

Instructions for
Gnat Creek, Y-2213
Astoria, OR
5/7/12km rated 1C/3C

Walk Start Location: Gnat Creek Fish Hatchery, 92645 Gnat Hatchery Road, Clatskanie, OR 97016, which is approximately 19 miles east of Astoria, OR on Hwy 30.

GPS Coords: 46.16921, -123.48749.

Driving Directions: From I-5 north or south bound at Longview WA take exit 36 onto hwy 432 for 3.5 miles to 3rd Ave and turn left to cross the bridge over the Columbia River into Oregon. Exit to the right heading west on Hwy 30 for 27 miles and then left into the Gnat Creek Hatchery.

Park: Just past the fish ponds park in front of the picnic shelter.

Restrooms: Port-o-potty available seasonally, bathrooms are in the office area when open and at the Gnat Creek Campground on the 5km route.

Walk Completion and Credit: Be sure to log back into the OSB system to finish/complete your online registration after doing the event. The OSB system does not deduct any event fee from a participant's Event Bank until they have submitted event completion info including the event was walked, the distance walked, and the selection of applicable special programs that person is participating in. (Nevertheless, a fee of \$2 for a downloaded PDF is deducted from the user's Event Bank when the PDF is downloaded. Later, any PDF fees are credited back to a user's Event Bank when he/she submits the event completion info as a paying for credit participant. Note, however, the \$2 coupon for the downloaded PDF will expire in 60 days.)

"Please use either the Online Start Box (OSB) or Physical Start Box (PSB) to register and complete the event. Do NOT mix and match, for example, by registering using the OSB then completing your event using the PSB nor signing the PSB log sheet. The sponsoring club only receives credit for an OSB participation when an OSB registration has been completed online by entering your participation date, distances, and any special programs using the OSB."

"These maps and directions may only be used in conjunction with a signed American Volkssport Association athletic waiver. All other uses are prohibited."

Copyright 2021, Columbia River Volkssport Club. Applies to all directions and maps.

For emergencies contact 911. Walk owner is Arline LaMear at 503-338-6883.

Gnat Creek Hatchery Visitors' Guide

Gnat Creek Hatchery was constructed in 1960 as part of the Columbia River Fisheries Development Program (Mitchell Act)—a program to enhance declining fish runs in the Columbia River Basin. The facility is used for egg incubation and rearing of spring Chinook and winter steelhead. Most of the production is released off-station.

The hatchery is an easy drive toward Oregon's coast on Highway 30 and a visitor-friendly place for the entire family. With lots to do, located on beautiful Gnat Creek and tucked away amid the rainforest, this is a worthwhile stop on the way to the coast.



Best time to visit: year-round; March - August for fishing.

Hours of operation: 7:30 a.m. to dusk; 7 days a week

Fish raised: spring Chinook salmon and steelhead

What to see and do: The hatchery is open to visitors daily from 7:30 a.m. to dusk, including a show pond with large rainbow trout and sturgeon, in addition to a fish food station for the public. An informational kiosk and picnic areas are available for visitor use. Spring Chinook and winter steelhead fill the fish raceways at Gnat Creek Hatchery. For visitors who want more than a day trip to explore the hatchery and adjacent Clatsop State Forest, Gnat Creek trail leads to a popular campground that is available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Nearby: Bradley State Scenic Viewpoint and Lewis and Clark National Wildlife Refuge. ADA-accessible restrooms are available at a nearby wayside.

Fishing: Steelhead are available to the angler from December through February. For the angler seeking spring Chinook, May to July is the best time at Gnat Creek. The hatchery provides 2-1/2 miles of easy fishing access for spring Chinook and winter steelhead.



Barrier Falls Trail

Trails: Three nature trails wind through a Coast Range forest and the Nicolai-Wickiup Watershed, providing visitors with miles of recreational opportunities. The trails begin at Gnat Creek Hatchery where visitors can learn about the salmon lifecycle and how hatcheries play a role in revitalizing listed and endangered native fish populations. One trail leads to the campground, while the others weave through Clatsop State Forest.

Along the trails are a variety of vegetation and habitats, many with marked plants, flowers and trees. This is a great place to hike year-round to see the seasonal changes of this coastal rainforest. Gnat Creek flows over an ancient basalt lava delta (Columbia River Basalt flows) that has been lifted by pressure to form the coast range. Gnat Creek falls nearly 2,000 feet over several water falls in just four short miles where it flows into the lower Columbia.

Wildlife viewing opportunities:

- The beautiful rainforest trails at Gnat Creek Hatchery and adjacent Clatsop State Forest sets the stage for optimal wildlife viewing and recreation including a variety of vegetation, both new and old as well as diverse wildlife opportunities including salmon and steelhead runs, American bald eagles, salamanders, deer and elk and a multitude of migrating birds.
- Year-round expect to see great blue heron, kingfisher, American dippers and migrating songbirds.
- In spring and summer, look for migrating salmon and steelhead, osprey and the occasional bald eagle. Warm weather also brings the sound of Pacific treefrogs adding to the mid-summer night's dream ambiance.
- During fall and winter there are often opportunities to see black-tail deer and Roosevelt elk on the upper Gnat Creek trail. In cold weather, nesting bald eagles and a pileated woodpecker can be seen.



Show ponds

Group and School Visits: Located between Astoria and St. Helens right on Highway 30, Gnat Creek Hatchery features ample parking for personal vehicles or buses. The hatchery supports education outreach, hosting many visits and tours throughout the year for students of all ages. In 2008, the hatchery built an outdoor classroom to further expand their commitment to education.

Directions: The hatchery is located 18 miles east of Astoria on Hwy. 30.

Address and Phone:

Gnat Creek Hatchery
92645 Gnat Hatchery Road
Clatskanie, OR 97016
(503) 455-2234

These directions may be used only upon registration at a currently sanctioned IVV/AVA event. For emergencies contact 911. Walk owner is Arline LaMear and she can be reached at 503-338-6883.



Gnat Creek Fish Hatchery

Sponsored by Columbia River Volkssport Club's
Turnaround Trekkers

5km Rated 1C, 7km and 12km Rated 3C, Stamp #2213

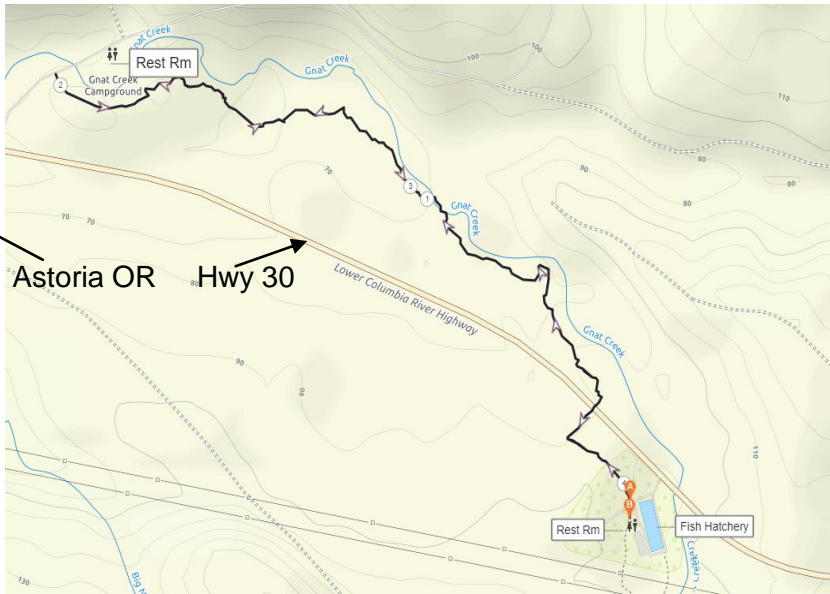
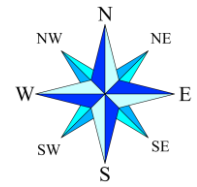


This event has 3 options. **Option #1.** 5km is an out and back from the picnic shelter to the campground and then along the trails near the hatchery to view the falls and creek. It is a mostly flat route on rugged forested trails with no significant hills. **Option #2.** 7km is an uphill climb along a rugged trail to the turnaround and back, and then around the falls near the hatchery. The uphill part can be slippery even in dry weather, but especially so during wet weather. Walking sticks would be helpful in either case. Yellow Jackets and hornets are prevalent during August on this part of the trail. You might want to carry an epi-pen. **Option #3.** Do Options #1 and #2 for the 12km.

1. With your back to the picnic shelter, turn **LEFT** and **CROSS** the road you drove in on, **ENTER** the Gnat Creek Campground Trail #27 located between two houses.
2. The trail crosses US-30. **Be very careful crossing the highway!** Bear **LEFT** at "T", keeping the highway on your left.
3. 2km when you exit the trail onto gravel road. A vault toilet is available to the **RIGHT** about 100 yards at the campground across the bridge.
4. **RETURN** to the trailhead and back to the hatchery parking lot. (4km)
5. Behind the picnic shelter, enter the trail by a sign reading "**Barrier Falls 1100**". Ignore the immediate trail to the right and **CONTINUE STRAIGHT**.
6. Follow this trail under the power lines.
7. **LEFT** at fork by tree marked #20.
8. At next fork, **DO NOT** take the trail to the right.
9. **CROSS** wooden bridge #13 to the road.
10. **RIGHT** on the road for a few feet and then **ENTER** Upper Gnat Creek Trail on the **RIGHT**.
11. Stay on the trail on the **RIGHT** side of the road through a wide open area in the trees with a bench. If you look carefully, you'll see Bigfoot in the woods.
5km Walkers, skip to #14.
12. **12km WALKERS** take the rugged forested trail uphill for about 3 ½ km. At the vertical, brown flexible "**Trail Loop**" marker, go **LEFT** to benches where you will have a view of Big Creek.
13. **TURNAROUND and RETRACE** your steps 3 ½ kms back to the wide open area with a bench. **EXIT** Upper Gnat Creek Trail.
14. **CROSS** the road and pick up the path on the other side.
15. Almost immediately, turn **RIGHT** and follow the trail for a good view of Gnat Creek. NOTE: The hardened lava in the creek that flowed down from Lewiston, Idaho area some 12 million years ago....and it took only 7 days!
16. **RETRACE** steps. **RIGHT** at "Y".
17. At next "Y", stay **LEFT**.
18. At "T" intersection, go **RIGHT** and **CONTINUE STRAIGHT** where 3 trails intersect.
19. **CROSS** a wooden foot bridge. Barrier Falls will be on your **RIGHT**.
20. After crossing foot bridge, **LEFT** on the trail.
21. At the "T", turn **RIGHT** passing a log fence overlooking Barrier Falls.
22. **CONTINUE** on the trail. NOTE: Just before entering a grassy trail through salal under the power lines, take time to read the interpretive sign regarding volcanic activity in the area.
23. Enter the parking lot under the wooden archway
24. **CONTINUE** through the parking lot with the hatchery ponds on the **LEFT**.
25. Just past the kiosk on the **RIGHT**, turn **RIGHT** and then quick **LEFT** downhill.
26. Hard **RIGHT** onto gravel trail and continue downhill toward the creek.
27. At "Y", stay **STRAIGHT and LEFT** to go around fallen tree in the trail.
28. Step over a log and look to upper left at unnamed falls.
29. **RETRACE** steps back to kiosk and picnic shelter.

We hope you've enjoyed this walk and will join us on our other routes from Astoria to Portland. Visit us at www.walking4fun.club.

Gnat Creek Walk by Columbia River Volkssport Club 5Km Route from Hatchery to Gnat Creek Campground



7.5Km route from Hatchery to upper Gnat Creek Trail loop turnaround

