

# METOLIUS PRESERVE SUGGESTED ROUTES

# **Becky Johnson Interpretive Area Wander**

Located at the South Trailhead, the Becky Johnson Interpretive Area has a covered kiosk, wooden benches, interpretive signs, and viewing platforms along Lake Creek. A short, mostly flat, loose gravel trail wanders through the forest with shady stops at creekside viewing platforms where you can learn about sockeye salmon, songbirds, and other wildlife of the Preserve.

Trail details: 0.2 mile (one-way), mostly flat, wide (>36"), loose gravel trail.

## **Larch Trail Loop**

This route takes visitors through one of the most diverse sections of the Metolius Preserve. Discover a unique combination of wetter plants and trees from the west side of the Cascades, along with drier eastern Cascade vegetation. Enjoy spectacular larch trees, lush creekside plants, towering ponderosa pines, and summer wildflowers. This flat trail is a gorgeous spot for fall hiking as vine maples turn brilliant shades of red and orange and larch trees brighten to a sunny yellow before covering the forest floor.

From the North Trailhead, follow the trail south through the forest and along the North Fork of Lake Creek. You'll come to a bridge after .25 mile. Cross the bridge and then take a left at the next trail junction. After .25 miles take a right and cross another bridge. Continue on this trail for another mile before coming to another trail junction. Turn right, then cross the Middle Fork of Lake Creek. The trail will then turn right and bring you back to your first trail junction. Take a left and then follow the trail back to the trailhead.

Trail details: 2.5 mile loop on mostly flat, natural surface trails of variable width (some portions <36", others >36" along old roads).

### Fir Trail Loop

A nicely shaded and cool option on a hot summer day, this loop offers a nice variety of rolling terrain. In the fall, pass through golden bracken ferns blanketing the forest floor. From the South Trailhead, follow trails to the left along the south bank of the creek. After crossing the entrance road, you'll reach your first trail junction. Take a right and hike up the rolling terrain. After .4 miles, you'll hit another trail junction. Keep straight/right, then take a left at the next trail junction, remaining on the Fir Trails. You'll arrive at another junction after .4 miles. Take a right and follow the trail to the next junction. Here you'll take a right and follow signs back to the trailhead.

Trail details: 2.4 mile loop on predominately natural surface/gravel trails of variable width (some portions <36", others >36" along old roads). Some small elevation gain/loss.

### **Georeferenced Map**

Download a georeferenced map of the Metolius Preserve to help with navigation. Scan the QR code to the right to download.



