

Excerpted List and Descriptions of Oregon State Park Facilities in Project Vicinity Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Available at

http://www.oregonstateparks.org/searchpark.php?region=columbia_gorge

STARVATION CREEK STATE PARK

Zooming down Interstate 84 eastbound, you might very well miss this tiny park. Nestled at the base of the sheer walls of the Columbia Gorge, Starvation Creek is much more than it appears. It is a feast for the eyes and feet.

Trails spreading out from this day-use park lead onto adjacent National Forest Service land and connect to the Mt. Defiance and Starvation Ridge trails. Heading east, trek along a remnant of the Historic Columbia River Highway to Viento State Park and campground.

The waterfall at Starvation Creek, one of the few in this area of the gorge, is an elegant cascade admired by gorge travelers for thousands of years.

Vital stats

There is no fee to use this park. For more information, call 1-800-551-6949. Eastbound vehicle access only at Exit 54 off I-84. Westbound sightseers can park at the trailhead at Viento at Exit 56 and walk the two miles to the park.

Services

Picnicking

Hiking trail

Historic resources

Interpretive signs

Wildlife watching

Mountains

Historic trails

Restrooms

Bird watching

Waterfalls

Historic signs

VIENTO STATE PARK

Appropriately enough for a park in the blustery Columbia River Gorge, the park's name, pronounced vee-EN-toe, is Spanish for wind. Just an odd coincidence, actually. In this case, the Viento comes from the first letters of three railroad tycoons - Villard, Endicott, and Tollman -who put the first railroad in the area.

Where a railroad station once stood is now the home of one of the Gorge's best kept secrets: Viento is a great place to camp! With modern campsites, Viento almost always has a spot available when other campgrounds in the area are full. No reservations are accepted; camping is first-come, first-served. On weekends in the summer, rangers provide interpretive programs. A fully-accessible restroom is located here.

Viento is next to a working railroad line and crossing. Visitors and campers can expect to hear train horns throughout the day and night. Interstate 84 also borders the park. Please call the park office at (541) 374-8811, for more information.

Viento has a day-use area with easy access to the Columbia River and some of the best windsurfing in the Gorge. There's a great picnic area right next to a wonderful, babbling creek - just right for skimming stones and soaking sore feet.

A one-mile, fully handicapped accessible trail from Viento to the Starvation Creek waterfall takes you along a section of the Historic Columbia River Highway. Now a hiking trail, there hasn't been auto traffic here in more than 50 years. If you get a chance to visit, imagine an old Ford Model T twisting around the corners!

Vital stats

Open mid-March through October. Call 800-551-6949 for exact open and closure dates. \$5 daily day-use fee or buy a 12-month permit for \$30 or a 24-month permit for \$50. These [1- and 2-year permits](#) are good at all state park day-use areas.

Campsites are first-come, first-served. 56 electrical, 18 tent (maximum site 30 feet). (541)374-8811 or (800) 551- 6949.

Services

Camping	Accessible camping	Tent
Electric	Showers	Playgrounds
Picnicking	Fishing	Windsurfing
Beach access	Hiking trail	Forest
Waterways	Mountains	Waterfalls
Historic resources	Historic trails	ADA restroom
Restrooms		

WYGANT STATE NATURAL AREA

The Wygant trail -- six miles west of Hood River -- was a gift to Oregon honoring the memory of the Wygant family. This park adjoins two other state parks near Mitchell Point 5 miles west of Hood River on Interstate 84. A trail strikes through the park in a dense, hilly wilderness area that was once the old Oregon Trail and later the Historic Columbia River Highway. The first mile of this trail is on pavement that hasn't had an automobile on it for 50 years (it still has the yellow divider stripe). As it moves into the wilderness, Wygant trail penetrates a dense forest hillside along a gurgling creek. It is an ideal spot for backpackers who are looking for a little solitude.

Vital stats

There is no fee to use this park. For information, call 1-800-551-6949.

Services

Wildlife watching	Bird watching	Walking trail
Hiking trail	Prairie	Desert
Mountains	Historic resources	Historic trails

VINZENZ LAUSMANN MEMORIAL STATE NATURAL AREA

The family of Vinzenz Lausmann gave 126 acres of rugged scenic land to the State of Oregon in his memory. This park adjoins two other state parks tract near Mitchell Point located about 5 miles west of Hood River on Interstate 84. A plaque honoring Mr. Lausmann is at the foot of the park, where a trail leads the visitor up the steep faces of fir, alder and maple which define the Columbia River Gorge in this area. The views of the Gorge from this trail are spectacular.

Vital stats

There is no fee to use this park. For information, call 1-800-551-6949.

Services

Hiking trail
Mountains

Forest
Canyons

Rock formations

SENECA FOUTS MEMORIAL STATE NATURAL AREA

This would be a great place for a convention if you were a bighorn sheep. In other words, the terrain is rocky, mountainous, desolate and beautiful. This is the third leg of state parks joined together at Mitchell Point (also see Wygant and Vinzenz Lausmann).

Vital stats

Eastbound access only. There is no fee to use this park. For information, call 1-800-551-6949.

Services

Hiking trail

Forest

Mountains

KOBERG BEACH STATE RECREATION SITE

Oct. 12, 2010 The site is closed for the next few months while crews install a new restroom building and septic system.

Once upon a time -- from about 1915 to about 1950 -- a giant wonderful dance hall and outdoor resort existed at Koberg Beach. When the town of Hood River wanted to cool off or go ballroom dancing to the sounds of a swing orchestra, they went to Koberg Beach. Eventually, the ballroom and the beach had to make way for the rising

Columbia River when hydroelectric dams were constructed. For a complete view of the way it was, go see the Koberg Beach exhibit at the Hood River County Museum in Hood River.

Today, Koberg Beach is a wayside that serves busy westbound motorists on I-84 with a restroom and a stretch break. An enjoyable beach lies behind the great rock which screens its recreational access from the busy freeway.

Vital stats

There is no fee to use this park. For information, call 1-800-551-6949.

Services

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|-----------------|---------------|------------|
| Picnicking | Bird watching | Fishing |
| Windsurfing | Beach access | Waterways |
| Rock formations | Beach | Year-round |
| Restrooms | | |
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