



# Farmington Paddle Launch

## FIELD GUIDE

On the east side of the Coast Range in the Tillamook Forest, the waters of the Tualatin River are born. For about 80 miles, the river meanders through the Tualatin Basin where it eventually meets the Willamette River in West Linn. The river descends approximately 2,000 feet from its headwaters, with much of the descent occurring in the first 15 miles. As it reaches the lower levels of the fertile Tualatin Valley, abundant recreational opportunities and stunning nature await the explorer.

Farmington Paddle Launch, built through a partnership between Metro and Clean Water Services, provides visitors a safe and accessible location to set out on the Tualatin River Water Trail.

The river levels out in the middle and lower reaches, providing great exploration opportunities for beginners and advanced paddlers alike. The lower part of the river is a meandering, slow-moving flow in the summer months. Paddlers can even paddle upriver with relative ease in the low-flow months of summer. By winter and spring, the water picks up in volume and velocity,

providing well-oxygenated water for the salmon that are moving toward their spawning grounds in the upper reaches of the watershed. The river is still accessible in these high-flow times, but it is advisable that beginners aim for exploring in the summer.

Farmington is also an excellent spot for cyclists to begin two-wheeled journeys through the flat, rolling terrain of Washington County.

Opening a safe and visible launching point helps to promote awareness of water quality issues and wildlife habitat protection. The calm and winding Tualatin River is the lifeblood of Washington County. It provides drinking water for hundreds of thousands of residents, essential riparian habitat for wildlife, and is a popular, close-to-home recreational getaway for residents of the metro region.

For those wanting to explore nature in a unique way, the Tualatin River is a great place to get your feet wet, and Farmington Paddle Launch is the perfect place to start your exploration.

### Be on the lookout!



beaver



belted kingfisher



red-stem dogwood



osprey



## Tualatin River Water Trail

Paddling access to the Tualatin River is limited to the lower 40 miles from Hillsboro to West Linn. The summer months bring glassy, slow-moving waters to the lower Tualatin River that make Farmington Paddle Launch an ideal place for paddlers of all skill levels to begin river explorations or practice paddling skills.

Farmington lies five miles downriver from the developed Rood Bridge Park in Hillsboro and four miles upriver from the undeveloped Eagle Landing launch site. From this location, Farmington brings the region a step closer to completing the vision of the Tualatin River Water Trail: to create a series of access points every five river miles that open the river to wildlife viewing and recreation opportunities. The trail provides myriad opportunities for visitors to

explore a rich riparian ecosystem from the unique perspective of being on the water.

Tualatin Riverkeepers, a local nonprofit group, provides resources and tips for people wishing to explore the area. The group offers organized paddle trips, information about boat rentals, and opportunities to learn about restoration, the watershed and more. Learn more at [tualatinriverkeepers.org](http://tualatinriverkeepers.org)

## In the neighborhood

The Cruise In Country Diner is across the street on River Road. Grab a tasty burger or treat the family to delicious shakes on a warm summer day. Metro's Cooper Mountain Nature Park is a hop, skip and a jump away. Go from river otters and osprey to oak savannas and breathtaking vistas of the Tualatin Valley in 10 minutes.

## Farmington Paddle Launch

9665 SW River Road, Hillsboro

## Getting there

From Highway 217, take exit 2A and head west on Southwest Beaverton Hillsdale Highway, which becomes Southwest Farmington Road. Head west for about eight miles, then turn right on Southwest River Road. The entrance will be on the left.

## Know when you go

Open sunrise to sunset. Pets allowed on leash; please bring cleanup materials. Always wear life jackets when paddling. Watch out for log jams in the river.

## Amenities

Restroom, picnic tables, ADA-accessible parking, bike racks.

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