

Banks–Vernonia State Trail



Banks-Vernonia State Trail

Length: 21 miles from Banks to Vernonia (42 miles there-and-back)

Start: 42425 NW Banks Rd., Banks, OR 97106

GPS: N45° 37.3257', W123° 6.8285'

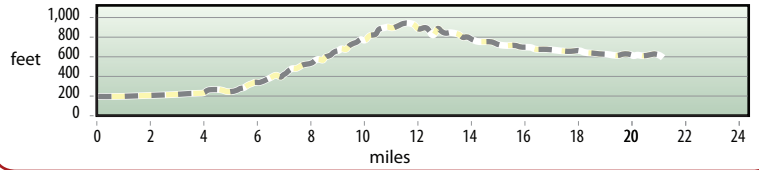
Head north from the Banks trailhead onto the Banks-Vernonia State Trail, Oregon's first "rails-to-trails" project. The trail runs along an abandoned railroad bed between the towns of Banks and Vernonia. Dating back to the 1920s, the railway line was used for moving logs and lumber from mill to market.

Besides great views and scenery, the trail features 12 bridges, as well as Horseshoe and Buxton Trestles—two 600-foot long, 80-foot high railroad trestles. A gentle grade with occasional hills, along with intermittent picnic areas and public restrooms, make this a great family ride. The trail is open to bikers, hikers and equestrians. The paved trail passes through L.L. "Stub" Stewart State Park, which offers camping and more.

For more information:

Oregon Parks & Recreation Department, Banks-Vernonia State Trail/Stub Stewart Management Unit, (503) 324-0606




http://www.oregonstateparks.org/park_145.php





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 WASHINGTON COUNTY
 Come play *ride* your way.™

Legend



Most suitable


-  **Bike and pedestrian trail**
Closed to motor vehicles, mostly paved
-  **Bike and pedestrian trail**
May allow motor vehicles, unpaved
-  **Low-traffic street**
No designated bikeway, speeds less than 25 miles per hour

Moderately suitable *










-  **Bike lane**
Busy street with bike lanes
-  **Moderate-traffic street**
No bike lane, speeds greater than 25 miles per hour

Less suitable *

-  **High-traffic street**
Speeds greater than 35 miles per hour
-  **Caution area**
Street with narrow lanes, high traffic or sharp curves

-  **Bike loop**
Including starting point and direction of travel

Map features

-  **Banks-Vernonia state trailhead**
-  **Farm stand**
-  **Winery**
-  **Campground**
-  **Climb of 300 feet or more**
Chevron points uphill
-  **Railroad**
-  **County line**
-  **Park or other greenspace**
-  **School**

* Country roads can be scenic and enjoyable riding. While they are usually low traffic, they commonly have narrow shoulders and vehicle speed limits up to 55 miles per hour.









Safety Tips and Bike Laws

As a bicyclist, you have the same rights and responsibilities as a motorist. Follow these tips to make your ride safe and enjoyable.

Safety tips courteously provided by Metro





Be Predictable

Ride so drivers can see you and predict your movements.

-  **Obey traffic signs and lights**
To be respected by motorists, obey the same traffic laws they obey.
-  **Use bicycle traffic detection devices**
Look for a small, white bicycle decal in the pavement at an intersection. Place your wheel over it to change the traffic signal.
-  **Never ride against traffic**
Motorists aren't looking for bicyclists riding on the wrong side of the road. To be most visible and safe, ride with traffic.
-  **Use hand signals**
Hand signals allow you to signal to motorists a change in direction. You are required to signal 100 feet before turning at an intersection.
-  **Don't weave between parked cars**
Ride as close as possible to the right. Ride consistently, and always scan parked vehicles for people who may open a door in your path.
-  **Ride in the middle of the lane**
At busy intersections and when riding at the same speed as motor vehicle traffic, you can ride in the middle of the lane. Otherwise, you must ride as far to the right as practical unless you are passing, preparing for a left turn, avoiding hazards or riding in a lane too narrow for a bicycle and vehicle to travel side by side.
-  **Turn correctly**
There are two ways to turn left: you can signal and turn left from the traffic lane, or you can keep to the right until you reach the far corner of the intersection and then turn your bike and wait until it is clear (or the light changes) before crossing.
-  **Go slowly on sidewalks**
You must yield to pedestrians and provide an audible warning as you prepare to pass them.



Be Alert

Ride defensively and expect the unexpected.

-  **Use caution when passing**
You may pass slowed or stopped traffic on the right only when it is safe. Be very careful when overtaking cars and stay out of a motorist's blind spot as a driver may not signal when turning.
-  **Be prepared for a stopped vehicle pulling into your path**
Until you've made eye contact, assume that a stopped motorist in a driveway or cross street has not seen you approach.
-  **Know what's behind you**
Train yourself to look over your shoulder without losing your balance or swerving, or use a rearview mirror.
-  **Avoid road hazards**
Be on the lookout for rail tracks, sewer grates, manhole covers, oily pavement, wet leaves, gravel and ice. Cross rail tracks at a right angle. Do not ride through large puddles; they may hide a pothole.
-  **Farm equipment shares the road**
Watch for farm equipment on rural roads. This symbol indicates a slow moving vehicle, which may be wider than the lane of travel. For more information, see the pamphlet on Rural Road Safety contained in the "Other Bicycle Resources" section of this map.

Be Equipped

Invest in the necessary gear.

-  **Cover the basics**
Your bike should be sized to your height. A hard-shell helmet reduces your risk of head injury in a crash. Bicyclists under 16 are required to wear one.
-  **Gear up for urban conditions**
Front and rear bike lights are required if you ride at dusk, dawn or night. Consider a rearview mirror, fenders for rain and a bell, plus a rack, basket or bike bag to carry groceries, books and necessities.