

WALK THERE!

Graham Oaks NATURE PARK

Discover Graham Oaks Nature Park with this scenic, three-mile self-guided tour from Walk There!

The first land managers at Graham Oaks, Metro's new 250-acre regional park in Wilsonville, were the Kalapuya Indians, who for centuries burned grasses and emerging trees in late summer to encourage growth of large oaks. The trees' acorns were a four-season food source. Burning also enabled camas to spread – its bulbs were another significant food source – and enhanced grazing habitat for deer and elk. The land was later farmed, and in 2001 Metro acquired it. Since then, Metro staff and volunteers have helped to restore the oak savanna, planting 150,000 native trees and shrubs and sowing 100 million grass and flower seeds.

Note: Dogs are not allowed at Graham Oaks except on the Tonquin Trail, and there only on leash.

Begin at Gateway Plaza, located at South-west Wilsonville Road and Willamette Way West. Walk east to Acorn Plaza, home to a 6,000-pound basalt acorn sculpture. Trails to the east lead to Boones Ferry Primary School, Inza Wood Middle School and CREST environmental education center.

Acorn Plaza intersects the Tonquin Trail, a paved, multi-use path that will eventually connect the Willamette River, located just south of Graham Oaks, to the Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge in Sherwood.

Turn left from the plaza onto the trail. At the first junction, the Coyote Way Trail offers a walk through restored oak woodland habitat. It also connects to the Legacy Creek Trail, where ancient Douglas fir trees grow along creek canyons in a deep forest, a counterpoint to the park's more open oak savanna.

Further on the Tonquin Trail, a short trail to the left leads to Lone Oak Plaza. Here a spectacular oak grows with the spreading canopy that testifies to its early years in an open savanna.



Continue on the Tonquin Trail to a path on the right, leading to a bird blind overlooking restored wetlands. Further north, the Arrowhead Trail leads to wetlands and connects Graham Oaks to the Park at Merryfield and the surrounding neighborhood.

The Tonquin Trail in Graham Oaks transitions to a network of off-street promenades and bike lanes through Villebois, a planned community of 2,600 homes built on

the former site of Dammasch State Hospital. Designed using smart growth principles, Villebois won the 2010 Community of the Year award from the National Association of Home Builders. A second Villebois trailhead to the west connects to the Oak Woodland Walk and allows for a loop back to the start via the Coyote Way Trail.

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