

FOREST HEIGHTS HOA

POPULAR SHORT HIKES



Narrative on Hikes

Distances are recorded in tenth of a mile rounded to nearest tenth.

The elevations came from Google Earth.

Trail Rating: **Easy** – Relaxed walk

Moderate – Reasonable hike with some hilly sections

Challenging – Physically demanding with hills (elevation changes)

Table of Popular Short Hikes

HIKE # 1.a. – Mill Pond Short Loop (Stroll around the Pond) .3 tenths of a mile (one loop)

HIKE # 1.b. – Mill Pond/Village Center Loop (Mill Pond Loop to Wetlands Spur Trail, Miller Road sidewalk to Lower Boulder Creek Trail back to Mill Pond Loop). 8 tenths of a mile

HIKE # 2 – Miller Hill Loop (Boulder Creek Trail to Sword Fern Trail and back to Village Center) 1.75 miles

HIKE # 3 – Mill Hollow Loop (Miller Hollow Trail to Deer Run Trail to Coyote Creek Trail across Murdock Bridge Trail and back to Miller Hollow Trail) 2.1 miles

HIKE # 4.a. – Chapin Skyline Loop (Chapin Drive (fountain) to Skyline Drive Pathway Trail, Meares Drive back Devoto Lane to Chapin Drive) 1.5 miles

HIKE # 4.b. – Chapin Skyline Loop to Memorial Garden (Chapin Drive to Skyline Drive Pathway Trail, to Memorial Garden, return back to Meares Drive down Devoto Lane to Chapin Drive). 2.1 miles

HIKE # 5.a. – Caxton Woods Short Loop (Engleman Street to Lower Caxton Trail up Marvin Lane to Benfield Drive and back to Engleman Street) 1.5 miles

HIKE # 5.b. – Caxton Woods Long Loop (Engleman Street to Lower Caxton Trail, up to Randall Lane out to Cornell Road, back 87th Street to Benfield Drive back to Engleman Street) 3 miles

HIKE # 5.c. – Benfield Trail (end of Benfield Lane) Connect into Hike 5.a or 5.b from Benfield Spur via Boulder Creek Trail or vice-versa connect into Hike 2. .2 miles

HIKE # 6 – Wetlands Trail Loop (Mill Pond Park up Wetlands Trail to Creekside Townhomes/Miller Road, down Miller Road to Wetland Spur Trail back to Mill Pond Loop) 1 mile

If you have a hike that is not listed here please let us know and we'd be happy to add it to this list. There are many deviations of these hikes that loop back into our trail system. Have fun and enjoy the great outdoors we have right in our own backyard.

Trails & Habitat Committee of FHHA

Trail Rating: Easy – Relaxed walk

Moderate – Reasonable hike with some hilly sections

Challenging – Physically demanding with hills (elevation changes)

HIKE # 1.a. – Mill Pond Short Loop (Stroll around the Pond)

Start: Mill Pond Road and intersection of Sichel Court

End: Same as starting point

Distance: .3 tenths of a mile (one loop)

Starting Elevation: 435 ft. (no change)

Difficulty: Easy (Loop trail around Mill Pond on paved pathway)

Directions/Description: Paved pathway around Mill Pond.

Points of Interest: Beaver Dam, picnic area, viewing areas, intersections of streams

Comments: The trail circles the pond and park, where you can sit among the trees at sundown and graze at the natural beauty surrounding the pond and absorb the tranquility of the setting or you can break from the beaten path and lounge in the grass on a sunny day. Numerous wild birds, geese and ducks frequent the area.

Trail Map: (on back – forthcoming)

Trail Rating: **Easy** – Relaxed walk

Moderate – Reasonable hike with some hilly sections

Challenging – Physically demanding with hills (elevation changes)

**HIKE # 1.b. – Mill Pond/Village Center Loop (Mill Pond Loop to Wetlands Spur Trail,
Miller Road sidewalk to Lower Boulder Creek Trail back to Mill Pond Loop)**

Start: Mill Pond and intersection of Sichel Court

End: Same as starting point

Distance: .8 tenths of a mile

Elevation: Starting Point 435' to 480' (elevation gain 30'.)

Difficulty: Easy (Loop trail around Mill Pond and Village Center)

Directions/Description: At Mill Pond Road and Sichel Ct. walk towards pond on pathway, turn left (north) proceed along Mill Pond past the first Wetlands Trail intersection, past the spur trail to the Village at Forest Heights and then turn left after the second bridge up the Wetlands Spur trail to N.W. Miller Road (slight climb up the gravel steps). Turn right at intersection with sidewalk and head south towards the Village Center continuing right on the sidewalk down Mill Ridge Road to the intersection of the Engleman Street. Pick up the Lower Boulder Creek Trail (turn right down the pathway) and walk back to Mill Pond Park following Boulder Creek.

Points of Interest: Stream and Pond intersections, Village Center Stores (bathroom at southeast corner of Mill Pond Park).

Comments: The hub of the Forest Heights trail system that is tucked away from the urban sprawl. Wooden benches dot the park, so after emerging from the wooded confines of the Lower Boulder Creek Trail you can relax in the open space of Mill Pond Park.

Trail Map: (on back – forthcoming)

Trail Rating: **Easy** – Relaxed walk

Moderate – Reasonable hike with some hilly sections

Challenging – Physically demanding with hills (elevation changes)

HIKE # 2 – Miller Hill Loop (Boulder Creek Trail to Sword Fern Trail and back to Village Center)

Start: Corner of Mill Ridge Road and Engleman Street (Upper Boulder Creek Trail Head)

Intermediate Point: Top of Miller Hill beside RAZ Bus Stop (735')

End: Austin Row Townhomes (along Miller Road). Walk Miller Road sidewalk back to Village Center or starting point on Mill Ridge and Engleman Street (Parking available along Mill Ridge Road).

Distance: 1.75 miles

Elevation: Starting Point 445' to 735' (elevation gain 290' one way)

Difficulty: Moderate to Challenging. Gravel trail with steps and numerous switchbacks up Miller Hill.

Directions/Description: Head east up the Boulder Creek Trail from Mill Ridge Road, across the bridge to your right up the hill (do not take the spur trail to Miller Road). Continue up the trail past the Miller Hill stairway intersection and the Benfield Field Spur; to the up hill switchback that connect with Miller Road. Turn left at the trail head back down the sidewalk (past the bus stop) to the intersection of Wood Rose Lane; carefully cross the street picking up the Sword Fern Trail. Head down the Sword Fern trail (steep switch backs) past the Norfolk Spur Trail Bridge (stay left) and continue back to Miller Road. Turn right at the trail head down the sidewalk past Austin Row Townhomes and just before the driveway into Forest Creek Apartments cross Miller Road entering the spur trail back to your starting point at Mill Ridge Road.

Points of Interest: Cascading stream flowing down a spectacular boulder field along the Upper Boulder Creek Trail. Dense forest awaits you along the sprawling fern fields of the Sword Fern Trail. Relax on the trail benches and absorb the beauty of this urban forest setting.

Several spur trails intersect with the Boulder Creek Trail from Miller Road, Miller Hill Place (stairway to Miller Hill Townhouses) and the Benfield Spur Trail heading into the Caxton Woods/Mill Woods neighborhoods.

There is also a spur trail from Norfolk Ct. that intersects with the Sword Fern Trail connecting the Forest Hollow and Forest Ridge neighborhoods.

Comments: Boulder Creek and Sword Fern Trails run the entire length of Miller Hill. The natural architecture here is fallen trees, ivy, brambles, and of course, a carpet of ferns. You may also notice the attention to drainage. These perfect fern conditions are also the home to hundreds of natural springs that gurgle their way through the steeply grooved landscape. The trail has several switchbacks up the hill, so take you time and enjoy this preserved greenbelt.

Trail Map: (on back – forthcoming)

Trail Rating: **Easy** – Relaxed walk

Moderate – Reasonable hike with some hilly sections

Challenging – Physically demanding with hills (elevation changes)

**HIKE # 3 – Mill Hollow Loop (Miller Hollow Trail to Deer Run Trail to Coyote Creek Trail
across Murdock Bridge Trail and back to Miller Hollow Trail)**

Start: Corner of Miller Road and Bartholomew Drive

End: Same as starting point

Distance: 2.1 miles

Elevation: Starting Point 450' to 815' (elevation gain 365' one way)

Difficulty: Moderate to Challenging. Gravel trail with steep steps and numerous switchbacks (especially on the Deer Run Trail and Coyote Creek Trail).

Directions/Description: Head east up the Miller Hollow Trail to the intersection of the Deer Run Trail; turn right up the Deer Run Trail (across Birkendene St.) up to Holloway Drive. Turn right on Holloway Drive up the hill to the intersection of Birkendene St.; the Coyote Creek Trail head is directly across the street. Head down and then back up the Coyote Creek Trail to Murdock Street. Turn left down the sidewalk to the intersection of the Murdock Bridge Trail; turn left down the Murdock Bridge Trail back to the intersection of the Miller Hollow Trail (take Option 1 or 2 from this intersection). Turn left back down the Miller Hollow Trail, past the Public Park Trail and Deer Run Trail to Miller Road.

Points of Interest: A canopy of trees runs above the Deer Run Trail, with lush ferns forest on the hillsides. There are numerous view points and benches. The “**Best**” view point in the neighbor from Option 1 below (upper Miller Hollow Trail). Enjoy the Public Park adjacent to Forest Park Elementary School

Comments: This loop hike involves a lot of climbing on steep gravel trails. The best way to do this hike is as described, because it minimizes steep descents on slippery gravel. Take advantage of the trail side benches to catch your breath and enjoy the forest views.

Connect to Hike 1.b Mill Pond/Village Center Loop to extend your walk and cool down.

Option 1. Walk to the top of Miller Hollow Trail which exits onto Miller Road (great sunset view from the bench about Montara Townhomes - two tenths of a mile (.2).

Option 2. Take option 1 and walk down Miller Road to the Public Park Trail (Forest Park Elementary School) and turn back to Miller Hollow Trail – three tenths of a mile (.3).

Trail Map: (on back – forthcoming)

Trail Rating: **Easy** – Relaxed walk

Moderate – Reasonable hike with some hilly sections

Challenging – Physically demanding with hills (elevation changes)

HIKE # 4.a. – Chapin Skyline Loop (Chapin Drive to Skyline Drive Pathway Trail, Meares Drive back Devoto Lane to Chapin Drive)

Start: Corner of Miller Road and Chapin Drive (fountain)

End: Same as starting point

Distance: 1.5 miles

Elevation: Starting Point - Miller Road and Chapin Drive - Fountain 890' to 1120' (elevation gain 230')
To Skyline trail 1040' (elevation gain 150')
Skyline pathway 1100' (elevation gain 210')
Skyline/Meares intersection 1120' (elevation gain 230'.)
Top of cemetery at columns 1150' (elevation gain 260') (Option 1 below)

Difficulty: Moderate

Direction/Description: Head east up Chapin Drive to the Skyline Trail connector trail onto Skyline Blvd. Walk west on Skyline past the intersection of Chapin and Skyline to Meares Drive. Turn left down the hill on Meares (fifty yards) and left again down Devoto Lane to the intersection of Chapin and McKenna Street. Turn right on Chapin and follow Chapin Drive down the hill to your starting point at Chapin and Miller (fountain).

Points of Interest: Great views of the Forest Heights neighborhoods, Bonny Slope, Tualatin Valley and Coastal Range from Skyline. On a clear day be sure to turn around and look to the southeast you can see Mount Jefferson and the Three Sisters. Nice sunset walk, especially in the fall and winter months.

Comments: Intersection of Skyline/Meares to Thunder Crest Spur (one tenth of a mile (.1)
Intersection of Skyline/Meares to Skyline Heights (one tenth of a mile (.1)
Intersection of Skyline/Meares to Skyline Memorial Garden (two tenths of a mile (.2)

Trail Map: (on back – forthcoming)

Trail Rating: **Easy** – Relaxed walk
Moderate – Reasonable hike with some hilly sections
Challenging – Physically demanding with hills (elevation changes)

HIKE # 4.b. – Chapin Skyline Loop to Memorial Garden (Chapin Drive to Skyline Drive Pathway Trail, to Memorial Garden, return back to Meares Drive down Devoto Lane to Chapin Drive).

Start: Corner of Miller Road and Chapin Drive (fountain).

End: Same as starting point

Distance: 2.1 miles

Elevation: Starting Point - Miller Road and Chapin Drive - Fountain 890' to 1120' (elevation gain 230').
To Skyline trail 1040' (elevation gain 150')
Skyline pathway 1100' (elevation gain 210')
Skyline/Meares intersection 1120' (elevation gain 230')
Top of cemetery at columns 1150' (elevation gain 260') (Option 1 below)

Difficulty: Moderate

Direction/Description: Head east up Chapin Drive to the Skyline Trail connector trail onto Skyline Blvd. Walk west on Skyline past the intersections of Chapin and Meares Drive off Skyline Blvd. and continue on .3 tenths to Memorial Garden Cemetery. At the north western edge of cemetery there is a bench and excellent view point. Return back to Meares Drive turn right down the hill on Meares (fifty yards) and left again down Devoto Lane to the intersection of Chapin and McKenna Street. Turn right on Chapin and follow Chapin Drive down the hill to your starting point at Chapin and Miller (fountain).

Take the Thunder Crest Spur into Forest Park to connect with Fire Lane 3, which connects you to the Leif Erickson and Wildwood Trails.

Points of Interest: Great views of the Forest Heights neighborhoods, Bonny Slope, Tualatin Valley and Coastal Range from Skyline. On a clear day be sure to turn around and look to the southeast you can see Mount Jefferson and the Three Sisters. Nice sunset walk, especially in the fall and winter months.

Comments: Intersection of Skyline/Meares to Thunder Crest Spur (one tenth of a mile (.1))
Intersection of Skyline/Meares to Skyline Heights (one tenth of a mile (.1))
Intersection of Skyline/Meares to Skyline Memorial Garden (two tenths of a mile (.2))

Trail Map: (on back – forthcoming)

Trail Rating: **Easy** – Relaxed walk
Moderate – Reasonable hike with some hilly sections
Challenging – Physically demanding with hills (elevation changes)

HIKE # 5.a. – Caxton Woods Short Loop (Engleman Street to Lower Caxton Trail up Marvin Lane to Benfield Drive and back to Engleman Street)

Start: Corner of Mill Ridge Road and Engleman Street.

End: Same as starting point.

Distance: 1.5 miles

Elevation: At Starting Point Corner of Mill Ridge and Engleman Street 445’ to 610’ Benfield Drive (elevation gain 165’ one way).
Lower Caxton (505’)
Marvin Lane (470’) bottom of Lower Caxton Trail @ bridge
Benfield Dr (610’)

Difficulty: Easy to moderate

Description: Start at the corner of Mill Ridge and Engleman Street proceed west on Engleman (towards Mill Pond) and continue on Engleman to Mayfield Road. Turn right on Mayfield and walk to the Lower Caxton Trail head. Turn right on Lower Caxton Trail across the bridge, up the stairs veering left to Caxton Lane. Up Caxton Lane to Marvin Lane (at the “Y” turn left) and continue up the hill through the intersection of Marvin and Fleischner to Benfield Drive. Turn left on Benfield down the hill to Engleman Street and return to the starting point at Mill Ridge.

Points of Interest: Nice neighborhood walk.

Comments: Connecting trails - Benfield Trail to Boulder Creek Trail (two tenths of a mile (.2)
Junction of Boulder Creek and Benfield Trail to Miller Road (.2)
Boulder Creek Trail Head (top of Miller Hill) to Cornell Road (.5)

Trail Map: (on back – forthcoming)

Trail Rating: **Easy** – Relaxed walk
Moderate – Reasonable hike with some hilly sections
Challenging – Physically demanding with hills (elevation changes)

HIKE # 5.b. – Caxton Woods Long Loop (Engleman Street to Lower Caxton Trail, up to Randall Lane out to Cornell Road, back 87th Street to Benfield Drive back to Engleman Street)

Start: Corner of Mill Ridge Road and Engleman Street.

End: same as starting point

Distance: 3 miles

Elevation: Corner of Mill Ridge and Engleman Street 445’ to 690’ at 87 Street and Cornell Road (elevation gain 245’ one way).
Lower Caxton (505’)
Randall Lane (510’)
Cornell Rd (590’)
87th St (690’)
Benfield Dr (650’)

Difficulty: Challenging

Directions/Description: Start at the corner of Mill Ridge and Engleman Street proceed west on Engleman (towards Mill Pond) and continue on Engleman to Mayfield Road. Turn right on Mayfield and walk to the Lower Caxton Trail head. Turn right on Lower Caxton Trail across the bridge, up the stairs veering right at the “Y” up to Randall Lane. Turn left on NW Maring Drive past 97th Street, past 95th Street and veer right onto NW 94th Avenue. At the intersection of 94th and Cornell cross the street and take the sidewalk east up Cornell Road to the intersection of NW 87th Street and turn left crossing over Cornell. Proceed to NW Marshall Street take a left down the hill to intersect with Benfield Drive. Take Benfield Drive to Engleman Street and return to the starting point at Mill Ridge.

Points of Interest: You exit the Forest Heights Community and enter nearby neighborhoods; after a long walk you deserve a treat at Starbucks or Quinn’s.

Comments: Option 1. Continue up Cornell Road and intersect will Miller Road and walk back Miller to the Village Center (add another 1 mile to your hike)
Option 2. At Maring Drive turn right and wind you way back to 102nd Street; turn right at 102nd to Morgan Lane either returning to you starting point at Mill Ridge or diverting to Mill Pond Park for a picnic in the park.

Trail Map: (on back – forthcoming)

Trail Rating: **Easy** – Relaxed walk
Moderate – Reasonable hike with some hilly sections
Challenging – Physically demanding with hills (elevation changes)

HIKE # 5.c. – Benfield Trail (end of Benfield Lane)

Start: Corner of Benfield Drive and Benfield Lane (private street access to lots 77 to 81).

End: Connects into Boulder Creek Trails (trails options unlimited)

Distance: .2 (two tenths of a mile)

Elevation: Starting Point 580’ to approx 530’

Difficulty: Easy Short hike

Description: Walk back the Private Street off Benfield Drive to the Benfield Spur Trail Head. This trail connects into the Boulder Creek Trail. Pick up Hike #2 or connect into the FHHOA trail system along Miller Road.

Points of Interest: Cascading stream flowing down a spectacular boulder field along the Upper Boulder Creek Trail. Dense forest awaits you along the sprawling fern fields of the Sword Fern Trail. Relax on the trail benches and absorb the beauty of this urban forest setting.

Several spur trails intersect with the Boulder Creek Trail from Miller Road, Miller Hill Place (stairway to Miller Hill Townhouses) and the Benfield Spur Trail heading into the Caxton Woods/Mill Woods neighborhoods.

There is also a spur trail from Norfolk Ct. that intersects with the Sword Fern Trail connecting the Forest Hollow and Forest Ridge neighborhoods.

Comments: Boulder Creek and Sword Fern Trails run the entire length of Miller Hill. The natural architecture here is fallen trees, ivy, brambles, and of course, a carpet of ferns. You may also notice the attention to drainage. These perfect fern conditions are also the home to hundreds of natural springs that gurgle their way through the steeply grooved landscape. The trail has several switchbacks up the hill, so take you time and enjoy this preserved greenbelt.

Trail Map: (on back – forthcoming)

Trail Rating: **Easy** – Relaxed walk

Moderate – Reasonable hike with some hilly sections

Challenging – Physically demanding with hills (elevation changes)

HIKE # 6 – Wetlands Trail Loop (Mill Pond Park up Wetlands Trail to Creekside Townhomes/Miller Road, down Miller Road to Wetland Spur Trail back to Mill Pond Loop)

Start: Starting Point Corner of Mill Pond Road and intersection of Sichel Court.

End: Same as starting point

Distance: 1.1 Miles

Elevation: Starting Point Corner of Mill Pond and intersection of Sichel Court 435’ to 565’ Miller Rd at Creekside (elevation gain 130’ one way).

Difficulty: Easy to Moderate

Directions/Description: At Mill Pond Road and Sichel Ct. walk towards pond on pathway, turn left (north) proceed along Mill Pond to the Wetlands Trail intersection. Turn left up the Wetlands Trail past both spur trails that connect into Mill Pond Road on your left; take either trails around the Wetlands retention ponds and proceed up the trail to Creekside Townhomes. Turn right up the steep hill of Burkhart Drive to Miller Road, and then proceed right down Miller Road towards Forest Heights Village Center. Just before Dent Spa on your right, turn right back onto the Wetlands Spur Trail back to Mill Pond. Walk either side of the Mill Pond Trail back to your starting point at Mill Pond Road and Sichel Ct.

Points of Interest: Wetlands Creek and retention ponds. Second spur trail (near Brittney Court) leads you to the “Off Leash Dog Park” along Mill Pond Road.

Comments: So named because it treks through a preserved wetland area, the perfect soil and water conditions for cattails and frogs.

Option 1. From Creekside Townhomes turn left up Miller Road to the Public Park just past Forest Park Elementary School and take the Public Park Trail to Miller Hollow Trail; then loop back to the Wetlands Trail off Miller Road.

Option 2. Take Option 1 and at the intersection of Deer Run Trail pick up Hike # 3, loop all the way back to the Public Park Trail and return back to Mill Pond via the Wetlands Trail to your starting point.

Trail Map: (on back – forthcoming)

Trail Rating: Easy – Relaxed walk

Moderate – Reasonable hike with some hilly sections

Challenging – Physically demanding with hills (elevation changes)

Additional Distances – Connecting Trails

	Distance	Miller Hollow Trail - Miller Creek Trail - Wetlands Trail Loop
Start	0.00	Miller Hollow Trail (Lower, Miller Rd junction near Bartholomew Dr)
	0.32	to Deer Run Trail junction
	0.58	to Murdock Bridge Trail junction
	0.74	to Miller Hollow Trail (Upper, Miller Rd junction near Murdock St)
	1.24	to Miller Creek Trail (Burnett Rd junction)
	1.41	to Wetlands Trail (Mill Pond Rd junction)
	1.68	to Wetlands Trail/Mill Pond Lp junction
	1.84	to Wetlands Trail (Miller Rd via Bus Stop Spur)
End	1.89	Miller Hollow Trail (Lower)
Total	1.89	Miles

	Distance	Chapin/Miller to Skyline to McKenna Stairs to McKenna to Chapin/Miller
Start	0	Chapin Dr/Miller Rd intersection (at waterfall)
	0.44	to Chapin Dr/Skyline Trail junction
	0.54	to Skyline Blvd (via Skyline Trail)
	0.76	to top of McKenna Stairs
	0.91	to McKenna St/Chapin Dr intersection (via McKenna Stairs)
End	1.04	to Chapin Dr/Miller Rd intersection (at waterfall)
Total	1.04	Miles

	Distance	
0.08	439	Thundercrest Spur
0.58	3076	Fire Lane 3/Thunder Crest Trail Head to Wildwood Trail
0.91	4818	Fire Lane 3 to Fire Lane 2 via Wildwood Trail
0.58	3060	Fire Lane 2/Wildwood Trail to Fire Lane 2/Skyline Trail Head
0.70	3712	Fire Lane 2/Skyline Trail Head to Fire Lane 3/Thunder Crest Trail Head

Trail Rating: Easy – Relaxed walk

Moderate – Reasonable hike with some hilly sections

Challenging – Physically demanding with hills (elevation changes)