Paddling The Tualatin River

While the Tualatin River stretches almost 80 miles from the coast range to the Willamette River, 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 travel through farmland, suburbs and the Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge.

River Access

WARNING: Crossing slippery log jams 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 makes the upper river unreachable. Keep an eye for submerged trees, as an abundance of logjams makes the upper river unreachable.

Points on the River

Willamette Park - West Linn
1100 12th St., West Linn, OR 97068
Enter park on 12th St. and turn right on Vozza 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
927 Willamette Falls Dr., West Linn, OR 97068
Fields Bridge Park is a beautiful 10-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 unused ramp is located on 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.

WARNING: NO PORTAGE. This low dam, which raises the river level a few feet, is DANGEROUS & IMPASSABLE. STAY AWAY!

Stuart Park - River Access
8905 SW Tualatin Rd., Tualatin, OR 97062
From I-5 take exit 289 (Nybly St. - Tualatin-Sherwood Rd.) onto SW Tualatin Rd. This is the river access to the city’s wastewater treatment system at the Tualatin River Park. The river is steep and slippery. Services nearby: Petrich General Store (0.5 mi.), Smith Berry Barn (1.2 mi.), South Store Café (1.2 mi.).

Jurgens Park
17356 SW Jurgens Ave., Tualatin, OR 97062
Take SW Jurgens Ave. north from SW Tualatin Rd. Turn north at SW 92nd Ave. and prepare to pay your $5 parking fee. The parking lot is quite small. Services nearby: The Annex building and River House building. Continue north on SW 92nd Ave. to the entrance of the park.

Thickbook Bridge
3800 SE Rood Bridge Rd., Hillsboro, OR 97123
From SE Tualatin Valley Hwy. (T.V. Hwy. B) take SE River Road south for a few blocks. The bridge is on the right side of the road and is visible from the road. Services nearby: Cruise In Country Diner (0.1 mi.), which serves up a great burger. For more information visit cruiseincountry.com.

Road Bridge Park (End of Water Trail)
4000 SE Rood Bridge Rd., Hillsboro, OR 97123
From SE Tualatin Valley Hwy. (T.V. Hwy. B) take SE River Rd. southeast to SE Rood Bridge Rd. Follow SE Rood Bridge Rd. south for a few blocks. The park is on the left side of SE Rood Bridge Rd. just before crossing the river. 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 98
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.