WALKING TOUR



West Linn, Oregon

WALKING TOUR

W

elcome to the Historic Willamette Neighborhood Walking Tour. In this brochure you will find information on each of the historic properties, including the architectural style, original owners and history. Vintage photos depict the character of the neighborhood and the families that live here.

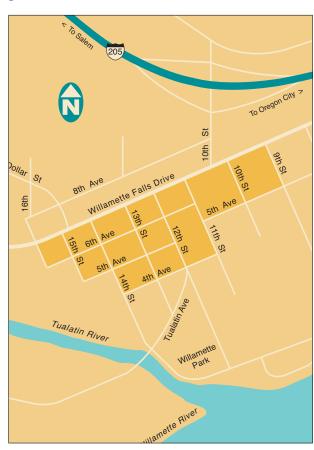
Significant older trees in the area are described and located on the map. Also identified are trees that have been planted as part of the City of West Linn's Street Trees program.

Although there are many historic structures of interest throughout West Linn, the Willamette Historic District, now recognized nationally, has the largest concentration of historic residential architecture in the city.

Residents living in many of the historic homes assisted in collecting the information for this brochure.

To walk the neighborhood tour, follow the map on pages 12-15

This brochure is funded by a grant from the City of West Linn's American Rescue Plan Act Funds.





WILLAMETTE HISTORY

he town of Willamette is located on a Native American trail which ran south from Willamette Falls, an important gathering place for many tribes. The Clowewalla tribe lived in a village on the West Linn side of the falls, and while we know of no Native American villages within the boundaries of Willamette, it is likely that groups of Native Americans camped here when they came to the falls to fish and to trade.

The first European Americans and Canadians to view the Willamette area were trappers who traveled up the Willamette Valley in the early 1800s. Settlers began arriving in the area in the late 1830s while the Oregon Territory was still under joint occupancy by Britain and the United States.

Three of these early settlers were Marshall Perrin, who arrived in 1842, Ambrose Fields, 1847, and his son Joseph Fields, 1849. The original plat maps for Willamette show it located on parts of their land claims which were formalized in 1850 under the Donation Land Claim Act.

Most of the two Fields' land claims were sold in the 1880s to the Oregon Iron and Steel Company, which harvested timber to fuel its smelter operation in Lake Oswego. The Perrin claim passed through a succession of owners, eventually being purchased by B.F. Baker in 1885.

continues >



Margaret Capen Merilainen, 1914. Taken from the front yard of the Capen home with Willamette School in the background. See No. 22 on the tour.

> history continued

In 1888 Willamette Falls Electric Company was formed to produce power at the falls and transmit it to Portland. This company, forerunner of Portland General Electric, purchased many of Oregon Iron's properties. In 1893, when they established the town of Willamette for its employees, the final piece of land was purchased from B.F. Baker with the understanding that 12th Street would run down to the river and allow residents easy access to the docks.

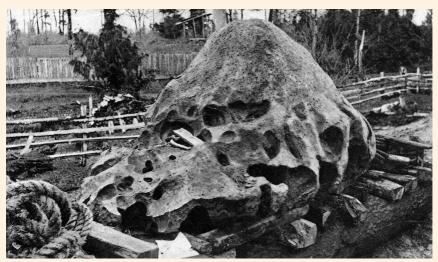
In 1894 the Willamette Falls Railway began operating an electric trolley line

between Willamette and a station near the falls. Following the current path of Willamette Falls Drive, it provided transportation for a five-cent fare. An extension to the Tualatin River allowed cordwood floated down the Tualatin to be transported to the paper mill at the falls.

By 1895 expectations were running high for the new town of Willamette Falls. The Capen Shoe factory, operated by electric power, was considered a model for additional industries which were expected to locate here. This growth never happened, and Willamette soon settled into its small-town identity.

By 1905 many of the houses in the neighborhood were complete. Dirt roads and board sidewalks outlined the town. Most houses had fences—not because of boundary disputes, but because livestock was not required to be corralled and cows roamed freely.

Willamette was not formally incorporated until 1908. Shortly thereafter, a typhoid epidemic was tracked to a contaminated town-water supply, and Willamette's need for clean water led to its annexation to West Linn in 1916.



The Willamette Meteorite as it was being moved from Willamette. The meteorite was displayed at the 1905 Lewis and Clark Centennial Exposition in Portland.

WALKING TOUR GUIDE

See Tour Guide Map on pages 12-15.

- 1 1683 Willamette Falls Dr.
 Methodist Church. 1908.
 Built by volunteer labor under
 the direction of Reverend
 Blackwell. Before the onestory church was built,
 church-going families traveled
 to Oregon City by street car to
 attend services.
- 2 1665 Willamette Falls Dr. Craftsman Bungalow.
- **3** 1593 Willamette Falls Dr. Victorian Cottage, 1910. Extensively remodeled with additions in 2003.
- **4** 1511 Willamette Falls Dr. Arts & Crafts Aesthetic-period Craftsman, 1925.

- 5 1525 Willamette Falls Dr. Mid-Century Modern, 1967.
- **6** 1578 16th St. Cottage Bungalow, 1916.
- 7 1514 6th Ave. Early Craftsman, 1906. Albert and Mary Berner lived here when they were first married.
- 8 1611 6th Ave. Craftsman Bungalow, 1911. Built by Ed Gross. Ed and Laura's children were born here.
- 9 1630 6th Ave. Sears Kit House,ca 1935. The Sears catalog used to sell pre-cut house kits that were delivered by rail. Assembly by a Sears crew was optional.



Methodist Church dedication, 1909, See No. 1 on the tour.

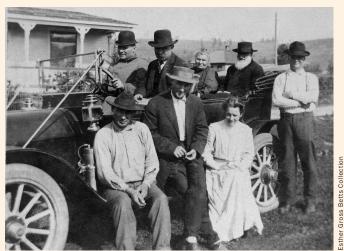
- **10** 1658 6th Ave. Bungalow, 1927. Built for the Oldenstadts.
- **11** 1677 6th Ave. Bungalow, ca 1918.
- 12 1697 6th Ave. Bungalow, 1912. Ed Gross built this house for Smith and Ida Turner.
- 13 1706 6th Ave. Bungalow, ca 1928. Built by Charlie Frenzel. Next to this lot was Willamette's first water tank. Water was pumped from springs at the park. Some years later the spring was contaminated and an epidemic of typhoid fever began. As a result, Willamette was annexed to West Linn to receive city water.
- 14 1731 6th Ave. Queen Anne Stick, ca 1895. Logan Residence. Longtime owner Minnie Gross bought this house from Harry Berdine in 1912.
- 15 1780 6th Ave. Queen Anne Stick, East Lake, ca 1898. Built for Buckles. Elligsen purchased it in 1900. Only original remaining twostory horse barn is in back. Featured in Country Living Magazine, Oct. 1990.
- 16 1492 13th St. Queen Anne Vernacular, ca 1897. Mass Residence, named for Ernest Mass, the county sheriff for 20 years. In 1925, tenants Dr.and Mrs. Silverman practiced medicine and ran a teahouse.



Patricia, Guy and Minnie Gross, ca late 1920's. See No. 14 on the tour.

- **17** 1819 6th Ave. Bungalow, ca 1902. Built for F.S. Howell. Was an All-electric PGE Show Home in the 1920s.
- A 1819 6th Ave. London Plane Tree. Platanus acerifolia. A magnificent older specimen of a London plane tree. Bill Buckles remembered when his mother, Tempest Buckles, ordered an elm tree. That tree. planted in the 1940s, grew into a spectacular London plane tree.
- 18 1818 6th Ave. Queen Anne Vernacular, ca 1900, Originally built for Great-grandma Dollar. The Dollars were one of the early families in the area.
- **19** 1830 6th Ave. Queen Anne stick, ca 1895. Known as the Jones-Fromong

- Residence. Andy Fromong, an early owner. lived here many years and was the Willamette trolley motorman. Andy's name is written in the sidewalk in front of the house.
- 20 1831 6th Ave. Queen Anne Vernacular, ca 1904, Sadie E. White house. Sadie was a singer, actress, business woman and property owner. She helped operate The Racket Store with her mother and two sisters in Oregon City. She was remarried in 1911 to Charles J. Swift.
- 1831 6th Ave. Three Big Leaf Maples
- 21 1847 6th Ave. Queen Anne Vernacular, ca 1900. Dorothy A. Losey House.



Gross family with their Durant automobile.

- 22 1870 6th Ave. Bungalow, ca 1907. Frank Capen, who owned the Capen Shoe Factory, was the original owner.
- 23 1883 6th Ave. Queen Anne Vernacular, ca 1900. Known as the Kinney Residence. Kinney bought the lot in 1895 for a one-dollar gold coin.
- 24 1892 6th Ave. Queen Anne Vernacular, ca 1905. Anne Downey House. Charles Boost, the foreman of the Capen Shoe Factory, owned this house.
- 1892 6th Ave. Japanese Maple.
- 25 1403 12th Street. Willamette School. The original Willamette Primary School, built in 1896 on land donated by B. F. Baker, had an entrance facing 6th Avenue. Wooden fences were built to protect the children during recess from cattle that ran

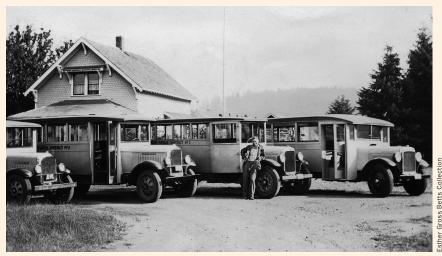
loose. Each child was allotted a small plot of land to raise a garden. In 1936, this school was torn down and a larger one built. It burned down in 1949 and the present school was built.

- Millamette Primary School. Big Leaf Maples.
- **26** 1883 5th Ave. Bungalow, ca 1921.
- 27 1898 5th Ave. Mid-Century Modern, 1962.
- Queen Anne Stick Built by EM Rasmussen, William and Mary Maplethorpe purchased the lot and house. William was a motorman for the Willamette Falls Railway. In 1903 Maplethorpes sold to J. S.Bevins family. The property remained in the Bevins family until 1929 when it was transferred to Earnest and Nola Mass.



The Joseph H. Ralston House, ca 1910. See No. 31 on the tour.

- 29 1872 5th Ave. Queen Anne Stick, ca 1898. I.W. Moser was the original owner.
- 30 1847 5th Ave. Queen Anne Stick, ca 1897. Walden Residence, named for Nicholas O. Walden, who was instrumental in the early development and platting of Willamette. The house was later rented to Ellery Capen, owner of the Capen Shoe Co., located at Willamette Falls Drive and 12th Street.
- 31 1831 5th Ave. Queen Anne Stick, ca 1895. Original owner was Joseph H. Ralston. His uncle Joseph R. Ralston was the director of Oregon Woolen Mills and signer of the petition for statehood. Frozen Assets was filmed here in 1991.
- or California Bay. Umbellularia Californica. Conrad Zimmerman (a former owner) and his father, William Kaiser, traveled to Coquille, Oregon, in 1918 to work on a construction project. Both men were taken with the beauty of the myrtle tree, and on their return to the Willamette area, they carried with them several seedlings of these Southern Oregon coast natives.
- 32 1822 5th Ave. Queen Anne Stick, ca 1899. Charles A. Miller. Later owner Edwin Woodworth was principal at Willamette School for many years.
- 33 1790 5th Ave. Bungalow, ca 1913. Wes Milliken Residence. Wes Milliken owned Buckles & Milliken, the first grocery store in Willamette.



In 1927 Edward Gross took over the West Linn school bus system, which he and his family ran for more than 50 years.

- Transitional, ca 1900. Early
 Resident Mildred Martin grew
 up in this house and also
 lived here after she married.
- **35** 1782 5th Ave. Craftsman Bungalow, ca 1920.
- **36** 1747 5th Ave. Worker's Cottage, ca 1890s. Front half of cottage is original. Additions were built over a period of years.
- Craftsman Bungalow
 The property was first
 purchased by William and
 Anna Snidow from the
 Portland Railway, Light and
 Power Company in January
 1921. Snidow was a builder
 and held a mortgage for
 Frances and James Everett

- Downey. Property was transferred to the Downeys October 1925.
- **38** 1709 5th Ave. Bungalow, ca 1920. W.S. Snidow house. Arts and Crafts bungalow built in the popular Oriental style of the period.
- 39 1409 14th St. Queen Anne Vernacular, ca 1895. E.J. Maple House. Kitchen was added, replacing a closed-in porch.
- **40** 1696 5th Ave. Bungalow, ca 1920.
- 41 1674 5th Ave. Bungalow, 1917. This house was relocated in the early 1930s from where Willamette School sits today. It is the twin of No. 49 and was built for Martha Ream.



Marie Bernert & Emma Volpp enjoy a ride on Joe Bernert's second mechanically powered tug boat, built in 1911. It was used to move logs down the Willamette River. Ca 1914.

42 1649 5th Ave. Bungalow, ca 1924

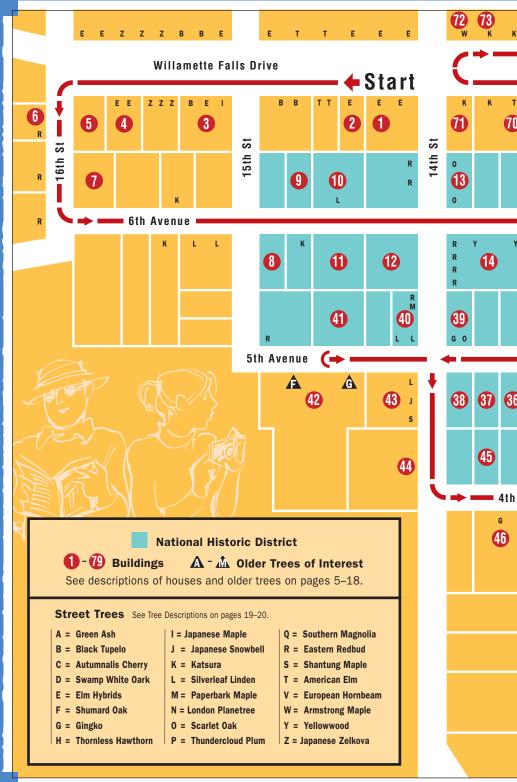
1649 5th Ave. White Paperbark Birch.

1649 5th Ave. Green Ash. Fraxinus pennsylvanica. Possibly planted in the 1930s by the Tuor family. Notice the graceful habit of this older ash tree where mature branches sweep almost to the ground.

43 1697 5th Ave. Bungalow. ca 1920. Built by Bill Snidow,

who once operated a pool hall on Willamette Falls Drive.

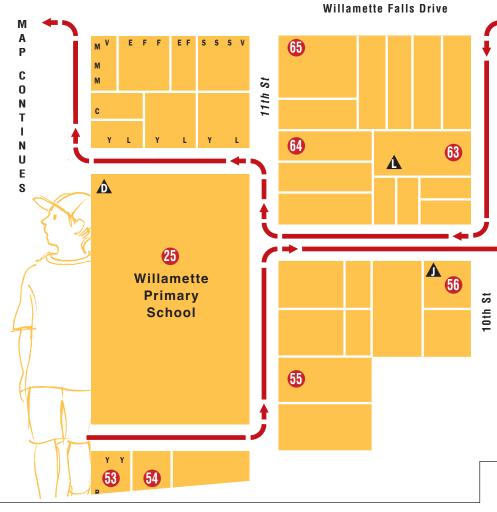
44 1344 14th St. Tudor, ca 1941. Joe and Agnes Bernert, one of Willamette's key families, had this house, the newest one on the tour, built in 1940. They moved from a nearby house and raised their five children here. Agnes lived in the house the rest of her life. She died in 2007, just one month shy of her 101st birthday.











- 45 1724 4th Ave. Queen Anne Vernacular, ca 1903. Downey Residence. Enclosed square above porch used to be a cupola. Note the cow prints in the sidewalk on 14th Street, which were made by Harold Gross' cow about 1921.
- **46** 1745 4th Ave. Bungalow, ca 1920.

- **47** 1798 4th Ave. Queen Anne Vernacular, ca 1895. Schmidt Residence. Mr. Shipley built this house.
- **48** 1808 4th Ave. Bungalow, ca 1917. Built for Ewalt Leisman.
- 49 1862 4th Ave. Queen Anne Stick, ca 1897. Hurst Residence, named for T.S. Hurst. One of the area's earliest homes.





© 2022

50 1892 4th Ave. Queen Anne Stick, ca 1895. Olsen Residence. Built by Mr. Fields for O.F. Olsen. There is a story that Mr. Olsen was an officer of the local church who went to Salem Penitentiary for absconding with church funds.

1892 4th Ave. Six Kwanzan Cherries. Planted in 1971 by the Calhoun family.



51 1296 12th St. Post-and-beam Barn, ca 1906.

Red barn behind the house and garage was built by the Britton family. It was moved here from 19th and Dollar St. in 1993 and restored.

52 1296 12th St. Queen Anne Vernacular, ca 1906. Built by Ernest Mass as temporary housing. At the site is an older stone foundation, possibly from the Albert Epperly house, ca 1859.

1296 12th St. Western White Pine. Pinus monticola. Plan by the Tedd family in the 1930s.

53 1295 12th St. Ca 1920s. Mr. Egge kept bee hives here.

54 1943 4th Ave. Bungalow, ca 1920s.

55 1353 11th St. Bungalow/ Queen Anne Vernacular, 1905. Built by Robert Junkin. An old buggy axle was found here—being used to support the lid on the original septic tank. Long time residents remember going to this house to buy eggs.

56 2089 5th Ave. Front porch has been remodeled.

▲ Tupilo Tree

57 2117 5th Ave. Queen Anne Stick, ca 1906.

58 1523 10th St. Queen Anne Stick, ca 1900.

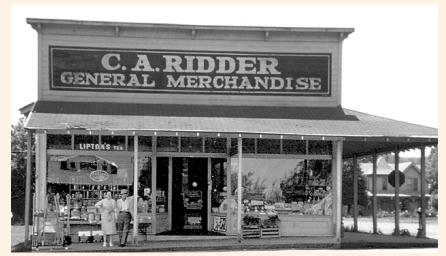


The original Willamette Primary School. See No. 25 on the tour.

- **59** 2194 5th Ave. Craftsman Style, ca 1910.
- A Deadar Cedar
- **60** 2212 5th Ave. Vernacular Victorian, ca 1910
- **61** 1544 9th St. Ca 1910. Built by Charles Andrus, the local postman, who delivered mail from a horse and carriage.
- **62** 2193 Willamette Falls Dr. Queen Anne Stick, ca 1900.
- **63** 1542 10th St. Cottage Bungalow, ca 1910.
- ▲ Tupilo Tree
- 64 1521 11th St. Craftsman Bungalow, ca 1910. These are the original shingles—notice the alternation of wide and narrow rows.
- **65** 1541 11th St. Cottage Bungalow, ca 1910.

- 66 1889 Willamette Falls Dr. This building has undergone many changes over the years. It is built on the site of the Capen Shoe Factory, which burned down. It has been a roller skating rink, garage, grocery store, tavern, and restaurant, lounge, and church.
- Dr. New construction with facades that are typical of styles from 1885-1910.

 Original building built for use as a pool hall by Bill Snidow. Early residents remember the DuPuy family as operators of a drug store here for 26 years. The McQuowens then had a store that included a soda fountain and post office. Then followed Knapps' Restaurant until late the 1980s.



The Ridder General Store, 1963. See No. 68 on the tour.

- 68 1817 Willamette Falls Dr. In 1915 the Leismans operated a general store here, using a team of horses for home delivery service. Mr. Ridder took over in 1919 and operated a post office in the back until 1955. About 1963 the Winkels took over. Now, Lil' Cooperstown Restaurant.
- **69** 1785 Willamette Falls Dr.Elligsen House, ca 1894. The house is now used for offices.
- 70 1721-1741 Willamette
 Falls Dr. This is an 1890s
 commercial building that
 was enclosed in a 1930s
 structure built by the Frenzels
 and known as Frenzel's
 Market. They added a tavern,
 located in the back of the
 store. The tavern has since
 had a number of owners.
 Frenzel's son ran the market

- and meat lockers until the late 1950s.
- 71 1705 Willamette Falls Dr.
 Victorian commercial building,
 ca 1893. This is Willamette's
 oldest commercial structure.
 It was built as a home and
 quickly converted to a store.
 The upper story was a grade
 school from 1892-1896.
 From 1920-1961 it was
 owned by Wes Milliken and
 Albert Buckles. Its shelves
 were so high that ladders
 on runners were used to get
 merchandise. Rebuilt in 2002
 to reflect the original.
- 72 1720 Willamette Falls Dr.
 The existing building was built in 1929 by Mr. Batdorf, who operated a second-hand shop here. In 1946 Ben Fritchie Sr. started a cabinet shop here, gradually changing it to



The Elligsens and their grandsons in front of their house, ca 1916. See No. 15 on the tour.

a builder's supply store. Ben Fritchie Jr. ran this shop until the late 1980s, when it was bought by the Lightowers.

- **73** 1742 Willamette Falls Dr. Arts and Crafts Craftsman in the Oriental Style, ca 1920.
- **74** 1754 Willamette Falls Dr. Craftsman-style Bungalow, ca. 1910.
- **75** 1832 Willamette Falls Dr. Craftsman-style Bungalow, ca 1920.
- **76** Meteorite replica. In 1902 a fifteen-ton meteorite was found on

a Willamette farm by Ellis Hughes and William Dale. It is the sixth largest in the world! Hughes hauled it onto his property and charged 25 cents to see it. The actual meteorite (10 feet 3.5 inches long) is now in the American Museum of Natural History in New York, NY. An interpretive display depicting the history of the meteor is located in Fields Bridge Park.

Historic Willamette Street Trees

See Tour Guide Map on pages 12-15. © 2022



he street trees lining many of the area's streets and avenues were planted in 1993 as a pilot project to enhance the livability of the West Linn community. Additional trees have been added through the years.



A. GREEN ASH
Fraxinus Pennsylvania.
Foliage is a shiny,
medium to dark green
turning yellow in the fall.

Grows 50 to 60 feet in height with a spread of 25 to 30 feet



B. BLACK TUPELO

Nysa sylvatica.

Deciduous, grows to 30
feet. Male and female
trees bear fruit about ½

inch across and ripen to dark bluish black in October. Brilliant orange and red leaves in autumn. In the U.S., the Tupelo is one of the earliest trees to display autumn foliage.



C. AUTUMNALIS CHERRY. Prunus subhirtella var. autumnalis. Delicate branching with semi-double pink flowers

that bloom sporadically in a warm fall and then bloom fully in the spring. Grows 20 to 40 feet with a spread of 15 to 30 feet.



D. SWAMP WHITE OAK *Quercus bicolor.* Deciduous, height to 50 feet. Produces acorns 1 inch long with one third

enclosed by a cup. Acorns mature in one year, leaves are about 3-7 inches long, dark green above, felty below.



E. ELM HYBRID.

Ulnus wilsoniana. Leaves are orange red when new, mature to a deep, shiny green, turn yellow in Fall.



F. SHUMARD OAK.

Quercus schumardii. Height to 100 feet, flowers with yellow new leaves in May with acorns

about 1 inch long. Leaves have tufts of hair on the underside about 3-3 ½ inches long and color red in the Autumn.



G. GINGKO or MAIDENHAIR TREE.

Gingko bilboa. Bright green, fan shaped foliage turns a spectacular

golden yellow in the Fall. Grows 50 to 80 feet in height with a spread of 30 to 80 feet.



H. THORNLESS HAWTHORN.

Crataegus crusgalli var. inermis. Crataegus crusgalli var.inermis.

White flowers bloom in May amidst glossy green foliage. Grows 20 to 30 feet in height with a spread of 20 to 35 feet.



I. JAPANESE MAPLE.

Acre japonicum. Foliage ranges with excellent Fall color. Grows 20 to30 feet high and wide.



J. JAPANESE SNOWBELL. Styrax japonicus. White, bell shaped, drooping flower clusters in May to

June. Bark is smooth with orange-brown interlacing fissures. Grows 20 to 30 feet in height with a spread of 15 to 25 feet.

continues >

> street trees continued



K. KATSURA TREE.

Cercidiphyllum japonicum. Foliage emerges reddish purple, gradually changes to bluish green.

Apricot-orange in Fall. Grows 40 to 60 feet in height with a spread of 30 to 60 feet.



L. SILVERLEAF LINDEN. Tilia tomentosa. Foliage is dark green on the upper surface with a silver color

underneath. Fragrant yellowish-white flowers bloom in late June to July. Grows 50 To 70 feet in height with a spread of 25 to 50 feet.



M. PAPERBARK

MAPLE. Acer griseum. Brown to cinnamon-brown exfoliating bark. Bluish green foliage in summer,

bronze or red in Fall. Grows 20 to 30 feet in height with a spread of 10 to 30 feet.



N. LONDON PLANETREE. Platanus acerifolia. Height to 100 feet. Flowers open in May, usually 2-4 fruit

clusters on one stem. Leaves color yellow and orange in Autumn. The bark peels off in flakes leaving lighter smooth bark exposed, producing a mottled effect.



O. SCARLET OAK.

Quercus cochineal. Dark glossy green foliage changes to scarlet in the Fall. Grows to 70 to 75

feet in height with a spread of 40 to 50 feet.



P. THUNDERCLOUD PLUM. Prunus cerasifera 'Thundercloud.' Dark

coppery leaves with white to pink flowers.

Grows 20 feet in height with an equal spread.



Q. SOUTHERN MAGNOLIA.

Magnolia grandiflora 'Victoria.' Large flowers nestle among glossy

evergreen leaves early-to-mid summer. Grows 25 feet wide and 18 to 30 feet tall.



R. EASTERN RFDBUD. Cercis

canadensis. Sweet peashaped rosy pink flowers bloom with profusion

prior to development of heart-shaped foliage. Grows 25 to 35 feet tall. Roundheaded at maturity.



S. SHANTUNG MAPLE. Acer truncatum.

Deciduous, grows rapidly to 25 feet with deeply lobed leave 4 inches

wide. Emerging leaves are purplish red, summer leaves are green, Autumn leaves are yellow to orangish.



T. AMFRICAN FLM.

Cercis canadensis. Sweet pea-shaped rosy pink flowers bloom with profusion prior to

development of heart-shaped foliage. Grows 25 to 35 feet tall. Round-headed at maturity.



V. FUROPFAN

HORNBEAM. Carpinus betulus. Height to 65 feet. Flowers open in March. Leaves color bright vellow

in Autumn. Bark is grey striped brown and vertically ridged.



W. ARMSTRONG

MAPLE. Acer rubrum Red flowers and fruit in Spring. Autumn leaves are red to yellow. Grows 50 to 60

feet in height with a spread of 15 to 25 feet.



Y. YELLOWWOOD.

Cladrastis lutea. Bright green leaves and white fragrant flowers blooming in late May to June.

Foliage turns a golden yellow in the Fall. Grows 30 to 50 feet in height with a spread of 40 to 55 feet. Freshly cut heartwood stains yellow, hence the name Yellowwood.



7. JAPANESE ZELKOVA. Iapanese serrata. Native to Japan. Height to 65 feet.

Flowers late April or May. Leaves color vellow, orange,

and red in Autumn. Bark is smooth when young, becomes brown, orange and flaky when mature.

PLACES OF INTEREST Along the Rivers in West Linn

See Map on page 23.

1 Fields Bridge Park, Willamette Meteorite and Ice Age Floods Interpretive Walking Trail

Fields Bridge Park, located just west of Historic Willamette on Willamette Falls Drive, is named for the Tualatin River bridge at its northern edge. The current concrete structure is actually the fifth Fields Bridge. The first was built in the 1850s to replace a small ferry run by Joseph Fields, the pioneer who claimed the surrounding area after traveling the Oregon Trail with his father, Ambrose. Several earlier Fields Bridges were covered bridges—the last, fondly remembered by West Linn's older residents, survived until 1953. Used for farming for 150 years, the adjoining land became a West Linn city park in 2006.

The park is the site of a compelling chapter in the dramatic story of the Ice Age Floods that inundated the Pacific Northwest 15,000-12,000 years ago. Repeated cataclysmic floodwaters, released by the bursting of glacial ice dams in the now extinct Lake Missoula in Montana, rushed down the Columbia River Gorge and up the Willamette River Valley.

A remarkable flood artifact, the Willamette Meteorite, was found in 1902 on a hillside upstream from Fields Bridge Park. This meteorite, the largest ever found in the United States, was apparently carried by an iceberg to its resting spot near West Linn, Oregon.

Three interpretive areas on a quarter-mile-long walking trail along

the Tualatin River depict the history of the meteorite. A replica and an interpretive sign can be found in front of the fire station on Willamette Falls Dr.

2 Willamette Park and Bernert Landing Boat Ramp

Willamette Park is located at the intersection of 12th & Volpp St. where the Tualatin River meets the Willamette River. This scenic 15-acre park offers two large picnic shelters, a smaller gazebo, stage area, soccer fields, two softball fields, volleyball courts, playground, spray pool and horseshoe pits.

There is river access to both the Willamette and Tualatin rivers including a boat ramp, kayak launch and dock system at Bernert Landing on the Willamette.

3 Grindsone

At the east end of the parking lot, at the head of the Willametter River Walk is The Grindstone Sculpture. It is a tribute to the long history of paper making in Oregon, and to the men & women who turned logs into paper. By harnessing the power of Willamette Falls, the industry brought technological change, economic growth and thousands of jobs to the West Linn & surrounding towns for over 130 years. The grindstones displayed here were used at the paper mill until the mill stopped producing their own pulp. The West Linn Paper Company donated them to the City of West Linn and the Willamette Falls Heritage

Foundation who in collaboration with many city residents funded this display. In recent years the mill has reopened as the Willamette Falls Paper Making Company and is using plant fiber in their specialized paper products.

4 Willamette Falls Locks

The Willamette Falls Navigation Canal and Locks opened January 1, 1873, to allow river traffic to circumnavigate the 42-foot-high Willamette Falls. The locks have been on the National Register of Historic Places since 1974. Due to lack of funding for repairs, the locks are currently not in service. Efforts to get the locks reopened are currently in progress.

The mouth of the locks can be seen from the Oregon City–West Linn Arch Bridge.

5 Historic City Hall- cultural center

West Linn's Historic City Hall is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It is unique in that it was conceived as a publicprivate partnership in 1936, housing government services and commercial businesses. Funded through the Public Works Administration relief program of the Great Depression, Historic City Hall served as a center of city life, housing the council chambers, city offices, library, police station, post office, and a grocery market that was the flagship store to what would later become the Thriftway grocery store chain throughout Oregon. Historic City Hall will become a destination cultural heritage and community center through a partnership of tribal partners, area landowners, Willamette Falls and Landings Heritage Area Coalition, Mount Hood Territory, and the city of West Linn.

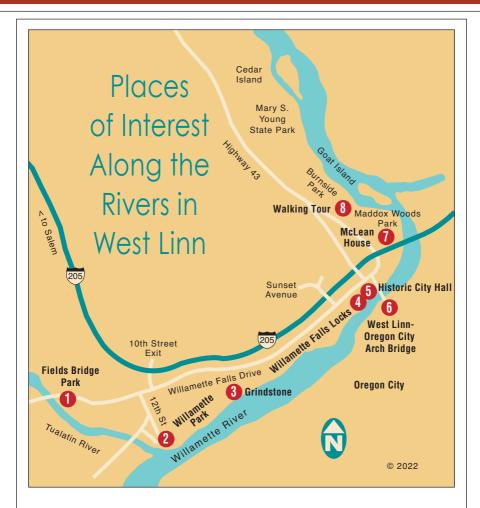
6 Oregon City—West Linn Arch Bridge

The arched bridge crossing the Willamette River between Oregon City and West Linn was built in 1922. It replaced a suspension bridge in use from 1888 to 1922. The architectural embellishment of this bridge identifies it as a Conde B. McCullough design. It was once dubbed the "most beautiful bridge in America." Closed from 2010 to 2012 for renovation, it has been restored to its original beauty. The view of Willamette Falls from the middle of the bridge os a must-see.

7 McLean Park and House

McLean Park and House was originally home to members of the Clowwewalla and Clackamas tribes before the arrival of European settlers. In 1842 Irish native Hugh Burns filed a land claim for 320 acres. In 1922, Dr. Edward H. McLean bought 4 acres and built a 17 room Colonial house, completed in 1927. Both he and his wife Anne were avid arborists who planted a wide variety of trees and plant species. Anne was particularly fond of the rose garden.

In 1981, volunteers founded the Friends of McLean Park & House to assist the city with the historic property's restoration, maintenance and management as a community gathering place and private event venue. The McLean Park & House is open for viewing by appointment and may be rented for private functions. To walk to the McLean Park from the Willamette Falls locks, follow Mill Street under the West Linn-Oregon City Arch Bridge and follow the path that runs along the river.



8 Another day, another walking Tour

Take a stroll from Burnside
Park, Maddax Woods, McLean and
Westbridge Park, to the West Linn—
Oregon City arch bridge, see views of
the largest blue heron rookery in the
Portland metro area (Goat Island).
Walking guides are available in the
kiosk at Maddax Woods at the north
end of River Street.



Front cover illustration, back cover illustration and interior illustrations by Elizabeth Rocchia

Graphic design by Jen Whitney

Updated 2022

Willamette MAIN STREET

istoric Willamette Main Street (HWMS) is a nonprofit organization that is focused on community and business development as well as historic preservation. We are part of a national movement formed to improve the quality of life in small town America and to invigorate the economic health of Historic Main

Street central business districts.

Historic Willamette Main Street's mission is to celebrate and preserve the rich history and natural beauty of the area, investing in the heart of our downtown by promoting our local businesses. Our purpose is to foster an inclusive, diverse community where local residents and visitors feel welcome to dine, shop, connect and socialize with others. HWMS is committed to being both a leader and a catalyst in promoting equity and inclusion within our community.

Since 2010, Historic Willamette Main Street has had a positive effect on the revitalization of West Linn's business district and the town as a whole. This locally-driven, hands-on, grass roots, self-help approach has met much success with its focus on four main points: Organization, Economic Vitality, Promotions and Design

HWMS Promotions Committee organizes and runs several events and projects every year including the Wednesdays In Willamette Summer

Street Market, Winter In Willamette, Halloween in Willamette, St. Patrick's Day in Willamette, the Willamette Wine Walk, Willamette Distillery Stroll, Old Time Fair Parade and assisting the City of West Linn Parks and Rec Department with the West Linn Street Dance. Our Design Committee works on various projects to enhance our downtown including street banners, bike racks, new fixtures, signage and updating the Historic Walking Tour Brochure every couple of years.

For a more complete list of area attractions, events, and links to local business and non-profits, be sure to visit us at www.historicwillamette.com



