

A day in the park

Canemah Park

Located in old Canemah off 99E, Canemah Park is small but has many different attractions.

With the tiniest parking lot and thin unkempt trails, this park is really a diamond in the ruff. While the trails may be untidy, they still provide a real workout for your calves. The trail winds around the entire park and empties into

the parking lot.

Picnic benches overlook the Willamette River and West Linn, but the view of the falls really catches your eye. From the viewpoint is a picture of the Willamette falls you can't find anywhere else.

Not many people are around the park; at most you'll run into people going on a power walk or bringing their dog up to chase a stick.

Mollala River State Park

"Mrs. P" (as the park is so commonly referred) is on North Holly Street just before the Canby Ferry. It is iconic to anyone who has attended Canby High School for any amount of time. Students enjoy the park for its lack of adult supervision and numerous "hangout" spots. Adults and families enjoy the park for its many paths and dog fields.

At the park, you'll find a boat ramp for boating enthusiasts to drop in on the Willamette River. Also, there are many tiny banks on the river for people to fish off of.

The trails that wind around the grounds go past small ponds, along the river bank and

up past a large barn where the grounds keeper keeps maintenance equipment.

Some parks are often overcrowded and little peace can be found. At this park, though, it's not hard to find someone doing homework, playing music or spending time with a loved one. Birds chirping, dogs barking, kids screaming jubilantly, and the occasional motor are the only things that break the silence.

Nestled between Canby's small town politics and Wilsonville's sterile shopping centers, Mrs. P is a great escape.



Tryon Creek State Park

Tryon Creek State Park is off Highway 43, on Terwilliger Blvd. The only problem with Tryon is the lack of parking, but that is only a small setback. What the park has to offer greatly overshadows that.

Before hitting the trails, make

your way to the Nature Exhibit. Within you will find displays, a gift shop, and a small library of about 100 books containing information pertinent to the nature in the park.

Once on the paths, watch out for the countless trillium sprinkled along the trails. Sporadic lookouts called

Ravines-Wildlife Corridors offer exceptional views of wildlife that may have been displaced by urban development.

Some trails look forgotten and unkempt while others are so clear, one yearns for more debris and plant matter. Unpaved trails proved the

most rewarding as everything feels cut off from the metro area. However the paved trails were perfect for just exercise or other low-impact activities.

Tryon Creek Park has a vast array of wildlife and adventure waiting. It's large enough to lose yourself and worth the extended drive.