

TOP PICKS WHERE TO EXPLORE

Trails and parks in and around Bend

Central Oregon Historic Canal Trail — Maintained by Bend Park and Recreation, the unpaved 4-mile trail along one section of the canal starting at Blakely Park gently follows the historic waterway from the Deschutes River and beyond. Note, only a few sections of the canal are open to pedestrians, please respect closed areas and private property.

Pilot Butte — The summit road has reopened for the first time since 2019 making the best view of the city accessible for anyone wanting to drive or hike up. Hikers can use the well-maintained trail to avoid cars, but drivers should use caution around pedestrians on the roadside. Whatever way you choose to ascend, the sights at the top are worth the time.

Good Dog Loop — The 3.5-mile pooch-friendly trail located off Century Drive at the Rimrock Trailhead is a combination of three different sections of trails: The Deschutes River, Rimrock and Deschutes River Connect trails according to trailforks.com. Any given day, you can see hikers and their canine companions enjoying the easy trail that loops down to the Deschutes River and features some interesting rock formations along the way. You may even catch sight of an osprey flying above.

— Makenzie Whittle, *The Bulletin*



A cyclist rides on a portion of the Central Oregon Historic Canal Trail. Submitted photo

Gray Butte

Continued from B1

No trail leads to the summit, but a gravel road does, if your legs aren't burning enough from the previous hills.

Because this area is still used for active grazing, there are several cattle gates to pass through. Be sure to securely close the gates behind you. This prevents cattle from leaving the allotment where the rancher has both been permitted to keep them and expects to find them. Help them out and be respectful by closing gates.

Gray Butte also has a reputation for its "gumbo," the slippery, claylike mud that sticks to your shoes and tires. This has been a pretty dry spring so far, but with a good rainstorm or in wetter years, the trails can become messy. If the trails are muddy at all, turn back and explore somewhere else. Not only will the mud be a nuisance, but running and riding in those conditions can also destroy the trail tread, creating ruts and deep footprints when it dries. Always be respectful of other users on the trail. Hikers, bikers and runners should yield to horseback riders, taking care not to spook horses and stepping off the trail to let them pass.



Cristina Peterson/For The Bulletin

An arrowhead balsamroot alongside a trail on Gray Butte.

If the timing is right, arrowhead balsamroot, which resembles a sunflower and grows in small groups on rocky slopes, will brighten the trail-

sides with pops of color. Lupine, the purple, cone-shaped cluster of blooms, also lines sections of the trail, adding a sweet fragrance to the air. Each

Bend Trails

Bendtrails.org has good information and maps of this area. Its website includes conditions updates from users who were recently in the area which can be helpful with the changing seasons.

spring varies with moisture and temperatures so catching the wildflowers at their peak always feels like a special occasion.

Contrary to its name, Gray Butte can be full of color in the spring when the grasses green up, bright wildflowers bloom and the sky becomes a deep blue.

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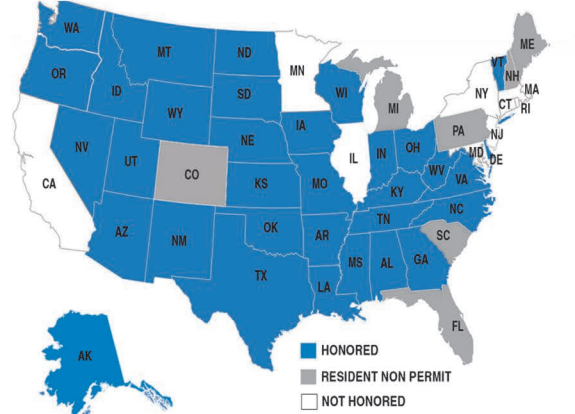
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Columbia Park access closure

As of July 22, Deschutes River access is closed due to safety concerns and to prevent further erosion to the river bank. The access point will be closed until further notice. For more information visit bendparksandrec.org

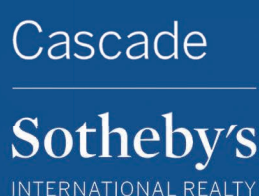
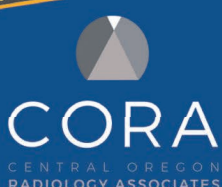


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