

Columbia Park/Annex Discovery Walk-Shallow Dive

1. Begin at the Formal Gate (corner of Russet and Lombard). With the consolidation of Albina, East Portland and Portland in 1891, Columbia Park was a dedicated public space. Formal planning began in 1903 when J. C. Olmsted first visited for city-wide park planning.
2. Columbia Cottage (**public restrooms on each end, drinking fountain behind**)--The brick building ahead is Columbia Cottage. After efforts to gain City funding for a clubhouse in 1939 failed, North Portland community groups raised \$10,000 to fund the project, dedicated June 16, 1940. It was used in WWII as the Oregon Guard's State Headquarters, and afterwards was used to host innumerable community events. In 1992, it was nearly torn down and replaced by a parking lot. That activated neighbors who formed Friends of Columbia Park, and saved this excellent facility. Columbia Cottage is open to rent, with a medium sized meeting room, kitchen, and inside bathrooms. See details at FOCP.org. You can find news on upcoming park events in the kiosk near the front entrance.
3. Facing the Cottage, go right (east) to the Nature Patch (2019)-a new initiative from the Parks Dept. seeks to bring natural elements to the urban park setting, especially for educational purposes. Past the Nature Patch and turning toward the Pool Building is "The Promenade", under a series of Linden trees, planted in 1920. They've been shading and perfuming this walkway for over a hundred years. Emanuel Mische's early design (about 1908) also included a bandstand and fountains terminating at either end of the axis in the eastern portion of the park.
4. On to Columbia Pool/buildings "To meet the growing demand for public swimming facilities, the city built three municipal pools during the 1920s: Creston in 1925, Grant in 1926, and Columbia in 1928." The large, open field follows the early Olmsted recommendation--used for a variety of sports. Tennis courts were added in 1925)/re-surfaced in 2018/**drinking fountain**.
5. Continuing down the alley of primarily Douglas Fir trees to the Children's playground (also per the Olmsted plan), and a splash pad which recently replaced the original wading pool. Most of the traditional playground equipment has been updated with the exception of the older cascading iron climbing structure. Historic Comfort Station (1922/designed by Ellis Lawrence)-this lovely building is on the National Register of Historic Places as part of Lawrence's legacy. It has **a restroom/drinking fountain** (open seasonally) and space to get out of the rain or sun. Follow the pathway on around to complete the loop.
6. Columbia Annex: across Lombard St. along Woolsey St. to the south of the main Park. 5.75 acres were donated in 1942 by Mary Mock Yeon, b. 1875, d. 1955. The historic Queen Anne style Mock House (built in 1894) stands adjacent to the south end of the

Annex on Willamette Boulevard, overlooking the Willamette River. Mary grew up in the house, and generously left a legacy of open space that continues to be well-used by Portlanders. Currently, there are ball fields, a dozen or so horseshoe pits, and a playground at “The Annex” as locals call it. There are excellent views from the south end of the park overlooking Swan Island towards downtown. A train tunnel runs directly to the north beneath this end of the park.