



**Two great forces shaped Oxbow:** the Sandy River and Mount Hood. More than 200 years ago, eruptions on Mount Hood sent lahars — massive flows of melted snow, sand and gravel — into the valleys below, burying the forest beneath 40 to 50 feet of sand. Hard bedrock causes the Sandy River to flow in a U-shaped bend here, similar to the oxbow shape of collars used on oxen.

Oxbow's human history dates back to the Indigenous people who have lived, fished and gathered here since time immemorial. The park operates on land that is ceded from several groups of Indigenous peoples.

White settlers created homesteads nearby in the late 1800s.

In 1988, the Sandy River was designated a National Wild and Scenic River thanks to neighbors and activists.

Oxbow is home to diverse wildlife such as Roosevelt elk, bald eagles, osprey, and runs of salmon and steelhead trout. Visitors can fish, float and swim in the Sandy River, or hike among majestic 700-year-old trees in the old-growth forest.



- PARK RULES**
- Do not feed wildlife or harvest plants, mushrooms, seeds or flowers.
  - **Pets are not allowed; they can damage habitat and threaten wildlife.**
  - Wood fires and charcoal are allowed in designated fire pits and barbecues only and must be attended at all times. Firewood gathering or cutting is prohibited.
  - Do not stick axes, knives, nails or other items into trees or tables.
  - Park gate closes at sunset and opens at 6:30 a.m. (closure time posted). Entry after gate closure is prohibited.

Violators of these or any other park rules are subject to citation and/or eviction. (Metro Code, Title 10)