

Life *in the* Valley

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MCDONALD STATE FOREST

Gear up for relaxation, recreation, research

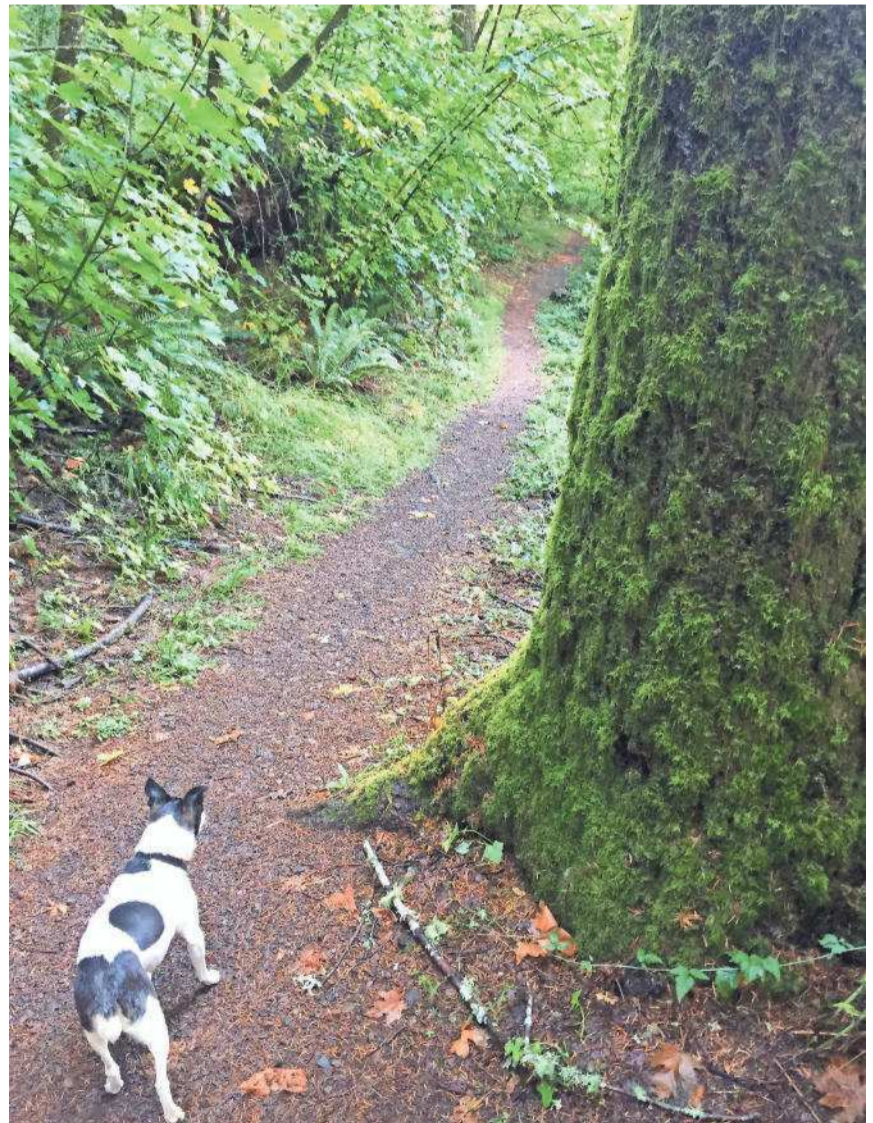


McDonald State Forest is a wonderful gem that serves relaxation, recreation and research alike. PHOTOS BY JUSTIN MUCH/STATESMAN JOURNAL

Sunlight, water and air. • It doesn't get any simpler than that. • A crisp autumn bout of exercise joined with a refresher science course at Peavy Arboretum in the McDonald State Forest. • The brief Woodland Trail placard imparts: "Plants use carbon dioxide from the air, water from the soil and energy from the sun to produce food. During this process, the plant's leaves release oxygen into the air making it available to you and the forest animals." • Uprooted trees, fall debris, fungi, insects and earthworms all make their way into the hiking lesson, as do skunks, deer and other myriad forest denizen dwellers. • All tucked into one of the Willamette Valley's gems.



Don't worry hikers, even though there's a little moss, this bench is still a great place to sit and catch your breath during your journey.



A furry friend checks out one of the trails in the forest.



While exploring the forest, visitors may find themselves greeted by a flowing waterfall, left, or a moss-covered tree, right.

