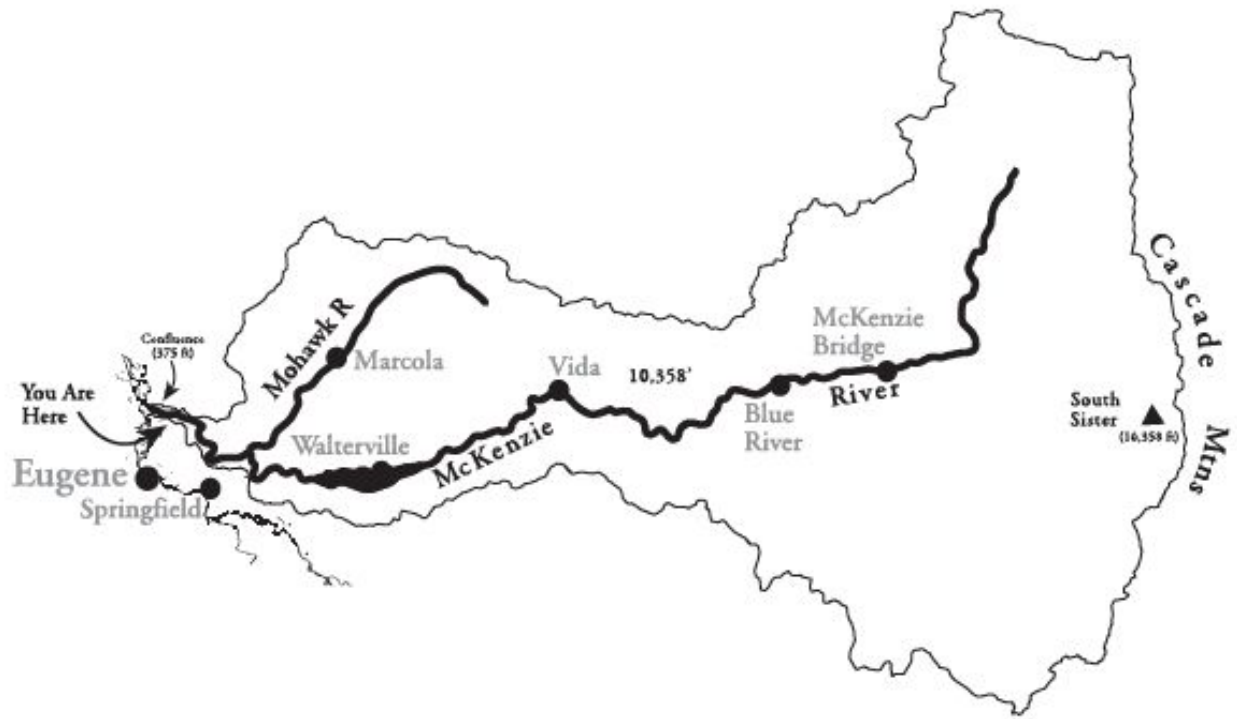




Crilly Nature Trail

Armitage County Park



Welcome to the McKenzie Watershed and Crilly Nature Trail!

By the time the quiet current of the McKenzie River slips past Armitage County Park, it is only a few miles away from spilling into the Willamette River. Hidden in that wide steady flow are almost all the upriver memories of snow-fields, waterfalls, marshes, rapids, lakes, reservoirs, turbines, salmon gills, western red cedar roots, drift boat hulls, thirsty elk and countless other forms which, together, make up the 1,300 square mile land area known as the McKenzie Watershed.

The McKenzie Watershed provides outstanding fish and wildlife habitat for such species as spring chinook salmon, bull trout, bald eagle and wolverine. It provides high quality drinking water for over 200,000 Lane County residents, hydroelectric power generation, and recreational opportunities. The major land uses include: forestry, metropolitan and rural development, agricultural, sand and gravel mining.

As you walk the 1/2 mile, self-guided nature trail, you will see native plants common to low elevation forests in the watershed. The Crilly Nature Trail provides you an opportunity to experience unique deciduous forest habitat that grows along the shores of the McKenzie River. It is a habitat that has seen many changes in recent history, but also contains some elements of uncommon endurance. As you enter the trail open up your senses to the touch, smells and sights this forest has to offer.

This Brochure has been produced in partnership of the McKenzie Watershed Council and Lane County Parks.



3050 N. Delta Hwy.
Eugene, OR 97408
(541) 682-2000



PO Box 70166, Eugene, OR 97401
(541) 687-9076

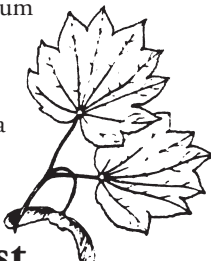


If you do not wish to keep this trail guide as a reference, please return it to the dispenser so that it can be re-used. PLEASE RECYCLE THIS BROCHURE.

While on the trail you will see a seasonal variety of trees and plants, use the following checklist to see which ones you identify today.

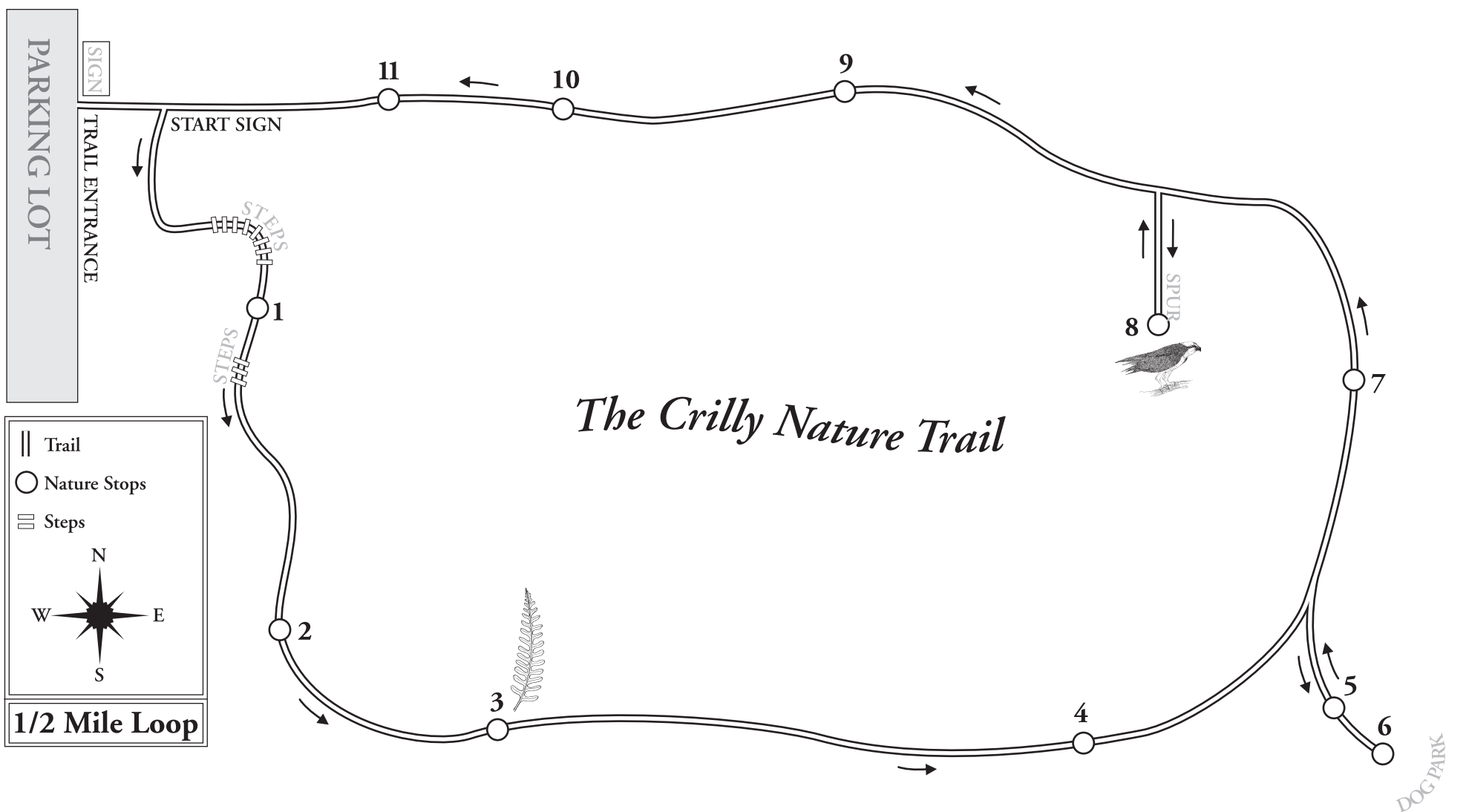
Tree Checklist

- | Common Name | Species | | Species |
|--|--|---|-------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Big leaf maple | <i>Acer macrophyllum</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> Fairy bells | <i>Disporum hookeri</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Black cottonwood | <i>Populus trichocarpa</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> False Solomon's seal | <i>Smilacina racemosa</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> California hazel..... | <i>Corylus cornuta</i> var. <i>californica</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> Fringe cups | <i>Tellima grandiflora</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Douglas-fir..... | <i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> Ground ivy; creeping charley | <i>Glechoma hederacea</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Indian plum; osoberry ... | <i>Oemleria cerasiformis</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> Licorice fern | <i>Polypodium glycyrrhiza</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Oregon ash | <i>Fraxinus latifolia</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> Lungwort..... | <i>Lobaria pulmonaria</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vine maple | <i>Acer circinatum</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> Miner's lettuce | <i>Claytonia perfoliata</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Western red alder..... | <i>Alnus rubra</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> Nipplewort | <i>Lapsana comminis</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Western red cedar | <i>Thuja plicata</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> Piggy back | <i>Tolmiea menziesii</i> |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> Poison hemlock | <i>Conium maculatum</i> |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> Reed canary grass..... | <i>Phalaris arundinacea</i> |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> Sessile trillium..... | <i>Trillium albidum</i> |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> Slender stemmed waterleaf. | <i>Hydrophyllum tenuipes</i> |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> Snowberry | <i>Symphoricarpos albus</i> |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> Stinging nettle | <i>Urtica dioica</i> |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> Stinking mint | <i>Stachys</i> sp. |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> Sweet rocket..... | <i>Matronis herperis</i> |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> Teasel..... | <i>Dipsacus sylvestris</i> |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> Western sword fern..... | <i>Polypodium glycyrrhiza</i> |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> Wild cucumber; big root.. | <i>Marah oreganus</i> |



Plant Checklist

- | Common Name | Species |
|--|--------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bleeding heart..... | <i>Dicentra formosa</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bluebells..... | <i>Mertensia platyphylla</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Burdock..... | <i>Arctium minus</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Candy flower | <i>Claytonia sibirica</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clematis | <i>Clematis ligusticifolia</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cowparsnip | <i>Heracleum lanatum</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Creeping buttercup..... | <i>Ranunculus repens</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> English ivy..... | <i>Hedera helix</i> |



The Crilly Nature Trail

- Historic Floodplain:** Look around. As you hike up and down these small hills you are hiking through old water channels. This area flooded quite often before the dams were built on the upper sections of the McKenzie River. Along these old channels you will find big, old cottonwoods, alders and maples.

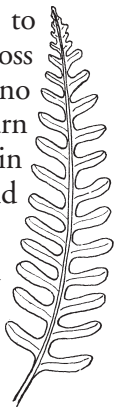
Snag: A standing dead tree is often called a “snag.” Even though this cottonwood tree is dead, it is still providing important habitat to this forest. Many different kinds of wildlife (woodpeckers, owls, raccoons) use snags to provide food or as shelter. This snag has many years-left standing; snags will often remain standing from 10 to 50 years. Once they fall onto the ground they still play an important roll in the forest habitat as a rotting log providing nutrients to the soil.



- Exotics:** Exotics are plants or animals introduced by humans to areas to which they are not native. Some introductions of exotics are made intentionally because of a plant or animal desirable features. Other introductions are made accidentally. When exotics become a problem we often refer to them as “invasives.” Here in front of you is an example of ground ivy (an invasive) growing up a bigleaf maple. The ivy will eventually cover the whole tree and choke it out, and the maple will die.

Behind you, on the trunk of a tree, is a cavity nesting bird box. Placed here to help provide cavity nesting habitat for chickadees, nuthatches, wrens and woodpeckers. At your next stop you will see a nature made cavity!

- Licorice Fern:** Look on the limbs of these bigleaf maples. Growing out of the moss is licorice fern. This fern’s roots like to grow under a heavy covering of moss to find moisture. In times of little or no rain (summer) the leaves wither, turn brown and die back, but after the rain returns (winter), the leaves uncurl, and grow new leaves.



Ferns remain green and lush all winter and spring. The rootstock has a licorice flavor. Early settlers used the rootstock as a sweetener, to flavor tobacco, and to make tea for a variety of medicinal ailments.

One of these bigleaf maples has a huge cavity in its trunk. Take a look: cavities offer a variety of habitat to small birds and animals.

- Watch out for Stinging Nettles!** Yes this plant does sting when you touch it. The hairs on the underside of the leaf will produce a burning rash on your skin. Although you might consider this an obnoxious weed, its uses as an herb can be traced back well into the tenth century. Nettles can be used as tea, seasoning, spring greens, medicine, plant fertilizer, shampoo, hair rinse and fiber for linencloth. The entire plant is edible when young and under 1 foot in height (boiling removes the irritating material). The leaves and stem are rich in protein, iron, and vitamins A and C.



- Nursery Stump:** Here is a stump from an old Douglas-fir. This stump shows a clue into a past of historical cutting. Removing the conifers allowed the deciduous trees to grow and become the dominant deciduous forest you see today.

A rotten stump is often called a “nurse” stump because it acts as a seedbed (or nursery) for young forest plants. As the stump decays it provides nutrients and rich soil that is recycled back into the forest. How many different kinds of plants do you see in this nursery?

- Off-Leash Dog Park:** This area of the park allows dog owners to come and enjoy the outdoors while giving their dog(s) an opportunity to be unencumbered by a leash. On the Crilly Trail and in the rest of the park dogs must be on a leash no longer than 6 ft. in length.

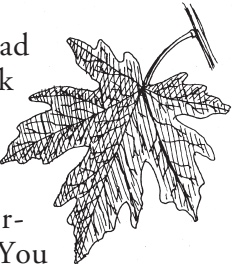
- Old Growth Douglas-fir:** This fir is one of the biggest and oldest firs in the park. Look up high to the top. A bulky mass of sticks and debris forms an osprey nest. Although you might not be able to see it from here, as you walk around the trail and park look back and up high above the tree line to spot the nest. Listen to hear the high-pitched call of the osprey too!



8. View of Osprey Nest: From here you can spot the osprey nest, high at the top of the big Douglas-fir tree. Ospreys occupy this nest site every summer to raise their young.

Osprey are about 2 feet tall with a 5 – 6 foot wingspan! They are easily

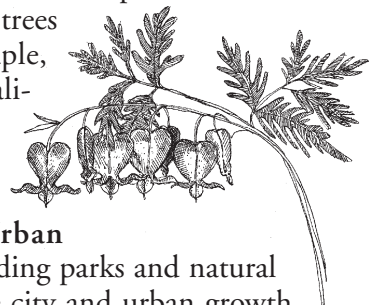
identified by their white head and black eye and cheek patches. In flight, you can see a distinctive crook in its wings and black carpal patches on whitish undersides. Osprey eat only fish. You may see them hovering 50 to 150 feet high, then suddenly plunge towards the water, snatching the fish with their talons.



- Deciduous Forest:** You are walking through a deciduous forest. “Hardwood” is a common name for deciduous. Deciduous forests like to grow in low elevations with lots of moisture, and are able to withstand floods.

In the summertime it is very shady and cool inside this forest. Lots of plants that grow underneath these tall trees depend on their shade. In the wintertime sunlight reaches to the forest floor bringing life to ferns, moss and fungi.

Bigleaf maple is the predominant tree. Other common trees include vine maple, cottonwood, California hazel and Indian plum.



- Nature and Urban Interface:** Providing parks and natural areas within the city and urban growth areas gives wildlife a place to live and transition to and from natural habitat. Residents can enjoy visiting the outdoors and viewing wildlife and nature. To the right is Coburg Road and to the left is the park.

- Seasonal Changes:** As you walked this trail today, you might have seen beautiful spring wildflowers, or leaves turning fall colors. With each change of the season, you will see something new. Wintertime highlights the ferns and lichens; springtime is full of wildflowers; summertime brings juicy ripe berries; and the fall brings colorful leaves. See the plant list on common wildflowers and trees, and check to see which ones you noticed today!

