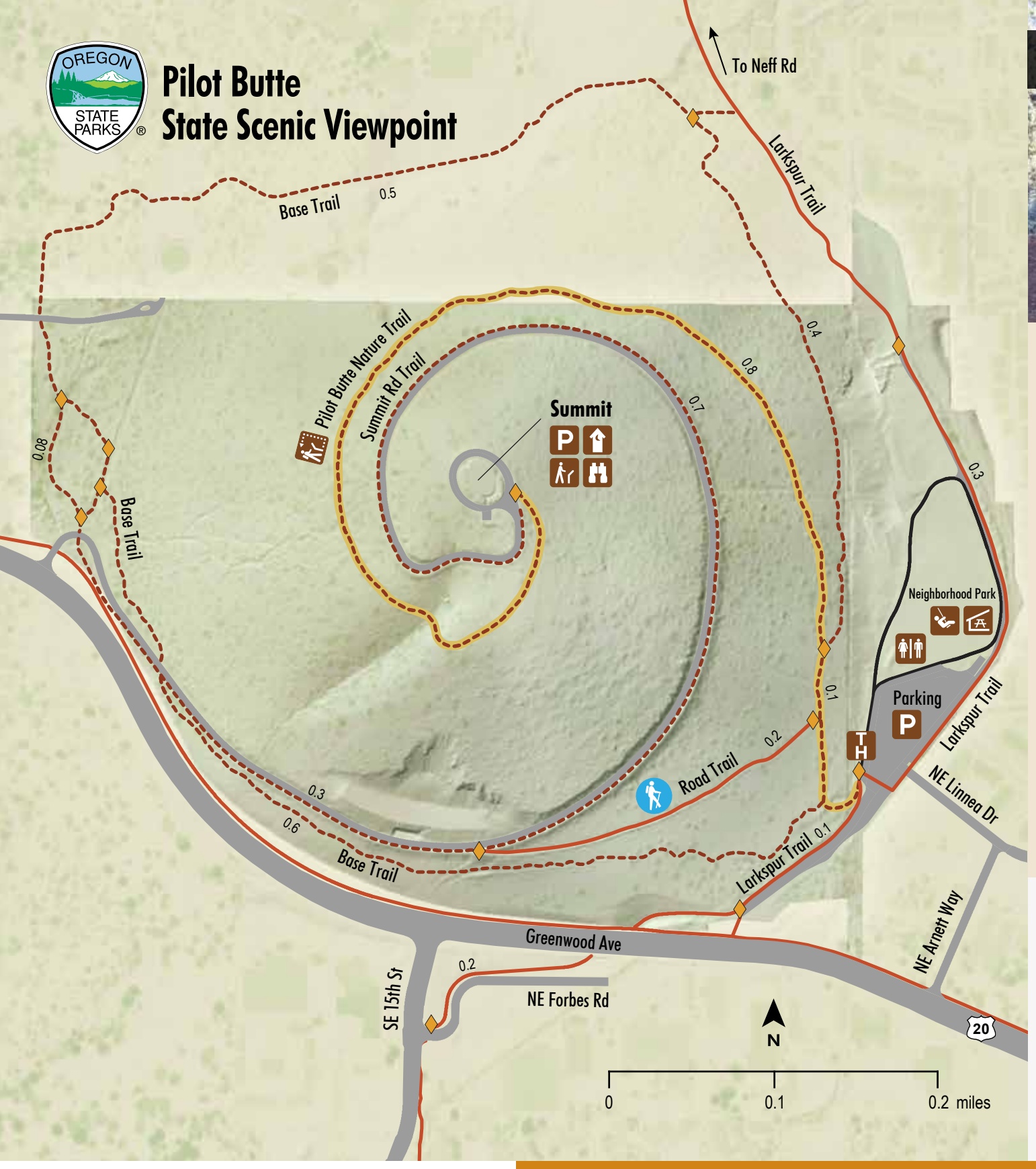
Pilot Butte State Scenic Viewpoint



Erosion barriers help mitigate soil degradation caused by visitors veering off the trail.

Help keep the park beautiful: Leave No Trace

- **Keep to the trail.** Taking shortcuts off established trails often causes irreversible erosion. Compacted soils limit a plant's ability to absorb water and make it vulnerable to disease.
- **Pack it in; pack it out.** No garbage cans are located on trails. Deposit trash and recycling in appropriate garbage receptacles at the parking areas.
- **Take only pictures.** Do not take plants or feed, harass or capture wildlife.
- **Leave only footprints.** Please do not carve or write on trees, rocks or other structures.
- **We love pets.** But they must be on a leash no longer than 6'.
- **Smoking is prohibited** in state parks.

ADA Accessible Trail
Trailhead
Hiking trail
Paved path
Distance in miles
Non-flush toilet
Restroom
Parking
Picnic shelter
Playground
Interpretive display
Viewpoint
Park boundary

This urban park in Bend features more than seven miles of trails that wind around an extinct volcano. There are two ways to the summit of the 480-foot butte—a mile-long nature trail or a mile-long paved road. Most people go up one way and down the other, but beware of cars during daylight hours (the road closes to cars in winter). Your reward for a steep climb is stunning 360 degree views of the high desert, snowcapped Cascade Range and city of Bend below. Interpretive panels tell the story of the geography, geology and natural history that define the region.

Pilot Butte State Scenic Viewpoint
1310 NE Hwy. 20
Bend, OR 97701

Office: 541-388-6055
Info and to volunteer: 800-551-6949

oregonstateparks.org

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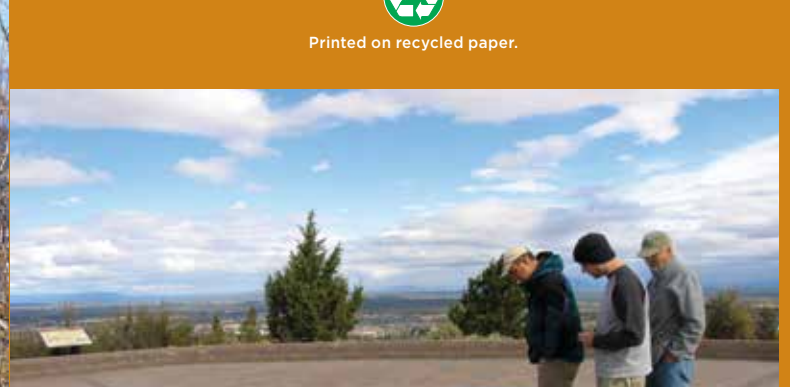
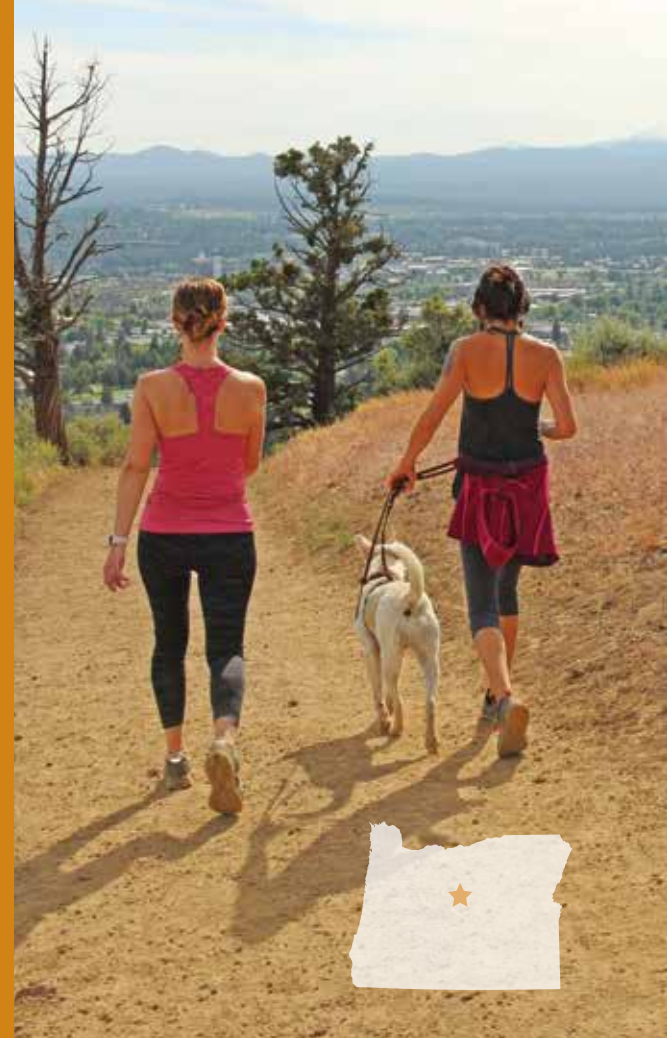


All information or fees subject to change without notice. This brochure is available in alternative formats upon request. Call 1-800-551-6949. Oregon Relay for the hearing impaired: dial 711.

63400-8000 (12/17)

Pilot Butte State Scenic Viewpoint

Nature Trail & Interpretive Guide



Pilot Butte Nature Trail

While you hike, we invite you to explore the diverse plants and wildlife that make their homes here. The numbers in this guide correspond to the numbered posts along the 1-mile Nature Trail.

1 Thirsty Neighbor

Over time, Western juniper has become the most common tree on Pilot Butte. While native to the region, these small trees were much less prevalent prior to Euro-American settlement. Past grazing and wildfire suppression have increased their numbers dramatically. One juniper can use up to 25 gallons of water per day, depriving the surrounding vegetation of the water it needs to survive. You'll notice some stumps along the trail where park staff removed junipers to help the surrounding plants.

2 Shrubs of the Butte

Fall-blooming sagebrush thrives in central Oregon. It is characterized by the leaves' three lobes, or "teeth," and a strong, distinct smell.

Two other shrubs common to the butte are often mistaken for sagebrush. Bitterbrush is a staple food for deer, which don't mind its bitter taste. The spring-blooming plant has leaves similar to the sagebrush, but not the strong smell.

Rabbitbrush also lacks the strong sage odor and has narrow, non-lobed leaves. Look for fall-blooming yellow flowers that grow in showy clusters. Rabbitbrush may get its name because it provides shelter for rabbits.

3 Alien Invader

Cheatgrass is probably the most abundant grass on the butte, but it's also pushing out native grasses that provide food for animals and help to prevent erosion.

A relatively short grass compared to native varieties, cheatgrass grows from 6 to 24 inches tall. At emergence, leaves are brownish-green; mature plants are reddish-brown with tall, slender stems. Watch for awns that stick to clothing and fur, the plant's way of dispersing its seeds.

We don't know for sure how cheatgrass got here—European settlers likely brought the seeds in the 1890s unaware of the long-term ramifications. This invasive grass is nearly impossible to get rid of, and erosion amplifies its spread. Please help native grasses compete by staying on the trail.

4 Desert Blooms

Each spring, the landscape bursts into bloom with wildflowers. In early spring, keep an eye out for the sand lily, a small flower shaped like a white star with showy yellow pistils growing from its center. Also look for rock cress, an upright flower with several clasping leaves, four purple petals and six stamens. Other common wildflowers here include penstemon, paintbrush, buckwheat, yarrow, blazing star, mariposa lily, lupine (above), and monkeyflower.

5 Ancient Soil

The light-colored soil in this area contains ash from the eruption of Mt. Mazama, the volcanic peak that once stood where Crater Lake is now. Mt. Mazama erupted about 7,700 years ago and deposited more than six inches of ash on Pilot Butte and the surrounding area. Wind has removed most of the ash from the slopes of Pilot Butte.

6 Epitome of the Desert

Perhaps no other plant represents the east Cascades forests like the Ponderosa pine. These trees stand out with their long, dark green needles and distinctive bark that's engraved with a jigsaw puzzle pattern and turns a lighter shade of orange as it matures.

7 Wildlife Food Source

Red currant is a common native shrub of the sagebrush prairie. Deer and some birds eat the red currant's orange-red fruit. The plant grows near the summit and on the north side of the butte, as it has adapted well to cool, shady and moist sites. Look for the plant's distinctive "palmate" leaves, characterized by their three or more distinct lobes, like the palm of your hand.

8 Growing Together

Lichens are made up of two organisms—algae and fungus—that grow together to create a distinct organism. The composite organism can grow on almost any surface and in a wide range of environmental conditions. Here in the park, they grow directly on rocks, tree trunks and downed logs. In this classic mutually beneficial relationship, the algae set up camp among the fibers of the fungus, while providing the fungus with green chlorophyll for food production (photosynthesis).

9 Death Supports Life

Trees continue to provide important habitat, even after they've died. Standing dead and dying trees, called snags, occur as a result of disease, lightning, fire, animal damage, root competition and just plain old age. Birds and small animals use snags for nests, storage areas, foraging, roosting and perching.

10 Fiery Origins

Pilot Butte is an extinct cinder cone, formed during a volcanic eruption about 188,000 years ago. During the eruption, gas-charged lava spewed through a vent in the ground and into the air. As the lava cooled and solidified, the fragments fell to the ground, building into a 480-foot cone shape around the vent.

11 Greedy Housemate

Did you know that mistletoe is a parasite that grows and feeds on other plants? Junipers have their own variety of mistletoe, also called witches' broom. The mistletoe takes advantage of the juniper's abundant water and nutrients, while providing no major harm or help to its gracious host plant.

12 You've Arrived

The reward for your steep 1-mile climb is the expansive 360 degree view at the summit. Early Euro-American scouts used this spot as a beacon to help them locate routes leading to the area. Native American tribal people could track the precise locations of wildlife herds for their summer hunts.

The state of Oregon dedicated Pilot Butte on Sept. 30, 1928, in memory of Terrence H. Foley, an early civic leader. People have donated many thousands of dollars and hours of labor to improve and maintain the visitor facilities you see here today.