



2025

TrailLink Unlimited 

Guides



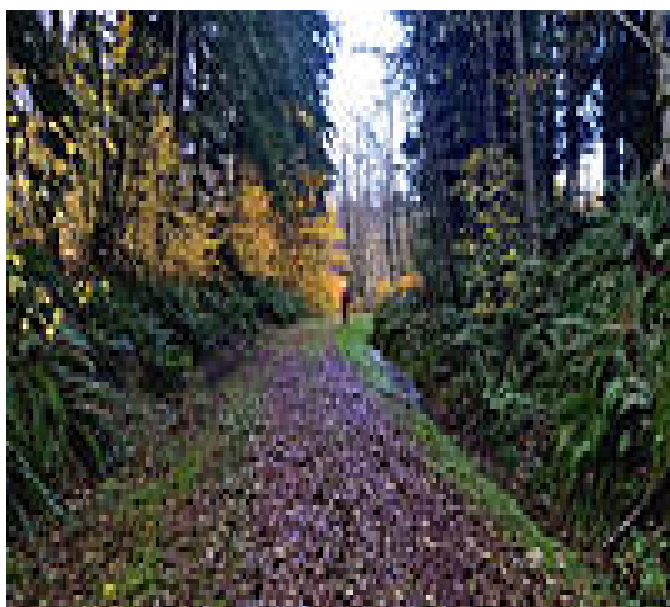
**Willapa Hills  
State Park  
Trail**  
*Washington*



## Willapa Hills State Park Trail

Washington

*Overview An adventure awaits those who tackle all, or part, of the 56-mile-long Willapa Hills State Park Trail in southwestern*



### Overview

An adventure awaits those who tackle all, or part, of the 56-mile-long Willapa Hills State Park Trail in southwestern Washington. The former Northern Pacific Railway line rolls through remote farm and forestland as it links Chehalis in the east with South Bend on the coast.

### About the Route

The trail boasts inviting, smooth asphalt for 5.3 miles as it leaves Chehalis. Another paved section rolls for 5.2 miles through the coastal towns of Raymond and South Bend on the tidal Willapa River. Sandwiched in between are about 45 miles of trail surface—including packed and loose gravel, ballast, and grass—posing various degrees of

difficulty. That middle section features many century-old trestles, two of which were washed out in the 2007 flood—at Spooner Road and Doty-Dryad Road—that were rebuilt and opened in January 2016.

The route starts in Chehalis near the tourist train headquarters at the Chehalis–Centralia Railroad & Museum. The trail passes through pastures and small woodlots, and cross two trestles, before crossing State Route 6 via the attractive, recently constructed cycling/pedestrian bridge a mile before Adna. A mile beyond Adna, the trail turns to packed gravel. The trail passes whitewater in the river and once-thriving lumber mill towns.

The trail deteriorates to mostly loose gravel about 8 miles out from Chehalis, en route to Pe Ell—an old railway town said to be the mispronunciation of an early trapper named Pierre and where there is a trailhead.

From Pe Ell, the next 12 miles feature a winding grade in the Willapa Hills through timber stands of Douglas fir, cedar, and alder. Look for deer or other wildlife here as the route climbs and descends. This portion of the trail is ballast held together by grass.

It's back to rough gravel as the route returns to the valley and passes the small towns of Frances, Lebam (reversed spelling of Mabel, a settler's daughter), and Menlo. A missing trestle just west of Lebam requires a short detour on Robertson Road.

From there, it's nearly 14 more miles of gravel until the path is paved once again as it rolls along the Willapa River on the outskirts of Raymond. The city is known as the Town of Metal People for erecting more than 100 sculptures of animals and people. The route briefly leaves the railroad corridor to avoid a river crossing. It ends on US 101 at a mountain of oyster shells next to the Willapa estuary in South Bend, known as the Oyster Capital of the World.



# Willapa Hills State Park Trail

Washington

**States:** Washington

**Counties:** Lewis, Pacific

Length: 56 miles

**Trail end points:** US-101 (South Bend) to SW Sylvenus St. (Chehalis)

**Trail surfaces:** Asphalt, Ballast, Crushed Stone, Grass, Gravel

**Trail category:** Rail-Trail

**Trail activities:** Bike, Inline Skating, Fishing, Wheelchair

Accessible, Horseback Riding, Mountain

## Parking & Trail Access

The Willapa Hills State Park Trail meanders between the intersection of US-101 & Montana Ave (South Bend) and near end of SW Hillburger Rd (Chehalis).

Parking is available at:

- Pe Ell Trailhead, 104 Main St (Pe Ell)

There are numerous parking options along the route, visit the [TrailLink map](#) for all options and detailed directions.

Please note that a Discover Pass may be required for parking. Visit the [Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission website](#) for more information and to acquire a Discover Pass.



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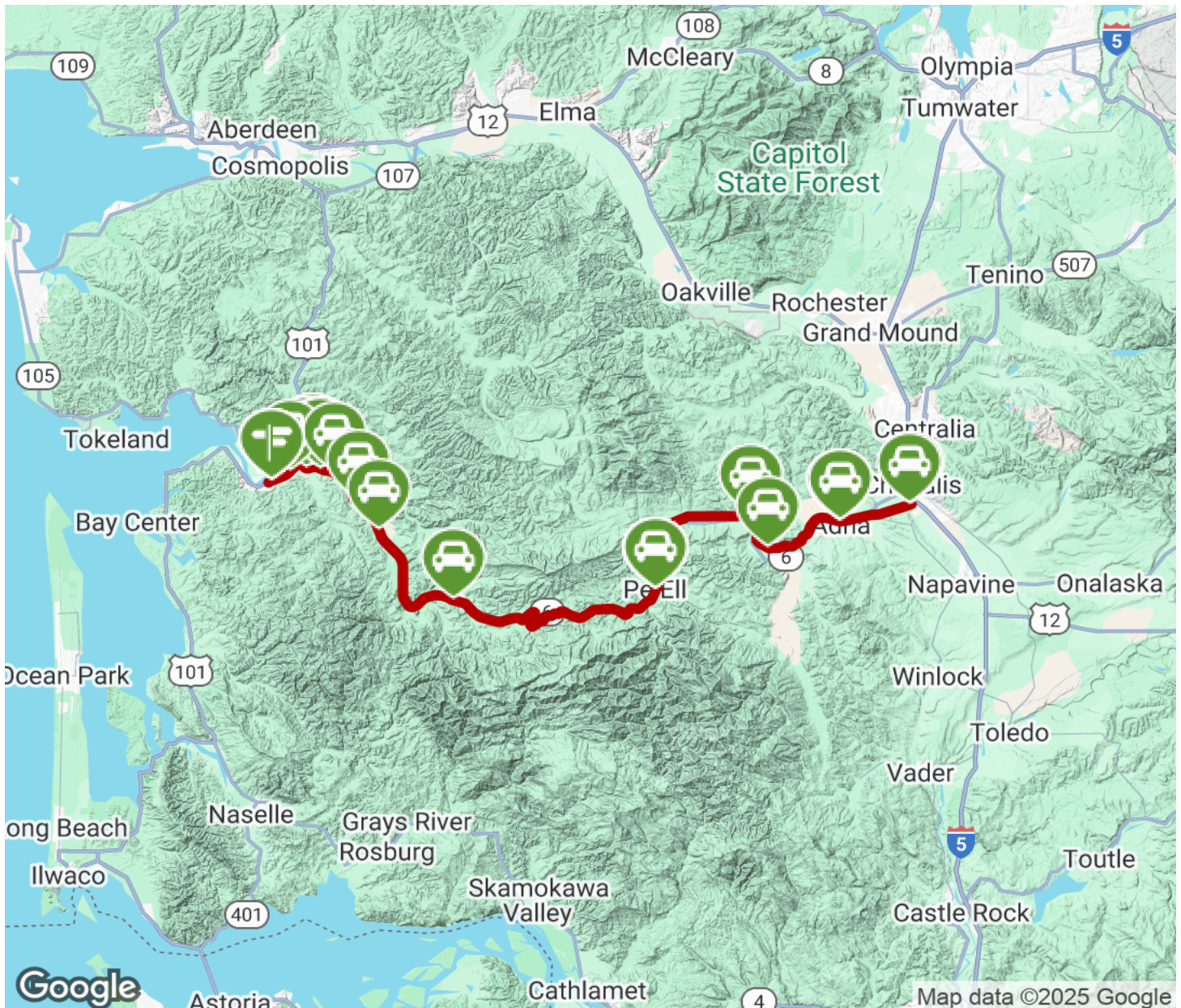
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# Willapa Hills State Park Trail

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Trailhead



Restroom



Parking



Water Fountain



Tunnel



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