

60

WASHINGTON PARK-
HOYT ARBORETUMKEY AT-A-GLANCE
INFORMATION**LENGTH:** 4 miles**CONFIGURATION:** Loop**DIFFICULTY:** Easy**SCENERY:** 950 species and varieties of plants, more than 5,000 labeled trees and shrubs**EXPOSURE:** Shady, with the occasional open spot for city views**TRAFFIC:** Heavy on weekends, moderate during the workday or bad weather**TRAIL SURFACE:** Pavement, packed dirt, gravel**HIKING TIME:** 2 hours for the recommended loop**DRIVING DISTANCE:** 2 miles (5 minutes) from Pioneer Square**SEASON:** Year-round**BEST TIME:** Spring, for the blooms**BACKPACKING OPTIONS:** None**ACCESS:** No fees or permits**WHEELCHAIR ACCESS:** There are several barrier-free trails in the area; ask at the visitor center.**MAPS:** Trail guide at Hoyt Arboretum Visitor Center**FACILITIES:** Water and restrooms throughout park**INFO:** Portland Parks and Recreation, (503) 823-7529

IN BRIEF

A family could spend a weekend in Washington Park and never run out of things to do. The park has a zoo, a children's museum, the World Forestry Center, the Oregon Vietnam Veterans Memorial, a world-class Japanese garden, the Hoyt Arboretum, and miles of hiking trails. TriMet runs a shuttle bus that connects it all. The loop described here is only a suggestion.

DESCRIPTION

This loop hike can be your base for exploring and an introduction to all that Washington Park has to offer. From a hiker's perspective, the heart of the park is Hoyt Arboretum (literally meaning "tree museum"), founded in 1928 on land that was completely clearcut in the early 20th century. Be sure to stop in the visitor center (which is on this loop) for a helpful map.

Beginning your walk at the Oregon Vietnam Veterans Memorial, follow the trail under and then across the bridge and through a circular series of memorials describing events at

Directions 

The best way to get to this trailhead is to take the MAX Light Rail. It takes you to the deepest transit station in North America (at 260 feet, the second-deepest in the world), which features artwork and displays on the geological history of the region. An elevator puts you right next to the World Forestry Center; turn right from there for the trailhead. To drive here from downtown Portland, head west on US 26 and take Exit 72/Zoo after 1.3 miles. At the end of the ramp, turn right on SW Canyon Road. Then stay to the left, circling the parking lot, and turn left at the MAX station. The trailhead is at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial on your left 0.1 mile ahead.

GPS Trailhead
Coordinates

UTM Zone (WGS84) 10T

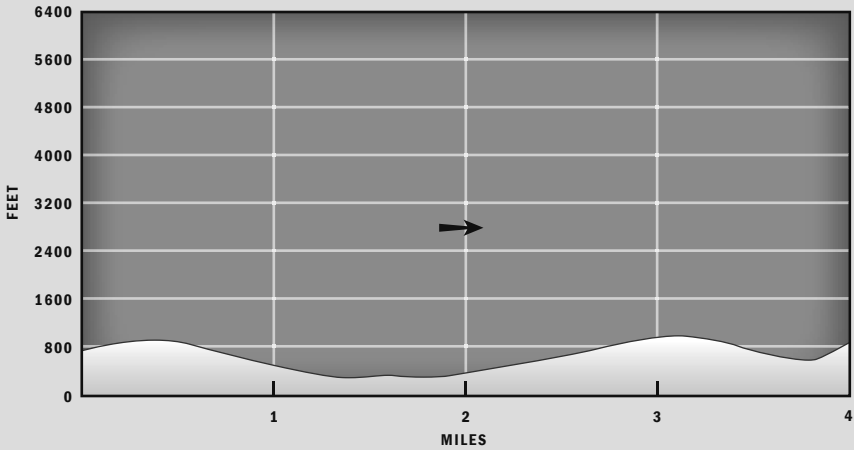
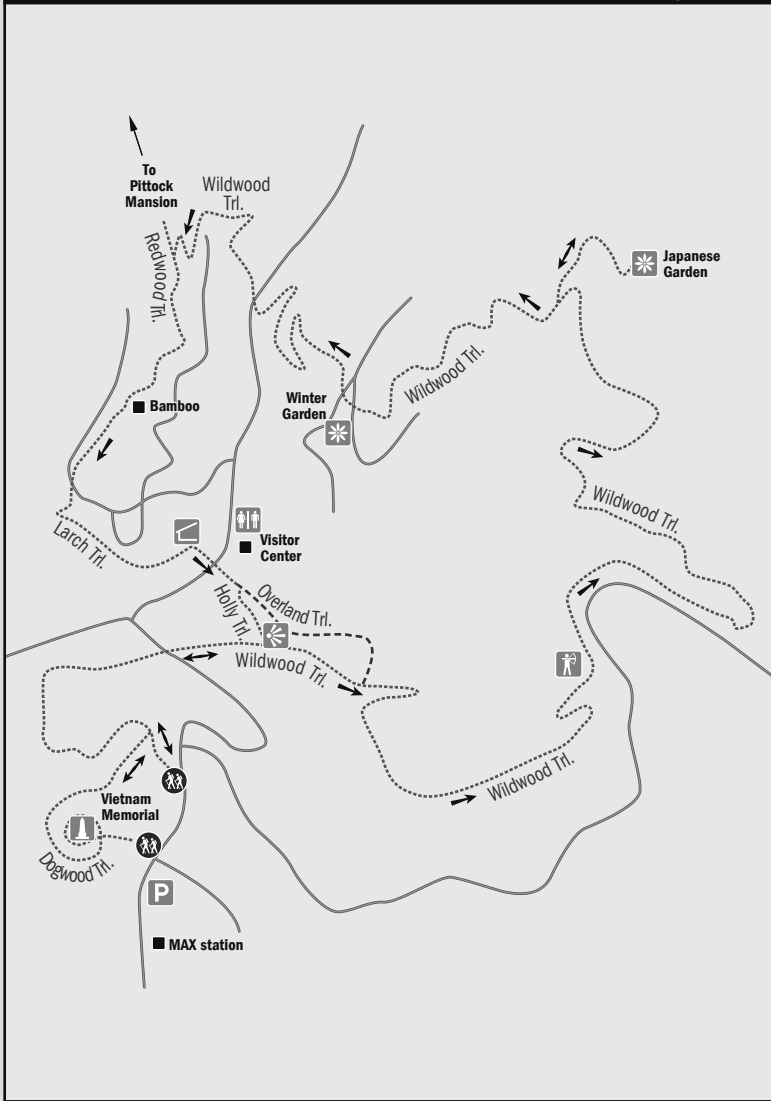
Easting 522065

Northing 5039824

Latitude N 45.51160°

Longitude W 122.71752°

60 Washington Park-Hoyt Arboretum



home and in Southeast Asia from 1959 to 1972. At this point, you're in the arboretum—specifically, on Dogwood Trail. (Each arboretum trail is named for the trees that dominate it.) Follow Dogwood Trail out of the memorial, and then turn left onto Wildwood Trail. (To your right is the beginning of this “wonder trail” that wanders some 30 miles through Washington Park and Forest Park.

Stay on Wildwood Trail 0.4 miles as it circles to the right and climbs a small hill to a viewpoint between two water towers. Look for Mount St. Helens and Mount Rainier, and then turn left on Holly Trail and walk 100 yards to the visitor center, where there's water, restrooms, and a mountain of information. Return to the viewpoint and turn left on Wildwood Trail. In about 200 feet you'll come to Magnolia Trail on the left; take it 0.3 miles to the Winter Garden if you'd like to cut about 1.6 miles off your hike and stay in the arboretum. For a pleasant, woody stroll and access to other Washington Park attractions, stay on Wildwood Trail.

The wide, flat Wildwood Trail loops out 1.5 miles, with access along the way to the Cherry, Walnut, and Maple trails. At the 1.2-mile mark, you will have a view down to the right of the waterfall area of the Japanese garden; just after that, a trail on the right leads to the garden, the largest in the world outside Japan and a must-see. Just down a hill beyond that is the International Rose Test Garden, with 8,000 rosebushes in more than 550 varieties. Did I mention you could spend quite a while in Washington Park?

Back on Wildwood Trail, 0.3 miles past the Japanese Garden Trail, you enter Winter Garden, where Magnolia Trail reenters. Just 0.6 miles later on Wildwood Trail, take a left on Redwood Trail for an exploration of the sequoia collection. Shortly beyond that, you'll enter the redwood collection, which includes a specimen of the dawn redwood, which, until a few decades ago, was thought to be extinct.

Note: If you were to stay on Wildwood Trail here, you could add a 2.4-mile out-and-back trip to Pittock Mansion, which is at the top of Macleay Trail (hike 54, page 246).

Back on Redwood Trail, when you come to a trail on the right marked “To Creek Trail,” take that, and you'll be in the middle of the bamboo collection. From redwoods to bamboo—culture shock is now a possibility. Creek Trail dead-ends at a road; pick up Redwood Trail at the far side and you'll pass through the larch collection on your way to the picnic shelter. Cross the road, and you're back at the visitor center. Turn right, take Holly Trail back to Wildwood Trail, turn right on it, and follow it a half mile back to your car.

NEARBY ACTIVITIES

The Children's Museum features hands-on exhibits in a “center for creativity, designed for kids age 6 months through 12 years old.” Kids can climb, swim, toss balls, act in a play, and even produce a movie there.