



Nature
HISTORY
Discovery

Bates State Park



Too Memorable to be Forgotten

Tucked into the far end of a mountain valley, Bates State Park is flanked by the Middle Fork of the John Day River, Bridge Creek and Clear Creek. This area was an idyllic spot to live and work, and is the reason this 131-acre park is special to so many people.

Bates was once a company town supporting a lumber mill. From 1917 through the end of the 1960s, the mill thrived. During the mill's peak production, up to 400 workers and their families lived in company-provided homes. But technology and the times caught up with the mill in the 1970s. The mill closed in 1975, replaced by a modern sawmill in John Day. The families left; the buildings were either moved or torn down.

The only things that remain of Bates today are the mill pond, a lilac bush that once graced a home, two spruce trees planted around 1952 — and fond memories.



Middle Fork Lane off Highway 7, one mile north of its intersection with U.S. 26 at Austin Junction.

For more information:

Clyde Holliday Management Unit
59500 Highway 26/395
Mt. Vernon, OR 97865
541-932-4453

State Park Information Center
1-800-551-6949



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www.oregonstateparks.org

Information in this brochure subject to change without notice.





View north across Bates Pond.

The Friends of Bates State Park

The families who lived in Bates share fond memories of living in the company town. Bates neighbors reminisced at past “family reunions” and decided that they wanted to preserve their stories and the old mill site. They organized the Friends of Bates State Park and thanks to them, Bates history lives.

The Friends’ contributions to the park include funding the park entrance sign, the Bates Pond footbridge and park interpretive plan, as well as much appreciated thoughts and suggestions.

Donations may be sent to
 Friends of Bates State Park
 PO Box 115
 Prairie City, OR 97869

The Friends of Bates State Park is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

Mill Saws to Salmonids

The water of the Middle Fork of the John Day and its tributaries sparkle, but optimum habitat for Chinook salmon, steelhead and trout has healthy stream banks and floodplains. Early restoration efforts will focus on the seven-acre floodplain near the confluence of Bridge Creek and the Middle Fork of the John Day River, including planting 4,600 native plants.

Hiking & Bicycling

The hiker/biker camp is a perfect stop for long-distance riders cycling the TransAmerica Bicycle Trail. The route runs along Oregon Highway 7, just a few tire spins away from the park. The proposed Old West Bikeway, under consideration for one of Oregon’s newest designated scenic bikeways, runs in front of the park.

Hikers have more than three miles of trails to explore. Take a stroll on the Bates Pond Trail, and look for beavers. The Boulder Overlook and Dixie Trails both have great views of the park, valley, Vinegar Hill and Dixie Butte.

Seasonal Camping

(May 15-Oct. 31, depending on weather and snow depth)

Main Campground

- First-come, first-served
- 28 primitive sites for tents or self-contained RVs
- Parking, picnic table, fire ring at all sites
- Vault toilet
- Potable water

Hiker/Biker Camp

- First-come, first-served
- 6 sites, each with picnic table and fire ring
- Potable water
- Electric plug-in
- Vault toilet in main campground

Day-use Area

- Picnic Shelter
- Parking
- Vault toilet

For current rates, call 1-800-551-6949 or go to www.oregonstateparks.org
 All rates are subject to change without notice.

Grandma Sue Smith’s lilac bush still stands.

