

Tree To Tree Adventure Park *continued from front page*

be the right kind of entertainment for you. But if you like a good challenge, and get a kick out of overcoming your fears, this can really be a blast!

The easiest green course takes you about twelve to fifteen feet off the ground; by the time you get to the black diamond course you are about fifty feet up in the air. "As you go through the harder courses, the elements in between have less tension in the wires



so you feel more movement and there's less stability, so it is more physically exerting in the higher elements," explains Doyle.

During the opening weekend, a number of different aged and sized adults and youth were observed working their way through parts of the course, some completing all four routes. Some adults only challenged themselves with the green course, others pushed themselves further, working through their hesitations and fears. Still others seemed to enjoy the experience of moving precariously fifty feet above the ground from one swinging block of wood to another.

There are many different types of challenges and elements, including climbing walls, swinging logs and platforms, tunnels-- even a swing that lands you in a rope "spider web" that you have to climb out from. There is an optional Double Black Diamond route called the "Voodoo Triangle" with three extra-difficult elements for the most hardcore adventurers.

And of course there is everybody's favorite: numerous zip lines included in each course. Zip lines are suspended cables mounted on an incline; the user clips a pulley onto the line and rides suspended through the air down the line, propelled by gravity.

There is also a kids' course that is much lower to the ground that offers balancing and climbing chal-

lenge elements along with shorter zip lines. Young children were observed moving confidently and comfortably through the course, monitored by staff, and also having a great time.

The friendly and trained staff help you understand how to work your equipment and guide you through two introductory routes to get you comfortable. The course staff all have backgrounds in climbing and are knowledgeable, skilled and helpful. Once you have shown an understanding of the basics and the rules, and a mastery of the equipment, you are free to work your way through the various course levels. As you go through the course, you will arrive at "decision trees" where you can choose one of two routes-- one harder, one easier. The staff observes the adventurers from the ground, offering advice when needed, but mostly allowing guests to figure out for themselves how to negotiate each element.

One thing to keep in mind-- once you are up and on the course, there are no easy exits or ways to bail out or get down. Once committed, you almost have to fight through any doubts and complete the route you are on. The trained staff will come onto the course and "rescue" you in an emergency, but that involves being lowered by rope and sounds worse than just pushing through and finishing the course. Though completely safe, this type of adventure is not for everyone.

The adventure course looks to be a positive way for youth to have a fun, active, outdoor experience



Fun on the Zip Line!

that could also help build self-confidence. It also provides an opportunity for adults to test and learn about themselves.

The inspiration for the adventure course came from a childhood friend of Doyle's who opened a similar type park in the Adirondack Mountains region of upstate New York. "It was the first one in the U.S.," says Doyle. "These kinds of parks are popular in Canada and Europe, but I think ours is only the third one in the United States and we're the only one on the west coast."

"I went back to visit and saw his park and thought Oregon was the perfect place to bring the idea," says Doyle.

Tree To Tree Adventure Park is fully a family business. Family members have helped with everything from architectural design and layout of the course, to engineering the structures, marketing, finances, groundskeeping and maintenance. "A little bit of everybody is in this park," says Barris.

According to Barris, the family has tried to build the park as "green" as possible. "We worked with arborists to check that the trees were sound, first," says Barris. "Then we built the park to allow the trees



"The Junk Yard"--just one of the many imaginative elements that visitors can negotiate at Tree To Tree Adventure Park.

to grow and thrive by the way we cleared the area and the way we situated the elements on the trees. There is nothing encroaching on the life of the tree." Barris says the family has used all local businesses for the construction, engineering and maintenance on the property.

Tree To Tree Adventure Park is also offering their team building challenges for businesses and other groups to help build trust and positive relationships between co-workers and group members. It also looks to be a great place for birthday parties for kids, group outings for church groups, Scouts, school groups, and even family reunions and bachelor and bachelorette parties.

The Kids Course is open to children aged 7-12 who measure at least 4' 7". Kids must be supervised by an adult at all times and trained guides will provide monitoring at all times.

The Park will be open from March through November and, during the summer months, will be open seven days a week.



If you go:

Wear closed toe shoes and comfortable clothing. Expect to get dirty and sweaty. Helmets, gloves and climbing harness are all provided.

Prices are \$39 for adults for the full course and offer access to all four course levels, a half course rate is available for \$30 and offers access to the green and blue routes; kids are \$25. Tree To Tree Adventures is offering \$5 off during the month of June, Monday through Friday, and an additional 10% off for groups of eight or more.

Reservations are recommended, but not required. Parking is free. From Forest Grove, go south on Highway 47, turn right on SW Scoggins Valley Road., drive past the Scoggins Valley Park entrance (no park pass is required), then right on SW Nelson Road. The Park will be on your left. There are signs. For more info, call (503) 357-0109 or email info@treetotreeadventurepark.com. You can also go to their website at www.treetotreeadventurepark.com.



There is also a fun and challenging route for kids that is lower to the ground.