



### Banks-Vernonia State Trail

L.L. Stub Stewart Management Unit  
30380 NW Highway 47  
Buxton, OR 97109

Park: 503-324-0606

Info: 1-800-551-6949

[oregonstateparks.org](http://oregonstateparks.org)



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Banks-Vernonia State Trail is the first “rails-to-trails” linear state park built in Oregon. The trail follows an abandoned railroad bed that stretches 21 miles between the cities of Banks and Vernonia.

Most of the route consists of an eight-foot wide hiking and bicycle trail paralleled by a four-foot wide horse trail. The gentle grade in all but one area allows hikers, bicyclists, equestrians and people of all abilities to enjoy the scenic mountains, fields and forests of Washington and Columbia counties.

## History of the Line

The route’s railroad history began in the 1920s when trains moved logs and lumber from mills in Vernonia and Keasey to Portland. When the lumber mill closed in 1957, the railroad stopped using the line. In 1960, the line was leased to the Vernonia South Park and Sunset Steam Railroad, which operated an excursion train for five years.

After the line was abandoned, the state began purchasing the right-of-way in 1974. Trail building started in 1991.

## Trail Highlights

Trail highlights include 13 bridges and views from the 733-foot long, 80-foot high Buxton Trestle, open to hikers and bicyclists. A ground-level equestrian bypass crosses Mendenhall Creek. The south end of the trail begins in Banks, a town of 1,900 surrounded by agricultural operations. Heading north, the trail passes agricultural lands and riparian areas before reaching the thickly-forested foothills of the Coast Range and ending in Vernonia, a town of 2,200 surrounded by private timberland and small farms.



## Trail Rules

### Share the Trail

- Hikers yield to equestrians.
- Bicyclists yield to hikers and equestrians.
- Bicyclists announce themselves within 25-50 feet of encountering others. Ring a bell or shout. Make eye contact and pass slowly. Equestrians and hikers acknowledge and indicate the best way to pass.
- Keep right, pass left. Keep a safe distance from others.

### TRAIL COURTESY



### Trail Safety

- Travel at a safe speed. This multi-use, recreation trail is intended for slow speed use.
- Approach and cross trail bridges with caution. The wood decking is uneven and can be slippery.
- Never hike or ride alone without informing others of your plans. Cell phone service is limited.
- Pets must be on a 6-foot leash (maximum) in all areas, at all times.

### Trail Courtesy

- Stay on the designated trail.
- Please respect private property.
- Please ride single file.
- Equestrians must use the woodchip path, where provided, and spread or kick animal waste off the trail, or move their animals to the side of the trail.
- Tie horses to hitching posts or horse trailers, not to trees.
- Do not camp or build fires along the trail.
- Please use the restrooms at the trailheads. Trails have no restrooms.
- Pack it in, pack it out.
- Pet owners must pick up and properly dispose of waste.



# Banks-Vernonia State Trail

### Miles between trailheads

|                         |           |     |
|-------------------------|-----------|-----|
| Banks – Manning         | . . . . . | 3.1 |
| Manning – Buxton        | . . . . . | 3.7 |
| Buxton – Tophill        | . . . . . | 5.2 |
| Tophill – Beaver Creek  | . . . . . | 4.8 |
| Beaver Creek – Vernonia | . . . . . | 4.2 |

Please stay on the designated trail.  
**Do not trespass on private property.**

### TRAIL COURTESY



ADA accessible

Restroom

Vault restroom

Trailhead

Parking

Interpretive exhibit

Picnic area

Picnic shelter

Park boundary  
Stub Stewart State Park

Paved trail

Unpaved trail

Highways

Roads

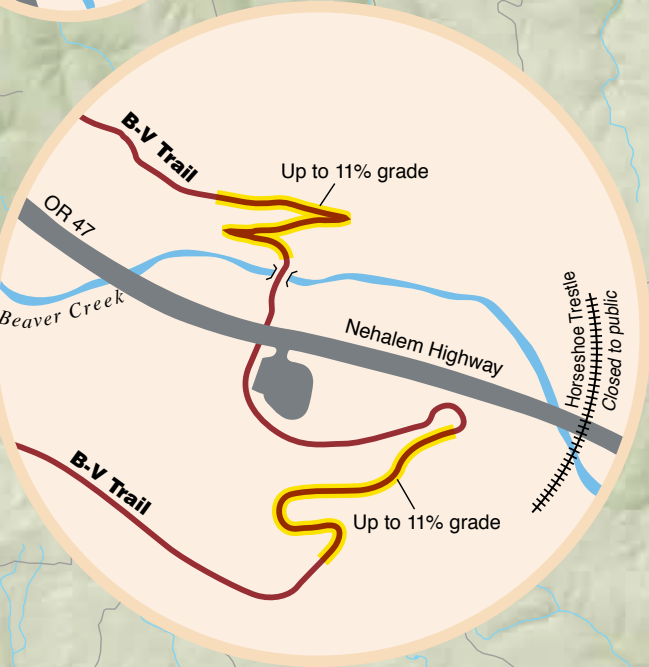
Railroad

**Beaver Creek Trailhead**



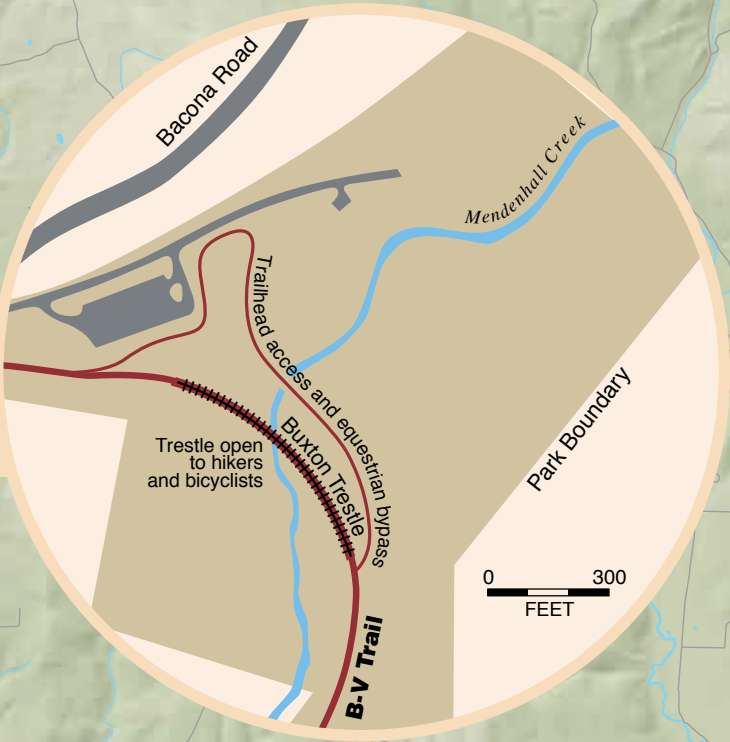
**Tophill Trailhead**

ADA Equestrian Loading Platform  
Hitching Posts

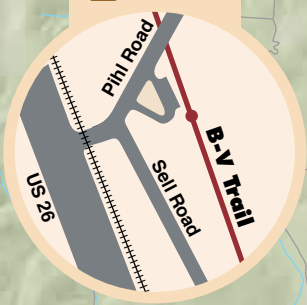


**Buxton Trailhead**

ADA Equestrian Loading Platform



**Manning Trailhead**



**Banks Trailhead**

No RV or trailer parking

