



2026

TrailLink Unlimited 

Guides



**Crown  
Zellerbach  
Trail**  
*Oregon*



## Crown Zellerbach Trail

Oregon

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The Crown Zellerbach Trail, more commonly referred to as the Crown Z Trail, makes use of the former route of the Portland and Southwestern Railroad, which became a logging road when the tracks were removed in the 1940s. Now designated as a National Recreation Trail, this peaceful and secluded trail runs just over 23 miles, from Vernonia to Scappoose. Along the way, more than two dozen kiosks explain the area's geology and wildlife, as well as provide historical information provided by the Columbia County Museum Association.

### About the Route

The western starting point, Holce Trailhead, is located about an hour's drive from downtown Portland. There are no amenities at this trailhead, but restrooms and water

can be found at Vernonia Lake Park, located 1.4 miles southwest. At the park, trail enthusiasts can also connect to the Banks-Vernonia State Trail.

Those who are more accustomed to the typical rail trail experience and enjoy low grades and well-packed gravel or pavement will want to be prepared for a more adventurous day. This trail is tailor-made for people who appreciate challenging terrain, including steep uphill and downhill (close to 20% grade at some points), as well as regular surface changes. Cyclists would be advised to have wider tires, as more than half of the trail is gravel and some portions have larger, looser stones. For a less challenging experience, head to the southern end of the trail in Scappoose, which is ADA compliant from the Trtek Trailhead to the Chapman Landing Trailhead. Equestrian use is permitted along the entirety of the trail.

Departing from the Holce Trailhead, the trail is paved for about a quarter of a mile, then abruptly changes to loose stone. The first 1.5 miles are uphill, with an elevation gain of about 450 feet. After this initial ascent, which is not shaded, the trail enters the deep forest and enjoys a mostly shaded journey for the first 13 miles.

Birds and other wildlife are abundant along the trail. Although the trail runs mostly parallel with the Scappoose Vernonia Highway and alongside the Nehalem River and Scappoose Creek, the dense tree cover gives an isolated feel. About 5 miles in, the hilly and winding path narrows significantly as the route approaches a bridge that takes you over Hawkins Creek at the Floeter Trailhead. This trailhead offers a vault toilet, a picnic table, and a kiosk about the logging history of the area. Up to this point, the trail has ascended 522 feet and descended 509 feet.

The next 7.5 miles of trail ascend 607 feet and descend 659 feet to the Ruley Trailhead, where there is a bike repair station, vault toilets, a covered picnic area, and more



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**States:** Oregon

**Counties:** Columbia

Length: 23.4miles

**Trail end points:** 0.5 mile south of E Columbia Ave. (Scappoose) to Holce Trailhead, 1780 E. Knott St. (Vernonia)

**Trail surfaces:** Asphalt,Gravel

**Trail category:** Rail-Trail

**Trail activities:** Bike,Horseback Riding,Mountain Biking,Walking

## Parking & Trail Access

The Crown Zellerbach Trail runs between 0.5 miles south of E Columbia Ave. (Scappoose) and the Holce Trailhead, 1780 E. Knott St. (Vernonia), where parking is available

Parking is also available at:

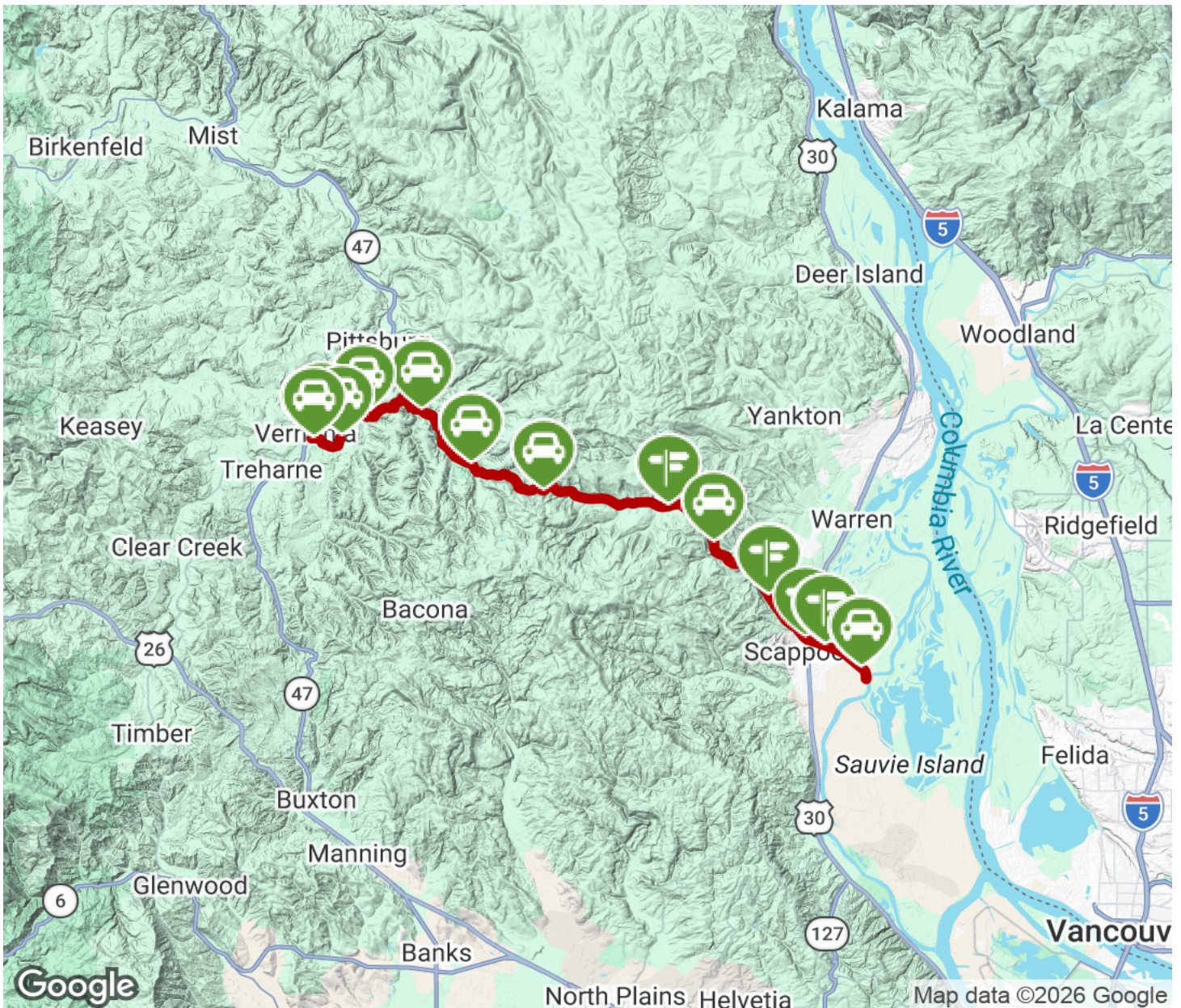
- Bonnie Falls Trailhead: 30715 Scappoose-Vernonia Hwy.
- Holce Trailhead: 1780 E. Knott St., Vernonia

Please see [TrailLink Map](#) for all parking options and detailed directions.



# Crown Zellerbach Trail

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Trailhead



Restroom



Parking



Water Fountain



Tunnel



**TrailLink**  
by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

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