

28.5: Bernert Landing

GPS 45°20.338 N, 122° 39.121 W

This City of West Linn property makes an excellent put-in for a short trip up to Willamette Narrows and a great take-out for longer trips.

NOTE: If the Willamette Falls Locks are not in operation, you must arrange portage from here!



View of Willamette Falls from the north

Last take-out before the falls!

29-31: Rock Island Landing

This 469-acre property, which is owned by Metro and the State of Oregon, is a fantastic natural area. Paddlers can take out in the small embayment immediately above the landing and walk to the upland area on a narrow trail to reach vistas across the river to Rock Island, the back channel, and downriver. Camas and other native wildflowers bloom on the bluff in spring.

Little Rock Island

Main channel

Passable only at higher flows

31-30: Rock Island and Little Rock Island (respectively, Metro and The Nature Conservancy)

Rock Island (67 acres) and Little Rock Island (12 acres) make a great suburban getaway. The area has madrone- and oak-covered hillsides and rock faces overlooking the deep and relatively narrow Willamette channel. The back channel behind Little Rock Island is worth the trip.

At summer water levels canoes and kayaks can maneuver through a portion of Big Rock Island via narrow cuts in the basalt. At higher water levels these narrow channels can have strainers. The thin soils of Little Rock Island support the rare white rock larkspur. Stay on the shoreline of Little Rock Island to avoid the vast amount of poison oak, and to protect the native plants.

Like the Rock Island Landing, Rock Island was purchased with funding from the 1995 Metro Greenspaces bond. From this funding, Metro was able to acquire natural areas throughout the Portland metropolitan region. In November of 2006 a new bond measure was passed that will provide another opportunity to purchase land for the public. Rock Island and Rock Island Landing are fine examples of the benefits of this program.

Miles 34-30

Usually unpassable

Rock Island

30