



Nehalem Falls Loop Trail



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North Coast State Forest Coalition

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Choose this short, easy hike and enjoy an overlook at the end of the trail that allows you to see the falls alongside a cement fish ladder. The trail continues beyond the falls, paralleling the river bank before circling the end of the campground through dense forests and returning on the Foss Road side of the campground to a marked trailhead.

Details

- Hike Difficulty:** Easy
- Distance:** 0.7 miles
- Elevation Gain:** Approximately 100 feet
- Walk Duration:** About 30 minutes to complete the loop
- Condition:** Trail is nicely maintained, packed earth with a pine needle and/or sawdust cover



Directions to Trailhead

From Highway 53, turn South onto Miami Foley Road, which branches off the highway between mileposts 17 and 18, and follow this road for 0.8 miles to Foss Road. Turn left onto Foss Road and follow for 7 miles. Just short of milepost 7, you will see signs on your left and a short road leading to the Nehalem Falls Campground and Day Use Parking area. Park here. Just before reaching Drive-in Site #4, you will see a well with a trail sign just beyond it.

TRAIL LOG



This is a short, easy trail with little elevation change, offering beautiful vistas of the Nehalem River, lovely picnic spots and a dense, moss-shrouded forest with some lovely old giants. The trail surface is dirt with a generous covering of pine needles. As a day visitor, it is suggested to start the hike at the Nehalem Falls sign on the left before approaching the Day Use Parking area. The trail follows a short set of widely-spaced steps toward the river and comes to a nicely placed bend for a beautiful view of the falls and a picnic, or farther down there is a viewing area overlooking the falls. This spot offers an attractive spot with a satisfying rushing river sound and an impressive set of rocks and boulders. After a few dozen yards, the trail branches to the left (upstream) and follows a large loop around the campground. Along the way, the trail passes an assortment of well-located picnic spots with tables and benches, as well as small paths branching off



towards the river, some offering resting spots and views of the river and other providing beach access. Along the riverside, there are a lot of berry bushes (thimbleberry, salmonberry, blackberry, and lots of pink huckleberry) as well as salal, sword fern, and various groundcovers. The forest consists of a variety of trees including Sitka spruce, Western hemlock, and Douglas fir, many with thick-hanging moss on their limbs. In the fall, there can be many interesting fungi as well. The trail climbs a bit at the top of the loop with a combination of manmade stairs and stairs formed from old tree roots. There are a number of huge, moss and fungi-covered stumps from mid-century logging, as well as a few big, old trees still hanging on. There are no trail markers except at the beginning/end, but the trail is easy to follow as it skirts the river and circles the campground.



Info and photos from Sue Griffith