Play for the Day

The South Falls Day-use Area has spacious lawns, picnic shelters, tables, a playground, a volleyball net, horseshoe pits, an off-leash area for dogs, and stunning Silver Creek. Since opening day in 1953, visitors have used these grounds for picnics, family reunions and weddings. The area is all within a short walk to views of the famous 177-foot South Falls.

A Historic 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 surrounding area make up the South Falls Historic District, and the area is also listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Silver Falls Lodge and Conference Center

Relax and enjoy comfortable lodging within a remote, wooded setting. The Silver Falls Lodge and Conference Center has private cabins and six-bedroom lodges that cater to groups. Guests can enjoy meals in the dining hall. The conference center’s peaceful setting makes it a popular choice for weddings, family reunions and other group events. Information: silverfallslodge.com or 866-575-4885.

Natural Kids

At the Natural Play Area, located in the North Falls Day-use Area, children can climb a tree, hide in a bear den, growl like a cougar or weave a bird’s nest in this playground designed to fit into the natural landscape.

Overnight Excursion

Camping

The main campground has tent sites, RV spots and cabins. Bring your horse and stay at the Howard Creek horse campground. The park also has group tent and RV camps, dormitory-style bunkhouses (each Ranch Dormitory has 16 beds), and (2) cabins. South Falls Historic District, and the area is also listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Campground

North Santiam River

North Santiam River

Corps Combination

Building

Salem

Fire Road (not for public use)

Soft surface trails

Pets allowed 6’ leash

Trails (no pets)

except the Rim and Upper North Falls trails.

Pets are prohibited on all waterfall trails, except the Rim and Upper North Falls trails.

Salem

Falls State Park is known as the “crown jewel” of the state parks system. Its majestic beauty, boundless recreational opportunities and historic presence make it a top recreation destination in the nation. Nestered in the foothills of Oregon’s Cascade Mountains, less than 45 minutes east of the state capital of Salem, the sprawling 9,000 acre property is the largest state park in Oregon, and one of the most popular.

Silver Falls is a historic gathering place for Native Americans for thousands of years. Evidence of this includes the presence of Native words in the names of places within the park. Many Native American trails still exist throughout the South Falls Day-use Area, including the Catamount Trail and the Loop Trail. These trails are part of the Trail of Ten Falls, a network of trails that connect all ten waterfalls in the park. The Trail of Ten Falls is a popular destination for hikers, and it is recommended to wear appropriate hiking shoes and bring plenty of water.

Boots, Bikes, Paws and Hooves

For the safety of both pets and hikers, pets are not permitted on the Trail of Ten Falls. But, dogs on leashes are welcome on 35 miles of backcountry trails. Hikers share these less-traveled trails with horseback riders, trail runners and mountain bikers. Trails wind through lush, native vegetation including trillium, sword fern and Oregon grape—all tuck beneath towering second growth stands of Douglas-fir and western hemlock. Access backcountry trails from the North Falls Trailhead, the parking area in the Howard Creek Horse Camp and the Highway 241 trailhead on the southwest end of the park.

Bike Path

This mostly paved, 4-mile loop with rolling hills parallels the Bitt Trail and passes the swimming area, the day-use area, the campground and a large meadow. There are no waterfalls on this route.