



- Walking Route** 
- Point of Interest** 
- Auto / Cycling Detour** 
- Walking Route Option** 
- Alternate Return Route** 
- Trail Information** 
- Public Parking** 
- Restrooms** 

The Sawmill & Tribal Trail can be accessed from many points around town, so check out as much of it as you have time and energy for. We hope you will enjoy learning more about the colorful past of the Coos Bay and North Bend area.

MAIN ACCESS POINTS:

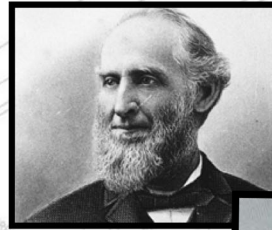
Directions to Ferry Road Park:
Go N. on Hwy 101 through North Bend - turn right on Ferry Rd. and continue 0.2 miles to park on left.

Directions to Pony Village Mall:
From Hwy 101 - go 0.5 mile west on Virginia Ave. to Pony Village Mall on your left. Park at the mall and walk out of the parking lot on Vermont to pick up the trail on Pony Creek Rd.

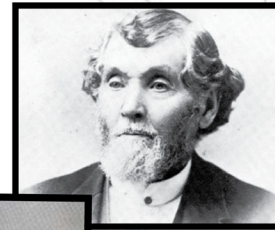
Directions to John Topits Park:
From Hwy 101 - go 1.9 miles west on Newmark Avenue then turn right onto Hull Street. Follow signs to John Topits Park.

Directions to Empire Docks:
From Hwy 101 - go 2.9 miles west on Newmark Avenue then turn left onto Arago Hwy. Take your first right onto Michigan Ave and continue to docks.

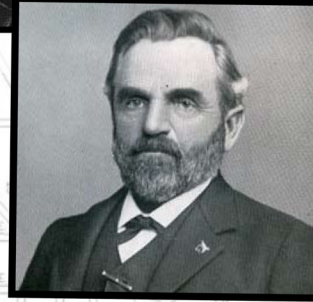
NOTICE: The Sawmill & Tribal Trail is an urban trail utilizing existing sidewalks and sometimes the shoulder of local streets. Use protected crosswalks whenever possible, stay on sidewalks or the left side of the road and always watch for traffic. Do not walk after dark and, if you can, find a walking buddy.



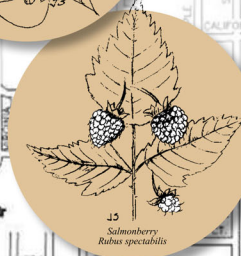
Asa Simpson
CHMM 009-16.1



Henry H. Luse
CHMM



Charles Merchant
CHMM



Evergreen Huckleberry
Fraxinum Oxymun



35. Capt. James Magee House (1873). Victorian style. Capt. Magee, master ocean and bar pilot, had observation tower on bluff behind house. He'd spot a ship approaching Coos Bay and take a tugboat and offer service as pilot – for a fee.

34. Hollering Place Wayside - views of bay and North Spit sand dunes. See 1852 Captain Lincoln shipwreck marker. Coos Indian village, Hanisch, in vicinity. Hollering Place on North Spit where tribal members, then settlers, would yell across bay for water transport.

33. Legendary site of "Hanging Tree," Indian Pete, unjustly accused of murder, was lynched here or nearby in a large cherry tree (1854); fort and blockhouse here during Rogue River Indian War (1856); location of Coos County Courthouse & Jail (1872-1896).

32. Old Tower House, built 1872 in Gothic Revival style, by Dr. Charles W. Tower, brother of Maj. Morton Tower. Tower houses are on National Register of Historic Places.

31. Empire schools (1866-1959) site. The 1866 school burned 1919. Replaced by Empire Grade School (renamed Market Street School), torn down 1969.

30. Major Morton Tower House (1869, expanded 1892). As for unofficial customhouse.

28. To your right is Brown's Hill (elevation 97 feet). "Pilot's Lookout," likely used by Capt. James Magee (1880s). From a tree, he spied incoming ships beyond the North Spit dunes (see also #35).

C Empire Points of Historic Significance

27. Sitka Spruce – wood light and strong, roots for baskets and lashings, occasionally for canoes.

26. Western Hemlock – bark made dark dye for cedar and maple. Fishnets were dyed making them tough for fish to see. Hemlock for fish weirs, the heavy wood stayed put.

25. Sedge, slough - grows along water, common at low elevations, used for skirts and berry baskets.

24. Western Red Cedar – very important. Provided housing, canoes, baskets and clothing. Whole trees carved for canoes. Planks carved with elk horn, split from fallen or live trees. (Two or three planks came from a mature tree without killing it.)

23. Berries - huckleberry (evergreen and red), salmonberry, blackberry, thimbleberry, salal. All berries enjoyed fresh, many dried and pounded into cakes for winter. Blackberry leaves for tea. Evergreen huckleberry roots carved into shinnny balls for native game resembling field hockey.

22. Douglas Fir – spear fishing, fish weirs, meat-drying racks, backboards for cradle boards. Branches, wetted, used in funeral cleansing rituals.

21. Shore Pine - for pitch. Tree sap warmed, mixed with seal oil, patched canoes. Pitch for handles and wrappings. Roots tie bundles of dried salmon.

20. Willow – shoots for baskets and inner bark sometimes used in weaving. Seasonal fishing aid - when willow blooms, herring run.

19. Labrador Tea - Leaves were picked and used, fresh or dry, to make aromatic tea. Thought good for kidneys.

18. Ocean Spray - straight, strong wood for arrow shafts and other tools, especially digging sticks. Seasonal blooms indicated elk fat, time to hunt.

17. Cattails - leaves and stems for basketry, pounded wood used as diapers. Roots eaten, cooled or raw.

16. Pacific Rhododendron - roots carved into shinnny balls for a native game similar to field hockey.

15. Near Empire Lakes (June 1914) masked men rifled pointed, stopped and held up five autos taking valuables. Lyle Chiappell recognized the voices of bandits, Claude Allen and Ed Wilson.

14. (no post) The Coos Historical and Maritime Museum – book and gift shop.

7. Oregon's "Merci" boxcar. After WW2, the grateful French sent each state a boxcar filled with gifts.

8. North Bend's original (1903) baseball park. Other towns each fielded a team and competition was fierce.

9. Landmark Church opened in 1910 as the Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Church. The oldest original church in North Bend.

10. Pony Slough mudflats. Twice daily underwater but platted (by 1906) as the Steamboat Addition to North Bend and sold to unsuspecting buyers.

11. Remnant pilings from 1907 wooden bridge that connected North Bend to Bangor and the Reynolds Lumber Company sawmill.

12. Sixteenth Street (Pony Slough) Bridge. North Bend's worst early auto accident (1914) killed 5 when an auto, avoiding a small child, crashed through the railing to the tidewater and mud.

13. Old country road, established in 1859, used 16th Street in what is now North Bend and much of what is now Lakeshore Drive in Empire.

14. In the first half of the 20th century two cranberry bogs were located a short distance southwest of here. Three more cranberry bogs were situated further to the north and north-west.

B John Topits Park - A Sampler of Native Plants & Trees: Coos, first peoples, food, clothing, etc.

This section of trail through John Topits park can be walked separately as a nature walk and to learn about how Coos first people lived and utilized the resources of this area.

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SAWMILL & TRIBAL TRAIL

The Sawmill & Tribal Trail is 5.6 miles one way and can be walked, bicycled or driven. Just look for the trail logo on numbered cedar post or on streets or sidewalks.

The trail is divided into three sections...

A) North Bend **B) John Topits Park** **C) Empire**

BACKGROUND
The Sawmill & Tribal Trail honors paths developed by Coos tribal ancestors that connected their bayside villages and hunting grounds. Later, settlers also used these trails.

Empire City, established 1853 among several tribal villages, became the population center with hotels, saloons, courthouse, school, brewery, general stores, 30 houses (1885) and a post office (1861). Henry H. Luse (Empire City, 1856) then Asa M. Simpson (North Bend, 1857) built sawmills on the bay. Simpson created the first shipyard (1858) also near tribal village sites.

In 1859 Coos County approved a North Bend - Empire City road. The route undoubtedly utilized some tribal paths. Teatotaler Charles Merchant refused to sell alcohol at Simpson's North Bend store so thirsty loggers, mill and shipyard workers went to Empire for saloons and entertainment. Hence the historic "Sawmill Trail" - more accurately titled the Sawmill & Tribal Trail.

Empire Waterfront 1884 - CHMM 967-1260



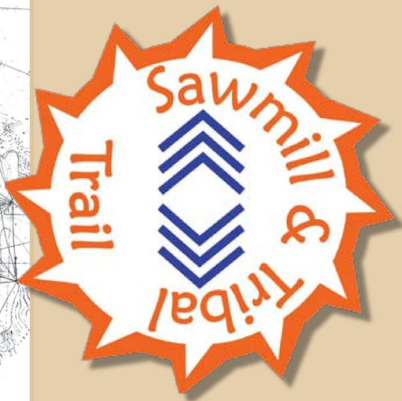
A Historical Journey through "The Bay Area"

A North Bend Points of Historic Significance

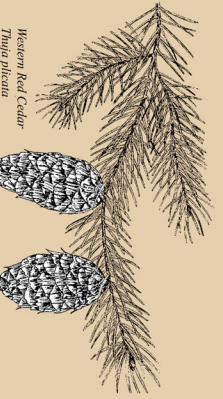
* This section can be accessed either from Ferry Road Park or Pony Village Mall and walked as either a 4.2 mile or 4.8 mile loop using the green return routes.

1. Site of Simpson's sawmill and shipyard, the original North Bend company town. (See signs)
2. Site of 1922 - 36 ferry service between North Bend and Glasgow (see sign.) At low tide walk north to a pebble beach for another view.
3. Plaque honoring Gahaklich - one of many Coos Tribal villages that dotted the bay area for thousands of years.
4. Ferry Road Park ball field, site of North Bend's 1902 pavilion - the town's community center for two decades.
5. Unusual view (from below) of McCullough Bridge. Built as Coos Bay Bridge in 1936, renamed in 1947. At 5,888 feet long, largest bridge on the Oregon Coast when constructed.
6. (no post) The Coos Historical and Maritime Museum – book and gift shop.
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Early North Bend Waterfront
CHMM 009-16,1803



1863 Coast Survey showing trail from Empire City to North Bend Saw Mill



Western Red Cedar
Thuja plicata

Coos Historical and Maritime Museum
1220 Sherman Avenue
North Bend, Oregon 97459
Phone: 541-756-6320
E-mail: sawmilltribaltrail@gmail.com



Salal - Gaultheria shallon