

## Walks/Hikes near the Conference Site

**Avery Park:** This is a grassy semi-wooded park wood a 5-10 minute walk from the conference center. Kids will like the "dinosaur bones" poking up from the earth and the old steam engine. Adults might like the birdwatching, especially early in the morning, or the tall fir trees that abound. To walk there, come out of the conference center, turn left (south) on the road there (26th St.), turn left (east) at the first stop sign (Western Blvd.), turn right at the first stoplight (15th St.), and proceed straight through a stoplight at a highway and across a small bridge over the Mary's River.

Distance: 0.7 mi/1.1 km each way. Paved to get there. Some of the park's walkways are paved, some gravel.

Map: <http://tinyurl.com/5zqcwt>

**Riverfront walk:** This route goes along a wooded path beside two rivers and their confluence, and ends up on the waterfront park in downtown Corvallis. To get there, come out of the conference center, turn left (south) on the road there (26th St.), turn left (east) at the first stop sign (Western Blvd.), turn right at the first stoplight (15th St.), proceed to a stoplight (Philomath Blvd.), cross the highway there, and turn immediately left (east) on the paved path that starts along that highway but quickly curves away.

Distance: 1.5 mi/2.2 km each way to downtown. Paved.

Map: <http://tinyurl.com/6pv2jt> shows roads as far as Pioneer park. There's a paved path that continues from there down the Mary's River and then bends north along the Willamette River.

**Covered Bridge Path:** On the west side of campus is a large tract of open land, partly wild and partly used for agricultural study. There's a paved pedestrian/bike path through the center of it that crosses an old wooden bridge. It's about a mile (1.6 km) walk each way. To get there, come out of the conference center, turn right on the road there (26th St.), follow that road to the second stop sign (Campus Way), turn left (west), and follow that road across 26th St., out past the last campus buildings, across 35th St., and between some barns and just keep walking.

Distance: 2.1 mi/3.4 km each way for the whole path, or 1.5 mi/2.4 km just to the covered bridge. Paved.

Map: <http://tinyurl.com/4a2rx5> shows the route to the start of the Covered Bridge Path. At the end of the path marked on this map, continue straight across 35th St. as described above.

**Bald Hill:** If you're up for a longer trip on dirt paths, try hiking up this hill with a great view roughly 500' (150 m) above the Willamette Valley. To get there, follow the Covered Bridge Path (described above), through the covered bridge, and on to the first significant road (53rd St.). There's a wiggle in the path there to get to a pedestrian crossing. Go straight across the road (53rd St.) and continue straight (west) on the pedestrian path to a T intersection in about 0.5 mi/1.6 km. Either turn left (south) 100-200 meters and then get on a small, steep uphill trail on your right, or turn right and follow the paved path until you see an old barn atop a hill on the left; go up the obvious trail past the barn and look for a posted trail map.

Distance: Around 3.6 mi/5.8 km each way, with 500 ft/150 m elevation. Paved until you reach the hill, then gravel or dirt.

Map: <http://tinyurl.com/4a2rx5> shows the route to the start of the Covered Bridge Path. Then follow the directions above.

**Ancient forest hike:** This short hike goes through a remnant of ancient Douglas-fir forest, letting you see what it all used to look like – trees 30'/10 m in circumference reaching up to the sky. It's far enough away from campus that you'll need a car to get there. From the conference center, head south (turn left if you imagine coming out of the conference center) on 26th St. to reach the stop sign at Western Ave. Turn left (east), drive to the first stoplight at 15th St., turn left (north), and follow it through campus (where it becomes 14th St.) to a stop light at Monroe Ave. Jog right (east) a few blocks to 10th St. and turn left (north). Follow 10th St. for 4.4 mi/7 km through and out of town – its name changes to Highland Dr. – until you hit a T intersection at Lewisburg Ave. Turn left (west) there, then bear right (northwest) after 0.4 mi/0.6 km on Sulphur Springs Rd. Head up that winding road until you reach a saddle, which is where the trailhead is. Starting at the right (east) side of the road, walk northeast down the DESCENDING gravel forest road (not the ascending one!) 0.3 mi/0.5 km until there's a short spur road on the left. Don't take this spur, but do take the forest footpath immediately past it on the left (north). This trail winds down across a creek and past some good big old trees, then back up to the gravel forest road. Turn right (south or east) when you reach the road to get back to where you started.

Distance: About 1.5 mi/2.2 km round trip.

Map: <http://tinyurl.com/4r2sor> (This shows the route to drive, plus the first 0.3 mi of the hike – the part until you turn off the forest road and onto the footpath.)

**Other routes:** There are a lot of great hiking trails around Corvallis if you want something longer or wilder. Contact me ([David.Mellinger@oregonstate.edu](mailto:David.Mellinger@oregonstate.edu)) for more information.