

Shevlin Park Natural History



Three parking areas are giving good access to the park. One is upstream and one downstream near the formal entrance. Another one is on Shevlin Park Road a short walk from the entrance. You can also get to the park from the private Tree Farm subdivision, but parking is restricted, so biking may be a better alternative. Several, most parallel trails, as the map below shows, follow the general orientation of the stream. The paved one is great for strollers and young bicyclists, but the others, with exception of the bike-restricted one, are great for more adventurous bicyclists. There are connecting trails and a few bridges so you can always turn back early if you want. If you want to encircle the entire park, the length is about five miles. There are several benches along the way where you can rest, but avoid many of the protected riparian areas.

Shevlin Park was created in 1921 and is managed by Bend Parks and Recreation Department.

Fremont Meadow at the south end of the park (about two miles from the entrance) is where John C. Fremont camped in the spring of 1843.

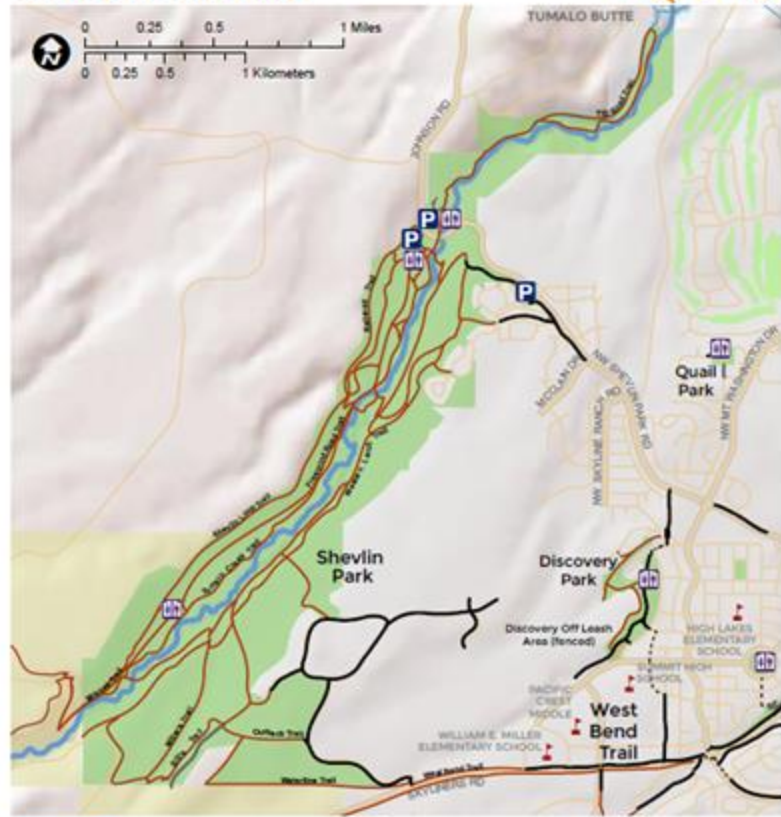
The area, like much of central Oregon, is made up of Quaternary volcanic lava flows. The lava layers are very evident throughout much of the park.



All pictures are taken by Bob Earle at Shevlin Park

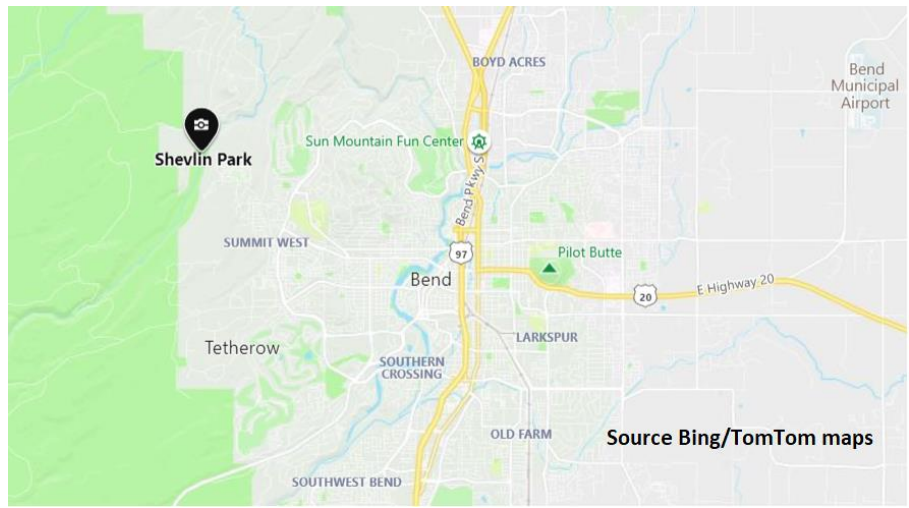
Shevlin Park Trails

play for life



	Paved Trail		BPRD Park
	Gravel Trail		Dog Off Leash Area
	Natural Surface Trail		Other Public Land
	Road/Sidewalk Connection		Golf Course

 www.bendparksandrec.org

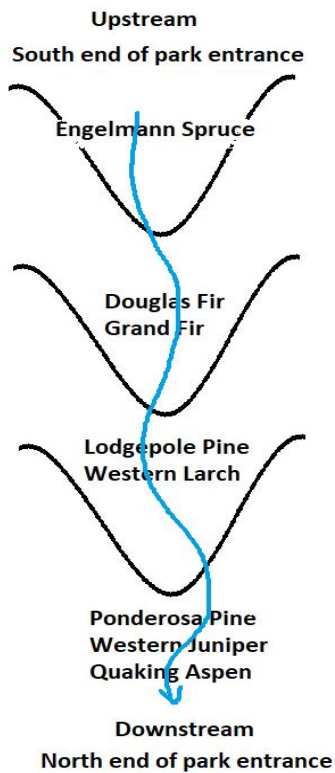


General Location (Near Bend, Oregon)

Common Landscape



General Location of Trees of Shevlin Park



When you first start at the entrance to the park you will notice ponderosa pine, western juniper, and quaking aspen, then as you proceed upstream or to the south, you will notice more species. The chart at the left depicts this pattern.

You will also notice that many of those upstream species stick closer to the stream because of the availability of water. Colder air also will accumulate often at the bottom of canyons and favor tree species that are often found at higher elevations. Douglas-fir and grand fir typically occur a thousand feet higher in elevation, and other than Shevlin Park other specimens are located miles away. And the Engelmann spruce occurs usually occurs at much higher elevations.

About ten to twenty thousand years ago a glacier pushed its way down the Tumalo Creek canyon to within seven miles of Shevlin Park. It was one of the few glaciers that extended well beyond the crest of the Cascade Mountains. This confirms the cold nature of the Tumalo Creek drainage, and why even today, it retains some of its glacial history.



Quaking Aspen Fall Colors



Winter Picture of the same area

Quaking aspen (also known as trembling aspen) are quite evident throughout the park, particularly within a few hundred meters of the creek. They aren't as widespread as the ubiquitous ponderosa pine, yet they really stand out in the fall with the bright yellow leaves. Some years we are blessed with more reds and orange leaves. Quaking aspen happens to be the most widespread tree in North America. They usually tend to favor the higher elevations and areas near streams, or sometimes on a slope that has an underground source of water.

Quaking Aspen (*Populus Tremuloides*)



The leaves



Work of the beaver

Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*)



Shevlin Park has some assemblages of conifers that you don't usually see in other parts of the west. In California's Sierra, you have Douglas-firs and ponderosa pine in the lower elevations about 2500 feet to 5000 feet, while the Engelmann spruce and lodgepole pine stick to the higher areas, starting at about 7500 feet elevation. Although this mixture of trees is found together in other parts of the eastern Cascades, they usually tend to separate into their preferred elevations.



The cone



The needles

Grand Fir (*Abies Grandis*)



Mature Grand Fir



Young Grand Fir



Grand Fir Needles

Engelmann Spruce (*Picea engelmannii*)



Western Larch (*Larix Occidentalis*)



Summer



Colors Changing Fall



Winter No Leaves

Western Juniper (Juniperus Occidentalis)



Juniper Berries



Juniper Mistletoe

Ponderosa Pine (*Pinus Ponderosa*)



Needles

Lodgepole Pine (*Pinus Contorta*)



Manzanita:



Leaves and Berries:





**Grand Fir (lower)
Douglas-fir (upper)**



Douglas-fir



Engelmann Spruce

Sometimes it's tough to tell trees apart. Take for instance the upper left photo – the Douglas-fir droops, where the grand fir needles typically lie flat. The Douglas-fir is mature and older trees of many species often will droop due to the weight of their long branches. Whereas the Douglas-fir on the upper right is young, and the branches point a little upwards. The Engelmann spruce to the left is drooping as well, yet sometimes the branches will be more horizontal.

Fremont Meadow

