



On the southwest edge of Beaverton, nature flourishes. Nestled between farmland and neighborhoods and rising nearly 800 feet above the valley floor, **Cooper Mountain Nature Park offers** spectacular vistas, opportunities to view wildlife and a variety of habitats to explore.

Cooper Mountain's bedrock, formed from the Grand Ronde basalt flows, has been folded and uplifted over millions of years, giving rise to the mountain seen today. From the parking area, visitors can absorb a breathtaking view of the Tualatin River Valley and Chehalem Mountains. Even more outstanding nature awaits those who dive in and explore the 3.5 miles of hiking trails.

Walking along the paths in the 232-acre park, one enters a mosaic of rare habitats. Prairies and white oak woodlands abound, surrounded by conifer forests. Upland prairie habitats are rare in the Willamette Valley, and white oak habitats are among

the most endangered ecological communities in the Pacific Northwest.

Cooper Mountain's prairies retain several native grasses and wildflowers, including the pale larkspur and golden paintbrush, listed by the state as endangered. Combined, oak-prairie habitats support 52 native wildlife species and are used by at least 156 more.

Many traditional Indigenous land stewardship practices incorporate fire. Fires promote growth, give nutrients to soil, and provide food for an abundance of animals, including humans. Indigenous people of this region have known these connections since time immemorial and use fire to work with and care for the land. Since Metro acquired the site, fire has been incorporated as a restoration tool for the oak prairie ecosystem. By using controlled burns, the sun-loving white oaks flourish and produce acorns, wildflowers bloom and provide food to pollinators, and migratory birds stop to feed and raise their young.

Be on the lookout!



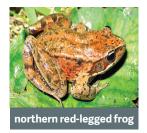
golden paintbrush



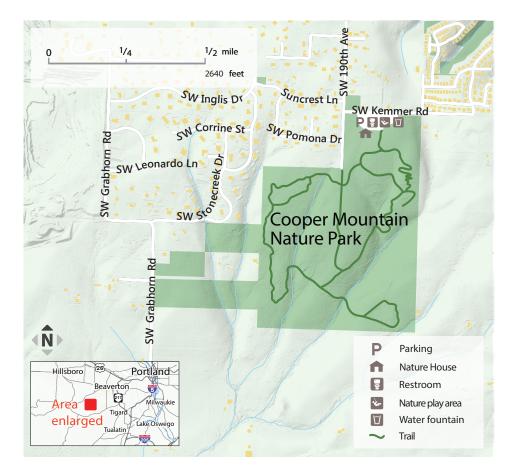








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Season-by-season highlights

Spring: From the violet hues of the Oregon iris to the delicate white racemes of pale larkspur, the colors of the state's finest wildflowers are well represented. Keep your ears tuned in to the songs of resident and neotropical birds. Colorful western bluebirds can be seen perched atop the tall grasses, while common yellowthroats sing the boundaries of their territory from elevated shrubs.

Summer: Long days and southern exposures make Cooper Mountain a great place to feel the warmth of Oregon summers. Sparkling vistas from atop the mountain offer views in all directions. Bring a picnic and enjoy the breeze. Then descend on the trails that wind through the oak woodlands. Look for western grey squirrels harvesting acorns in late summer and fall. **Fall:** Listen for the calls of early nesting great-horned owls in late November. They begin to vocalize in late fall to establish their nesting territory and attract a mate. Nest sites of this nocturnal hunter can be found in tree cavities or old raptor nests, such as those used by red-tailed hawks.

Winter: Lichen takes center stage on otherwise barren deciduous trees, allowing raptors to be seen with relative ease as they hunt for food. Red-tailed hawks cruise over the meadows looking for voles, while Cooper's and sharp-shinned hawks maneuver quickly through the trees in search of songbirds. Northern red-legged frogs usually begin breeding in February. They may be seen near small water sources in the park.

Cooper Mountain Nature Park

18892 SW Kemmer Road, Beaverton

Getting there

From Southwest Farmington Road/ Oregon 10, go south on Southwest 170th Avenue. Turn right at Southwest Rigert Road. Turn left at Southwest 175th Avenue. Make a right onto Southwest Kemmer Road. The park entrance is on the left in less than a mile.

Know when you go

Park open sunrise to sunset. No pets, please. Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District provides day-to-day management.

Amenities

Bathrooms, nature play area, picnic tables, demonstration garden, 3.5 miles of trails. The Nature House offers year-round nature classes and is available for rent: 503-629-6350.

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.

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