Willamette River

The Willamette River originates between the Cascade Mountains and the Coast Range. The area between these two ranges is referred to as the Willamette Valley. While the Willamette River is one of the nation’s largest rivers, it also has the unique designation of being one of the few rivers that flows north. Because of the Chelan fault, the river flows from east to west through the city separating the Chelatchie Prairie District to the south. The Willamette River has always been a significant resource for Willamette Valley. Historically, the Bonnie Ferry crossed the river and connected Salem to Portland. This is the reason that Willamette was originally established. The river lies within the largest watershed in Oregon and provides a potable water source for the community. On average, 21 billion gallons of water flow past the Willamette banks daily. Downstream from Willamette, the river flows through Portland and to its confluence with the Columbia River.

Coffee Lake Wetlands

Coffee Lake Wetlands originate in the Tualatin-Shoal Creek area and flows west through Wilsonville to the Willamette River. The wetland habitat along the creek supports important species of migratory and resident wildlife and native wetland plants. The Coffee Lake Wetlands is a part of the Tualatin-Tongue Butte Regional Geological area whose unique landscape includes formations such as hulk ponds and basalt hummocks that were formed during the Missoula Floods some 13,000 to 15,000 years ago. In 2008, Boeckman Road was extended over the wetlands with a pedestrian side walk providing additional viewing opportunities. The impact of development was minimized with wetland mitigation and wildlife passage structures. A variety of wildlife including great blue heron, snowy, bald, raccoon, black bear, and deer and otheragalleged frogs have been observed in this unique ecosystem.

Memorial Park

Memorial Park is the City’s oldest and largest park. The Memorial Park property was acquired by the City in 1908 and is located on the Willamette River with one-half mile of river frontage. The park is comprised of 120 acres of recreational opportunities and natural habitat. It has become a cherished resource for the community and offers a diversity of active and passive recreational opportunities.

Memorial Park is the City’s center for active outdoor recreation and organized community teams. It is a place where people gather for special events, picnics and day camps. There is a very close distinction between community groups, greenery presence of the recreational area of the park and the forest that forms a dense vegetative envelope that surrounds the recreational sports complex. Memorial Park features many amenities including: fields used for baseball/softball/woccer, badminton, racquetball, sand volleyball, disk golf, playgrounds, drinking fountains, restrooms facilities, off-leash dog run, tennis and basketball courts, disc golf, playgrounds and picnic shelters that can be rented for group functions.

Undeveloped portions of the park feature forested areas, stream riparian corridors and open meadow landscapes. Roeckman Creek bends the park and joins the Willamette River just outside the southeast corner of the park. A pedestrian bridge over the creek provides an opportunity to view the City’s fish population and stream restoration project. Approximately 50 acres of native forest can be explored in the park. The native landscapes of the park provide wonderful opportunities for walking and observing wildlife.

During the spring of 2013, the park received an updated 10-year Master Plan including: park rehabilitation, enhancement of existing elements and the addition of new recreational features.

Murase Plaza

Murase Plaza has become the community’s playground. The interactive water feature and spray deck serve as a gateway into Memorial Park. As visitors move through the park, the amenities create a series of experiences that move the visitor from tower to the City’s rich past. Park views transitions from urban to rural and architectural to nature as they move east across the park towards Roeckman Creek. An old oak chest and the century old Sint-Roemer barn sit adjacent to the children’s play area. Overall, the pedestrian providing for all ages and activity levels.

The Murase playground contains two large play structures with one of the structures being fully accessible.

Town Center Park and Oregon Korean War Memorial

Town Center Park, an urban park located in the heart of the city, is a popular destination for people of all ages. One of the highlights of the park is a water feature where kids can play and splash on hot summer days. The park includes a large grassy area, kids play area, half-court basketball court, picnic areas and is home to community concerns of festivities. The Parks and Recreation Administrative Offices are also located within Town Center Park.

The Oregon Korean War Memorial was dedicated in Town Center Park on September 30, 2000. The memorial centerpiece is a 94 foot long “Wall of Honor” containing the names of 287 Oregon service men and women who lost their lives in the Korean War. A bronze statue honoring General Douglas MacArthur is also located at the Memorial.

Boones Ferry Park

Boones Ferry Park is located along the Willamette River at the terminus of Boones Ferry Road in Old Town. The park is the former location of the Bonnie Ferry which crossed the Willamette River. River ferries crossed here for 157 years, transporting thousands of horses, cows, buggies, automobiles and pedestrians across the river connecting Salem to Portland prior to the completion of Interstate 5. The Tauchman House, located in Boones Ferry Park, is a turn-of-the-century home available for private events. From Boones Ferry Park, a trail uses the Bonnie bridge connects to Memorial Park.

During the fall of 2018, the park received an updated Master Plan including: greater access across a dog area, a new playground, increased trails and a landing site for the French Prairie Bridge.

Graham Oaks Nature Park

Adjacent to the western city limits, the 220-acre Graham Oaks Nature Park is a part of the regional open space system. Owned and operated by Metro, the site improvement project includes: trails and improvements to interest with nature. Graham Oaks showcases sustainable development practices, including a small parking lot along Willamette Road, a hierarchy of trail types with sides of walking and cycling paths, a picnic, shelter, restrooms, interpretive signs with seating, educational information and areas for quiet contemplation. The site was completely restored in 2007, with over 150,000 trees and shrubs being planted in six different habitat types. The site contains a diverse range of forested, wetland, meadows and Oregon white oak savannah, offering rich wildlife viewing opportunities.

Paths traverse the site connecting to existing neighborhood parks and schools and the CREST environmental education center, providing visitors with opportunities to interact with diverse habitats and wildlife.

Natural Areas and Native Habitats

A diversity of native habitats are found within Willamette’s parks system. In the Willamette Valley, landscapes and plant communities have been influenced by geological events, climate and cultural history. Gambaro’s, vernal ponds, quaking and white oak savannahs, provide visitors with opportunities to observe sites of historic interest with nature.

City Guidelines

No person shall possess in any park, unless approved by Park Hours.... Park rules are subject to 5pm to 10:00pm, unless otherwise approved. No alcohol is permitted in Wilsonville parks unless approved by permit. All Wilsonville parks are smoke and tobacco-free. Pets on leash except in the Dog Park located at Memorial Park; properly dispose of pet waste. Overnight camping is not allowed in Wilsonville parks.

No open flames, fires, charcoal grills or disposable grills allowed. Prepare grills may be used but must be an open-flame free model. No person shall possess any loaded firearms directed at any person, bird or animal. No removal of, or damage to, park grounds, structures or facilities.

Park Rules

Carson Park

In an effort to keep Wilsonville parks safe and enjoyable for all users we ask that you observe the following rules. Park hours are 5:00am to 10:00pm, unless otherwise approved. Alcohol is not permitted in Wilsonville parks unless approved by permit. All Wilsonville parks are smoke and tobacco-free. Pets on leash except in the Dog Park located at Memorial Park; properly dispose of pet waste. Overnight camping is not allowed in Wilsonville parks.

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