

Story by Kate McKenney Photography by Laura Oppenheimer Odom, Chris Woo

In the final stretch of its journey from the Rocky Mountains in British Columbia to the Pacific Ocean, the mighty Columbia River flows through the gorge, creating numerous recreational opportunities for boaters, anglers and outdoor enthusiasts. Metro operates two boat ramps along the Columbia River and one on Multnomah Channel, providing boater access and land-based recreational opportunities such as picnicking, beach access, archery and more.

Chinook Landing Marine Park



Chinook Landing Marine Park makes an excellent starting point for exploring the Columbia River or the Marine Drive Trail. One of Oregon's largest public boat ramps, Chinook Landing features six lanes for launching boats, many picnic spots and an archery range.

Chinook Landing's 47 acres also provide habitat for wildlife. Seasonal wetlands are home to frogs and other native amphibians. Enjoy a picnic along the river, watch osprey soar overhead searching for their next meal, or watch blue herons and snowy egrets hunt in ponds near the entrance and archery range. M. James Gleason Memorial Boat Ramp



Nine miles west from Chinook Landing along Marine Drive is M. James Gleason Memorial Boat Ramp. With four launch lanes, Gleason is slightly smaller than Chinook Landing but no less popular.

Next to the boat ramp is Broughton Beach, one of only a few sandy beaches in the Portland metro area. Broughton Beach is a popular spot for sunbathing, kite flying, picnicking or simply playing in the river. The Marine Drive Trail passes by both Gleason and Broughton Beach.

Sauvie Island Boat Ramp



Located on Sauvie Island along the Multnomah Channel of the Willamette River, Sauvie Island Boat Ramp is one of Metro's hidden gems. While much smaller than Chinook Landing and Gleason, Sauvie Island Boat Ramp offers boaters access to the Multnomah Channel, which eventually connects to the Columbia River.

This boat ramp is often frequented by kayakers and boaters looking for a quieter experience, but it also provides a resting spot for those exploring the island by bicycle or car. Traveling one mile east on Sauvie Island Road brings visitors to Kruger Farm, which operates a farm stand selling fresh produce. Also nearby is Metro's Howell Territorial Park, home to one of Sauvie Island's oldest farmhouses. Howell visitors can also pick apples and pears from the pioneer orchard, watch birds or enjoy a picnic.

Marine Drive Trail

The Marine Drive Trail parallels the Columbia River for more than 12 miles and provides an up-close view of the river for those who would prefer to stay on land. The eastern section of the trail parallels the river more closely than the western section and offers access to Gleason and Chinook Landing, as well as Blue Lake Regional Park. The western section of the trail passes by Metro's Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area, but the trail can be accessed from almost anywhere on Marine Drive.

With money from the 2006 bond measure, Metro purchased easements from nine private property owners to build a section of the Marine Drive Trail from Northeast 185th Avenue to Northeast Interlachen Lane. Metro is tentatively planning to build the 0.8-mile segment in summer 2018.

