Hillsboro: Rock Creek Trail

An Escape in the City

The Hillsboro Parks and Recreation department began work on the Rock Creek Trail in 1998. With the assistance of voter-approved natural areas bond measure funds from Metro, the trail is now 1.6 miles long, connecting residential, commercial and industrial neighborhoods as it follows Rock Creek. Flowing out of the Tualatin Mountains to the north, Rock Creek flows into the Tualatin River at Rood Bridge Park in south Hillsboro and eventually into the Willamette River. It is one of 89 Rock Creeks in Oregon. This Rock Creek’s watershed drains about 65 square miles and is home to various waterfowl, fish and other wildlife. The city’s long-range plan calls for the Rock Creek Trail to extend more than 6 miles.

- - -

Boardwalk over wetlands

Hillsboro
Rock Creek Trail

This 1.6-mile (one-way) paved trail extends north from Orchard Park to Rock Creek Boulevard. While occasionally skirting residential and corporate complexes, it follows Rock Creek and provides a natural escape within the city. Combine this walk with an additional mile of paved trail and wetland boardwalks within the 21-acre Orchard Park.

Begin at the Orchard Park parking lot (20900 NW Amberwood Drive). Turn right on Amberwood, walk east to 206th, cross Amberwood and walk west on it to the Rock Creek Trail sign. Follow the trail along Rock Creek, enjoying native vegetation and wildlife. At Cornell, again walk to 206th to cross, and then walk west on Cornell to the trail’s continuation. The trail passes under the Sunset Highway and through towering evergreens to Rock Creek Park. Return on the same path.

Points of interest include hundreds of native trees and shrubs planted by Hillsboro Parks and Recreation staff and volunteers to maintain a healthy watershed. Invasive species are removed regularly to ensure that these native species can thrive. Habitat enhancement features such as swallow and duck houses have also been installed. Ducks are frequently seen along the trail and a great blue heron rookery is just north of Evergreen Parkway. A memorial bench also provides a place to rest or just enjoy the scenery.

This is a paved ADA accessible trail, with some boardwalk sections. Parts of the trail may be closed during periods of high water. Orchard Park offers restrooms and picnicking.