

STAYTON TRAIL SYSTEM



Come take
a walk in
Stayton...



Stayton, located on the clear and fishable North Santiam River, is a small community of 7,200 -- and growing. Stayton was originally built on waterpower and today grows on people with pride. While most of the water wheels are gone, the canals and tailraces that served them remain, carrying water past parks, through the historic downtown, to farms and to cities as far away and as large as Salem, the State Capitol.

We're known for our volunteerism here. Volunteers have routinely come forward to build and repair public structures, playgrounds, trails, and our community entrance signs.



North channel of the North Santiam River

Now a fast growing community, Stayton is attracting residential development to the abandoned lands along our waterways. The banks of the various watercourses and accompanying wetlands and riverfront have become the foundation of a community trail system, tying together our parks, community center, library, swimming pool and covered bridge.

Our trail system involved an extensive planning process, with considerable input from the community and technical assistance from the National Park Service.



Neitling Park Trail to Jordan Covered Bridge

Our famous covered bridge links Pioneer Park, with its giant fir trees, to Wilderness Park, a land of wetlands and waterways inhabited by pond turtles, osprey and salmon. Because it is unique, Pioneer Park has become the home of the annual covered bridge festival.

Old storefronts downtown are being restored. As an example, walking the two short blocks from one watercourse to another, you will pass the local newspaper, police station, city hall, a vintage movie

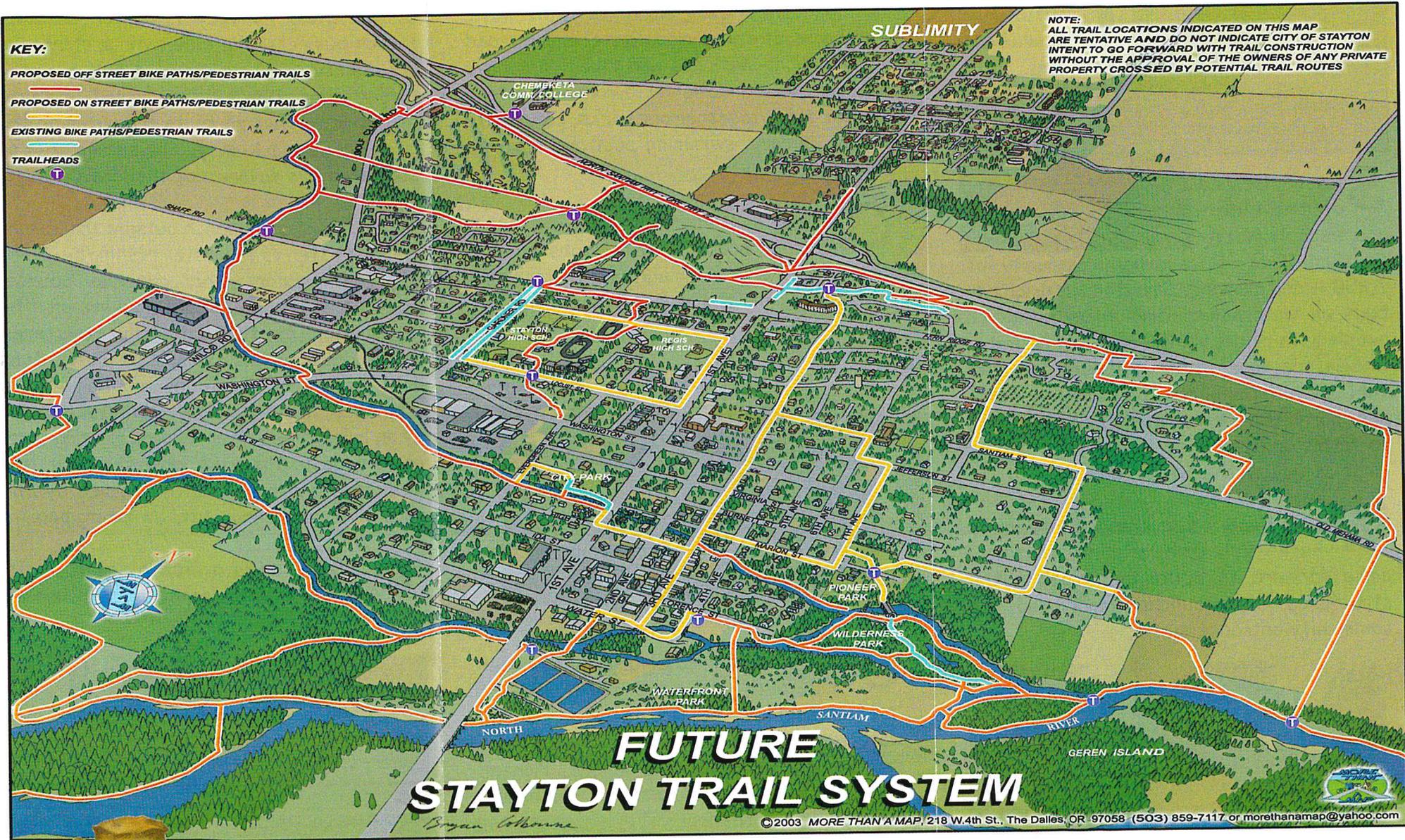
theater still in operation, several restaurants, shoe repair, and barber shop, all operating as they have for decades. Newer businesses include antique stores, an art gallery, a music store, a bakery and a coffee shop. Don't be surprised to see a drift boat or two zip by to the put-in on the river only a block away. The summer run of steelhead is a favorite of the locals.

Sit on a shaded bench outside the library and listen to the water rushing by. Some 40 feet across the gurgling course, volunteers can be seen working on the restoration of the nationally registered Brown House, a fine example of Queen Anne architecture. Your only interruption, if it is a hot day, might be a few children floating by on inner tubes. This relaxed floating from one bridge to the next, past the park, is a local tradition only slightly dimmed by the recently covered municipal swimming pool.

Yes, Stayton is a nice place to visit. You might even want to live here!



Wilderness Park Trail



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www.nps.gov/ccso/rtca

