

Salmon Watch[®]

CLACKAMAS RIVER – EAGLE FERN PARK

Clackamas County Parks

Allow approximately 1 hour driving time from downtown Portland.

DIRECTIONS:

From Portland, take I-205 South to Exit #12, Estacada/Mt. Hood, and turn right onto Highway 212/224. Proceed 3.2 miles through Clackamas to the Rock Creek junction, where 212/224 splits. Turn right and follow Hwy 224 South towards Eagle Creek. At the junction of Hwy 211, stay straight on Hwy 224, following the highway and signs for Estacada for approximately 10 miles and turn left onto Wildcat Mountain Road (sign reads Dover District/Eagle Fern Park). Follow Wildcat Mountain Road for 2 miles and then turn right onto Eagle Fern Road. Follow Eagle Fern Road for just under 2.5 miles. The entrance for Eagle Fern Park is on the right just after passing the junction for Kitzmiller Road.

NOTE: Parking passes for entrance into the park are available from TFT office if the trip is before Labor Day. After Labor Day there are no entrance fees into the park. Near the parking area there are restrooms and a large shelter area that can be used as a station, gathering area and/or for lunch. **Clackamas County Parks Department:** 503-353-4414

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The Clackamas River Watershed drains more than 940 square miles, or 600,700 acres. For more than half its 83 mile length, the river flows through forested areas over rugged terrain. The lower reaches flow through agricultural areas and then densely developed areas. The Clackamas River begins on the slopes of Olallie Butte, a High Cascade volcano. The river flows 82.7 miles from its headwaters (elevation 6,000 feet) to its confluence with the Willamette River near Gladstone and Oregon City (elevation 12 feet). The river has three major tributary streams, the North and Oak Grove Forks, and the Collawash River. There are three dams on the river, beginning with River Mill Dam at river mile 23, which is considered to be the dividing line between the upper and lower river. Though all dams on the main stem have fish bypass facilities, there is high mortality rate associated with all of them, especially for juvenile fish during their downstream migration. There are two salmon hatcheries on the river, at McIver State Park and on Eagle Creek, which produce both salmon and steelhead for the Clackamas and for other rivers in the Columbia system.

NATURE HIKE/RIPARIAN STUDY

A great place for the nature hike and riparian study is across the footbridge and along the forested trail that runs parallel to the creek.

MACROINVERTEBRATES/WATER QUALITY

Directly to the creek from the area 1 shelter are two open areas adequate for both macroinvertebrates and water quality.

SALMON VIEWING:

Salmon viewing varies at this site, but typically heading downstream on the trail across the footbridge is a great place to scout out redds.

MEDICAL FACILITIES IN THE AREA:

Adventist Medical Center 37587 Hwy 26 Sandy OR 503-826-8829