

Nature
HISTORY
Discovery

Banks-Vernonia State Trail



Welcome to Banks-Vernonia State Trail

Banks-Vernonia State Trail is the first “rails-to-trails” state park built in Oregon. It is built on an abandoned railroad bed that stretches 21 miles from the town of Banks to the city of Vernonia.

The trail includes an eight-foot wide hiking and bicycle trail paralleled by a four-foot wide horse trail. The gentle grade 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 railway line dates back to the 1920s, when it was used for moving logs and lumber from the Oregon-American lumber mill in Vernonia, and freight and passengers from 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 Railroad, which operated a steam excursion train for five years.

The line was abandoned and the rails salvaged in 1973. The right-of-way was then purchased by the state in 1974, and transferred to Oregon Parks and Recreation Department in 1990.

ON THE TRAIL

Besides great views and scenery, the trail features 12 bridges, as well as Horseshoe Trestle and Buxton Trestle—two 600-foot long, 80-foot high railroad trestles. The Buxton Trestle features a new deck and guardrail, and is open to trail users.



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 with a bell or a shout, make eye contact and slowly pass. 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

- Never hike or ride alone. If you must, tell someone your plans. Cell phone coverage may be limited.
- Pets must be on a 6-foot leash (maximum) in all areas, and must be under control at all times. Voice command of unleashed pets is unacceptable. Owners of pets running loose may receive fines.

Trail Courtesy

- Stay on the designated trail.
- Please respect private property.
- Please ride single file.
- Equestrians use the woodchip path, where provided.
- 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.
- Horse owners must spread or kick animal waste off the trail. Or, move your animal to the side of the trail.
- Pet owners pick up waste and dispose of properly.

For More Information:

Banks-Vernonia State Trail
L.L. “Stub” Stewart Management Unit
30380 NW Highway 47
Buxton, OR 97109
Phone: (503) 324-0606



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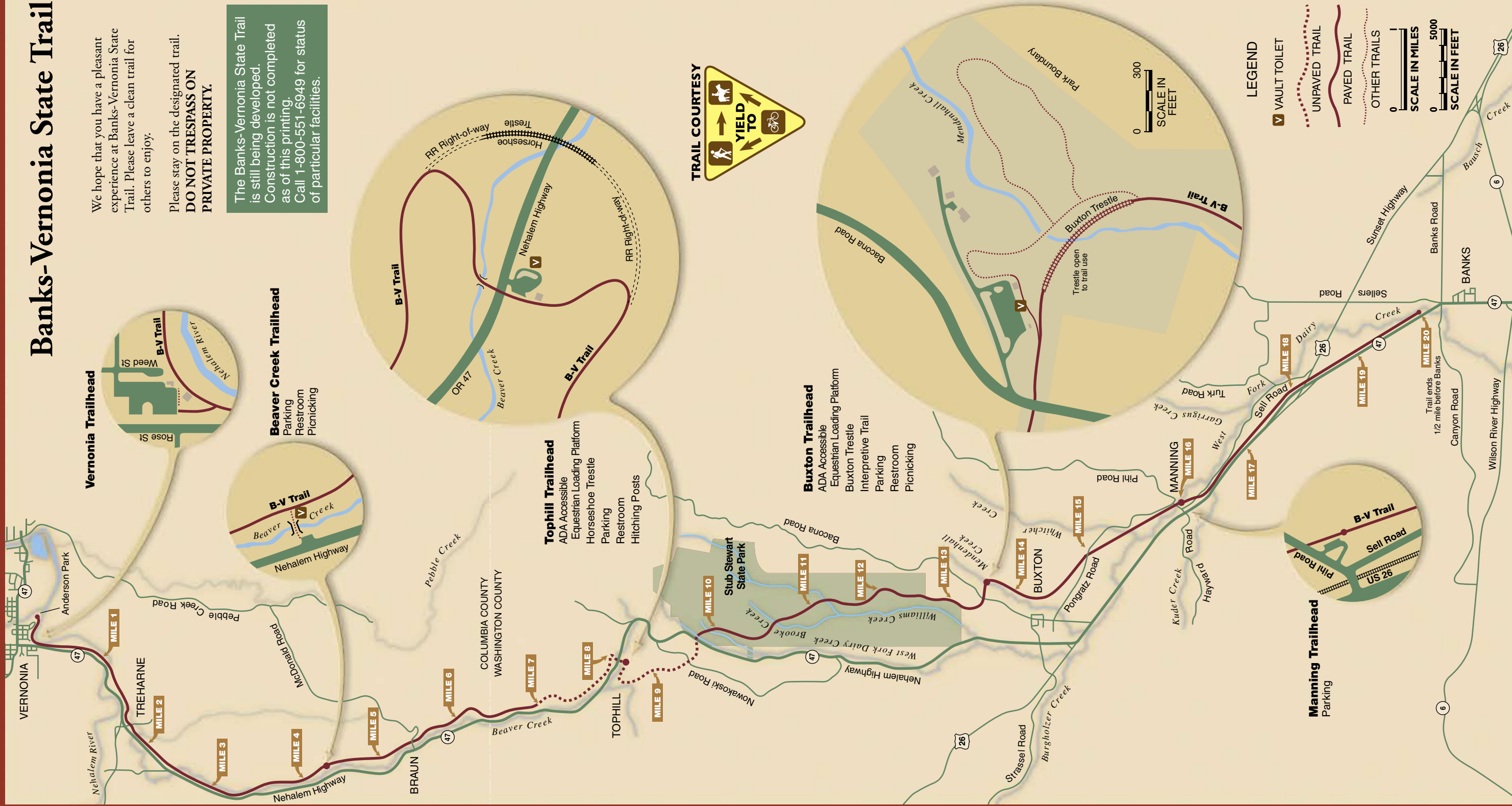
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Write to OPRD, 725 Summer St. NE, Suite C, Salem, OR 97301;
or call (503) 986-0707 (for the hearing impaired 1-800-735-2900).

Banks-Vernonia State Trail

We hope that you have a pleasant experience at Banks-Vernonia State Trail. Please leave a clean trail for others to enjoy.

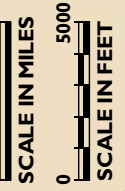
Please stay on the designated trail. **DO NOT TRESPASS ON PRIVATE PROPERTY.**

The Banks-Vernonia State Trail is still being developed. Construction is not completed as of this printing. Call 1-800-551-6949 for status of particular facilities.



LEGEND

- VAULT TOILET
- UNPAVED TRAIL
- PAVED TRAIL
- OTHER TRAILS



Trail ends 1/2 mile before Banks