

West Linn – Willamette Historic District

West Linn's Willamette Historic District began as a company town established in 1893 by Willamette Falls Electric. In 1913, a typhoid epidemic led Willamette to annex to West Linn to obtain a better water source. The walk takes you through Willamette's historic streets, with a stop at Willamette Park, located at the confluence of the Tualatin and Willamette rivers. Here you can picnic along the river while watching herons and sandpipers eat their lunch.

From 12th Street and Willamette Falls Drive, turn south on 12th and then right onto 6th Avenue. From 6th, turn left on 14th Street, walk one block to 5th Avenue. At 1847 is an 1897 Queen Anne owned by Nicholas Walden, an early developer of Willamette. Ahead is Willamette School, from 1949. An earlier school, built in 1896, was enclosed by wooden fences to protect kids at recess from roaming cattle.

From 5th, turn right on 12th. At 1724 4th, note the cow prints in the sidewalk along the home's 14th Avenue side. From 4th, turn left on 14th Street and follow it to Tualatin Avenue. Turn right to walk on the bridge for views of the Tualatin River. For most of its 83-mile run, the river is slow and meandering. Here, it steps up the pace and rushes over a rocky bottom just before joining the Willamette.

1.6 miles 3376 steps difficulty 45.344, -122.653

WEST LINN

Come off the bridge and turn right into Willamette Park, where sediments carried from the Tualatin's 712 square mile watershed have created a nice beach.

Exit Willamette Park on 12th, the main park road. Turn left on 4th and right on 13th to see more historic district homes. At Willamette Falls Drive turn right to return to the start. Discover the Farmers and Artists Market

Plan your walk for a Wednesday to visit the West Linn Farmers and Artists Market at the corner of 13th Street and Willamette Falls Drive. The market runs from mid-May to mid-September, from 4:30 to 8:30 p.m. and features local produce, art, music and food. When the market is not in session, this area offers plenty of restaurants, coffee houses and shops to enjoy at the end of the walk.



Downtown West Linn



