



Recreation Opportunity Guide

B

MT. HOOD NATIONAL FOREST
ZIGZAG, OR 97049 666-0704 or 622-3191

LOST CREEK NATURE TRAIL #776

BEGINS AND ENDS: 713 Meters (2320 Feet) Elevation
Trail forms a key-hole loop beginning and ending at
Lost Creek Picnic ground.

ACCESS #1: Drive on US Highway 26 18 miles east of
Sandy. At Zigzag turn north on Lolo Pass (Road 18).
After 4 miles turn east on Road 1825. Continue 0.6
miles bear right, cross a bridge and continue another
1.1 miles to a junction. Stay on Road 1825 for 0.5
miles until it dead ends at Lost Creek.

ATTRACTIONS AND CONSIDERATIONS:

Lost Creek Nature Trail, built by volunteers
in 1972, was designed to offer the visitor
a quality outdoor experience while encountering
a minimum of obstacles. The 0.5 mile trail,
dotted with benches, is paved and flat enough
for those in a wheelchair to move about freely.
A beaver pond as well as a fine view of Mt. Hood
can be seen. Toilets, accessible to those in
a wheelchair, are located adjacent to the trail
in the Lost Creek Picnic ground.

Length: 817 Meters (0.5 Mil)

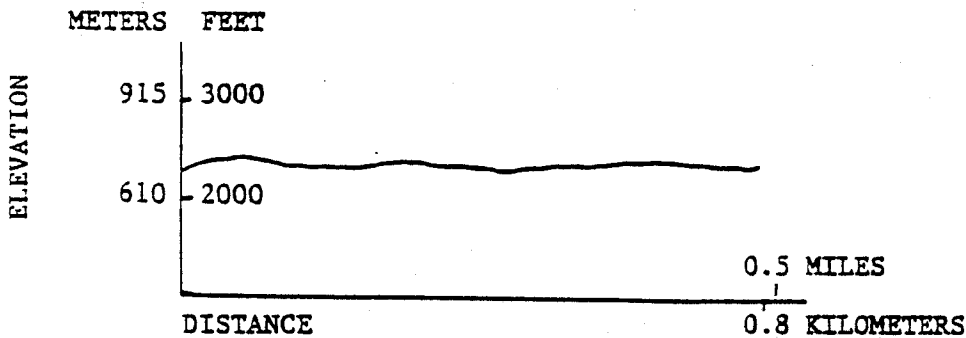
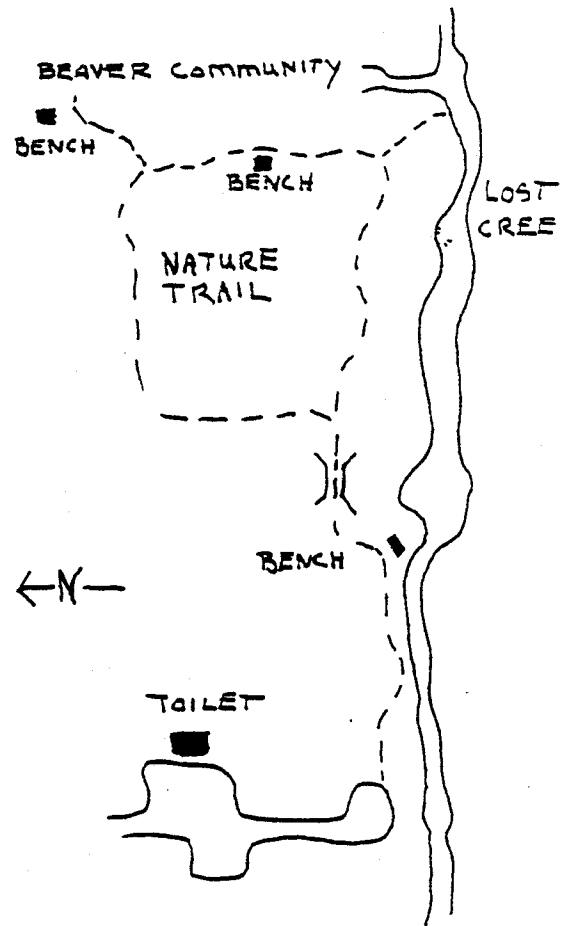


Recommend Season:

SPRING SUMMER FALL WINTER
←—————→

Use: Moderate

Difficulty: Easiest (paved)



RECREATION OPPORTUNITY SPECTRUM CLASS



ROADED NATURAL

NARRATIVE: LOST CREEK NATURE TRAIL #776

Lost Creek Nature Trail lies on the southern edge of Old Maid Flat, a mud flow from the western flank of Mt. Hood. The mountain ridge that rises across the creek to the south is Zigzag Mountain. As you walk along the creek, notice the standing snags which are being eroded from the mud flow. This is the buried forest which the mud flow covered 200 to 250 years ago. These trees are not petrified, but because they were covered by such a dense sand layer, they had not begun to rot until exposed by the creek and its erosion.

The Nature Trail is 817 meters round trip.

METERS

- 0 Enter the forest between alder and hemlock trees.
- 34 At the guard rail, look across the creek to Zigzag Mountain. Just visible is a road left over from the logging which took place in the late 1950s. The stand of alder trees defines the area that was logged. Further up the mountain are large white snags left over from the turn-of-the-century fire that burned all of Zigzag Mountain.
- 173 On your right, just before the fork in the trail, are four trees growing fairly close together and in a straight line. These trees began growing on a "nurse log." A nurse log is created when a tree falls to the ground and begins to decay. Seeds falling on the downed log sprout and begin to draw nourishment from the old log. The seedlings are "nursed" along by the decaying tree and that is where the term comes from.
- Go right at fork.
- 213 Pass through a nurse log that has been cut in two by the trail.
- 308 A short trail to the right leads to the creek. Since construction, the creek has changed course and washed out a sandy beach and landing.
- 326 A bench and view of Mt. Hood. Note the beaver stumps. Also note that the beavers were working on Douglas fir, hemlock, and cedar trees. This is an indication they had exhausted their primary food supply of alder and willow.
- 427 The beaver that once lived in this pond moved on when they exhausted their food supply. After they left, the alder and willow started to grow back and, after a few years, a new pair of beavers moved in. They, too, exhausted the supply of alder and willow and moved on. As this cycle continues, the pond behind the beaver's dam will fill in with silt. Ever so slowly the pond will become a meadow and finally a forest.
- 589 To your right is an old logging road and off in the distance the remains of an old bridge. On your left is a Pacific yew, a tree of the old growth Douglas fir forest.
- 643 Junction with your outbound route. Cross the bridge and return to the picnic area.