



Nature
HISTORY
Discovery

Banks-Vernonia State Trail

Welcome to Banks-Vernonia State Trail

Banks-Vernonia State Trail is the first “rails-to-trails” state park built in Oregon. It is built on an abandoned railroad bed that stretches 21 miles from the town of Banks to the city of Vernonia.

The trail includes an eight-foot wide hiking and bicycle trail paralleled by a four-foot wide horse trail. The gentle grade allows hikers, bicyclists, equestrians and people of all abilities to enjoy the scenic mountains, fields and forests of Washington and Columbia counties.

HISTORY OF THE LINE

The railway line dates back to the 1920’s when it was used for moving logs and lumber from the Oregon-American lumber mill in Vernonia, and freight and passengers from Keasey to Portland. When the lumber mill closed in 1957, the railroad stopped using the line. In 1960, the line was leased to the Vernonia South Park and Sunset Railroad, which operated a steam excursion train for five years.

The line was abandoned and the rails salvaged in 1973. The right-of-way was purchased by the State Highway Department in 1974, and was officially transferred to Oregon Parks and Recreation Department in 1990.

ON THE TRAIL

Besides great views and scenery, the trail features 12 bridges, as well as Horseshoe Trestle and Buxton Trestle—two 600-foot long, 80-foot high railroad trestles.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Please observe the rules and courtesies of the trail:

- **Stay on the trail.** Please don’t enter private property.
- **Hikers and bicyclists** please use gravel or paved side of trail.
- **Horseback riders** please ride single file, and stay on horse trail.
- **Bicyclists:** Call out when approaching horses or hikers from the rear to let them know you are coming.
- **Park only in designated areas.** Don’t block the trail, gates, roads or driveways.
- **Pets** must be on leashes at all times and their waste properly removed.
- **Do not litter.** If you pack it in, please pack it out.
- **No motorized vehicles** are allowed on the trail.
- **No camping, smoking or fires.**

www.oregonstateparks.org

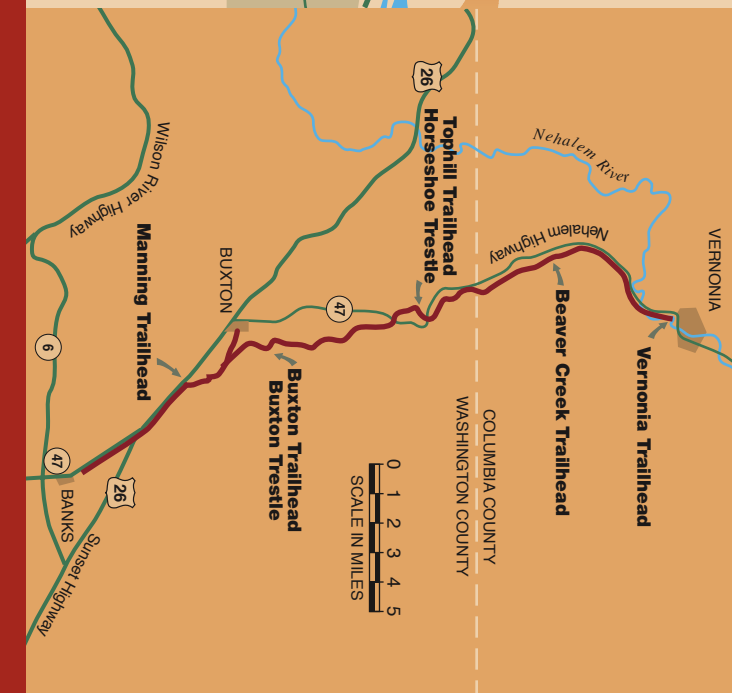
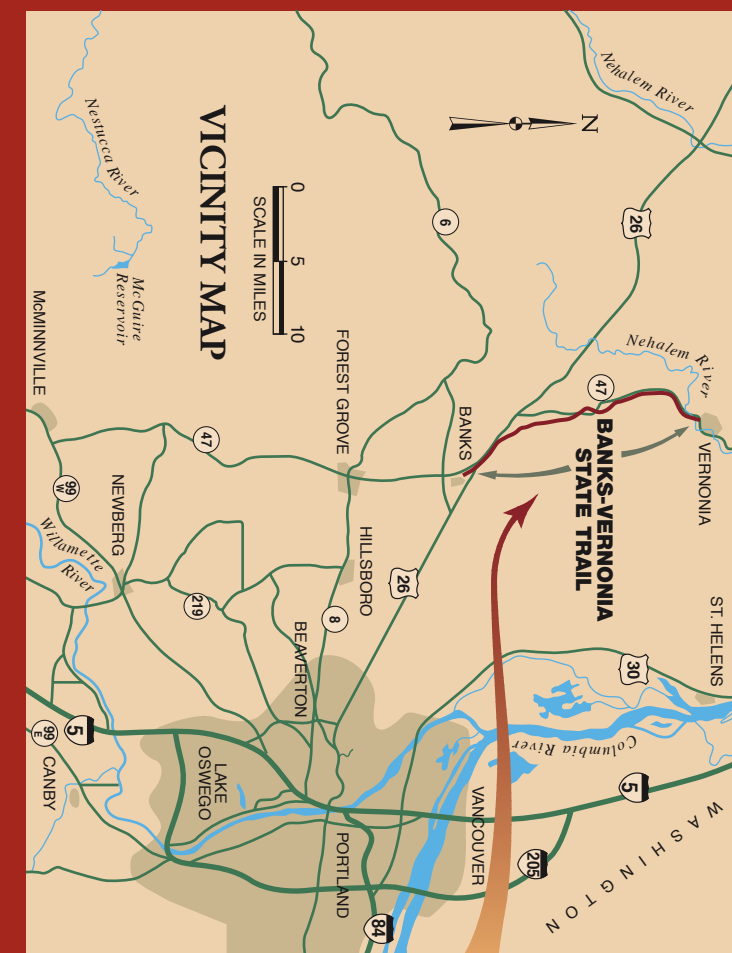
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Trail Guide



Banks-Vernonia State Trail

We hope that you have a pleasant experience at Banks-Vernonia State Trail. Please leave a clean trail for others to enjoy.

Please stay on the designated trail. DO NOT TRESPASS ON PRIVATE PROPERTY.

The Banks-Vernonia State Trail is still being developed. Construction is not completed as of this printing. Call 1-800-551-6949 for status of particular facilities.

