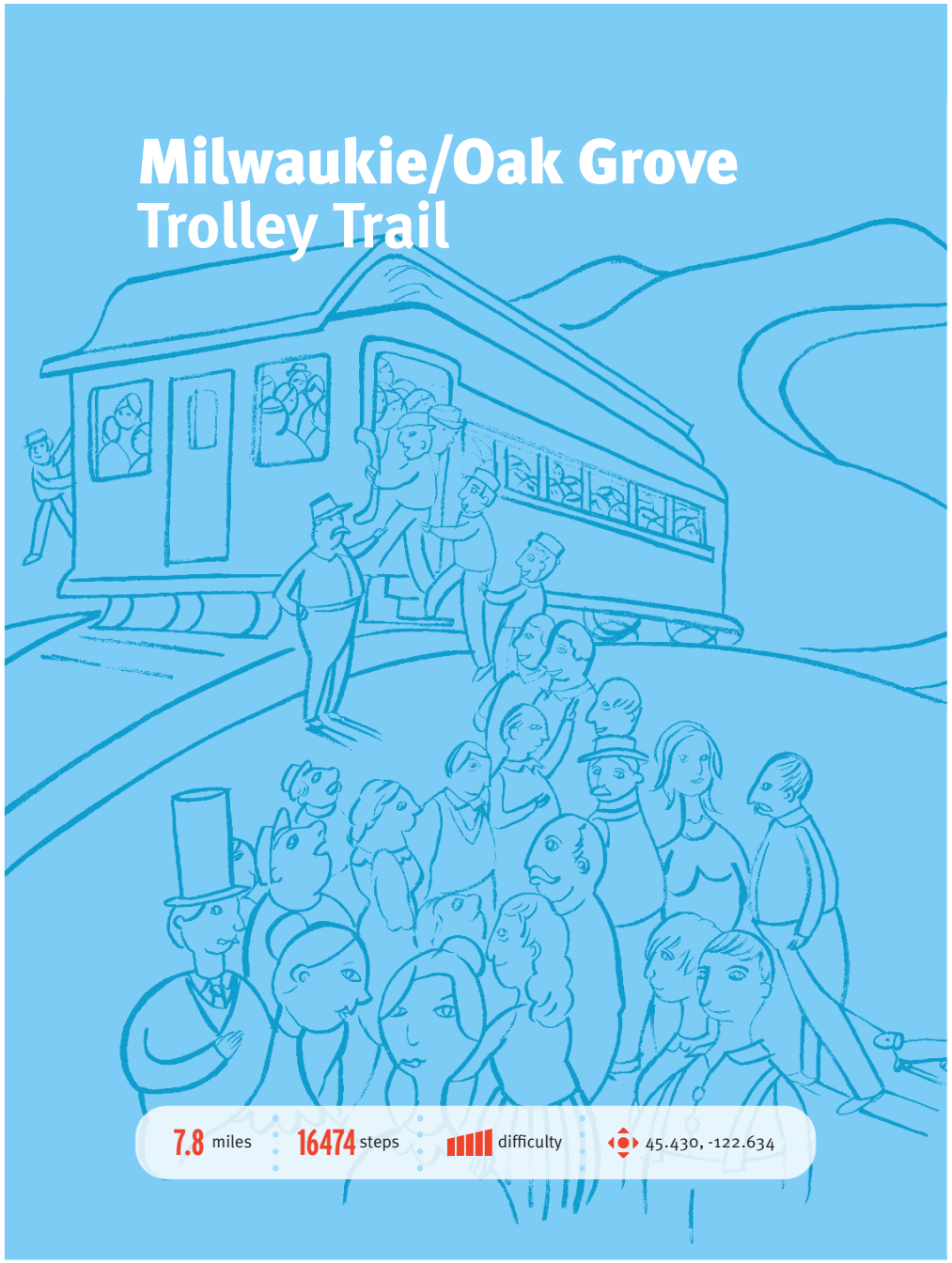
Milwaukie/Oak Grove Trolley Trail



7.8 miles | 16474 steps | difficulty | 45.430, -122.634

Milwaukie/Oak Grove: Trolley Trail

Running from Milwaukie to Gladstone, the Trolley Trail is a walk through the past. This 3.9 mile (one-way) walk follows part of the route of the Oregon City Line, a Portland Traction Company interurban streetcar line that once ran between Portland and Oregon City.

Trolley at Evergreen Station

Before 1893, residents of the Milwaukie area relied on dirt roads; travel was by foot, horse-drawn wagon or, least arduously, the Willamette River on the town's west edge. In 1893, the trolley came to town and changed life for Milwaukie residents; this trail explores part of its length.

Begin at SE McLoughlin Boulevard and Park Avenue. From Park turn left on 27th, where you will see an entrance to the Trolley Trail.

Walk south on the trail and pass Oak Grove Elementary School. Once the trail becomes Arista Drive, cross Courtney Avenue. The streetcar stop Courtney Station, named for an Irish chicken farmer, was at the southwest corner of Arista and Courtney. Continue south on Arista. At Pine Avenue, a large evergreen hedge once marked the boundary for the Little Flower sanitarium. Saint Theresa Station, named for the sanitarium's patron saint, was on the east side of Arista between Courtney and Oak Grove Boulevard. At Oak Grove Boulevard was another station which doubled as a general store. It now houses the Oak Grove Bar and Grill.

By the 1920s, streetcar travel reached a peak it would never see again, as automobiles began to change the landscape and the Great Depression soon would slow economic activity. Ridership rose again during

World War II, as workers at Portland's wartime shipyards were encouraged to use public transit to save gasoline needed for the war effort.

Continue south on Arista and north of Creighton Avenue watch for the trail to veer left through vegetation. The trail travels close to several residences, emerges at Rupert Drive, and continues along a grassy median between the upper and lower portions of Arista. The trolley tracks reveal themselves in places here. Cross Concord Road and continue on the trail, traveling close to homes and through wooded areas.

Beyond Roethe Road, the trail travels near homes and industrial land to Boardman Avenue. Cross Boardman and walk on Arista. The trolley alignment runs along a raised berm, but stay on Arista to where it merges with McLoughlin. Walk south on McLoughlin, crossing to its other side at the four-way stop at Jennings Avenue. South of Jennings, watch immediately for a small, inconspicuous left onto Abernethy Lane. Walk south on Abernethy, cross Meldrum Avenue and the trail ends at Glen Echo Avenue.

Retrace your steps to the starting point.

Older days in Oak Grove

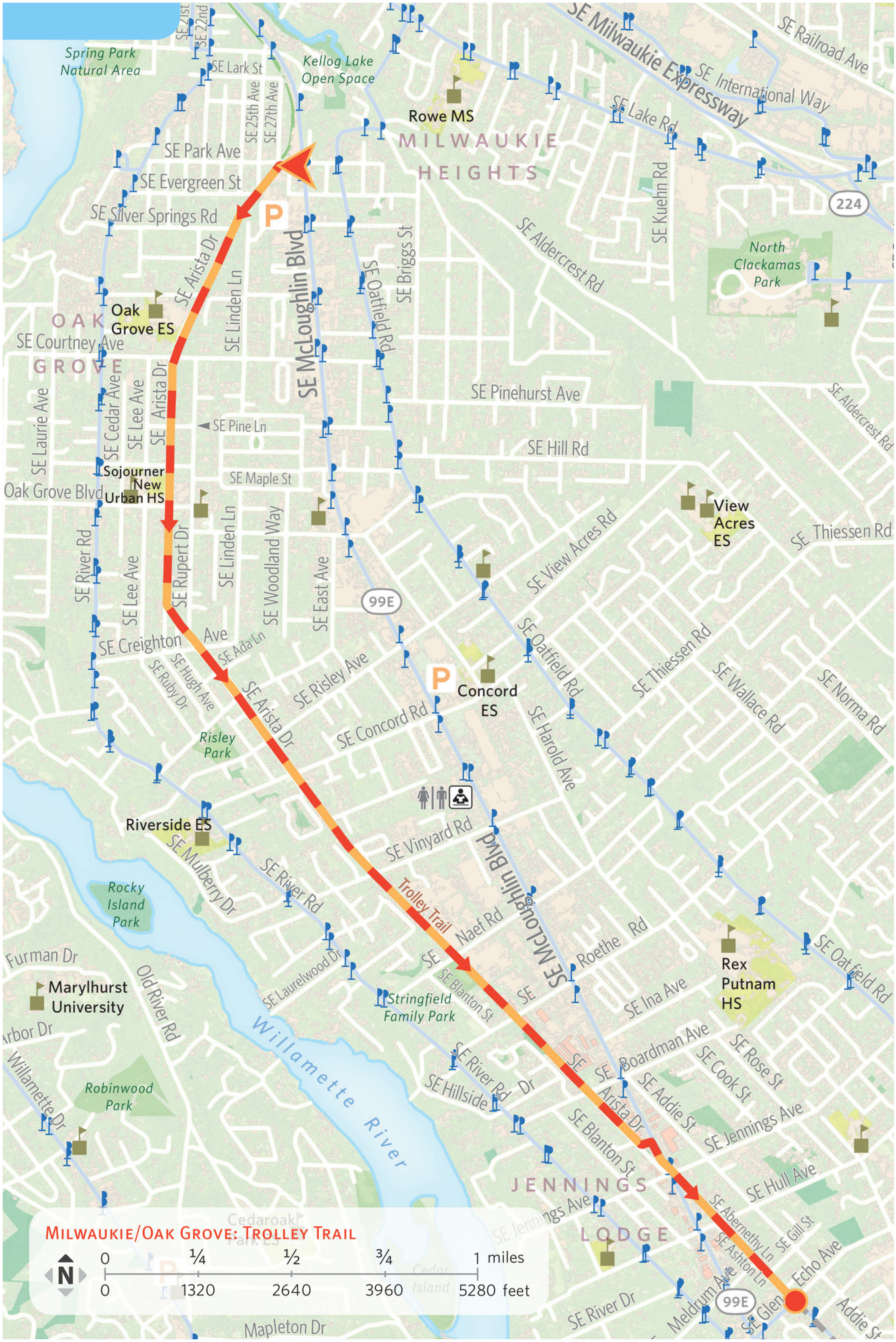
Milwaukie/Oak Grove: Trolley Trail

From Trolley to Trail

The remote, small-town character of Milwaukie changed when a streetcar line to Portland was built in 1893 by the Oregon City and Southern Railway. Passenger service along the line meant that bedroom communities sprang up, with workers commuting into Portland. The rail line was taken over in 1901 by what would eventually become Portland General Electric. It operated the line as the Portland Traction Company starting in 1930.

In 1958, with automobiles having supplanted interurban lines in the Portland area, passenger service stopped. Freight service continued until 1968, when the line was abandoned. In that year, a local high school teacher initiated a campaign to preserve the corridor as a trail. Three decades later, efforts by citizens and officials to keep the right of way open to the public ended happily. In 2001, Metro and the North Clackamas Parks and Recreation District purchased the right of way with plans to turn it into a multiuse trail.

At the Oak Grove Station


Milwaukie/Oak Grove: Trolley Trail
0 ¼ ½ ¾ 1 miles
0 1320 2640 3960 5280 feet
N
Spring Park Natural Area
Kellog Lake Open Space
Rowe MS
MILWAUKIE HEIGHTS
SE Milwaukie Expressway
SE Railroad Ave
SE International Way
SE Lake Rd
SE Kuehn Rd
224
North Clackamas Park
SE Aldercrest Rd
SE Park Ave
SE Evergreen St
SE Silver Springs Rd
SE Arista Dr
SE Linden Ln
SE McLoughlin Blvd
SE Briggs St
SE Oatfield Rd
Oak Grove ES
OAK GROVE
SE Courtney Ave
SE Laurie Ave
SE Cedar Ave
SE Lee Ave
SE Pine Ln
SE Pinehurst Ave
SE Hill Rd
Sojourner New Urban HS
Oak Grove Blvd
SE Maple St
SE Rupert Dr
SE Woodland Way
SE East Ave
SE River Rd
SE View Acres Rd
View Acres ES
SE Thiessen Rd
99E
SE Creighton Ave
SE Ada Ln
SE Hugh Ave
SE Ruby Dr
SE Risley Ave
Concord ES
SE Concord Rd
SE Harold Ave
SE Wallace Rd
SE Norma Rd
Risley Park
Riverside ES
SE Vinyard Rd
SE Mulberry Dr
Rocky Island Park
Trolley Trail
Naef Rd
Roethe Rd
Rex Putnam HS
Furman Dr
Marylhurst University
Old River Rd
SE Laurelwood Dr
Stringfield Family Park
SE Blanton St
SE Ina Ave
Willamette River
SE Boardman Ave
SE Rose St
SE Cook St
SE Hillside Dr
SE Addie St
SE Jennings Ave
Robinwood Park
SE Hull Ave
JENNINGS LODGE
SE Abernethy Ln
SE Gill St
SE Ashton Ln
Echo Ave
Meldrum Ave
Addie St
SE River Dr
Mapleton Dr