

# Forest Grove Pacific University and Clark Historic District

2.4 miles

5069 steps

difficulty

45.519, -123.111

## FOREST GROVE: PACIFIC UNIVERSITY ...

This walk passes through Pacific University's campus on to the 1890s brick storefronts in downtown Forest Grove and into the Clark Historic District, where homes date from the 1850s. Along the way are many of the state's oldest giant sequoias.

Note: For a printable map and list of historic buildings seen on this walk, visit [www.forestgrove-or.gov/city-government/historic-landmarks-board-walking-tour.html](http://www.forestgrove-or.gov/city-government/historic-landmarks-board-walking-tour.html)

Forest Grove, a town of 20,000, sits scenically where the Tualatin Plains transition into the Coast Range. The town owes its existence to Pacific University, founded as a prep school and college in 1849 by Congregationalists and today a thriving university of 2,500 students, tucked into a woody setting adjacent to downtown Forest Grove.



Pacific University campus

From the starting point at College Way and Pacific Avenue, walk north to Pacific University's Old College Hall, the oldest structure on campus, dating from 1850. For 40 years, it was the school's sole building. Walk to the campus side of Old College Hall; on the right is Carnegie Hall, a college library built in 1912. On the diagonal walkway, head toward the imposing red brick Marsh Hall, the heart of the campus, built in 1895. Fire gutted it in 1975 but it was rebuilt and houses the school's administrative functions. From Marsh Hall, walk west on the walkway toward 21st Avenue, passing an intriguing petrified stump. At 2019 21st is the Propstra Creamery building, given to Pacific University by Helen Propstra, whose parents once operated a creamery in town.

## FOREST GROVE: PACIFIC UNIVERSITY ...

From 21st, turn left on Main and enjoy its shops and restaurants. Walk south on Main through downtown, passing into the Clark Historic District at about 18th Avenue. The district is named for Harvey Clark, who owned this land and in 1849 donated it to the school as an endowment, with hopes that its 1-acre lots would sell to fund the school's growth.

Pass the 1931 Central School, decommissioned after the 1993 Scott's Mill earthquake. From Main, turn left on 17th and then right on Ash. At 15th is a lovely view of the Tualatin River floodplain to the south. Turn left on 15th and left on Birch. At 1604 Birch is the 1859 Thomas Hines home, a simple Classical Revival style, typical of frame homes built on the Tualatin Plains when settlers were ready to step up from a log cabin.

From Birch, turn right on 16th and left on Cedar. Take Cedar up to 19th, turn right and pass the 1873 Cornelius House at 2314 19th, named for Benjamin Cornelius, who helped locate a southern immigrant route to Oregon in the 1840s. His son Thomas founded Cornelius, Oregon.

From 19th, turn left on Elm and then left on Pacific and walk two blocks. The campus is on your right. Meander back to the starting point via campus walkways. Don't miss the new library, with its great blend of art and function. The second floor mezzanine, with its view into the campus tree canopy, is a splendid place to rest after a walk.



## FOREST GROVE: PACIFIC UNIVERSITY ...

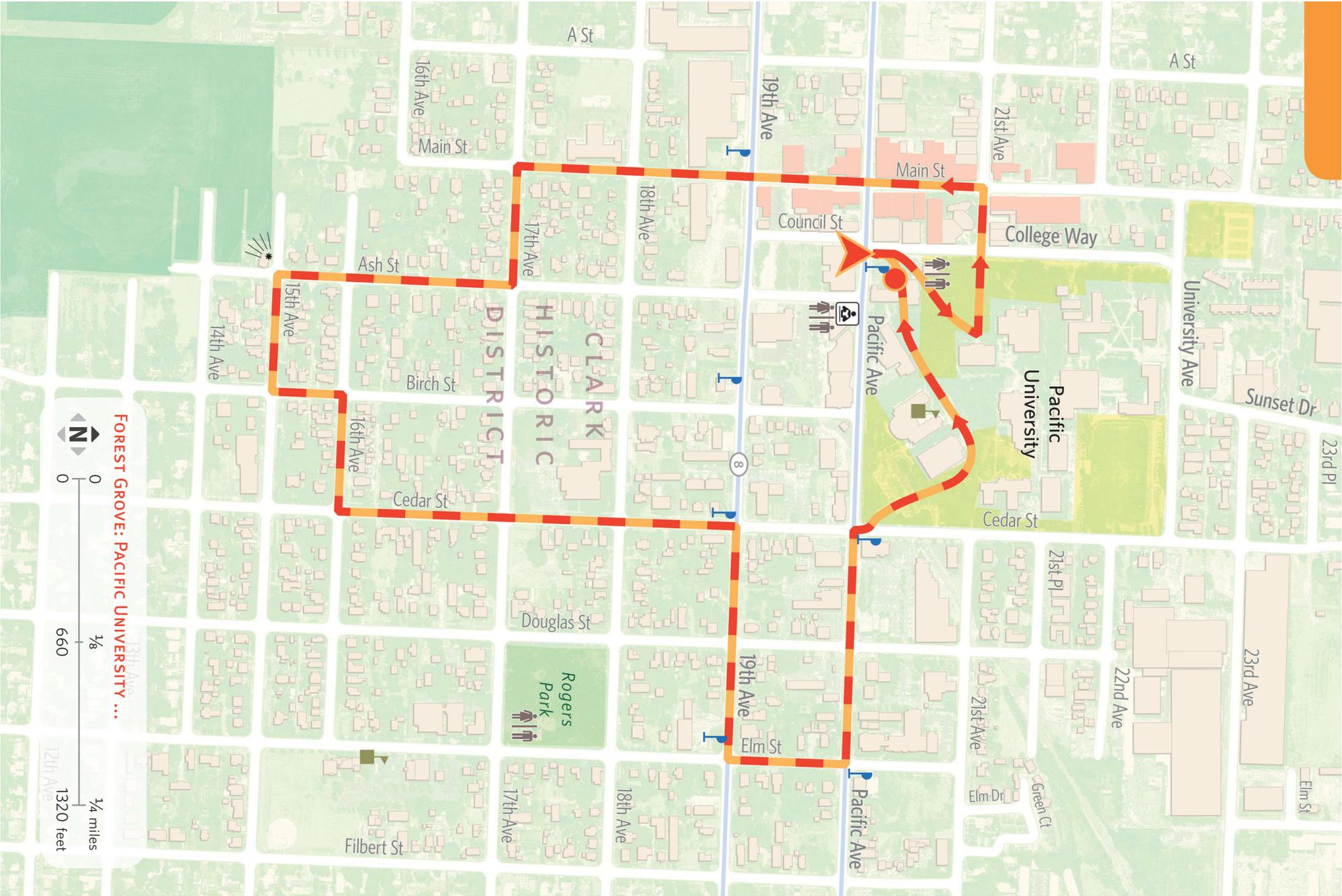
### The Sequoia Story

The many giant sequoias seen on the walk are specimens of the largest tree species on earth, *sequoiadendron giganteum*. Washington County's old giant sequoias are attributed to nurseryman John R. Porter, who moved to Oregon from Ohio in 1847 and opened a nursery in Hillsboro. He went south to prospect for gold during the 1849 California Gold Rush and rode back to Oregon, not with gold in his saddlebags but with cones of the giant sequoia. He cultivated the seeds and began planting them in Washington County. Many of the seedlings cultivated in his nursery tower over Forest Grove streets. The Oregon Department of Forestry lists two of them on its Register of Big Trees. Both are a few blocks off the route, but worth a look: at 1651 Hawthorne and at B Street and Pacific Avenue. Other sequoias from Porter's nursery are still growing tall at the Washington County Courthouse in Hillsboro.



Pacific University campus





FOREST GROVE: PACIFIC UNIVERSITY ...



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660

1320 feet

1/4

1/2 miles