

Hillsboro Downtown

Hillsboro, once a sleepy agricultural town, has a beautiful historic downtown with a strong emphasis on the arts and a hometown ambience. This and other amenities caused U.S. News and World Report to name Hillsboro one of its top 10 places to retire. This 1.2-mile (one-way) walk explores the charms and art scene of downtown Hillsboro.

Take the Blue Line MAX to its terminus at Main Street and Adams Avenue. Exit MAX, turn right and walk along Main Street. Cross 1st. On the left is the Washington County Courthouse, framed by giant sequoias. Here, on summer Saturdays is the Hillsboro Farmers Market. Main Street is a great place to explore old storefronts, many of which house tempting antique shops.

From Main, turn right at 2nd. HART (Hillsboro Artists' Regional Theater) is on the right. Turn left onto Washington and then left onto 3rd. At Main, turn left to enjoy the Venetian Theatre and Bistro in the renovated Town Theater.

From the theater, walk east on Main to 5th. In the northeast corner is the Glenn and Viola Walters Cultural Arts Center, opened in 2004 in a former Lutheran church. Inside are classrooms, galleries, offices of art organizations and performance space.

Continue east on Main past historic homes. Turn right on 9th, walk one block and turn right on Washington. Walk one block to 8th. Look south to Tuality Hospital, the largest employer in downtown Hillsboro. End the walk by continuing west to the Tuality Hospital/SE 8th Avenue MAX stop.

2.4 miles

5069 steps

difficulty

45.522, -122.991

HILLSBORO: DOWNTOWN

Hillsboro History

Hillsboro is named for David Hill, an Oregon Trail pioneer. He named the area on his donation land claim Columbus but it was renamed Hillsborough on his death in 1850. In 1876, when the city incorporated, the name became Hillsboro.

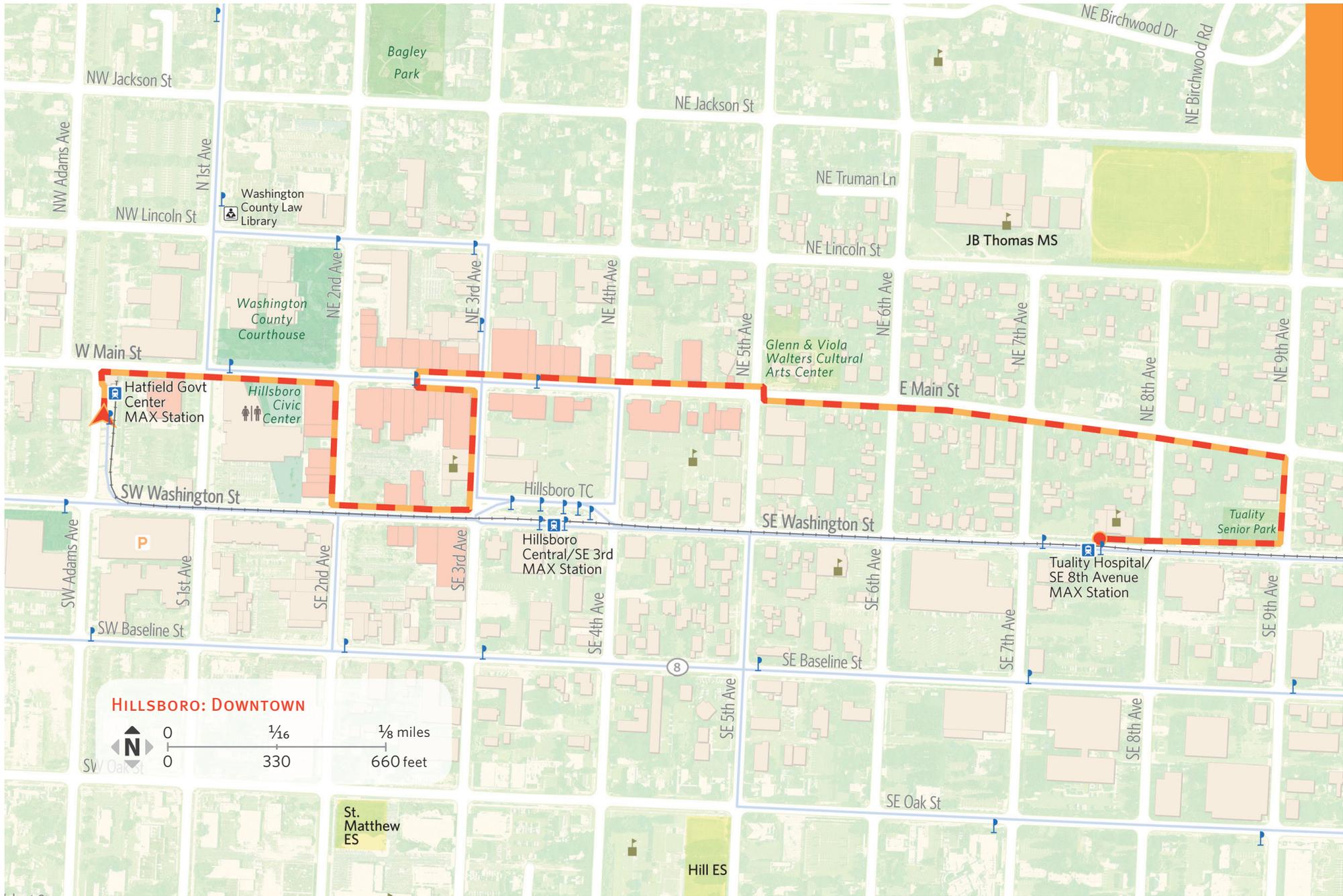
The giant sequoias at the Washington County Courthouse came from Porter & Sons Nursery. Cones from California had been brought to Oregon by John Porter after his stint in gold-mining country. Originally eight were planted at the courthouse in 1880. Five survive.

The stone for the Walters Cultural Art Center was quarried in the 1940s by congregation members, who hauled the rock in 150 trips from Camas, Washington to Hillsboro. The center is named for the founders of the Glenn Walters Nursery, Oregon's largest nursery, with 18 farms in Washington County.



Walters Community Art Center





HILLSBORO: DOWNTOWN

