

Travel the historic trail and visit state parks along the way

Iron Horse State Park is a 1,613-acre park that follows more than 100 miles of the John Wayne Pioneer Trail from Cedar Falls in the Cascade Mountains to the Columbia River in central Washington. The Trail is perfect for long or short trips and extends to Idaho.

The trail leads travelers over high trestles with spectacular views of the valley below, mountainous terrain, sagebrush desert, arid scrublands and charming countryside farmlands of the Columbia Basin.

Hikers, bicyclists, equestrians, wagoners, cross-country skiers, snowshoers and dog sledders can discover the rugged beauty of the Pacific Northwest by trekking this unique trail that follows the path of the old Chicago-Milwaukee-St. Paul-Pacific Railroad, also known as the Milwaukee Road. The family-friendly trail has a light gravel surface, a gentle and easy-to-negotiate grade and camping along the way.



Day-use parks offer fun adventures

► **Olallie State Park** (Exit 38)
Five miles southeast of North Bend. The park includes Twin Falls Natural Area.

Visitors can walk a .25-mile interpretive trail and enjoy viewpoints of Weeks Falls and fishing opportunities. The three-mile Twin Falls Trail (hikers only) passes between two waterfalls on a 75-foot, free-span bridge, climbs to a ridge with excellent views of the waterfalls and follows the South Fork Snoqualmie River.

► **Olmstead Place State Park** (Exit 115)
A short side trip to Kittitas County takes travelers to this charming, rustic, 217-acre day-use park. The park features a working pioneer farm and offers public tours of a log cabin built in 1875, a farmhouse and antique farm implements. Enjoy a picnic or short walk along the Altapes Creek interpretive trail.

Tour reservations: (509) 925-1943

Through the Snoqualmie Tunnel

Look for the speck of light at the end of this 2.3-mile tunnel under Snoqualmie Pass — the nation's longest tunnel open to nonmotorized traffic. The Milwaukee Road built this tunnel in 1914 to improve the grade over the pass.

Tunnel gear — The tunnel is dark, cold and damp. Bring a jacket with hood to keep warm and dry, and a flashlight or headlamp to see and be seen.

West tunnel entrance — The Homestead Valley Trailhead (I-90 exit 38) is the first trailhead on the Iron Horse State Park Trail west of the tunnel (Discover Pass required). The US Forest Services' McClellan Butte Trail (exit 42) and the Annette Lake Trail (exit 47) both intersect with the Iron Horse Trail approximately 1 mile from their respective trailheads (Northwest Forest Pass required).

East tunnel entrance — From I-90 in either direction, take exit 54 (Hyak/Gold Creek). Head south off the freeway to the stop sign. Turn left (east) on Route 906, which parallels the freeway. Follow signs to the Snoqualmie Tunnel.

Inside tunnel right of way — Hikers yield to equestrians. Bicyclists yield to hikers and equestrians.



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www.parks.state.wa.us

Stay overnight at state parks

Vacationers may use state parks as base camps for day excursions or stop and camp after a long-day's hike or ride.



► **Lake Easton State Park*** (Exit 70)
90 standard campsites, 45 utility sites with full hookup (some accommodate RVs up to 60 feet), two hiker/biker sites and one group site.

Set in a glacial valley 16 miles east of Snoqualmie Pass. A freshwater shoreline and a stretch along the Yakima River make this park a pleasant spot for boating, fishing and picnicking. The park has a watercraft launch and dock; there is a 10-horsepower limit. In winter, 37 miles of trail are open to cross-country skiing, snowshoeing and dog sledding; snowmobilers may use the trail from Stampede Pass Road to Cabin Creek.

Reservations: May 15-Sept. 15
(888) CAMPOUT, (888) 226-7688
or at www.parks.state.wa.us

For more information on state parks along the John Wayne Pioneer Trail, visit Iron Horse State Park at www.parks.state.wa.us

► **Iron Horse State Park** (first come, first served)
Five campgrounds along the trail, each with three to four campsites, one picnic table and a vault toilet. Back-country camping fee; see trailhead kiosk for registration information. Untreated water is available in nearby streams. Bring water filters.

► **Ginkgo Petrified Forest State Park***
Wanapum Recreation Area (Exit 136)
50 utility sites with full hookup at Wanapum (some accommodate RVs up to 60 feet), a water-craft launch and swimming beach. Ginkgo Petrified Forest Interpretive Center open April through October — check the web page for current information.

The Ginkgo Trailside Museum has 3 miles of hiking trails that wind through the sagebrush landscape. Visitors can view exposed petrified wood along a short interpretive trail.

Interpretive center group tour reservations:
(509) 925-1943

Legacy of a trail

From railroad to long-distance trail

The John Wayne Pioneer Trail isn't just an ordinary abandoned railway line. Visitors can travel leisurely across much of Washington state on the gentle grade of the former Milwaukee Road right of way — once a trail of western expansion and a vital connection linking the industrial Midwest to Seattle.

Operating a railroad through the rugged western mountains posed a challenge nearly a century ago. Winters brought heavy snow and avalanches, and the danger of forest fires plagued summers. To remedy severe conditions, the Milwaukee Road took a truly revolutionary step — it electrified its line through the Rocky Mountains in 1915 and through the Cascades two years later.

This was an amazing feat — and a first in transcontinental railroad history. Not only did electrification solve problems caused by severe mountain weather, it also proved to be more efficient than using steam or diesel. Because it was so innovative in its technology, the Milwaukee Road soon became the nation's model for railway electrification.

Changing paths

In the 1970s, the company abandoned many of its western lines due to financial problems; the last Milwaukee Road train passed through the Cascades in 1980. Washington state began acquiring the right of way in 1981 and opened the first segment of recreational trail in 1984. Interpretive panels are situated at key locations along the trail.

Eventually, visitors will be able to travel on the trail across the entire state of Washington. Iron Horse State Park will link up with regional trails in King and Snohomish counties, the Columbia Plateau Trail from Pasco to Spokane, and the Spokane River Centennial Trail, which connects to Idaho's trail system.



Historic areas on or near the trail

► **Roslyn** (Exit 80)
Former mining town that served as a backdrop for the TV series **Northern Exposure**.

► **South Cle Elum** (Exit 84)
Pass the old depot and substation and look south to glimpse the 1909 bunkhouse* built for Milwaukee Road crews.

► **Thorp Mill** (Exit 101)
This 1883 old grist mill is now a museum.* Open for tours during summer. Call (509) 964-9640 for information.

► **Ellensburg** (Exits 106 and 109)
A historic downtown district* with well-preserved examples of late-19th-century brick commercial buildings.

► **Kittitas** (Exit 115)
An old railroad depot* from 1909 is one of two intact depots remaining on the Milwaukee Road line in Washington.

*** Listed on the National Register of Historic Places.**

Washington State Parks

Iron Horse State Park Trail



Iron Horse State Park contacts
Olallie State Park:
(425) 455-7010 for Cedar Falls to Snoqualmie Tunnel section of trail

Lake Easton State Park:
(509) 656-2586 for Snoqualmie Tunnel to Vantage section of trail

State Parks information:
(360) 902-8844

Reservations: Online at www.parks.state.wa.us or call (888) CAMPOUT or (888) 226-7688

Other state parks located in the general area:
Olallie

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Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission

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