

Welcome to the Willamette River Water Trail

Rushing wild and pure from its headwaters in the Cascade Mountains, the Willamette broadens into a meandering 187-mile-long river, by volume the 13th largest in the United States. Every day, thousands of people crisscross the Willamette on bridges, or drive on roads along its length, within arm's reach of its many wonders. The water trail provides access to launch, landing and camping sites, encouraging people in small boats to explore this extraordinary waterway. Eventually the trail will extend the full length of the Willamette to its confluence with the Columbia River. This guidebook encompasses the middle section; upper and lower sections will be developed later.



Blue heron are common sightings

Nature Up Close

On the river, nature is all around, offering unexpected wonders in its myriad sights and sounds. This stretch of the watershed is home to more than 140 species of birds, from bald eagles and red-tailed hawks to great horned owls and osprey, thousands of migratory ducks and geese, and multitudes of songbirds. Beavers and otters clamber between water and land. Fish are plentiful, including salmon, steelhead, sturgeon, cutthroat and rainbow trout. Shores are lined with alder, willow, cottonwoods and Douglas fir, shrubs, grasses and wildflowers.