

Take Care Out There



PREPARE

Plan Ahead

Prepare before you head out, consider what you want to see and experience, your group's physical abilities and what's realistic to do in the time you have. Can you visit off peak to avoid crowds?

Be Ready

Check conditions. Pack your Ten Essentials. Got the right shoes for the terrain? Water? Cell phone? You may not always have coverage, so take a picture of the trail map or bring one with you. Consider hiring a guide.

Don't Forget

Let someone know where you're headed and when you plan to be back. Tuck some cash in your pocket for park fees (that help maintain our natural spaces).

CARE

Make Smart Choices

Know your limits and when to stop for the day. Follow the signs; they're there to tell you important stuff like how to avoid injuries and not get lost.

Be Respectful

If you're lucky enough to spot wildlife, use your zoom lens and observe from afar. Share trails with others. Know who manages the land you access and what the rules and regulations are.

Keep It Natural

Stay on designated trails and areas to protect the landscape. Don't take anything home but your trash—and please, please take your trash with you. Make wildfire prevention a top priority.

CONNECT

Enjoy Yourself

Experiencing the quiet, awe-inspiring beauty of nature can not only uplift your spirits, it can improve your health. Think of Oregon's vast outdoors as your place to relax and recharge.

Say Hello

Greet fellow adventurers and spark a conversation. Check in at a visitor center, ranger station and/or local business to learn from the locals, grab a map and gather local insight.

Spread Goodwill

Share your knowledge with others if it's helpful. Support the community—eat, drink, shop and stay local. Stop by cultural centers to learn our history and relationship to place.

Guided Experiences on the Lower Clackamas

As the Clackamas River winds through **Estacada** and passes **Milo McIver State Park**, paddlers leave behind technical rapids and rugged forests for a slower float surrounded by riverside homes, pastoral farmland and riparian forests teeming with wildlife. Outfitters along the lower Clackamas are happy to rent gear, lead tours and provide shuttle services. Here's how to get started.

Clackamas River Outfitters: Helpful guides at three convenient locations around **Estacada** are happy to help with gear sales, paddle craft rentals, guided tours, lessons (on flatwater and white-water) and advice on where to get on the water along the Clackamas River.

is available for a small fee if floaters bring their own gear.

Northwest Whitewater Adventures: The local outfitter offers rentals and leads tours on popular stretches of river—covering a family-friendly mix of Class I and Class II rapids in just less than two hours.

Oregon River Rentals: As the name implies, the local outfitter rents float tubes, a variety of kayaks (including whitewater and recreational paddle craft) and stand-up paddleboards—as well as nice-to-have gear like dry bags and soft coolers.



Kayaker and trusty companion paddle Estacada Lake. © Oregon's Mt. Hood Territory

Floating the Lower Clackamas River



© Oregon's Mt. Hood Territory

Every spring and summer, the lower Clackamas River transforms into ground zero for some of the region's best-loved outdoor opportunities. Here, floaters blow up inner tubes, slide into their kayaks and pass a variety of landscapes—including forests, farmland and rocky canyons. Only the occasional rapid breaks up the easy-going flow on this scenic stretch of river.

Broadly speaking, the lower Clackamas River runs from **Estacada** and **Milo McIver State Park** to where it empties into the Willamette River at **Oregon City**. Along the way, a handful of put-in and take-out spots invite visitors to enjoy a float suited to their appetite for adventure.

If you'd like to join the fun and float the lower Clackamas, here are a few tips to get started.

Transportation: Public transportation is limited, and rideshare services aren't available along much of the lower Clackamas River. If you're planning to float, your best bet is to have two vehicles—one you can park at the take-out spot and one you can leave at the launch point. Steer clear of **Barton Park** and **Carver Park** (two of the most popular access points in the area) for a better shot at finding parking along the corridor—and check out these alternative floats along the lower Clackamas at omh.t.us/float.

Gear: Wetsuits and dry suits are recommended between October and May, when temperatures are lower, and personal flotation devices are recommended all year long. (Note that children 12 and younger must wear a properly fitted personal flotation device at all times while floating.)

Guides & Outfitters: A number of outfitters offer kayak and canoe rentals; several guides lead tours on the lower Clackamas River, and post-float transportation is available between **Cross Park** and **Dahl Beach**. For more information, check out this map's panel on guided experiences along the Clackamas River.

Float Times: When planning a trip, make note of float times between your desired put-in and take-out points; generally speaking, a float of two to

five hours is ideal. Find typical float times on the official Clackamas Water Trail website.

When to Float: Given its close proximity to **Portland**, the three-hour, 5.3-mile float between **Barton Park** and **Carver Park** is the most popular stretch of lower Clackamas River. If you'd like to join the fray, try heading out on a weekday or starting by 11 a.m. on weekends for a bit more solitude. Note that parks may fill to capacity before lunchtime on warm summer weekends—and remain full well into the afternoon; consider setting off (or ending your float) from an alternative launch. We've outlined a few suggested alternate floats at omh.t.us/float.

Quiet Floats: Enjoy less-traveled stretches of river between **Riverside Park** and **Clackamette Park** (a 3.2-mile stretch that passes homes and heads past beloved swimming holes) or along the 6.4-mile stretch between **Milo McIver State Park** and **Barton Park**—where you might see wildlife and stands of wildfire-scarred forest.



Tubing is a popular activity along the lower Clackamas River. © Oregon's Mt. Hood Territory

Closures: Floating the lower Clackamas is one of the region's most popular outdoor activities, especially on sunny summer weekends. At peak times, parking lots may fill up and parks may close; please respect all closures and have a back-up plan in case your desired launch point reaches capacity.

Clackamas Water Trail:

The **Clackamas Water Trail** covers 22 miles of its namesake waterway—roughly between the city of **Estacada** and where it flows into the Willamette River at **Oregon City**. (Think of the **Clackamas Water Trail** as a hiking trail—only one you paddle or float, rather than walk.)

Scan the QR code below to learn about floating the river—trip itineraries, guides and outfitters, recommended gear, and other helpful tips.



LEARN MORE
omh.t.us/wt

Seasons

The Clackamas River enjoys mild climates in all four seasons. Rain showers are common between October and April; bring water-resistant or waterproof gear if your plans include the outdoors. In summer, temperatures typically reach a pleasant 80°F; be sure to pack sunscreen and plenty of water. Note that wildfires may be present between July and October; check with the land manager at your preferred outdoor destinations to see if any restrictions are in place.

Snow may fall and close some roads across the upper Clackamas River watershed—including **Forest Road 46**—between December and February.

Keep tabs on traffic conditions, road closures and webcams at TripCheck.com. Plan ahead and check wildfire and associated regulations at wildfire.oregon.gov



Fall colors. © Oregon's Mt. Hood Territory

Passes & Permits

Many of the public lands along the Clackamas River are managed by the **Mt. Hood National Forest**, **Oregon State Parks**, local cities and regional counties.

Some trailheads and day-use areas on these lands are free of charge, while others require a small day-use fee or valid recreation pass. Contact the appropriate land manager (either by calling local offices or visiting their website) to learn more about costs, how to acquire the proper permits or passes and when fees are required. Also note that campgrounds generally require a nightly fee.

Hunting and fishing licenses or permits can be purchased online with the **Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife**. Boater requirements can be found—and permits can be purchased online—with the **Oregon State Marine Board**.



© Oregon's Mt. Hood Territory

Getting There

From the heart of the **Cascade Range** to the Clackamas River's confluence with the Willamette River in **Oregon City** (just 12 miles south of Portland), plenty of convenient access points make it easy to get on the water for memorable adventures.

Most launch points, parks and communities along the lower Clackamas River can be reached via **OR-224** and **OR-211**, while **OR-224** heads further upstream to reach campgrounds, hiking trails and put-in spots for whitewater trips. Both highways pass through the community of **Estacada**, which roughly separates the upper and lower sections of the river.

If taking a car-free trip, TriMet—the region's public transit agency—runs one bus line along the lower Clackamas River; it travels several times daily between **Clackamas Town Center** (in Clackamas) and downtown **Estacada**.

Using This Map



Autumn leaf peeping along the Clackamas River. © Oregon's Mt. Hood Territory

This map showcases the natural beauty and extensive recreation opportunities across the Clackamas River Watershed and in the foothills of **Mount Hood**. The fun includes river floats, fishing holes, hot springs, forested campgrounds and more—with tips for planning your trip and getting started. To help inspire your next adventure, scan the QR code above to visit the official website for Oregon's Mt. Hood Territory—where you'll find resources and ideas for a memorable trip. You might also consider consulting with the **Mt. Hood National Forest's Clackamas River Ranger District**, which manages a variety of recreation sites along the Clackamas River and can provide recommendations for where to go in the wake of the 2020 Riverside Fire.

Map produced by Travel Oregon, Oregon's Mt. Hood Territory and with participation from Bureau of Land Management, Mt. Hood National Forest, Clackamas County Parks, Portland Central Electric, Oregon State Parks, local businesses and nonprofits. Printed by BLM Offset in Jackson County, Oregon, 2024.

Dispersed Camping & Shooting Restrictions

What to Know About Recreational Target Shooting

When target shooting is done in the right way, it poses little threat to people's safety or to natural resources. However, careless or unsafe shooting can cause great natural resources damage and pose serious threats to human life. Target shooting is not allowed within 150 yards of a building, campsite, developed recreation site, or other occupied area. Shooting is also prohibited across any road or body of water. Pack out all your shells, casings, targets, and other shooting-related waste.

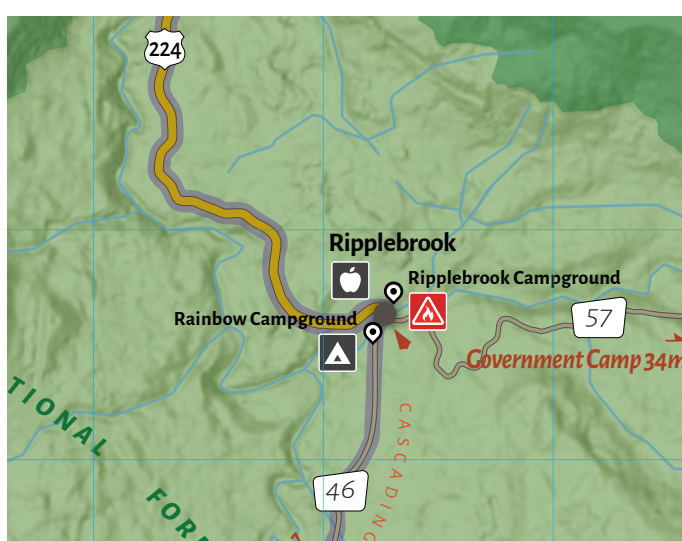
What to Know About Dispersed Camping

Dispersed camping—which means camping outside of campgrounds—is permitted in most of the **Mt. Hood National Forest**. If you plan to disperse camp, make sure you follow all fire safety precautions, observe the seven Leave No Trace principles, and pack out everything you pack in.



LEARN MORE
omh.t.us/recreation

Communities Along the Clackamas River



Clackamas River Growlers in Estacada. © Oregon's Mt. Hood Territory

From the most remote and rugged stretches of the upper Clackamas River to the urban settings along the lower stretch, plenty of friendly communities will help make your visit a fun one. Here's a quick look at those outposts—listed, in order, from the headwaters of the Clackamas to where it empties into the Willamette River.

Grab Outdoor Gear in Ripplebrook

Ripplebrook sits at the eastern terminus of **OR-224**—and is home to the regionally iconic **Ripplebrook Camp Store**. The seasonal outpost, which usually opens in late May, sells camp supplies, food, maps, souvenirs and other items—typically to campers at nearby **Bagby Campground** and soakers at **Bagby Hot Springs**.

Barton a Gateway to the Lower Clackamas River

The blink-and-you'll-miss-it nature of **Barton** betrays its importance to outdoor enthusiasts along the Clackamas River corridor. Stop into the **Barton Mercantile** for snacks, soda and other essentials for a day in nature—and enjoy it all at nearby **Barton Park**.

The community park sits along the Clackamas River and is the area's most popular put-in spot for summertime floats. Even if you're not getting on the water, you'll find much to love about **Barton Park**—home to a variety of bucolic ecosystems (including wetlands and riparian forests), frequent wildlife sightings (such as bald eagles and wood ducks), mostly flat hiking trails and more than 100 campsites (most with water and electric hookups).

Carver a Draw for Outdoor Enthusiasts

Just downstream from **Barton**, the hamlet of **Carver** is another fun stop along the Clackamas River. A handful of restaurants, food carts and watering holes provide sustenance—and **Carver Store** sells snacks, soda, ice and other items to help you refuel after a day outside. Nearby **Carver Park** is the most

popular take-out spot for floaters along this stretch of river—but also hosts a day-use area with picnic tables and fishing access. (Fun fact: The community's **Carver Cafe** was a filming location for the first "Twilight" movie—playing the role of a diner in Forks, Washington.)



© Oregon's Mt. Hood Territory

Gladstone Promises Plenty of River Access

The city of **Gladstone** (pop. 12,000) is just across the Clackamas and Willamette rivers from **Oregon City**—and takes full advantage of that location with plenty of fun on the water. Stroll the gardens at the riverside **Meldrum Bar Park**, rent a kayak from a local outfitter and end your river float at **Dahl Beach City Park**.

Fun Doesn't End in Oregon City

Oregon City (pop. 37,000) leaves no doubt that you've left the forests behind. The one-time end of the Oregon Trail is today a bustling city where the Clackamas River empties into the Willamette River.

Clackamette Parks sits at the confluence of the two waterways, pulling double duty as the final take-out spot on the Clackamas River and as a destination in its own right—hosting picnic tables, a playground, a skate park and other fun attractions.

The rest of **Oregon City** is likewise worth a day trip or longer visit. In and around the city's historic downtown core, you'll find the End of the **Oregon Trail Interpretive Center** (offering education on the Oregon Trail and life in the mid-1800s), two bustling food cart pods (one of which resides at **Oregon City Brewing Co.**—which brews and pours dozens of ales and lagers) and the 130-foot **Oregon City Municipal Elevator** (dubbed the only "vertical street" in North America and home to views of the surrounding city).



Vibrant Oregon City Main Street at dusk. © Oregon's Mt. Hood Territory

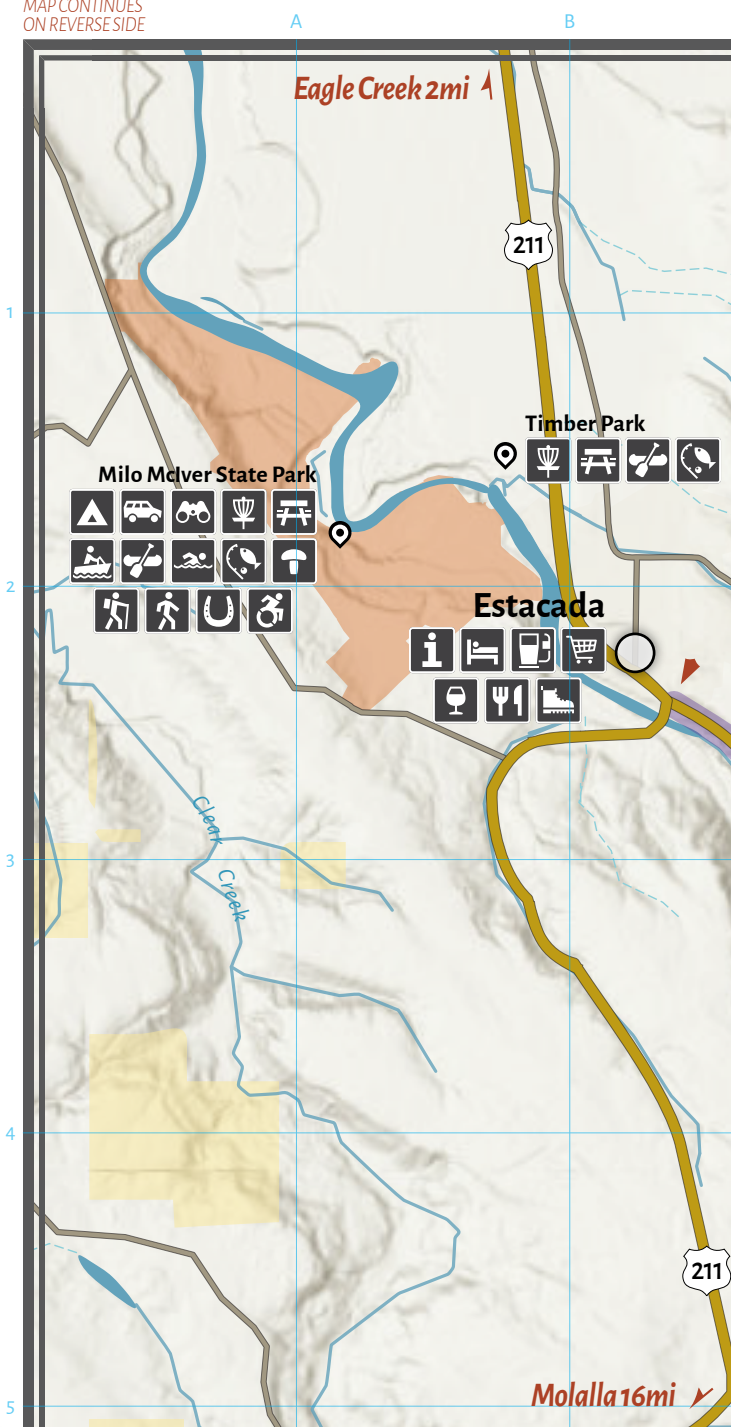


Your guide to Adventure Along Oregon's Clackamas River.

© Oregon's Mt. Hood Territory

LEGEND

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| Visitor Information | Scenic Rail |
| Museum | Mountain Bike |
| Cabin Rental | Nature Viewing |
| Camp | Paddle Sports |
| Convenience Store | Point of Interest |
| Dark Sky | Powerboating |
| Day Use | Powersports |
| Disc Golf | Quiet Snowsports |
| Equestrian | Restaurant/Bar |
| Gas Station | Road & Gravel Bike |
| Golf | Rock Climbing |
| Grocery | ADA Accessible |
| Hike & Backpack | Scenic Drives |
| Historic Site | Sporting Goods |
| Hot Spring | Swim |
| Fishing | Fire Lookout |
| Lodging | Walk & Run |
| Winery & Brewery | Winter Powersports |
| | Closed Due to Wildfire Damage |
| Interstate | TRAIL |
| State/County Highway | ROUTE |
| Local/USFS Road | |
| Unpaved Road | Mileage |



Recreation Along the Clackamas River

We've covered some of the Clackamas River's most popular outdoor destinations elsewhere in this map, but the broader corridor invites deeper exploration. Here's a look at some of the area's recreation opportunities—with outings for adventurers of all abilities and skill levels.



Hiker explores the Clackamas River Trail during fall

Hiking & Backpacking

Stretch your legs and savor the verdant forests throughout the Clackamas River corridor.

Barton Park is one of the most popular put-in points on the Clackamas River—but hikers enjoy walking 1.5 miles of mostly flat trails that pass knee-high ferns and in the shadow of towering fir trees.

Closer to Estacada, 14 miles of paths at **Milo McIver State Park** hug the shore of Estacada Lake, follow the banks of the Clackamas River, head past the Clackamas Fish Hatchery and cover many of the park's ecosystems—including floodplains, open meadows and stately forests. The sheer number of trails make it easy to craft a hike suited to your abilities and time constraints.

Across the upper Clackamas River watershed, numerous trails head through growing forests and showcase wide-open views of the surrounding wilderness. The family-friendly **Hawk Mountain Lookout Trail #564** measures four miles (round-trip) and gains about 600 feet; highlights include colorful wildflower displays in June and July, a historic lookout cabin and views of several Cascade peaks—including **Mount Jefferson** and **Olallie Butte**. For a more challenging trek, the **Riverside Trail #723** totals 7.8 miles (round-trip) with an elevation gain of 140 feet. Gradually climb through old growth trees as you take in views of the Clackamas River and due to its low elevation, this hike can be enjoyed in all four seasons of the year.

If hiking in the upper Clackamas River watershed, don't rely on your mobile device for accurate directions; rather, reach out to the **Mt. Hood National Forest** for the latest on road closures and to plan your ideal route.

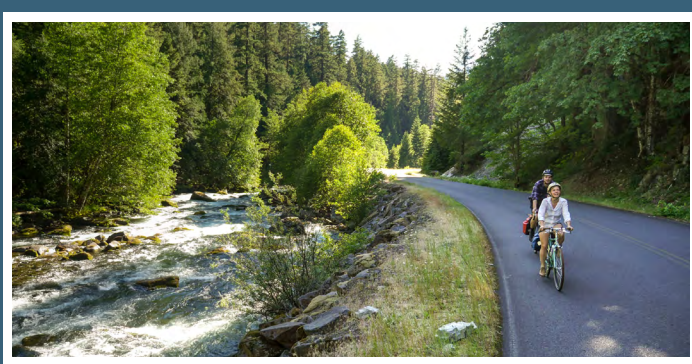
Fishing

Anglers enjoy no shortage of prolific fishing holes throughout the Clackamas River corridor.

Sitting along the **North Fork Reservoir** of the Clackamas River, **Promontory Park** hosts a kids-only fishing pond—affectionately nicknamed Small Fry Lake—that's stocked with rainbow trout in early summer; away from the pond, Promontory Park also hosts tent and RV sites, cabins, a play area, boat launches and an on-site camp store.

Along the Oak Grove Fork of the (upper) Clackamas River, **Lake Harriet Campground and Day-Use Area** surrounds a 22-acre pond that's stocked with rainbow trout—and home to native brown trout. A barrier-free fishing dock is available to anglers in wheelchairs.

The **lower Clackamas River** offers something to catch all year long—with plentiful coho in October and November, steelhead runs lasting from December to April and a summertime mix of steelhead and Chinook salmon.



Bicyclists along the Cascading Rivers Scenic Bikeway

Flatwater Paddling

The Clackamas River is the heart and soul of the region's water-based recreation—but it's far from the only place to paddle.

Estacada Lake is a dammed stretch of the Clackamas River that provides calm conditions for easy paddling; get on the water at **Milo McIver State Park**, where **Clackamas River Outfitters** rents kayaks and stand-up paddleboards, or across the river at **Timber Park**.

On the **North Fork Reservoir** area of the Upper Clackamas River, **Promontory Park** hosts boat launches and a marina where you can rent a wide variety of paddle craft—including kayaks, stand-up paddleboards and pontoon boats.

Disc Golf

The 27-hole **Riverbend Disc Golf Course** at **Milo McIver State Park** draws disc golfers all year long with a variety of holes geared toward players of all skill levels—most of which can be found in a bucolic forest. Just across the water, **Timber Park** hosts a secluded 21-hole course that takes players through a mix of shady forests and open meadows. And at **Metzler Park**, disc golfers enjoy nine holes of year-round play and 18 holes of play during the winter—with a back nine, accessible October–April, that heads through the park's campground.



Golf

Accessible Adventures

Visitors of all abilities enjoy plenty of outdoor opportunities across the region.

At **Clackamette Park** in Oregon City, visitors can follow wide, flat paths to picnic areas and the confluence of two rivers.

Near **Estacada**, **Milo McIver State Park** hosts a wheelchair-accessible campsite and fishing dock—where anglers can cast a line for steelhead and Chinook salmon.

Four Seasons of Fun Await in Estacada

The city of **Estacada** (pop. 5,300) sits at a natural crossroads at the northeastern edge of the **Willamette Valley**—at the doorstep to the 1.1-million-acre **Mt. Hood National Forest**, alongside the winding Clackamas River and in the midst of countless soul-stirring adventures.

No matter when you visit, you'll find plenty to help you connect with the community's natural wonders and home-grown offerings.

Spring Heralds the Arrival of Whitewater

Estacada is popularly known as the "gateway to the Clackamas River"—and earns that moniker with easy floats and thrilling trips alike. Every spring, whitewater rafters tackle the upper Clackamas River's roaring rapids, fed by snowmelt and seasonal rainfall, for adrenaline-packed journeys through old-growth forests and rocky gorges. Best of all: The fun continues well into summer and fall, with fast, flowing rapids and colorful foliage displays offering something new to experience in each season.

Sightings of ospreys, eagles and other wildlife are fairly common along this stretch of river. Sign up with a local outfitter who can show you the best of the river's rapids. Every spring, the **Upper Clackamas Whitewater Festival** celebrates the river's thrills



Murals of Estacada

After your epic outings, take a stroll through the **Estacada Farmers Market**, where local growers share fresh produce and artisan goods; nosh on filling fare at laid-back eateries; and admire more than 20 murals that dot downtown walls—many of which honor regional history.

Fungi Takes Center Stage in Autumn

Fall brings rain showers—and the ideal growing conditions for chanterelles, lobsters and other edible mushroom varieties in the forests around **Estacada**. The citywide **Festival of the Fungus** celebrates mushrooms in their many forms with expert-as-

with races, giveaways, safety clinics and boat demos.

Afterward, dry off while getting to know the small businesses that imbue Estacada with a fresh sense of creative energy—including farm stores, art galleries, historic gardens and gift shops.

Revel in Adventures All Summer Long

By summer, warm afternoons provide the perfect excuse to spend a day—or a midweek overnight getaway—playing disc golf, fishing, hiking and camping at nearby **Milo McIver State Park**. Midsummer river floats, many of which launch from Milo McIver, invite you to slow down, cool off and enjoy the region's beauty.

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sisted identification sessions, a fungi-themed arts show, culinary specials at area restaurants and other fun family activities.

Cooler temperatures and smaller crowds make fall an idyllic time to take a late-season hike. Nearly 14 miles of hiking trails crisscross **Milo McIver State Park** just outside **Estacada**, making it easy to pick and choose a trek suited to the weather, time constraints and your abilities.

Wind Down with Craft Beer & Cider in Winter

In winter, savor the season's slower pace at Estacada's craft breweries and at an on-farm cidery.

In the heart of downtown, **Time Travelers Brewing** prides itself on using ingredients from local farms to brew an eclectic lineup of craft beers. One block over, **Clackamas River Growlers** is owned by a deer beer lover—and provides visual aids to help customers order lagers, IPAs, sours and other styles with sign language. Just outside of town, **Bent Shovel** pours a wide-range of house-made beers in a forested beer garden; it all pairs well with fare from an on-site food cart that rotates regularly.

Less than four miles east of **Estacada**, **Stone Circle Cider** embraces tradition when crafting its English-inspired ciders—all available in a stove-heated tasting room that sits on a working farm.

Welcome to the Clackamas River



Estacada, Oregon, a charming town incorporated in 1905, boasts a rich history deeply woven into the fabric of its present-day community

Since time immemorial, the Clackamas River has meant many things to many people.

Thousands of Years of History Line the Clackamas River's Banks

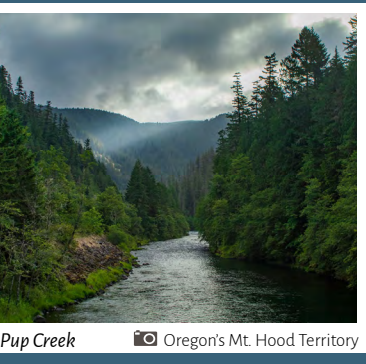
The Clackamas River gets its start on the slopes of **Olallie Butte** in the **Cascade Range**—wedged between **Mount Jefferson** to the south and **Mount Hood** to the north. From there, the river twists and turns through the **Mt. Hood National Forest** and past rural communities before emptying, after 83 miles, into the **Willamette Valley** at **Oregon City**.

As early as 16,000 years ago, numerous tribes hunted, fished and foraged for berries along its forested banks—eventually establishing permanent camps in the watershed.

Unfortunately, in the early 1800s, the area's first European-American emigrants brought disease and violently displaced the native people who called the region home. In the mid-1850s, local tribal members were forced onto nearby reservations; today, those tribal members are part of the **Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde** and the **Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs**. Many tribal members continue to live and fish along the Clackamas River.

Today, outdoor recreation is a popular pastime along the Clackamas River corridor—where eager adventurers bring a sense of wonder to thrilling whitewater trips, laid-back floats, fruitful fishing trips and peaceful overnight excursions to the region's many campgrounds.

Upper Clackamas River Noted for Ruggedness & Whitewater Rapids



Pup Creek

When planning your visit, it's helpful to understand the river's upper and lower stretches—each with vastly different recreation opportunities.

The upper Clackamas River runs from its headwaters on **Olallie Butte** to the community of **Estacada**. This stretch attracts thrill-seeking paddlers who love challenging themselves on the

river's technical whitewater rapids. They do it all in the shadow of jagged cliffs, towering forests and the charred remains of the 2020 Riverside Fire—a devastating wildfire that, years later, demonstrates the forest's capacity for rebirth and regrowth today.

Much of the upper stretch is recognized as the **Clackamas Wild and Scenic River**—a federal designation that reflects the river's crystal-clear waters, recreation opportunities, cultural importance to native peoples and its prolific, late-winter coho salmon runs.

Quiet Stretches of Lower Clackamas River Invite Relaxed Floats

Between **Estacada** and **Oregon City**, the lower Clackamas River mellows out. Here, rapids slow into ripples, put-in sites welcome festive floaters all spring and summer long and towering stands of hemlock and Douglas fir slowly give way to pastoral farmland. They all come together at put-in sites and take-out spots along the lower Clackamas River, where a floating party takes place across scores of tubes, kayaks, canoes and stand-up paddleboards on sunny summer weekends.

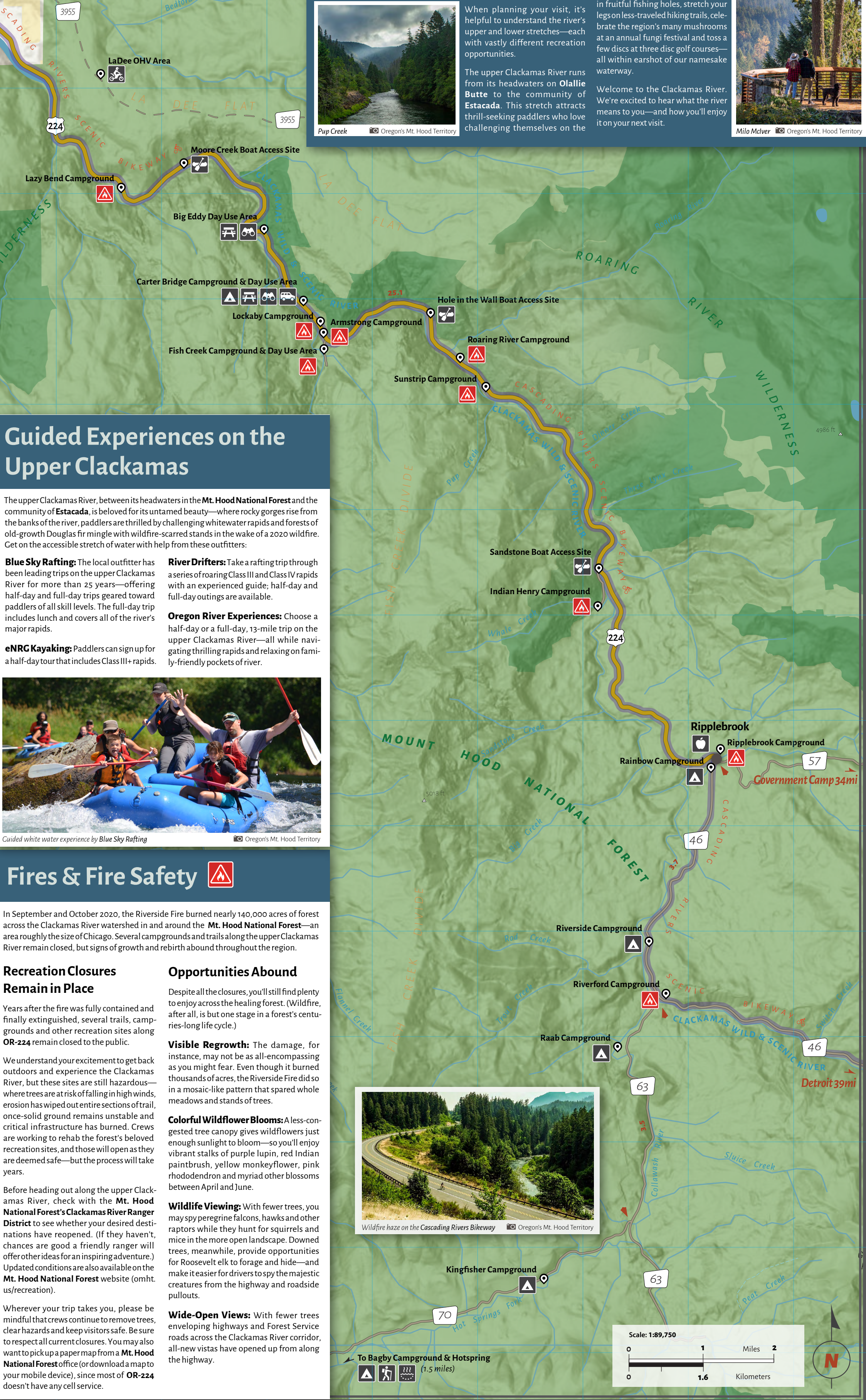
Those summer weekends see the most floaters along the lower Clackamas, so if you'd rather have the river to yourself, aim for a midweek visit—and consider a less-trafficked put-in or take-out spot—for a peaceful float.

Adventures abound beyond the river's banks, as well. Spend a night under the stars at quiet campgrounds, cast a line in fruitful fishing holes, stretch your legs on less-traveled hiking trails, celebrate the region's many mushrooms at an annual fungi festival and toss a few discs at three disc golf courses—all within earshot of our namesake waterway.

Welcome to the Clackamas River. We're excited to hear what the river means to you—and how you'll enjoy it on your next visit.



Milo McIver



Guided Experiences on the Upper Clackamas

The upper Clackamas River, between its headwaters in the **Mt. Hood National Forest** and the community of **Estacada**, is beloved for its untamed beauty—where rocky gorges rise from the banks of the river, paddlers are thrilled by challenging whitewater rapids and forests of old-growth Douglas fir mingle with wildfire-scarred stands in the wake of a 2020 wildfire. Get on the accessible stretch of water with help from these outfitters:

Blue Sky Rafting: The local outfitter has been leading trips on the upper Clackamas River for more than 25 years—offering half-day and full-day trips geared toward paddlers of all skill levels. The full-day trip includes lunch and covers all of the river's major rapids.

eNRG Kayaking: Paddlers can sign up for a half-day tour that includes Class III+ rapids.

River Drifters: Take a rafting trip through a series of roaring Class III and Class IV rapids with an experienced guide; half-day and full-day outings are available.

Oregon River Experiences: Choose a half-day or a full-day, 13-mile trip on the upper Clackamas River—all while navigating thrilling rapids and relaxing on family-friendly pockets of river.



Guided white water experience by Blue Sky Rafting

Fires & Fire Safety

In September and October 2020, the Riverside Fire burned nearly 140,000 acres of forest across the Clackamas River watershed in and around the **Mt. Hood National Forest**—an area roughly the size of Chicago. Several campgrounds and trails along the upper Clackamas River remain closed, but signs of growth and rebirth abound throughout the region.

Recreation Closures Remain in Place

Years after the fire was fully contained and finally extinguished, several trails, campgrounds and other recreation sites along **OR-224** remain closed to the public.

We understand your excitement to get back outdoors and experience the Clackamas River, but these sites are still hazardous—where trees are at risk of falling in high winds, erosion has wiped out entire sections of trail, once-solid ground remains unstable and critical infrastructure has burned. Crews are working to rehab the forest's beloved recreation sites, and those who open as they are deemed safe—but the process will take years.

Before heading out along the upper Clackamas River, check with the **Mt. Hood National Forest's Clackamas River Ranger District** to see whether your desired destinations have reopened. (If they haven't, chances are good a friendly ranger will offer other ideas for an inspiring adventure.) Updated conditions are also available on the **Mt. Hood National Forest** website (omh.us/recreation).

Wherever your trip takes you, please be mindful that crews continue to remove trees, clear hazards and keep visitors safe. Be sure to respect all current closures. You may also want to pick up a paper map from a **Mt. Hood National Forest** office (or download a map to your mobile device), since most of **OR-224** doesn't have any cell service.

Opportunities Abound

Despite all the closures, you'll still find plenty to enjoy across the healing forest. (Wildfire, after all, is but one stage in a forest's centuries-long life cycle.)

Visible Regrowth: The damage, for instance, may not be as all-encompassing as you might fear. Even though it burned thousands of acres, the Riverside Fire did so in a mosaic-like pattern that spared whole meadows and stands of trees.

Colorful Wildflower Blooms: A less-congested tree canopy gives wildflowers just enough sunlight to bloom—so you'll enjoy vibrant stalks of purple lupine, red Indian paintbrush, yellow monkey flower, pink rhododendron and myriad other blossoms between April and June.

Wildlife Viewing: With fewer trees, you may spy peregrine falcons, hawks and other raptors while they hunt for squirrels and mice in the more open landscape. Downed trees, meanwhile, provide opportunities for Roosevelt elk to forage and hide—and make it easier for drivers to spy the majestic creatures from the highway and roadside pullouts.

Wide-Open Views: With fewer trees enveloping highways and Forest Service roads across the Clackamas River corridor, all-new vistas have opened up from along the highway.



Wildfire haze on the Cascading Rivers Bikeway

