



Bigleaf maples frame an open meadow as you exit the hustle and bustle of city life and arrive at Newell Creek Canyon Nature Park. Past the parking lot entrance, a winding trail and wooden bridges offer spectacular views of braided crystal-clear creeks and falls. This 236-acre forested canyon is a special space, offering a multiuse trail system for hikers, cyclists and wildlife viewers alike to take in scenic viewpoints and experience unique topography. In the park's meadow, enjoy a picnic under the maple canopy sheltering this hidden gem.

Movement through the canyon brings you between 150 and 400 feet in elevation, inviting views of two geologic formations — the relatively level Boring lavas of the upper terrace, and the cemented sands and gravels that form the architecture of the canyon. The Boring lavas are made up of red soils with large embedded boulders, brought over by the cataclysmic Missoula floods more than 13,000 years ago. The sand and gravel layers are composed of

the Troutdale and Sandy River mudstone formations. These were laid down by the Columbia River, which once flowed further south where Oregon City presently stands.

While Newell Creek Canyon was named through settler colonial practices, Metro acknowledges these lands as the ancestral and contemporary homelands of Indigenous peoples of this place, and is currently tasked with careful stewardship in consultation with them.

Metro acquired parcels of this site over several decades, and has worked to restore its riparian forest that houses red alder, bigleaf maple and salmonberry as well as the upland conifer forest dense with Douglas fir, western redcedar and western hemlock. Restoration work has included multiple projects to remove weeds and reintroduce native tree and shrub species. These efforts have helped create a nature park built for connecting community to the land while creating safe habitats for sensitive species like frogs and steelhead.

Be on the lookout!



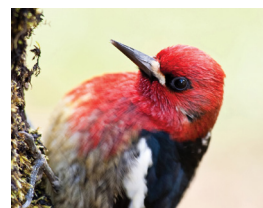
Northern red-legged frog



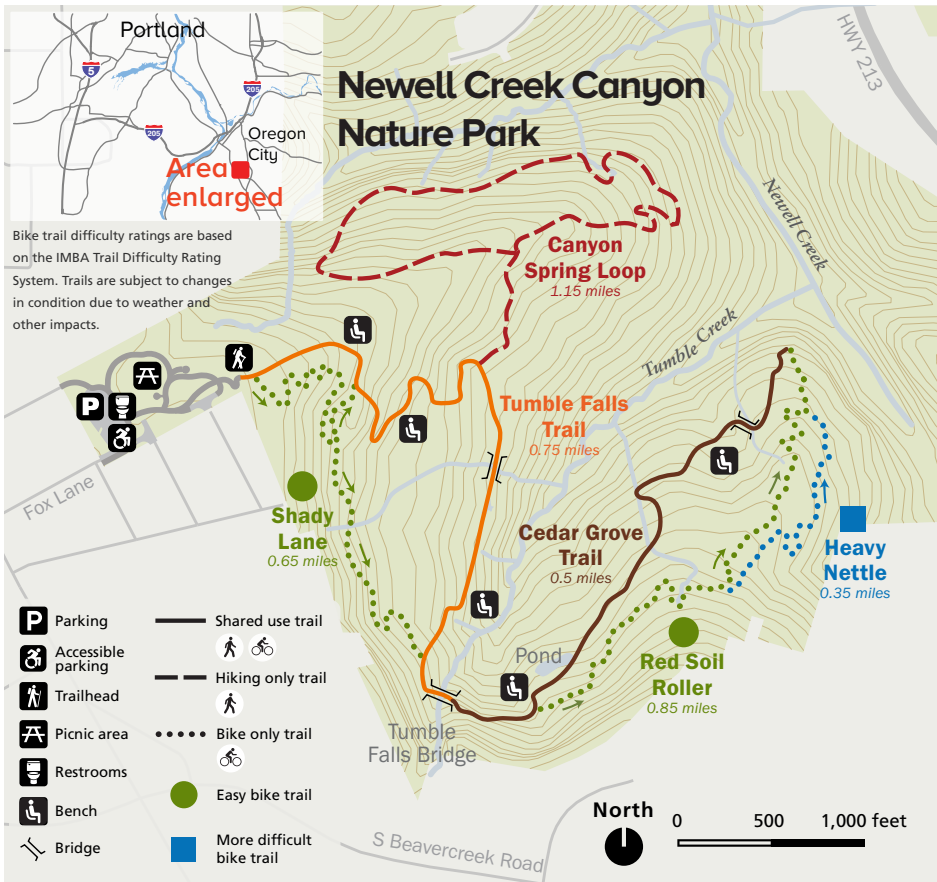
bigleaf maple



coastal cutthroat trout



red-breasted sapsucker



Season-by-season highlights

Spring: In this season of renewal and awakening, look for the bloom of trillium and fairy bell flowers that paint the forest understory with hues of white and pink. With waters returning and warmer days, keep an eye out for breeding amphibians and egg masses that belong to the northern red-legged frog and Pacific chorus frog near the water's edge.

Summer: With beaming sun-filled days and perfect weather twilights, opportunity unfolds to spot elusive wildlife like beavers, red fox and black-tailed deer. In the tributaries, juvenile coho salmon, trout and Pacific lamprey can be found in several ponds and winding waterways seeking protection from predators and nutrition from the forest's many insects.

Fall: This transitional time brings a chill, and coaxes mushrooms into their fruiting form. Keep an eye out for angel wing and oyster mushrooms growing on the decaying wood of conifer trees, especially hemlock trunks. Below the tree line look out for black and orange caterpillars called wooly bears and banana slugs scattered along the trails.

Winter: As shorter days loom and mist blankets the upland forest, listen for the leisurely pecking and piping call of the pileated woodpecker. This large red-capped forager seeks carpenter ants and larval insects in the wooded bark of downed or dying trees. Don't forget to look to the forest floor as well for signs of deer and cottontail rabbits who venture into the cold to find food.

Newell Creek Canyon Nature Park

485 Warner Milne Road, Oregon City

Getting there

From Portland, head south on I-205. Take exit 10 onto OR-213 and head south. When the highway gets into town, turn right on Beaver Creek Road. Follow it to Mollala Ave., then turn right. At the first light, turn right on Warner Milne Road. The park will be straight ahead. From Hillsboro, Beaverton, Tualatin and Wilsonville, head north on I-205. Take exit 10 onto OR-213, and follow the directions above.

Know when you go

Park open sunrise to sunset. No pets, please.

Amenities

Picnic tables, restrooms, plenty of parking.

Pets policy

To protect plants, wildlife and people, Metro does not allow pets at most regional parks and natural areas. Pets can damage sensitive habitat and threaten wildlife the region has worked to protect. In natural areas where pets are not allowed, people see more wildlife and get closer to it. Seeing-eye dogs or other service animals are allowed. Please bring cleanup materials.

oregonmetro.gov/newellcreek

Stay in touch with news, stories and things to do.

oregonmetro.gov/news

Follow oregonmetro



Metro