Portland
Kenton to Columbia Slough

From historic Kenton, walk 0.5 mile along the Denver Avenue Viaduct to see the wildlife that thrives in Portland’s backyard along the Columbia Slough. Watch for eagles, ducks, herons and cormorants in this area that originally was so rich in nature’s bounty that it became one of the most heavily populated human settlements of the West.

Taking your bike on MAX and riding this loop is another option.

Begin at 8319 N Denver Avenue at the Kenton/N Denver Avenue MAX station. Across Interstate is Kenton’s Paul Bunyan statue, a relic of Oregon’s centennial celebration in 1959. Proceed north on Interstate, cross Argyle and then turn west to cross the MAX tracks. Take an immediate right onto the Denver Avenue Viaduct, constructed in 1929. Stay on its east side as the viaduct passes over industrial buildings and the Columbia Slough.

Turn right onto Schmeer Road and walk under the viaduct toward the Columbia Slough Trail. There is no sidewalk here but there is room to walk to the right above the curb. On the other side of the viaduct, take care while crossing one lane of traffic to follow signs west to the Columbia Slough Trail.

This paved trail runs north and then west to travel above the Columbia Slough on the south, with views of Portland International Raceway (PIR) to the north. Listen for native songbirds and frogs and bring binoculars to watch herons and other aquatic birds.

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Continue west about 1.75 miles past Heron Lakes Golf Course and walk under a railroad overpass.

To the north is the treatment lagoon for the Columbia Boulevard Wastewater Treatment Plant. Turn south here to cross back over the slough on the Peninsula Crossing Trail pedestrian bridge and follow the trail around to the left and then south again, passing the treatment plant. Notice the wildlife themed art. One installation of metal poles could represent trees or totem poles. Another is a rock formation featuring modern petroglyphs.

From the treatment plant, turn right (west) along the trail that parallels Columbia Boulevard. Cross Columbia at the light at Portsmouth. Turn left and walk along the path, then turn off Columbia at Argyle (at a sign indicating I-5 North), angling to the right and climbing a slight hill. Stay on Argyle back to Denver. Turn right, walk a block, then cross Denver for a close-up of Paul Bunyan. The MAX station is across Interstate Avenue.

Paul Bunyan

4.6 miles 9715 steps difficulty 45.584,-122.686