



A sunset view from the park.

Photos by Malia Riggs

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With easy access from U.S. Highway 101, Short Sand Beach Trailhead is an absolute must hike.

The short ½ mile winding trail through lush green forest and muddy banks upon Short Sand Creek leads to Short Sand Beach. This beach is perfect for sand castle building, big wave surfing, tidepool exploring and the best secluded beach for kids and dogs to explore, run and play on during a pristine winter day.

The view from the picnic area and the beach makes the slightly muddy trek all worthwhile. With birds chirping in the distance, almost rhythmically to the sound of the waves as they splash on the rocks in the distance, it's hard to believe that it is the middle of winter in the Pacific Northwest.

A diverse escape

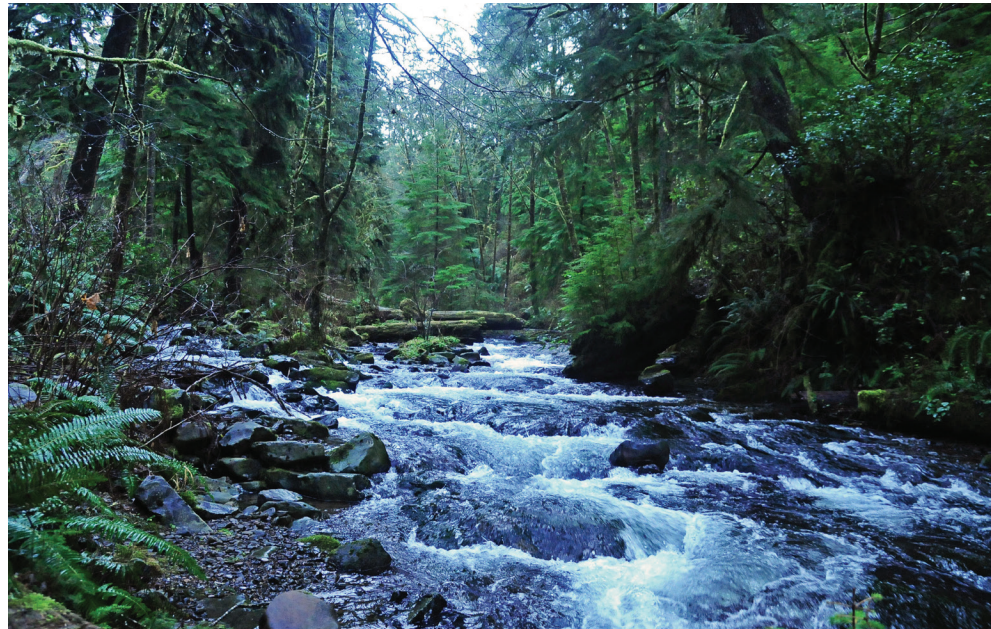
But Oswald West State park has more to offer than dense temperate rainforest trails that are a signature staple to Oregon hiking. Gorgeous secluded beaches and beautifully crafted suspension and railroad-style bridges within the hikes are just some of

what is in store on a typical hike in the state park. Oswald West also has arguably some of the best overlooking views and whale watching viewpoints in the Pacific Northwest.

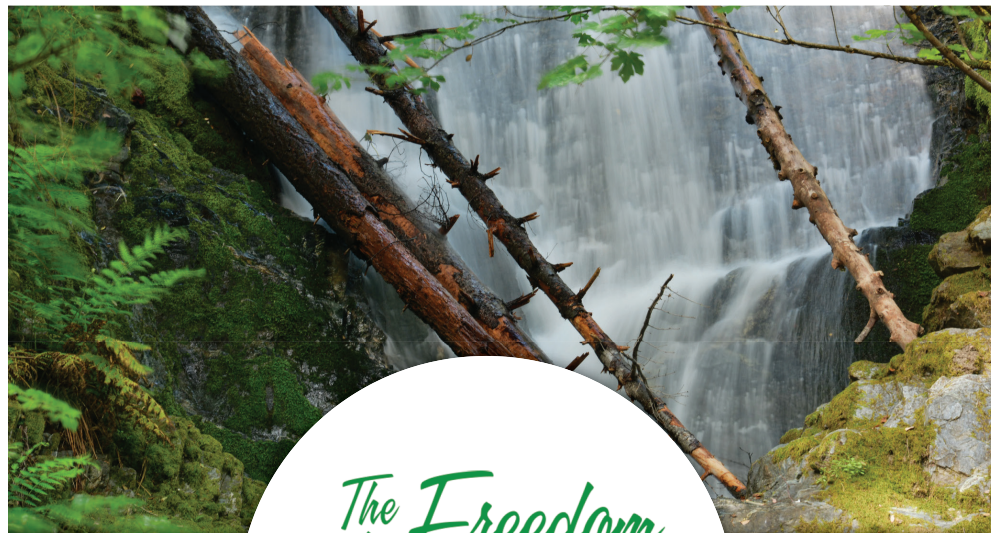
Neahkahnie Mountain, also right off of U.S. Highway 101 in Oswald West State Park, is one of the highest points on the Oregon coast. At 1,661 feet, it overlooks Nehalem Bay. With the high vantage point it is ample for the perfect sunset shot, family photo, offers the best lighting for selfies by a mile and creates a fabulous overlook for whale watching.

Whether Oswald West is a stop to stretch your legs during a road trip or a 13 mile workout on the Oregon Coast Trail, the state park is the perfect place to take everything in.

From the salty fresh air mixed delicately with the muddy forest floor to the sound of the wind and waves in the distance that climbs up cliff or weaves through the trees, Oswald West State Park is one of the most gorgeous destinations on the Oregon Coast and is perfect for a day hike, family picnic, camping or just a quick stop to admire the view.



Short Sand Creek.



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