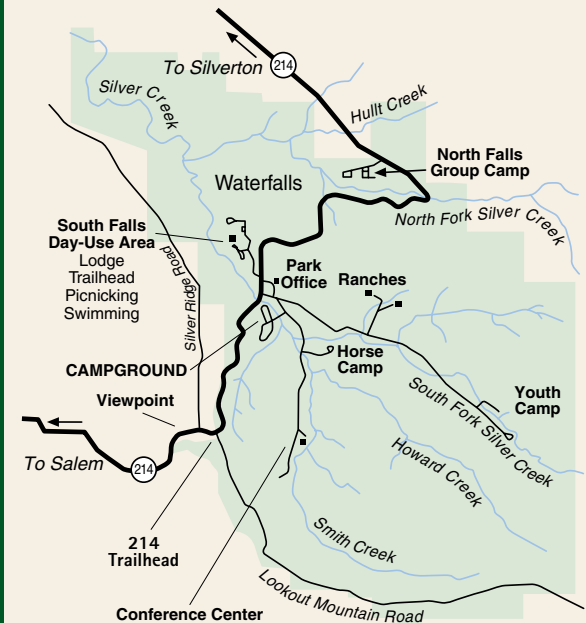
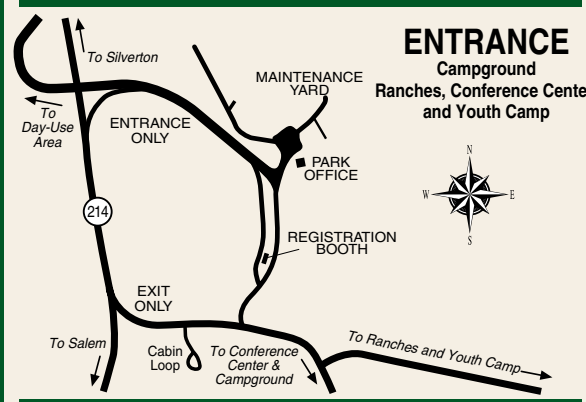
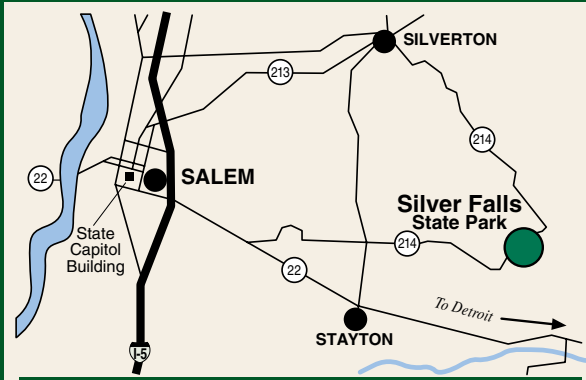




## Silver Falls State Park



Park Phone: (503) 873-8681 x31



Nature  
History  
Discovery

# Silver Falls State Park

## Trail Guide



## Welcome to Silver Falls

Silver Falls offers more than 9,000 acres of spectacular scenery. The park's most famous feature, The Trail of Ten Falls, thrills hikers and photographers. The eight-mile hiking trail passes by and under some of the stunning waterfalls of the north and south forks of Silver Creek.

Take a stroll on the paved four-mile bike path, or ride your horse, hike or mountain bike on more than 25 miles of multi-use trails. Park trails wind through Douglas-fir and western hemlock flanked by Oregon grape, salal and swordfern. Pacific blacktail deer thrive in the lush, temperate rainforest. Black bear, coyotes and cougars live in remote park areas.

The spacious lawns and picnic shelters at the South Falls day-use area are perfect for relaxing. Or, enjoy a swim in Silver Creek along a developed (but unsupervised) swimming area.

## Historic South Falls Lodge


The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), part of the Works Progress Administration (WPA), built the South Falls Lodge in the 1930s. Once used as a restaurant, diners ate on tables and chairs built from only two myrtle trees. The tables inside the lodge today are among the originals. The lodge and 10 surrounding acres are listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

## Geology of the Falls

The falls tumble over thick basalt lava flows resting on softer, older rock.

The softer layers beneath the basalt eroded over time and created natural pathways behind some of the falls. Look up and see if you can spot the many tree "chimneys," or casts while you walk behind North Falls. These formed when lava engulfed living trees, causing the wood to disintegrate.

## Day-Use Fees

Day-use permits are required year-round. Purchase daily permits at the entrance booth, or from the yellow vending machines (summer) or fee tubes (winter) found at the South Falls day-use area and the North Falls trailhead. Annual and two-year day-use passes also are available. Look for the  symbol on the park map in this guide for fee collection stations located throughout the park. Your camping receipt also functions as a daily permit; valid during the length of your stay only.









**1 SOUTH FALLS**  
177 ft.

This 177-foot waterfall can be seen from several points along the canyon rim. Walk behind the falls and experience its mystical beauty. A loop trail leads to a footbridge.



**2 LOWER SOUTH FALLS**  
93 ft.

About one mile down the trail is Lower South Falls. The trail drops down 185 steps and continues behind a 93-foot curtain of rushing water.



**3 LOWER NORTH FALLS**  
30 ft.

Take a 1<sup>3</sup>/<sub>10</sub> mile hike from Lower South Falls to Lower North Falls, which forms a 30-foot drop in the north fork of Silver Creek.



**4 DOUBLE FALLS**  
178 ft.

A short trail near the foot-bridge over Hullt Creek leads to Double Falls. Although a double drop, at 178 feet, this is the largest in the park.



**5 DRAKE FALLS**  
27 ft.

Drake Falls, at 27 feet, is the smallest of the Silver Creek Canyon falls. It is named for Silverton photographer June Drake, whose photos of the falls brought prominence to the area.



**6 MIDDLE NORTH FALLS**  
106 ft.

Middle North Falls is a wall of water dropping 106 feet. A short, separate trail leads you behind this waterfall.



**7 WINTER FALLS**  
134 ft.

One of the return trails to South Falls passes Winter Falls. This 134-foot waterfall relies on winter runoff and is at its best in winter, spring and early summer.



**8 TWIN FALLS**  
31 ft.

Continuing on the main trail, you come to Twin Falls, formed by waters tumbling 31 feet over protruding rocks and splitting into two cascades.



**9 NORTH FALLS**  
136 ft.

The next mile has many spectacular views of North Falls, 136 feet of thunderous beauty. The trail drops down 77 steps and goes beneath the creek and behind the waterfall through a cavernous cutout of rock.



**10 UPPER NORTH FALLS**  
65 ft.

Before returning, remember to take a short trek under the highway bridge to Upper North Falls. This 65-foot cascade plunges into a quiet pool. Perhaps the most overlooked falls on the trail, it is a cool and pleasant place to end an adventurous day.

