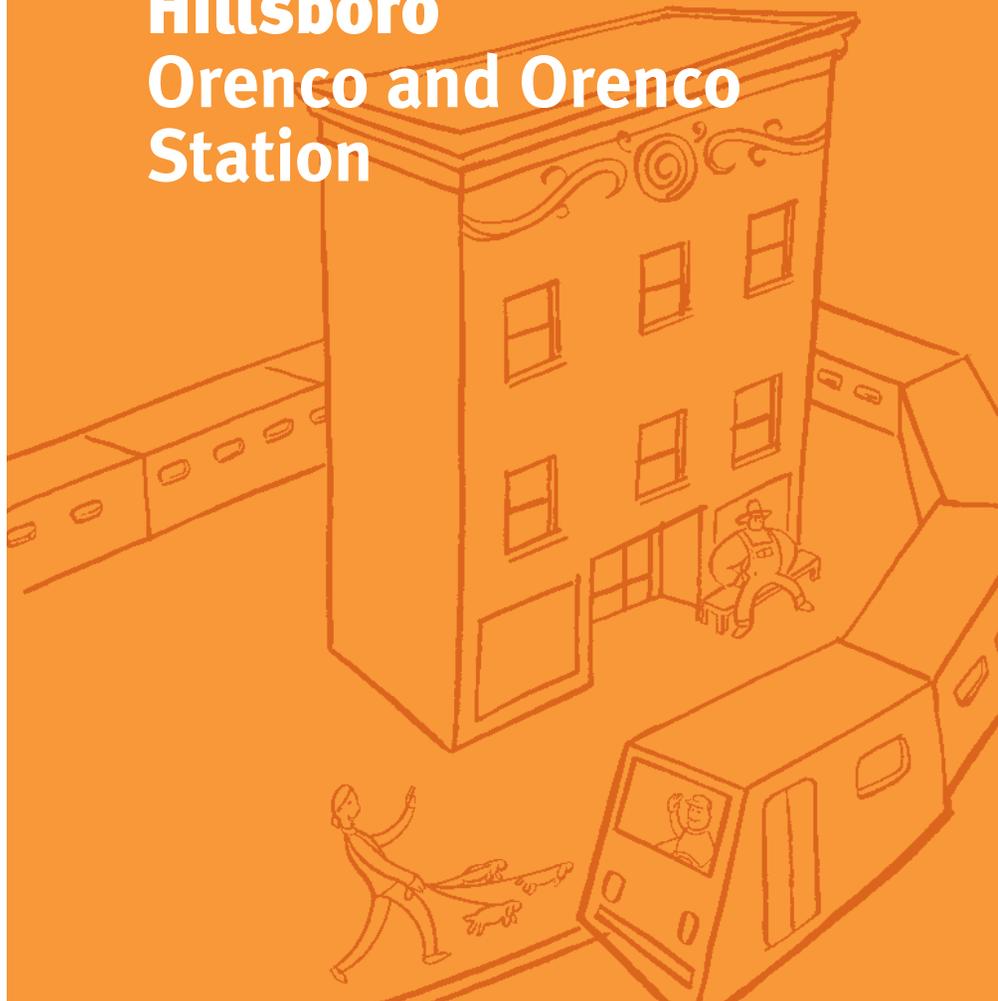


Hillsboro Orenco and Orenco Station



2.2 miles

4,646 steps

difficulty

45.530, -122.915

HILLSBORO: ORENCO AND ORENCO STATION

This walk takes you through two planned communities, one old, one new: the 1906 town of Orenco, formed by the Oregon Nursery Company, and Orenco Station, an experiment in the New Urbanism created in 1997. In 2006, *Sunset* magazine named Orenco Station the West Coast's best new suburb.

From the MAX stop, walk east to a sidewalk on the south side of the tracks. Take it to 231st Avenue and turn right. Walk half a block and turn left on NW Alder Street into old Orenco.

In 1906, Archibald McGill and Malcolm McDonald bought 1,200 acres for their new Oregon Nursery Company. Fifty horses tilled fields where fruit and shade trees were soon planted. A 2-acre packing shed was located just north of what are now the MAX tracks. The town's name is a contraction of the company's name; it incorporated in 1913 with about 500 residents, many immigrants from Hungary. The company thrived until the 1910s, when it planted one million trees with plans to export apples to Europe. World War I laid waste to that plan. By 1927, the company was bankrupt.



Barn near Orenco Station

At 22930 is the 1908 Orenco Grocery/Mercantile. At 22870 is Orenco Drug, where the town doctor practiced and dispensed medicine. Across from it was the depot of the Oregon Electric Rail; the tracks were laid in 1908. Their alignment is used by the MAX trains. Other businesses along Alder were a hotel, dry goods store, grocery, boarding houses, hardware store, blacksmith, livery and a printing shop

From Alder, turn right onto 228th. Ahead is the 1911 Orenco Presbyterian Church. Turn left onto Birch and follow it to just beyond Orenco

HILLSBORO: ORENCO AND ORENCO STATION

Elementary, where you can see the old nursery grounds. In 1953, a golf course opened here. In 2005, it closed and the land was sold to a home developer. Retrace your steps on Birch to 229th; turn left and then right on Chestnut, walking under Orenco's century-old elms that have created a sheltered nook amid the bustle of modern Washington County.

Leave the past behind when you cross 231st into a new neighborhood. Turn right at 62nd, right at Alder and then immediately left into a small courtyard to cross the train tracks. Once beyond the tracks, veer a bit left to walk north on Orenco Station Parkway.

Cross Cornell Road and enter Orenco Station's town center. As you walk north to Central Park, restaurants, stores and live/work units blend into duplexes and single family homes, with alleys to keep cars out of sight.

Turn right at Brighton, left at 63rd and left at Rosebay Drive. Come back to the park and walk down its west side to Brighton. Turn right and then left onto 61st where the Orenco Station Farmers Market is held Sundays, mid May through mid October, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., in the parking lot next to New Seasons.

Return by walking down Orenco Station Parkway to the MAX stop.



HILLSBORO: ORENCO AND ORENCO STATION

The Orenco Station Story

Orenco Station, constructed out of agricultural land in the 1990s and nearing completion a decade later, is an example of the New Urbanism, an urban design movement that emphasizes a sense of place. Principles of the New Urbanism include walkability, with shopping, jobs and recreation less than a 10-minute walk away; and a hierarchy of narrow streets, boulevards and alleys in a pedestrian-friendly design. Other hallmarks include a diversity of building types (commercial and residential), diversity of residents' ages, income levels and cultures, and an emphasis on beauty and aesthetically pleasing design.

Seen in Orenco Station are other principles of the movement: a traditional neighborhood structure, with a discernible center and public spaces and with higher housing densities at the center and progressively less density toward the edge; and a connection to alternative transportation (in this case, the light rail line), in order to minimize the site's and residents' environmental impacts.



Orenco Station



