



2024

TrailLink Unlimited



Guides



Palouse to Cascades State Park Trail

Washington



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Closure Notice: As of April 2023, the trail is effectively closed between Texas Lake Road (east of Revere) and Rosalia due to the



Closure Notice: As of April 2023, the trail is effectively closed between Texas Lake Road (east of Revere) and Rosalia due to the damage caused by the Babb Fire, construction, and gaps in the route where it encounters private property. Additionally, there are two closed bridges along the route between Beverly and Symma. For detours and updates, please check the Palouse to Cascades Coalition [website](#).

Notice: Before heading out, it's important to note that to experience the trail east of the Columbia River, travelers are required to [register online](#) with Washington State Parks. When the permits are obtained, trail users will receive the combination for the locked gates on the trail route and a map showing on-road detours.

Overview

The Palouse to Cascades State Park Trail, formerly known as the John Wayne Pioneer Trail, is one of the longest rail-trail conversions in the United States. The 236-mile trail passes through remote and sparsely populated areas of Washington state that are rich in wildlife and natural beauty. The rail-trail is also part of the Mountains to Sound Greenway, a 1.5-million-acre landscape surrounding I-90 between Seattle and Ellensburg.

Although there are a few gaps in the trail, they can be connected via on-road detours. However, travelers should note that these on-road connections do not currently have trail signage marking the way. Due to long distances between some of the towns, visitors are encouraged to carry water and snacks.

Anyone traveling the entire length of the trail will experience many landscapes: mountains, dense forests, irrigated farmland, arid scrubland, and the rolling hills of the Palouse region. The route crosses the Cascade Mountains in a 2.3-mile-long, unlit tunnel and traverses numerous canyons and rivers via bridges and trestles that offer spectacular views.

About the Route

The western segment of the Palouse to Cascades State Park Trail runs 111 miles between Cedar Falls and the Columbia River. In this section (formerly known as Iron Horse State Park), most of surface comprises well-packed crushed rock, except for the 20 miles of loose sand in the U.S. Army Yakima Training Center.

State trailheads are located at Cedar Falls, Twin Falls, Hyak, Easton, South Cle Elum, Thorp, Ellensburg West, Ellensburg East, Kittitas, Army West, and Army East. In this segment, five trailside primitive campsites are also available: two between Cedar Falls and Hyak, two between Hyak and Easton and one



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States: Washington

Counties: Adams, Grant, King, Kittitas, Spokane, Whitman

Length: 236.46 miles

Trail end points: Rattlesnake Lake Recreation Area (North Bend) to 4962 Lower Crab Creek Rd SW (Royal City) to E 1st St. (Warden) to Washington/Idaho Border

Trail surfaces: Ballast, Concrete, Crushed Stone, Sand

Trail category: Rail-Trail

Parking & Trail Access

The Palouse to Cascades State Park Trail has two distinct segments from Rattlesnake Lake Recreation Area (North Bend), where parking is available, to 4962 Lower Crab Creek Rd SW (Royal City) & E 1st St. (Warden) to Washington/Idaho Border

A discover pass is required for vehicle access to state parks for day use. Refer to the [Palouse to Cascades Trail page](#) on the Washington State Trails website.

Additional parking is available at:

- 50501 SE Homestead Valley Rd (North Bend)
- 241 Trailside Dr. (Cle Elum)

Parking is available at numerous locations along the trail, please see [TrailLink map](#) for all parking options and detailed directions.



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Trailhead



Restroom



Parking



Water Fountain



Tunnel



TrailLink
by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

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