

Featured Bridge: Stewart Bridge

Built in 1930 and restored in 1996, the Stewart Bridge has semi-circular portal arches, ribbon openings at the eaves and decorative S-curve brackets. The deep water below the bridge is considered one of the best swimming holes in Lane County.

As with other wooden bridges in Oregon, the Stewart Bridge has had its share of woes. Heavy rains of the 1964 "Christmas Flood" brought water raging down Mosby Creek, with the resulting force cracking the lower chords of the bridge. Just over four years later, a heavy snowstorm dropped more than three feet of snow on most of the Willamette Valley. The roof bracing gave way under the weight of the snow, and the entire roof caved in. Repairs to the bridge once again made it usable, and it carried a 20-ton limit until it was by-passed in the mid 1980s by a concrete span.

The Stewart Bridge was painted in 1982, and although now out of service, is included on Lane County's ongoing bridge maintenance program. It was officially "mothballed" in 1987, with one of the approaches removed, fumigation of timbers, and installation of a wire fence inside a portal for safety of pedestrians.

To get there: Travel one mile east of Cottage Grove on Row River



Road. Follow the sign to Mosby Creek Road by turning right, crossing the railroad tracks, then turning left to travel south. The bridge is located at the intersection of Mosby Creek Road and Garoutte Road (CR 2555), 3.5 miles from Cottage Grove.

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