

Palouse to Cascades State Park Trail



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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 Palouse to Cascades 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.



Travel the historic trail and visit state parks along the way

Palouse to Cascades State Park Trail is a 212-mile, 4,956-acre park that goes 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 sledgers 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

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 trail, visit [Palouse to Cascades State Park Trail](http://www.parks.state.wa.us) online at www.parks.state.wa.us

► **Palouse to Cascades 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 watercraft 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 Palouse to Cascades 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. Palouse to Cascades State Park Trail 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.

Palouse to Cascades 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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facebook www.facebook.com/WashingtonStateParks
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Share your stories and photos: AdventureAwaits.com

Sample 2019
If you would like to support Washington State Parks even more, please consider making a donation when renewing your license plate tabs. You also may place a check in a donation box when you visit state parks. Donations are a significant part of the State Parks budget and are needed to keep your parks open and operating. For more information, visit www.parks.state.wa.us/donations

Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission
P.O. Box 42650
Olympia, WA 98504-2650
(360) 902-8500
www.parks.state.wa.us
Commission members:
Ken Bounds Mark O. Brown
Patricia T. Lantz Michael Latimer
Steve S. Milner Diana Perez
Lucinda S. Whaley
Agency director: Don Hoch
All Washington state parks are developed and maintained for the enjoyment of all people.

To request this brochure in an alternative format, please call (360) 902-8844 or the Washington Telecommunications Relay Service at (800) 833-6388. P&R 45-88501-01 (06/18)

Confluence Trestle, west of South Cle Elum Depot

Lake Easton State Park

Palouse to Cascades State Park Trail

Palouse to Cascades State Park Trail





Distance between trailheads

Cedar Falls — Homestead Valley	4.5 miles/7.2 km
Homestead Valley — Hyak	16 miles/26.4 km
Hyak — Easton	18 miles/29 km
Easton — South Cle Elum	11.5 miles/18.3 km
South Cle Elum — Thorp	18.5 miles/29.9 km
Thorp — Ellensburg West	7 miles/10.9 km
Ellensburg West — Ellensburg East	1.6 miles/2.6 km
Ellensburg East — Kittitas	4.9 miles/7.9 km
Kittitas — Army West	6 miles/9.7 km
Army West — Army East	20.6 miles/33.2 km

LEGEND

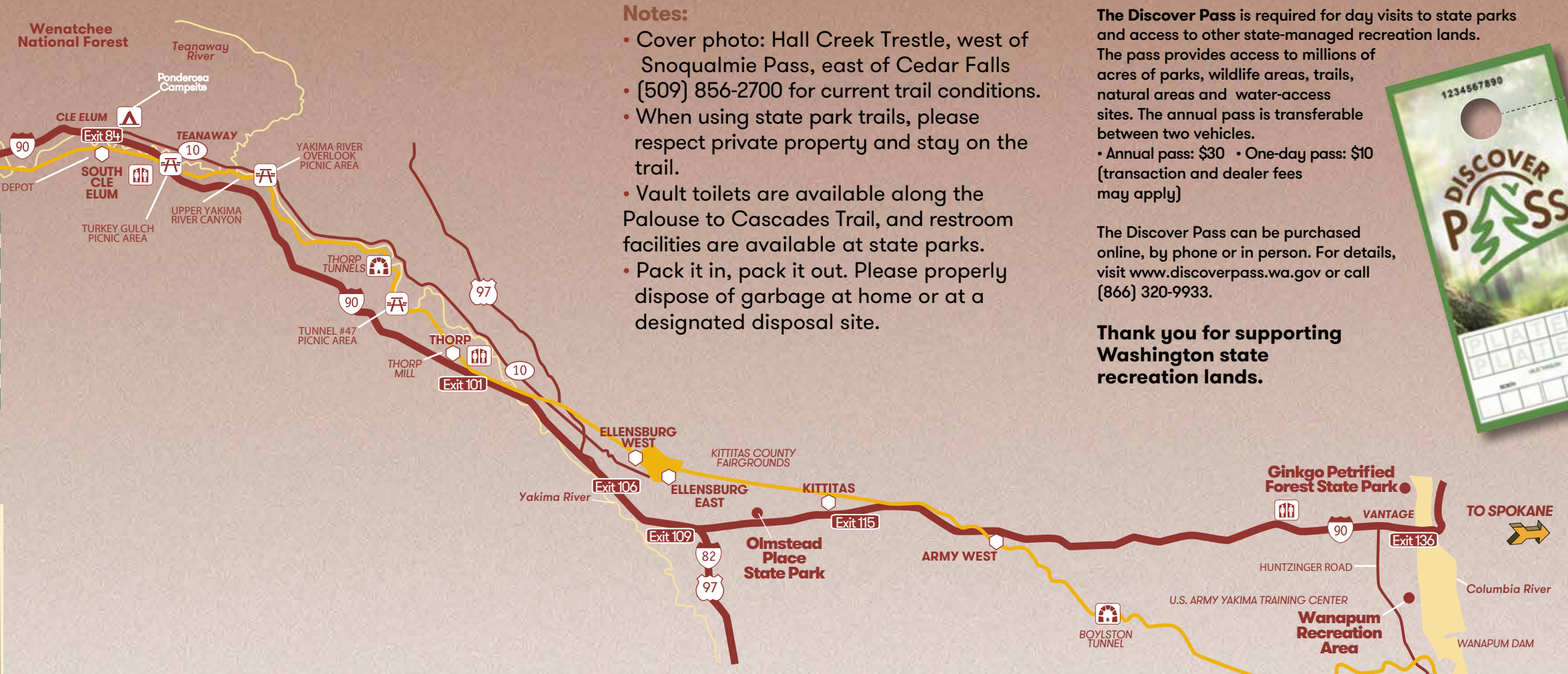
Map not to scale

	A.-E. Intersecting Trailheads					

Trailheads

- Cedar Falls (Exit 32)**
 Head south on Cedar Falls Road for 3.5 miles. After passing the Rattlesnake Lake Recreation Area entrance, go left to the Iron Horse State Park parking lot (60 parking spaces). A trailhead leads to the Palouse to Cascades Trail. This is the western terminus of the trail. Connection to King County Parks Snoqualmie Valley Trail is located at the northeast corner of the Cedar Falls Trailhead parking area.
- Homestead Valley (Exit 38)**
 Eastbound traffic: Go right off the exit, cross the river and park in the lot marked Homestead Valley Trailhead. Westbound I-90 traffic: Go left off the exit for approximately two miles and park in the parking lot on your left marked Homestead Valley Trailhead. You can go both east and west from this trailhead.
- Hyak (Exit 54)**
 Head south off the freeway to the stop sign. Turn left (east) on the road that parallels the freeway (Route 906). Follow signs to Snoqualmie Tunnel. Sno-Park permits are required in winter. For information on winter recreation and to purchase a Sno-Park permit, visit www.parks.state.wa.us. Head westbound into the 2.3-mile Snoqualmie Tunnel (open May 1 to Oct. 31) or eastbound past Lake Keechelus to Lake Easton State Park. To continue east, detour on roads in the town of Easton to re-enter the trail. Sno-Park permits and Discover Pass can be purchased at the automated pay station near the full service restroom.
- Easton (Exit 71)**
 From the freeway, follow signs to Easton. At the stop sign, continue straight and cross the railroad tracks. Turn left onto the Palouse to Cascades Trail as it crosses the road. Drive about .25 mile east on the trail to the parking lot. An alternate trail route through Lake Easton is signed and provides access to camping, swimming and other amenities.
- South Cle Elum (Exit 84)**
 Follow the signs to South Cle Elum, then to Iron Horse State Park. You can go east or west on the Palouse to Cascades Trail from this trailhead. The historic South Cle Elum Depot is along this section of the trail.
- Thorp (Exit 101)**
 From the exit, go north on Thorp Highway .25 mile. Turn left on Thorp Depot Road and continue another .25 mile to trail crossing. Park in the parking lot south of the trail. You can go east or west on the Palouse to Cascades Trail from this trailhead.

- Ellensburg West (Exit 106) Ellensburg East (Exit 109)**
 Hikers and bicyclists can follow signs to the campus of Central Washington University, north of I-90, to get to the Plouse to Cascades Trail on Water Street or Kittitas County Fairgrounds. You may enter and exit the trail either at the fairgrounds (east of campus) or at Water Street near Kiwanis Park (west of campus). To go through Ellensburg, you must travel on city streets.
- Kittitas (Exit 115)**
 Head north from the freeway into the town of Kittitas. Turn left onto the trail and park near the depot. You can go east or west on the Palouse to Cascades Trail from this trailhead. To continue east through the U.S. Army Yakima Training Center to the Columbia River, you will need a free permit - available at both Army trailheads.
- Army West (Exit 115)**
 Head north on Main Street past the Kittitas Trailhead to First Street. Turn right. First becomes Parke Creek Road and parallels the trail for 2.5 miles. Turn right on Prater Road, cross over the freeway, then take a left and proceed alongside the freeway for 3.4 miles to a T-intersection with Stevens Road. The trailhead is on the right. Register at the kiosk for your free trail permit.
- Army East (Exit 136)**
 From the freeway, travel south on Huntzinger Road past Wanapum Recreational Area. Cross the trail. After approximately 300 feet, turn right onto the Yakima Training Center access road. Go 2.5 miles to the trailhead parking. Register at the kiosk for your free trail permit.
- To the Idaho border and beyond**
 The eastern portion of the trail goes from the Columbia River (at Beverly) to the Idaho border. The Washington State Department of Natural Resources manages the trail from Beverly to Lind and requires permits for groups of 20 or more; call (509) 925-8510 for information. Washington State Parks manages the trail from Lind to the Idaho border. Permits are required for everyone using the trail in the trail section from Lind to the Idaho Border; the permit is free for groups of 20 or less. Permits for the Lind to Idaho border trail section may be obtained by calling (509) 337-6457.



Public campgrounds near trails

- Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission**
 Lake Easton State Park (Exit 70)
 Wanapum Recreation Area (Exit 136)
 Palouse to Cascades Trail (first come, first served)
Camping along the trail for hikers, bikers, horseback riders at Alice, Carter, Cold and Roaring creeks and Ponderosa campgrounds.
Reservations: May 15-Sept. 15
 (888) CAMPOUT, (888) 226-7688 or at www.parks.state.wa.us
- U.S. Forest Service**
 Tinkham Campground (Exit 42)
 Denny Creek Campground (Exit 47)
Information:
 (425) 888-1421
 Lake Kachess Campground (Exit 62, north of I-90)
Information:
 (509) 852-1100
- Kittitas County Fairgrounds**
 (Exit 109)
Reservations:
 (509) 962-7639 or (800) 426-5340
 (Call 24 hours ahead)

Hiking Trails*

that intersect Palouse to Cascades Trail [see map]

- A. Rattlesnake Ledge (Exit 32)**
 2 miles, one way, 1,160 feet elevation gain. This trail continues another 2 miles to the summit of East Peak (4 miles from trailhead) and on to Snoqualmie Point (10.5 miles from trailhead).
- B. Snoqualmie Valley (Exit 32)**
 31 miles, one way to Duvall. Hikers, bicyclists and equestrians can explore the route of the former Everett branch of the Milwaukee Road as it passes through North Bend (5.3 miles), Snoqualmie (10.2 miles), Fall City (15.9 miles), and Carnation (21.8 miles) on the way to Duvall.
- C. Twin Falls (Exit 34)**
 1.25 miles, one way. Hikers can gain access to the Palouse to Cascades Trail two miles from the Twin Falls Trailhead.
- D. McClellan Butte* (Exit 42)**
 Nine miles round trip, 3,700 feet elevation gain. Bicyclists and equestrians may use McClellan Butte Trail up to and on the Palouse to Cascades Trail. Foot access only beyond this point.
- E. Annette Lake* (Exit 47)**
 7.25 miles round trip, 1,400 feet elevation gain. Bicyclists and equestrians may use Annette Lake trail up to and on the Palouse to Cascades Trail. Foot access only beyond this point.

* Northwest Forest Pass or America the Beautiful Pass required at U.S. Forest Service trailheads.

Notes:

- Cover photo: Hall Creek Trestle, west of Snoqualmie Pass, east of Cedar Falls
- (509) 856-2700 for current trail conditions.
- When using state park trails, please respect private property and stay on the trail.
- Vault toilets are available along the Palouse to Cascades Trail, and restroom facilities are available at state parks.
- Pack it in, pack it out. Please properly dispose of garbage at home or at a designated disposal site.

The Discover Pass is required for day visits to state parks and access to other state-managed recreation lands. The pass provides access to millions of acres of parks, wildlife areas, trails, natural areas and water-access sites. The annual pass is transferable between two vehicles.

- Annual pass: \$30
- One-day pass: \$10 (transaction and dealer fees may apply)

The Discover Pass can be purchased online, by phone or in person. For details, visit www.discoverpass.wa.gov or call (866) 320-9933.

Thank you for supporting Washington state recreation lands.

