

A GUIDE TO THE  
WILLAMETTE RIVER WATER TRAIL  
BUENA VISTA FERRY TO WHEATLAND FERRY  
RIVER MILES 107 TO 72

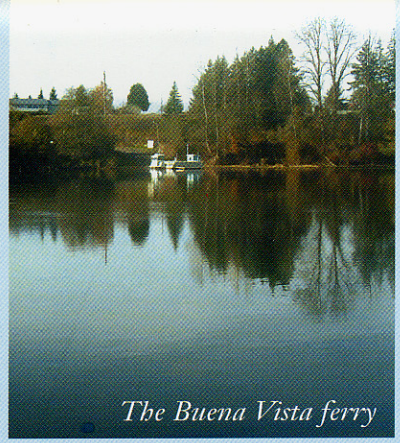
# Explore the Wonders of the Willamette

*Discover this nearby treasure, where wildlife, history and scenery unfold in surprising adventures from a canoe or kayak as you experience one of the great rivers of the Pacific Northwest.*



# Traces in Time

The Willamette's history is evident today along its shores. Along this route, history comes to life. Meadows and shorelines were home to Native Americans whose ancestry in the valley dates back 10,000 years. Lincoln Access is the site of a once-bustling waterfront town. Willamette Mission features a ghost structure of an 1834 Methodist mission. River's Edge Park in Keizer was the site of an 1811 trading post. Today, small ferries established around 150 years ago still shuttle back and forth across the river. Architectural gems that now house restaurants, shops and the local library announce the Historic District of Independence. Remnants of a host of towns and landings that prospered in the mid-1800s, when steamboats plied these waters, give testament to the Willamette's rich past.



*The Buena Vista ferry*

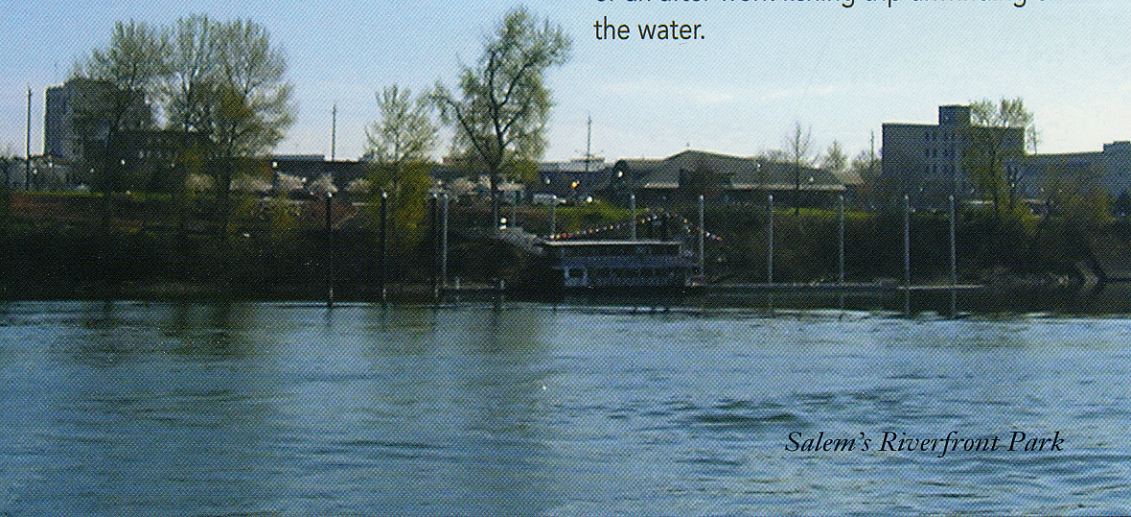
Mamda Beckett

# Seclusion to Cityscape



Mamda Beckett

On this stretch, the river flows through a great diversity of landscapes, from serene backwaters to urban waterfronts. Quiet back channels lead to hidden campsites not far from civilization's hustle and bustle. Sandy beaches and gravel bars open up to lovely vistas that give no clue of nearby towns. Alternately, city paddling can bring a fresh view of urban life—a jaunt to a town park for lunch, a mini-excursion paddling near a moored sternwheeler, or an after-work fishing trip unwinding on the water.



*Salem's Riverfront Park*

77: Lincoln Access



Peninsula vegetated with willows and brush, and shoreline of sand, gravel and rock, good for day use and picnics. Named after President Lincoln, this early-day town was once bustling with a half-mile-long waterfront of warehouses and wharves, none of which remain.

77: Spongs Island



No water.

RM 77: Navigation Hazards  
Shallow—watch for snags!



Pit-roasted Camas bulbs were a staple of the Native American diet. The blue-violet wildflowers sometimes carpet entire meadows.

78: Darrow Bar Access



Peaceful site with pleasant river views. Small parking lot.

Windsor Island Rd.

78.5: Darrow Bar Island



Primitive camping.

RM 78.5: Navigation Hazards  
Pilings at head of island.

78: Spongs Landing Park



Picnic shelters and great lunch spot. A 100-yard walk and stairway lead to a shore launch. The Spongs family established a ferry on this site in the late 1800s, while Doak's Ferry operated from across the river. Competition led to a shooting fray that, fortunately, did not result in any casualties.

79: Darrow Rocks Landing



Undeveloped site at the rocks with small gravel beach.