

Where to Find Fall Color in Washington County



By Susan Mates

As autumn days cool, Washington County comes alive with bright reds, oranges and yellows—a vivid contrast to the deep greens of our characteristic conifers. Farms, vineyards, forests, neighborhoods, and the mature plantings in old cemeteries all offer places to enjoy the colors, crisp air, and unmistakable atmosphere of fall.

You don't have to drive far to find beautiful foliage. In fact, some suburban neighborhoods can offer an even broader palette than our native-dominated forests because of the variety of deciduous trees planted along streets and around homes.

Fall color varies tremendously from street to street and year to year, depending on weather, tree species and timing. The places below are not meant to be a definitive “best of” list, but rather some promising places to explore. Part of the fun is discovering your own favorite fall-color streets and trees.

Use this [interactive map](#) to explore fall color destinations across Washington County, then scroll down here for neighborhood routes and local tips.

In Beaverton

For dense suburban reds, oranges and yellows, explore residential neighborhoods as well as parks.

 **Hart Road between Murray and Hall**, along with the residential streets branching off Hart around Hyland and Highland, can be worth exploring for colorful planted trees.

 **Weir Road and the Conestoga area** offer another route through established neighborhoods with a mixture of mature trees.

 **Commonwealth Lake and the surrounding Cedar Hills neighborhood** combine mature trees, open water and a variety of planted species whose colors can change at different times throughout the fall.

 **For a drive:** Hart Road → Murray → Weir Road → 155th/170th area → Cooper Mountain/Gassner Road.

 **Cooper Mountain Evangelical Cemetery**, on Gassner Road, is a small historic rural cemetery. If you are passing through the area, it can serve as an atmospheric landmark on the way to Cooper Mountain Nature Park. As with any cemetery, visit respectfully.

 **Cooper Mountain Nature Park** offers a more natural setting, with approximately 3½ miles of trails through woodland, prairie and oak habitat. Its hillside location also provides broad views toward the Chehalem Mountains and across the Tualatin Valley. The mixture of habitats creates plenty of variety as autumn progresses.
Sorry, no dogs allowed.

In Bethany

Bethany and North Bethany offer a different kind of fall-color experience. In newer neighborhoods, rows of deciduous street trees can sometimes change color at roughly the same time, creating entire blocks of red, orange, and yellow rather than just one spectacular tree.

 **NW Springville Road → Kaiser Road → Brugger Road → 170th/West Union Road**, wandering through residential streets along the way. The newer North Bethany neighborhoods can be especially interesting when their street trees begin changing together.

 **PCC Rock Creek campus** is an often-overlooked fall destination. Portland Community College's 260-acre campus includes woodlands, wetlands, grasslands and many mature specimen trees, offering a variety of landscapes within a relatively small area.

 **For a drive:** Continue west on West Union Road toward the Rock Creek and Helvetia fringe for a transition from suburban neighborhoods to older rural landscapes. Bethany Presbyterian Church on Springville Road can serve as an easy navigation landmark, but the streets and countryside themselves are the attraction.

In Hillsboro and Cornelius

Hillsboro has been a Tree City USA since 2018 and has continued expanding its urban forestry efforts. Its planted street trees, newer developments, and older neighborhoods offer plenty of opportunities for fall exploration.

Some corridors worth trying include:

 **Cornell Road through Orenco**

 **Evergreen Parkway west of 185th**, where trees line portions of the median and roadside

 **Shute Road near the Ronler Acres area**, particularly when its median trees turn orange.

 **Brookwood Parkway around Dawson Creek**

 **Downtown Hillsboro:** walk the older street grid around Main, Baseline and 1st through 7th avenues. The historic settings around All Saints–Todos los Santos Episcopal Church and St. Matthew Catholic Church can provide attractive combinations of older architecture and autumn foliage.

 **Jackson Bottom Wetlands Preserve:** explore over 4 miles of trails through wet meadows, riparian corridor, and upland ash/Douglas-fir woods along the Tualatin River, as well as their free Nature Center.

 **For a drive:** Cornell through Orenco → Shute Road → Evergreen Parkway → Brookwood Parkway → downtown Hillsboro.

Head into wine country

South and west of Hillsboro and Cornelius, the [Vineyard and Valley Scenic Tour Route](#) winds for about 60 miles through Washington County's rural and agricultural landscape, with farms, vineyards, and long views toward the Coast Range and across the Tualatin Valley.

You certainly don't need to drive the entire route. The Cornelius → Blooming → Fern Hill → Gaston side of the county makes a lovely fall excursion. Vineyard foliage can turn brilliant yellow during the harvest season, and fall is also a good time to watch for farm stands, orchards, and U-pick farms offering local apples and other produce.

In Tigard

Fall color in Tigard may be more scattered than in some neighborhoods dominated by street maples, but there are still plenty of places to explore and some gems. Older residential streets can be especially rewarding.

 **Crescent Grove Cemetery & Mausoleum**, on Greenburg Road, is an 1852 pioneer cemetery with historic gravestones and mature landscaping. It can be a peaceful place to appreciate autumn trees while also taking in a bit of local history.

 **For a drive:** old downtown Tigard → residential streets around SW Johnson and Main → Greenburg Road → Hall Boulevard → neighborhoods toward Walnut and 135th.

Rather than focusing only on major arterials, turn onto the quieter side streets and see what you discover.

In Forest Grove and Western Washington County

Head west and the landscape begins to change. Around Forest Grove, fall color mixes with historic neighborhoods, wetlands, vineyards, farms, and wooded hillsides. Here, the pleasure is as much in exploring the backroads and broader autumn landscape as in seeking out individual spectacular trees.

 **Pacific University and the surrounding older Forest Grove neighborhoods** make an excellent walking destination. The historic campus has large lawns, mature trees, and buildings from several eras. From there, wander through the residential streets around downtown Forest Grove for a mixture of fall foliage, older homes, a grove of towering oak trees, and plenty of leaves to scuffle underfoot.

 **Verboort, Visitation Road and NW Martin Road area** offers a quieter country drive through farms, open fields, and older rural landscapes. Visitation Cemetery can provide a small historic stop along the way, but the pleasure is really in exploring the surrounding backroads.

 **Fernhill Wetlands:** walk a ~1-mile loop around Fernhill Lake with wetland and native plantings.

 **Helvetia backroads.** Try the countryside around NW West Union, Helvetia, Jackson School, Yungen and Scotch Church roads. The historic Old Scotch Church and surrounding farmland are especially photogenic in autumn. The church cemetery adds another glimpse of Washington County's pioneer history.

 **David Hill.** For a more exploratory drive, try the roads climbing west and northwest of Forest Grove toward David Hill. Here the landscape shifts toward vineyards, individual deciduous trees, farms, and broad views across the valley. David Hill Vineyards & Winery occupies a particularly scenic

hillside setting, but simply exploring the public roads in this area can be rewarding.

Help Us Find Washington County's Best Fall Trees

Be on the lookout for individual trees, streets or neighborhoods that stand out for their fall beauty. If you find a favorite, send us a [Fall Tree Color Report](#) so we can begin building an even better community guide for future years. You can also send us a photograph of a tree in its autumn glory.

Fall color in Washington County often puts on its best show from mid-October into early November, although the timing can vary considerably with the weather, location and tree species.

So keep your eyes open—and don't be afraid to turn down a side street. Some of the best fall color may be only a few blocks from home.

If you are bicycling rather than driving, check local bicycle maps and road conditions before setting out. Some of the rural and arterial roads mentioned here may not be comfortable for all riders.



References and Resources:

- *Guide to Oregon's Brilliant Fall Leaves*, Taj Barnhart Morgan, Eugene Cascades & Coast, August 22, 2025.
<https://www.eugenecascadescoast.org/blog/post/oregon-fall-foliage/>
- *Guide to Fall Foliage in Oregon*, Jason Notte, Travel Oregon, September 15, 2025.

<https://traveloregon.com/things-to-do/trip-ideas/favorite-trips/guide-to-fall-foliage-in-oregon/>