

Tualatin River Water Trail

# Guide to the Lower Tualatin River

## Protect • Restore • Enjoy



This sign describes the points on the Tualatin River that are currently accessible to the public. The trail starts at the mouth of the Tualatin River and works its way upstream, describing access points and some of the hazards along the river. Each site location is described in the listing of the river mile RM and by which side of the river it sits on as you face downstream. LB stands for the left bank, RB for the right bank. River mile markers have been placed along the Tualatin by the Tualatin Riverkeepers and other volunteers. RM 0.0 is at the mouth of the Tualatin where it joins the Willamette River.

Much of the Tualatin River runs through private property. Currently there are no campsites on the lower Tualatin River. Please do not trespass on private property or on the Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge. We also ask that you pack your litter out with you. Trash cans and restrooms are located along the river at Willamette Park, Fields Bridge, Brown's Ferry Park, Tualatin Community Park, Cook Park, Jurgens Park and Rood Bridge Park.

For camping, RV sites, lodging and information for things to see and do in the Tualatin Valley, visit [tualatinvalley.org](http://tualatinvalley.org)

Tualatin Riverkeepers is working with local governments to increase public access to the river. The Paddler's Access Guide to the Lower Tualatin River is produced and published by the Washington County Visitors Association, in partnership with the Tualatin Riverkeepers.

### Paddling Safety

In the summer, much of the lower Tualatin is a slow, meandering river, with little or no current below River Mile 42. Plan on an average speed of 2 miles per hour with constant paddling. Paddling upstream is not usually a problem. In many stretches, it is a good place for beginners to develop their paddling skills. During the spring and winter, high flow levels, fallen trees and submerged debris make paddling on the river hazardous, especially for those unfamiliar with the river. Each winter brings new logjams that can dramatically change the nature of the river. Whenever you paddle, remember that river travel has inherent risks associated with it. Logjams, or other debris or structures in the river can trap people and boats. Death by drowning may occur. All river users are responsible for their own safety.

### Play it safe by following a few simple rules.

- Always wear a Coast Guard approved personal flotation device.
- Don't drink and paddle. Alcohol or drugs can impair your ability to respond to dangerous situations.
- Don't paddle alone. Let someone know your plans.
- Bring a whistle or other signal device.
- Don't paddle during hazardous conditions.
- Be aware of the weather and time of day.
- Wear appropriate clothing, including footwear and hats. Take extra clothing in a waterproof container.
- Take food and water. Paddling is hard work.
- Avoid hazards. Logjams move each winter and formerly passable stretches of the river may no longer be passable. Avoid downed trees, dams, irrigation pumps and other hazards in the river.
- If you spot pollution or other problems, use our online trouble ticket at [tualatinriverkeepers.org](http://tualatinriverkeepers.org) or give us a call at 503.218.2580.

Tualatin Riverkeepers is a community based organization working to protect and restore Oregon's Tualatin River system. Tualatin Riverkeepers builds watershed stewardship through public education, access to nature, restoration and advocacy.

### Volunteers are needed for the following:

- Planting and restoration projects
- Clean-up projects along river banks
- River trips and tours
- Public speaking within the community
- Fundraising
- Advocacy and networking

Membership starts at just \$35 for individual/family. Your membership includes quarterly newsletters, discounts on trips and tours, early notification of events, and the satisfaction of knowing you are helping to support a clean and healthy Tualatin River system.

### Tualatin River Discovery Day

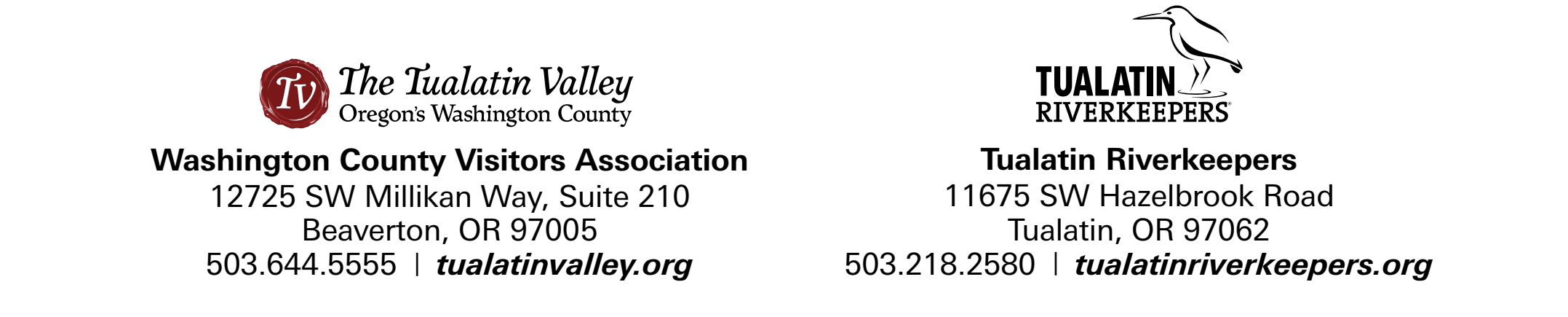
Tualatin Riverkeepers offers organized paddle trips for the public including the Tualatin River Discovery Day, held on the last Saturday of June. Some of these paddle trips start or end at sites not normally accessible to the public.

If you would like to learn more about the work of Tualatin Riverkeepers, membership, volunteering, Discovery Day, a list of planned trips or issues in the Tualatin watershed, please call 503.218.2580 or visit [tualatinriverkeepers.org](http://tualatinriverkeepers.org).

**Tualatin Riverkeepers**  
11675 SW Hazelbrook Road  
Tualatin, OR 97062  
503.218.2580  
Email: [info@tualatinriverkeepers.org](mailto:info@tualatinriverkeepers.org)  
Web: [tualatinriverkeepers.org](http://tualatinriverkeepers.org)  
Facebook: [TualatinRiverWaterTrail](https://www.facebook.com/TualatinRiverWaterTrail)  
Twitter: [TualatinRiver](https://twitter.com/TualatinRiver)  
Instagram: [tualatinriverkeepers](https://www.instagram.com/tualatinriverkeepers)

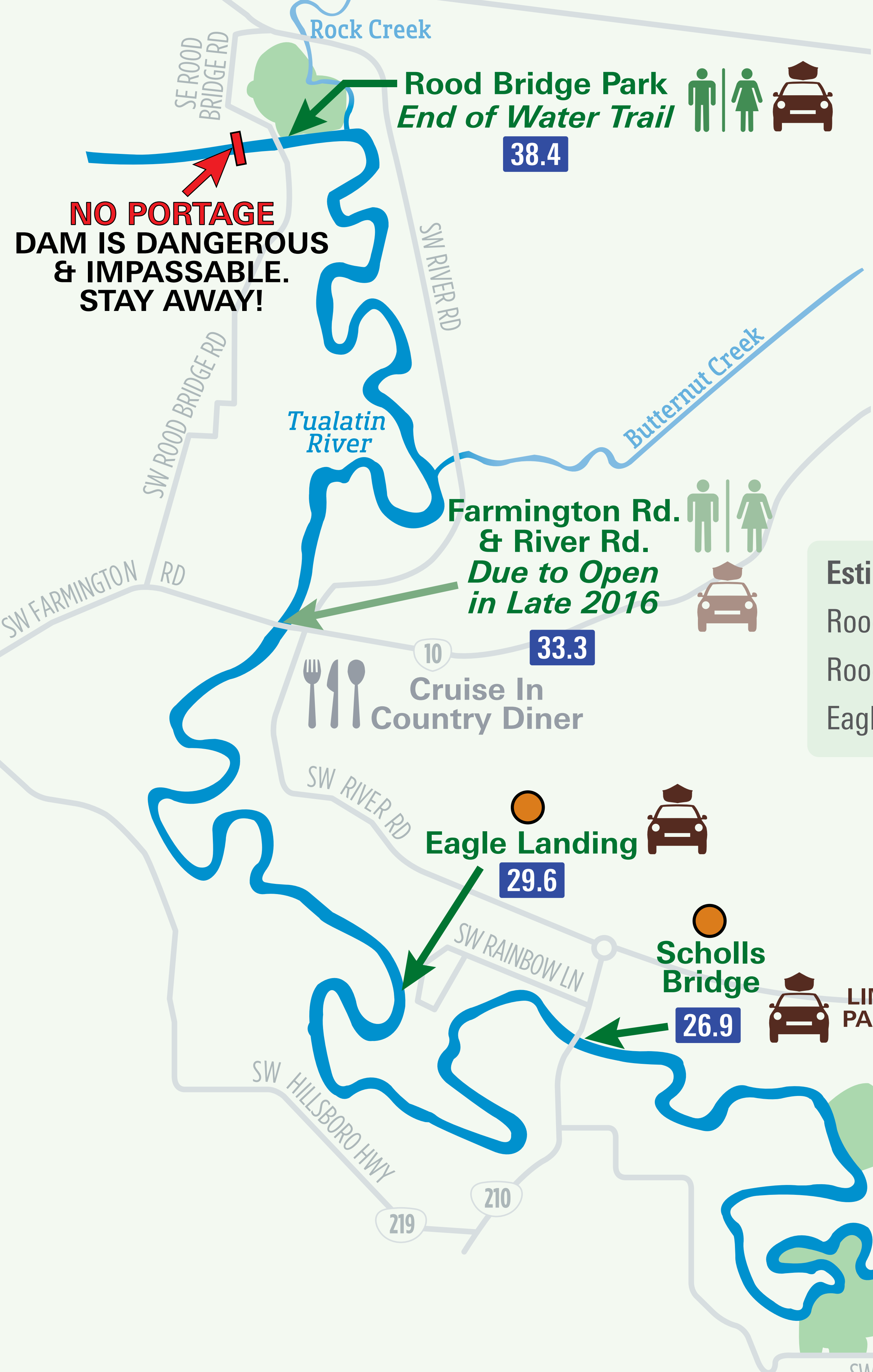
**Tualatin Riverkeepers' Guide to Wildlife Viewing in the Tualatin Basin**  
A full-color comprehensive guide to natural areas in the Tualatin watershed. For information, call Tualatin Riverkeepers 503.218.2580.

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This project was made possible by a generous grant from the Washington County Visitors Association.

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The map is generally accurate, but does not display all navigational hazards, including impassable channels or in-water obstructions. River conditions change frequently. This map is not to scale.

### Paddling The Tualatin River

While the Tualatin River stretches almost 80 miles from the coast range to the Willamette River, only the lower 40 miles of the river is accessible to paddlers. With a barely detectable current in the summer, the Tualatin River Water Trail is the perfect place for beginning paddlers and families with children. Along the way, wildlife viewing opportunities are abundant as you paddle through farmland, suburbs and the Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge.

### River Access

**WARNING:** Crossing slippery logjams is dangerous, and we recommend that paddlers launch boats at designated access points and keep to the water trail on the lower 40 miles, as an abundance of logjams make the upper river more accessible for fish and beavers than paddlers.

Before you take the long journey, we suggest that you check out the navigation reports on [tualatinriverkeepers.org](http://tualatinriverkeepers.org) to make sure there are no impassable logjams on your intended route.

During summer months, rent a canoe or kayak at Cook Park or Brown's Ferry Park. Call or check the websites for operating hours and rental rates.

**Cook Park Canoe & Kayak Rentals**  
Operated by Tualatin Riverkeepers  
17005 SW 92nd Ave., Tigard, OR 97224  
[tualatinriverkeepers.org](http://tualatinriverkeepers.org)  
503.218.2580

**Brown's Ferry Park Canoe & Kayak Rentals**  
Operated by Alder Creek Kayak & Canoe  
5855 SW Nyberg Ln., Tualatin, OR 97062  
[aldercreek.com](http://aldercreek.com)  
503.691.2405

### Points on the River

**Willamette Park - West Linn (RM 0.0 LB)**  
1100 12th St., West Linn, OR 97068  
Enter park on 12th St. and turn right on Volpp St. This site provides paddling access to the Willamette River and the first few hundred yards on the Tualatin River. Shallow rocky rapids immediately upstream from here will prevent paddlers from going upstream on the Tualatin.

**Fields Bridge (RM 1.6 LB)**  
821 Willamette Falls Dr., West Linn, OR 97068  
Fields Bridge Park is a beautiful 19-acre park located on the Tualatin River.

Most of the year, downstream paddling is not possible because of rocks and shallow water; however, it is possible to paddle upstream for about 1.5 miles from this site to where rocks and rapids will stop your progress. The unpaved ramp is located under the bridge. The closest parking is at the park's community gardens, however, it's a long walk to the ramp. In the winter during high flows, whitewater paddlers may run from Fields Bridge to the Willamette River. Please exercise caution.

**NO PORTAGE - Lake Oswego Corp. Diversion Dam (RM 3.45)**  
This low dam, which raises the river level a few feet, is DANGEROUS & IMPASSABLE. STAY AWAY!

**Stafford Rd. - Shipley Bridge (RM 5.4 LB)**  
821 Willamette Falls Dr., West Linn, OR 97068  
Take exit 3 (Stafford Rd./Lake Oswego) from I-205 and head north on SW Stafford Rd. Continue on SW Stafford Rd. through the roundabout and toward Wanker's Corner. Cross the bridge and turn right onto Shadow Wood Dr. Access the river from Shadow Wood Dr., northeast of the bridge. The launch is unpaved and parking is limited.

**Stark Boat Ramp (aka Rivergrove) (RM 7.4 LB)**  
Lake Oswego, OR 97035  
From SW Childs Rd. turn south onto Marlin Ave. Turn right onto SW Dogwood Dr. and park. On the south side of SW Dogwood Dr., just south of Lloyd Minor Park is a tiny access area to the Tualatin River that's ideal for kayaks, canoes or small boats. It's open during daytime only. (This is a residential area, please be quiet and courteous as you use it.)

**Brown's Ferry Park (RM 7.5 RB)**  
5855 SW Nyberg Ln., Tualatin, OR 97062  
From I-5 take exit 289 (Nyberg St. Tualatin-Sherwood Rd.). Go east on SW Nyberg St. When the road turns right to SW 65th, make a left turn onto SW Nyberg Ln. Keep going east for a few blocks. Brown's Ferry Park has a network of nature trails, parking, picnic facilities, restrooms and a very nice dock for canoes and kayaks (there is no boat ramp for motorized craft). Canoe rental is available daily in the summer. For rental information call Alder Creek Kayak & Canoe at 503.691.2405.

**Tualatin Community Park (RM 8.9 RB)**  
8515 SW Tualatin Rd., Tualatin, OR 97062  
From I-5 take exit 289 (Nyberg St. Tualatin/Sherwood Rd.) and head west onto SW Nyberg St. and stay in the left lane (road turns into SW Tualatin Sherwood Rd.). Turn right onto SW Boones Ferry Rd. (turns into SW Tualatin Rd.). Continue straight on SW Tualatin Rd. for one block. Turn right onto the park road in front of the railroad crossing. Continue toward the railroad trestle, turn right in front of the trestle, and follow it to the boat ramp. Tualatin Community Park is a large multi-purpose park with a boat ramp, parking, restrooms and picnic facilities. Services nearby: Birra Pub (0.3 mi.), Thai Bistro (0.3 mi.), Fiorano Ristorante (0.2 mi.), Mashita Teriyaki (0.1 mi.), Hayden's Lakeloft Grill (0.4 mi.)

**Cook Park (RM 9.8 LB)**  
17005 SW 92nd Ave., Tigard, OR 97224  
Turn south on SW 92nd Ave., off SW Durham Rd. behind Tigard High School. Follow the road into the park, pass the soccer fields and playground areas. The road twists through the trees with many speed bumps before you come to the

boat ramp and dock. Cook Park is a large multi-purpose park with restrooms, picnic facilities, reserved shelters and grills, boat ramp and parking. Rent canoes and kayaks from Tualatin Riverkeepers here Fridays-Sundays from July 4 through Labor Day. For rental information visit [tualatinriverkeepers.org](http://tualatinriverkeepers.org) or call 503.218.2580.

**Jurgens Park (RM 10.6 RB)**  
17255 SW Jurgens Ave., Tualatin, OR 97062  
Take SW Jurgens Ave. north from SW Tualatin Rd. The parking lot is a lengthy walk to the launch site where a ramp leads to a dock designed for canoes and kayaks. Trails, restrooms, ball fields, picnic and playground areas are available.

**99W Bridge & Hazelbrook Rd. (RM 11.5 RB)**  
Tualatin, OR 97062  
From 99W turn south onto SW 124th Ave. Turn left onto SW Tualatin Rd. Turn left onto SW 115th Ave. Turn left onto SW Hazelbrook Rd. After turning left on SW Hazelbrook Rd., go 200 yards on the gravel path to the launch site. Four parking spots are at the put-in, with additional on street parking. No restrooms or other facilities are available. Services nearby: Roamer's Rest RV Park (377 ft.), Nacho Mama's (0.3 mi.)

**Scholls Bridge (RM 26.9 LB)**  
Scholls, OR  
Situated on Highway 210 (SW Scholls Ferry Rd.) north of SW Scholls-Sherwood Rd., informal access site is located on northeast end of bridge. Please stay on the highway right-of-way. There is limited parking along the road and be cautious of speeding cars. The path to the river is steep and slippery. Services nearby: Petrich General Store (0.5 mi.), Smith Berry Barn (1.2 mi.), South Store Cafe (1.2 mi.)

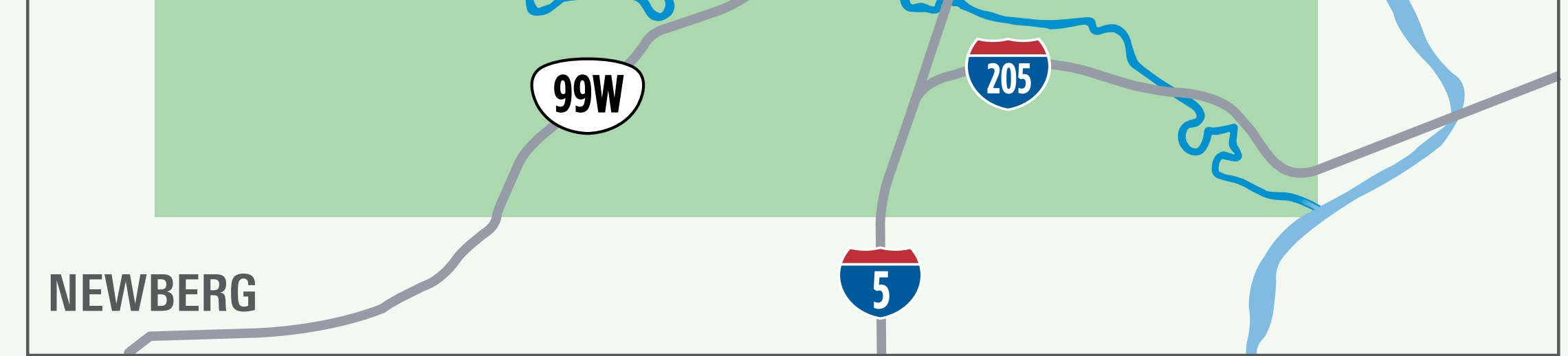
**Eagle Landing (RM 29.6 LB)**  
26001 SW Rainbow Ln., Hillsboro, OR 97123  
Eagle Landing is a small half-acre parcel on the banks of the Tualatin River located off of SW Rainbow Ln. near Groner Elementary School. The amenities in the park include a 12-vehicle gravel parking lot and a connecting gravel

pathway. There are no restrooms or running water at this location. There is a steel staircase to provide non-motorized boat access to and from the river; however, there is no dock. Carrying a large canoe or kayak down the stairway may be challenging.

**Farmington Rd. & River Rd. (RM 33.3 LB)**  
Hillsboro, OR 97123  
River access for canoes and kayaks at this site, just upstream from the Phil Harris Bridge, will be available in late 2016. Paddlers can dine at Cruise in Country Diner (0.1 mile), which serves up a great burger. For more information visit [cruiseincountry.com](http://cruiseincountry.com).

**Rood Bridge Park (End of Water Trail) (RM 38.4 LB)**  
4000 SE Rood Bridge Rd., Hillsboro, OR 97123  
From SE Rood Bridge Rd., go 200 yards on the gravel path to the launch site. When you enter the park entrance, turn right. Pass the Annex building and River House building. Continue downhill to the parking area and boat ramp. There is a 25' gap between the end of the paved ramp and the river, leaving a steep bank to the water's edge. Use caution, this can be slippery. Restrooms, trails, picnic and parking are available.

**The Rest of the River - Upstream from RM 40**  
We do not recommend access to the Tualatin River at bridges upstream from river mile 40. The river is blocked by many log jams, which are dangerous. Banks of the river are steep and often covered with blackberries and poison oak, making portage difficult. To portage around log jams, always ask permission before crossing private property.



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RM = River Mile, RB = Right Bank, LB = Left Bank