

Hikes

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Willamette Mission State Park

Originally founded as a Methodist Mission in 1834, one of the oldest sites in Oregon is a beautiful park that's home to 16 miles of hiking, biking and equestrian trails.

The best easy hike within a park full of meadows, hazelnut trees, oxbow lakes and Willamette River views is a 2.6-mile loop.

Start at the Filbert Grove Day Use Area inside the park — you'll have to pay a \$5 day-use fee unless you have a state parks pass — and follow a trail to the Willamette River. Turn right and follow the river for one mile to a view of the Wheatland Ferry — the oldest ferry in Oregon (the 1850s original was little more than a wooden raft powered by men with poles).

From the ferry, turn right and follow a trail along Willamette Mission Lake — part of the Willamette River before a flood caused the river to change course — and enjoy sights of the United States' largest black cottonwood tree (155 feet tall and 26 feet in circumference).

Finally, turn right to return to your car and the trail's starting point. There are plenty of longer routes as well.

Trailhead location: Navigate to Willamette Mission State Park or to the Wheatland Ferry Trailhead. **Coordinates:** 45.080968, -123.055587.

Luckiamute Landing State Natural Area

Located 11 miles south of Independence, this natural area sits on a floodplain along the Willamette River. It has a trail that travels through an open oak savanna home to cottonwoods and other valley trees all the way to a very nice little campsite and picnic spot along the Willamette River.

The hike runs about 3 to 4 miles without much climb, but makes for a pleasant outing with kids or those looking for a scenic jog.

Trailhead location: From Independence, travel south Corvallis and Buena Vista roads to the park. **Coordinates:** 44.715336, -123.163006.

Ankeny Rail Trail

Just 20 minutes from Salem, this magic route in Ankeny National Wildlife Refuge is a favorite. The Rail Trail begins in forest but then accesses one of the longest boardwalks I've ever seen, taking hikers over a marsh through a green tunnel of forest chirping with all manner of bird and insect.

The 1-mile out-and-back route ends at an observation post that resembles the turret of a castle, where you can peer across Wood Duck Pond at Canada geese, great blue herons and egrets.

After April 1, when seasonal closures lift, the hike can be extended into a loop of almost 4 miles by adding the dike trail to the boardwalk.

Trailhead location: From Salem, take Interstate 5 south for 10 miles. Take Exit 243 and follow Wintel Road south around a bend and keep your eye out for the Ankeny Wildlife Refuge sign and the well-marked trailhead on the left. **Coordinates:** 44.77206, -123.07775

Baskett Slough National Wildlife Refuge

Located just west of Salem, this is probably the best-known wildlife refuge near Salem for hiking, and for good reason.

The best overall hike is the Rich Guadagno Memorial Loop Trail, which climbs through forest and past wildflowers that bloom in May to an overlook at the top of Basket Butte and Bald Mountain. That route is open year-round and begins from the Coville Road Trailhead.

After April 1, however, this hike can be extended into a hike of 3 to 4 miles if, after climbing Baskett Butte, you continue to Morgan Lake, an interesting pool surrounded by marsh grass.

In addition, explore the Moffitt Marsh Trail, also from April 1 to Sept. 30, on a 3-mile trail that begins off Smithfield Road.

"Park at the Morgan Lake trailhead parking area, and then walk west down Smithfield road about .25 mile to reach the gated trailhead. The trail will follow the seasonal Moffitt Marsh before angling east towards the refuge interior to meet up with the Morgan Lake and intertie rails. Due to the seasonality of the marsh, the trail is best enjoyed in late spring," says the Baskett Slough NWS page on hiking.

Trailhead location: From Salem, follow Highway 22 west 13 miles to Rickreall. Turn north on Highway 99W for 1.9 miles and turn left on gravel Coville Road 1.5 miles to the trailhead parking lot on the right. **Coordinates:** 44.960548, -123.257293.

Champoeg State Heritage Area

Oregon's birthplace as a state is centered on this historic park north of Salem.

The place where pioneers voted for statehood also features some pretty nice hiking. My favorite route begins at the Riverside Day Use Area, following a paved pathway past historic sites and lush forest above the Willamette River. You can also start at the Visitor's Center, which hasn't been open due to COVID-19.

The route runs about 3 miles one-way, and 4 miles to the historic Butteville Store (which also isn't open due to COVID-19).

Trailhead location: From Salem, follow Interstate 5 north to exit 278 and follow signs about six miles to the park. Follow signs for Riverside Day Use Area or the Visitor's Center. **Coordinates:** 45.252997, -122.9054293.

Aumsville Ponds County Park

A short trail circles the namesake ponds of this country park east of Salem and just outside Aumsville.

The trail features two wooden bridges, a cool flat-stone creek crossing, about a half-dozen dirt- and gravel-filled wooden stairways and a wooden viewing platform on the backside.

Trailhead location: Navigate to Aumsville Ponds County Park. **Coordinates:** 44.8289089, -122.8574602.

E. E. Wilson Wildlife Area

If you love hike-in fishing, EE Wilson near Camp Adair is a great option, and it's a nice place to visit even if you're just going for a quick stroll.

E. E. Wilson Wildlife Area is south of Monmouth and home to a network of roads, forest and wildlife, along with ponds that anglers love to target. This was once a military base, but has slowly reverted to nature.

Trailhead location: Navigate to E.E. Wilson Wildlife Area. **Coordinates:** 44.7004838, -123.2135822

Mountains, waterfalls, forest within 1 hour of Salem

These hikes require a longer drive but feature the most dramatic scenery, including waterfalls, old-growth forest and some mountain views.

Silver Falls State Park

This is the most obvious choice, of course, so we're just going to scratch the surface. Ten waterfalls, six more than 90 feet tall all in a glorious temperate rainforest east of Salem.

If you don't want to hike the entire Trail of Ten Falls — a challenging 8 to 9 miles — consider the shorter loops.

The most popular hike circles above and behind South Falls, before heading back up to the South Falls Day-Use Area. An extended version of this hike adds Lower South Falls for a slightly longer and steeper hike.

My favorite rainy season hike begins at Winter Falls Trailhead and travels past five waterfalls and back on a 3.6-mile tour. The highlight is Double Falls, which at 178 feet is the tallest cascade in the state park.

Trailhead location: Navigate to Silver Falls State Park, following signs off Highway 22 east of Salem. The South Falls Day-Use Area is the most popular spot to start a hike, but as mentioned above, Winter Falls and North Falls trailheads also work. **Coordinates:** 44.876667, -122.64805.

McDowell Creek Falls

Whether it's the lack of notoriety or remote location, the feeling you get arriving at McDowell Creek Falls Park is that of stumbling upon a hidden gem.

Located 10 miles north of Sweet Home, the unassuming park is home to four spectacular waterfalls found on an easy, fun trail home to unique bridges and viewing platforms. Dogs on leashes are welcome and kids can splash in the creek on hot summer days.

A 1.8-mile loop passes Royal Terrace Falls, Majestic Falls and Crystal Pool.

There's a map at the trailhead and the trails are well maintained.

Trailhead location: Navigate to McDowell Creek Falls County Park. Most start at the first trailhead you come across along McDowell Creek Road, closest to Royal Terrace Falls. However, there are three different trailheads to choose from. **Coordinates:** 44.464232, -122.682278.

Cascadia State Park and Soda Creek Falls

A very quiet and pretty trail leads from the South Santiam River to a tiny crystal stream with a thin, 150-foot waterfall. In summer, Soda Creek Falls is little more than a dribble, while in winter, it thunders down the canyon.

The hike begins at Cascadia State Park, east of Sweet Home, and is 1.4 miles total with a 575-foot elevation gain, making it an easy but sometimes steep trek.

The path begins on the far side of the parking area and follows the creek upstream (there are wooden signs that are easy to follow).

The farther you hike, the narrower the canyon becomes. The forest also becomes denser.

Once you reach the waterfall, there are a few scramble trails worth exploring through a slit in the rock walls — although this can be fairly dangerous and slippery.

There's a map at the park's main parking area. **Trailhead location:** Navigate to Cascadia State Park. The trail begins a short ways from the main parking area, either through the campground or on a side road. **Coordinates:** 44.398182, -122.472862.

Finley National Wildlife Refuge

Located south of Corvallis, here you can stroll through one of the last remaining intact wet prairies in the valley. The refuge lowlands support riparian habitats as well as wetlands. The other side of the refuge is home to upland Oregon white oak savannas and mixed deciduous forests.

In addition to all of that, the refuge boasts a rich cultural history between the native Kalapuya people and the 1855 Fiechter House, which claims to be the oldest building in Benton County. An 0.8 mile out and back on a boardwalk through the riparian area, combined with a 1.2-mile loop through the savanna and mixed deciduous forest of the Woodpecker Loop, provides a great sampling of what the refuge has to offer, even in winter.

Trailhead location: About 10 minutes south of Corvallis. Navigate to William F Finley National Wildlife Refuge. **Coordinates:** 44.4213961, -123.312607.

McDonald Research Forest: Section 36 Loop/ Powderhouse Trail

The name suggests a place straight out of a petri dish, and in a sense, that's not far from the truth.

Owned and administered by Oregon State University, McDonald-Dunn is a living experiment where forestry theories are put to the test just outside of Corvallis. While that might not seem like an appealing place for a hike, OSU has graciously opened up the forest to public recreation, and the results are amazing.

The best trail through McDonald Forest begins at Peavy Arboretum and follows the Section 36 Loop and Powder House Trail through beautiful old-growth, mountain vistas and a strange lake on a 4.1-mile loop of moderate difficulty.

The first 0.3 miles follow a gated road to the forestry cabin, where a signboard and wooden bridge to the left begin Section 36 Loop — designated by numerous "36" markers. Follow the Powder House Trail at the 1.3-mile mark past open vistas before rejoining Section 36 and completing the loop.

Location: Just north of Corvallis. Navigate to Peavy Arboretum Road. When heading into the arboretum, stay left at the first two junctions and park in a parking area where an orange gate has blocked the road and there are maps of the hiking trails. The road you begin hiking on is labeled "John H. Beuter Road." **Coordinates:** 44.657101, -123.234783.

McDonald Forest: Old Growth/New Growth Loop

The Old Growth/New Growth loop is a 2-mile semi-loop that allows visitors to experience two very different forest types in one easy day hike, in the research forest outside Corvallis. As expected, the pathway weaves through both an old-growth forest and a much younger forest.

Directions: Navigate to the Lewisburg Saddle Trailhead. There are restroom options available. **Coordinates:** 44.6367019, -123.2959388.



A group of Salem parents and children enjoyed a Salem Hike It Baby outing at the Croisan Trail system in South Salem. PHOTO COURTESY OF AMY ROCKWELL

Fort Hoskins Historic County Park

One of three forts built by the Army to monitor the Coastal Indian Reservation in 1856, this is now a park with Coast Range views, a funky A-frame picnic area and a trail in the Kings Valley area northwest of Corvallis.

There are fun historic buildings to explore, but the hike itself is a 1-mile loop trail that's rarely traveled. The trail offers nice vistas of the Coast Range. After the hike, you can visit the original home of Capt. Christopher Colon Auger, the first commander of Fort Hoskins.

Location: South of Monmouth, navigate Fort Hoskins County Park. **Coordinates:** 44.6773407, -123.4635617.

Bezell Memorial Forest

The largest county park in Benton County was established when Fred Bezell bequeathed the land to the county. A plaque at the park details his love for the land and his late wife, Dolores, stating he intended for the memorial park to honor his wife "by providing a beautiful public place that bears the family name."

The trails are scenic and you have a few options. A short out and back loop can be as quick as 1.5 miles, but you can also put together options that total around 5 miles.

The Bird Loop is a short, relatively flat trail, featuring a gazebo and opportunities to see wild turkey, Western scrub jay and dark-eyed junco, among others.

The Plunkett Creek Loop follows a stream through the forest and has multiple footbridge crossings. About halfway through the hike, you have the option of looping back or taking the South Ridge trail, which later merges with the South Meadow Loop, featuring views of the valley and of Marys Peak on a clear day.

Directions: From Fort Hoskins, along Highway 223, continue south and go about 3 miles to a trailhead and parking area on the left. Signs make it easy to find. **Coordinates:** 44.652766, -123.426318.

Zach Urness has been an outdoors reporter, photographer and videographer in Oregon for 13 years. Urness is the author of "Best Hikes with Kids: Oregon" and "Hiking Southern Oregon." He can be reached at zurness@StatesmanJournal.com or (503) 399-6801. Find him on Twitter at @ZachsORoutdoors.

Public Notices

PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE OF BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING

A public meeting of the Budget Committee of the City of Scotts Mills, Marion County, State of Oregon, to discuss the budget for the fiscal year July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022 will be held at City Hall located at 265 4th St. Scotts Mills, OR 97375.

The meeting will take place on May 5, 2021 at 7:00 P.M. The purpose of the meeting is to receive the budget message and to receive comment from the public on the budget. This is a public meeting where deliberation of the Budget Committee will take place. Any persons may appear at the meeting and discuss the proposed programs with the Budget Committee. Due to the Current COVID-19 outbreak we will be practicing social distancing for the meeting. Budget Committee Meeting dates and information can also be found on our website:

www.scottsmills.org
A copy of the budget document may be inspected or obtained on or after April 15, 2021 at the City Hall located at 265 4th St., Monday, Wednesday, and Friday between the hours of 8:30 A.M. and 2:30 P.M.

Silverton Appeal
April 14, 2021

Public Notices

PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE OF BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING

The Silver Falls Library District Budget Committee will meet on April 27, 2021 at 5:30pm. This will be a virtual meeting hosted through Zoom (meeting ID# 898 2783 8704) in compliance with the Office of the Governor Executive Order 20-12, "Stay Home. Save Lives." The phone number to call into the meeting is 1-253-215-8782.

The agenda will include the FY22 budget message and public comment. A copy of the budget document may be obtained on or after April 15th on the website www.silverfallslibrary.org, or by contacting the Library Director at 503-873-5770 or via email at christy.davis@cris.org. If special physical, technical, or language accommodations are needed for this public session, please notify Silver Falls Library by email or by calling 503-873-5770 at least 24 hours prior to the session. Silverton Appeal April 14, 2021

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All Legals Deadline @ 1:00 p.m. on all days listed below:
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- Wednesday publication deadlines the Wednesday prior

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