the Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area, offering miles of wide open sand dunes for motorcycles, dune buggies and ATV's. To the north are the scenic coastal towns of Waldport, Newport, Lincoln City, Cannon Beach, Seaside and Astoria.

For those who don't have cars or who are having trouble bumming a ride, there are still plenty of scenic areas in town. Alton Baker Park and Skinner Butte Park, both located close to campus along the Willamette River, are excellent places to study, unwind or catch a little sun. They offer a host of paved bike and jogging trails, river access, large grassy areas and a beautiful view of the city atop Skinner Butte.

Hikers will enjoy the trails leading up to Spencer Butte on the city's east side and rock climbers can sharpen their skills on the rock face just off the road leading to the top of Skinner Butte.

Fishermen need not travel far for good fishing in some of the area's local ponds. The Delta

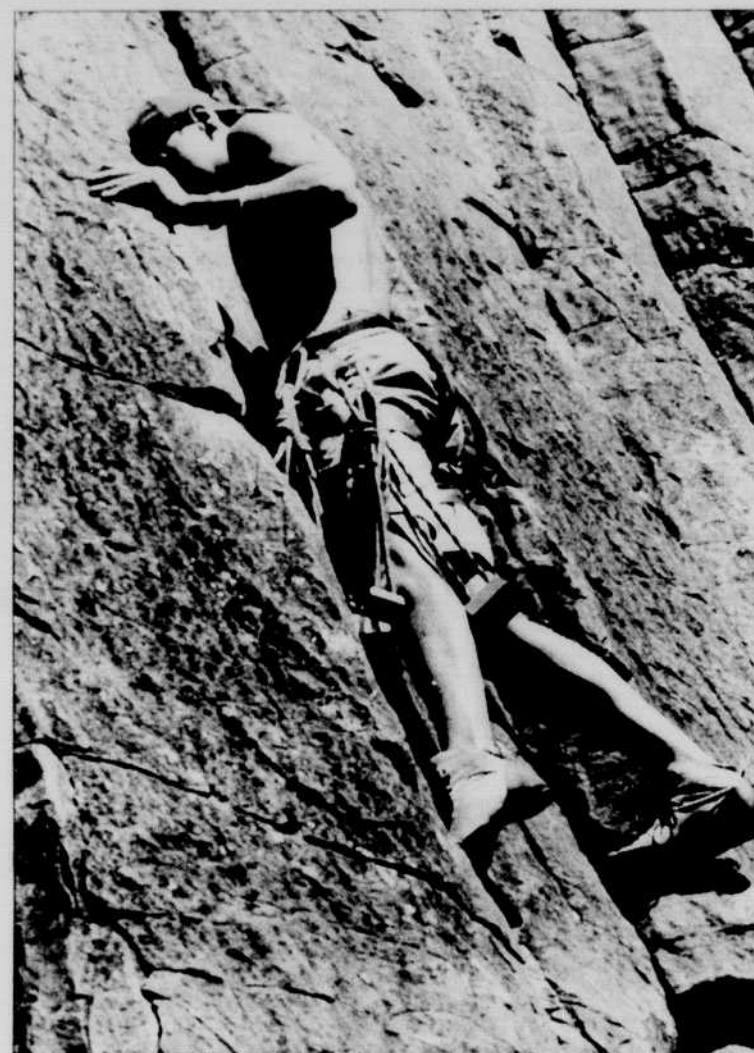


Photo by Sean Poston

Josh Horn of Springfield climbs the rock columns on the west side of Eugene's Skinner Butte Park, one of Lane County's recreation sites.

Highway ponds, located near Valley River Center off Goodpasture Island Road, and the Highway 99 ponds, off the highway north near Junction City, are stocked through April with trout. The trout fishing slows when the water gets

warm, but catfish, bluegill, croppie and bass fishing heats up with the weather.

Summer offers a unique opportunity for students not only to get ahead in their studies but to take advantage of a truly unique area of the state.

## INSURANCE

Continued from Page 1 charges.

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Also, some students may be able to waive coverage if they are carrying insurance from their home countries.

The Hartford plan does not cover treatment in students' home countries. Another drawback is a reduction in maximum benefits for mental health care.

A brochure outlining costs and benefits for each policy should be available by the time law students register for classes on Aug. 23.

The contracts with All-American and The Hartford are for one year only, Curran said.

Long-range planning for student health insurance will depend partly on the Oregon State Board of Higher Education, which is examining the possibility of creating a statewide student insurance program that would include all colleges and universities.

Insurance market factors will also influence Student Health Insurance Committee planning during this coming year, he said. "We see the market pushing toward things that students won't necessarily like — toward mandatory insurance," Bailey said.



Most other colleges and universities require mandatory participation in the school's insurance program. Stickel said. "That's one thing I've learned from talking to other schools about this," she said. "It's just rote — it's mandatory."

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