



Rock Creek, home to winter steelhead, cutthroat trout and Pacific lamprey, gives life to the 44-acre Orenco Woods Nature Park. A partnership between Metro and the City of Hillsboro, the park is bisected by the Rock Creek Trail, providing the community bountiful ways of connecting with nature.

Indigenous peoples, including the Kalapuya, inhabited this area since time immemorial and used fire to manage the white oak savannas that historically covered much of the region. The land provided a rich supply of acorns, camas, hazelnuts and wildlife. In the 1800s, white settlers forcibly relocated Indigenous tribes to reservations. Today, Indigenous community members continue to care for this place and to reconnect their culture with the land.

In 1906 the Oregon Nursery Company moved here from Salem. The nursery, which the town of Orenco is named after, developed a versatile apple used for

desserts and ciders. In the 1910s, one million Orenco apple trees were planted with plans to sell them overseas. World War I led to setbacks for the nursery, which closed in 1927. The town of Orenco dissolved in 1938.

The site morphed into a golf course for several decades. Plans to build a housing development in 2006 stalled during the recession, allowing the land to become a nature park. When the golf greens were removed, historic acorns sprouted and began growing into oak trees.

Today, the park boasts an impressive art display by Patrick Dougherty. Made of woven willow and red dogwood branches, the temporary work consists of several large faces that peek out from a line of old-growth Douglas fir trees. Bring the whole family to enjoy the extraordinary art, a creative nature play area, spectacular new bridges spanning the creek, and trails through the oak savanna and upland forest.

Be on the lookout!



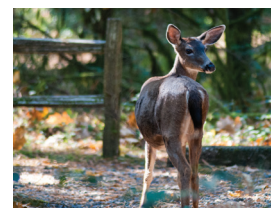
great blue heron



Douglas spirea



red-tailed hawk



black-tailed deer



Season-by-season highlights

Spring: With a suite of micro habitats, Orenco Woods offers migrating songbirds a place to rest and feed in the oak savannas, upland forest and riparian edges. Some may even decide to nest in this desirable location. Grab your binoculars and tune your ears to the vibrant sounds of spring that echo throughout the landscape.

Summer: Insects depend on outside sources for body heat, and they operate best when the temperatures are warm. Take an evening walk and listen to the hums of the pollinators as they search for delicious nectar. Look for the yellow-faced bumble bee on the south side of the trails that wind through the park.

Fall: With leaves falling along the creek's edge, animals can be more easily spotted. Industrious beavers leave their mark along the creek, with chewed sticks and territorial scent mounds. Dawn and dusk are great times to see these iconic Oregon creatures in their natural habitat. Black-tailed deer are often in small family groups this time of year, making them easier to spot.

Winter: Red-tailed hawks can be seen throughout the year, and may be nesting in the tall Douglas fir trees. As winter settles in, the hawks start their courtship displays. Look for two or more large raptors effortlessly soaring in wide circles in the winter skies. You may see the big raptors dive or extend their legs in a dazzling display of skill and mastery of flight.

Orenco Woods Nature Park

7100 NW Birch St., Hillsboro

Getting there

From U.S. 26, take the Northwest Cornelius Pass Road exit and head south. Take a right on Northeast Cornell Road, then left on Northwest 231st Avenue, which will be renamed Northeast Century Boulevard. Take a left on Northeast Birch Street; the park is at the end of the street. The Orenco stop on the MAX Blue Line is a short distance away.

Know when you go

Park open sunrise to sunset. Pets allowed on leash on Rock Creek Trail only. Hillsboro Parks & Recreation Department provides day-to-day management.

Amenities

Restrooms, picnic shelter, nature play area, trails.

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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