

Westmoreland to Crystal Springs

Discover Crystal Springs Rhododendron Gardens, blazing with color April through June with more than 2,500 rhododendrons, azaleas and companion plants. Spring-fed Crystal Springs Lake attracts many species of birds. The springs emerge from Reed Canyon, hidden in the Reed College campus.

Begin at SE 17th Avenue and Bybee Boulevard, near the heart of Westmoreland. Walk east on the north side of Bybee; across the railroad tracks is the Eastmoreland neighborhood. Follow Bybee as it curves north and becomes 28th Avenue.

Just north of Woodstock Boulevard, turn left into the Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden. Begun in 1950 as a test garden by the Portland Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society, the garden found a home here after a potential site on SW Terwilliger Boulevard was deemed too steep. This once scrubby and weed-choked island and peninsula was cleared, and landscape architects designed today's inviting and serene layout. A fee is charged some days. See www.portlandonline.com.

Leave the garden by crossing 28th and then turning left. Turn right on Botsford Drive, into the Reed College campus. Walk east and connect to a series of trails around Reed Canyon's creek, lake and springs.

Wander through the beautiful Reed campus or retrace your steps to the start where you'll find many places to shop and eat along Bybee and Milwaukie.

4.0 miles

8448 steps

difficulty

45.473, -122.648

WESTMORELAND TO CRYSTAL SPRINGS

Reed College Campus

Reed College is one of the city's most beautiful places, with brick manor-like buildings, manicured grounds and a deep tree canopy. Visit www.reed.edu/trees for photographs and descriptions of 100 species of trees on campus along with detailed maps on where to find them.

Another sort of beauty lies hidden on the campus: 26 acres of wildlife habitat nestled in a spring-fed canyon. In the early 1900s, when this land was the Crystal Springs Farm, a 10 foot dam on Crystal Springs Creek created Reed Lake here. One hundred years later, a fish ladder corrected this impediment to fish passage. Also around 2000, a swimming pool was removed from the canyon as efforts began to restore the land to its natural state. Reed Canyon is a treasure, from its upper reaches, where springs emerge from the hillside, to the lower end, with its lake and the restored flow of Crystal Springs Creek.



Old Dorm Block on the Reed College campus



