



The Willamette Water Trail

This guide is designed for those traveling the Willamette River from Buena Vista to the Columbia River, some 106 miles. The guide informs river travelers of take-out and put-in options, where to camp, river hazards, and amenities offered at Water Trail sites along the way. This guide covers the lower stretch of the Willamette Water Trail and is a companion to the guide for the Upper Willamette. Together, the two guides cover more than 200 miles of river.

Linking Public Resources

The Willamette Water Trail is a collection of publicly owned and accessible sites that enable people to travel the river in human-powered craft such as canoes, kayaks, rafts, and drift boats. Along the Willamette, numerous natural areas and parks provide opportunities to access the river just for the day or for camping during longer river trips. These sites make the Willamette Water Trail available to a wide array of people. The Willamette Water Trail project provides key information about these publicly accessible areas and offers helpful hints about safety and river etiquette. The goal of the Water Trail project is to help people use their river more easily, more often, and to facilitate a safe and enjoyable trip on the Willamette.

Whether you want to make a short day trip near Salem or a multi-day excursion of nearly 100 miles, the Willamette Water Trail will help. In addition to this printed guide, there is a Water Trail website (www.willamettewatertrail.org) that provides the guide maps in PDF format, updates on specific campsite improvements, and other news and information. On the river, each Water Trail site is marked with signage that has the Water Trail's "canoe" logo (see photo below).

In the Future

The next few years will bring improvements to a variety of public sites along the Willamette. River travelers will find more flat tent sites, fire rings, picnic tables, and seasonal restrooms. Goals for specific Willamette Water Trail sites are on the website (see address above) and in the Willamette Water Trail Master Plan, which is available from Willamette Riverkeeper (www.willamette-riverkeeper.org). In addition, citizens can volunteer to take care of specific Water Trail sites. For more information, contact Willamette Riverkeeper at info@willamette-riverkeeper.org.