

# Cooper Mountain Nature Park Letterbox Activity

**Terrain:** Unpaved and dirt trails

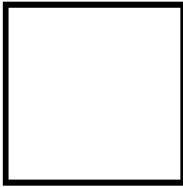
**Difficulty:** Moderate

**Distance:** 1 mile round trip

## Cooper Mountain Letterbox #1:

Enter the park on the main trail next to the kiosk. Turn right at the “triangle” trail intersection and notice the Willamette Valley ponderosa pine woodland around you.

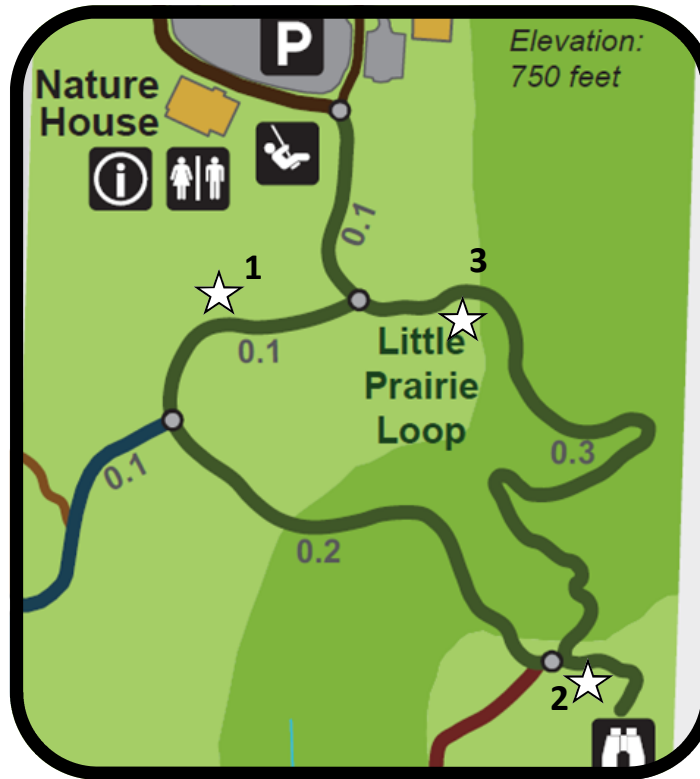
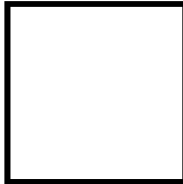
Count the whorls of branches on the trees to figure out the age of the trees. Remember to count whorls that have been trimmed back to the trunk. Just before you leave the pine woodland, look on your right at the base of a pine tree.



## Cooper Mountain Letterbox #2:

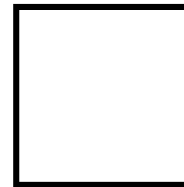
Continue down the trail past the interpretive sign on your right, staying straight on the trail to the Little Prairie Loop at the intersection with the Cooper Mountain Loop.

Walk through the Douglas-fir forest to the intersection with Blacktail Way Trail. Turn slightly left and uphill and walk about 100 feet onto the small spur trail that leads to the Little Prairie Viewpoint. Look for the three large Oregon white oak trees on your right and search the base of these oaks. How is this oak woodland different from the Douglas-fir forest you just walked through?



## Cooper Mountain Letterbox #3:

Walk back to the Little Prairie Loop, turning right and uphill. Follow the trail past several switchbacks to where it emerges from the Douglas-fir forest back into the pine woodland. Look for the metal “squirrel nest” on your left you search the base of a pine tree just to the right of the nest. How much farther can you see through the trees in this woodland compared to the trees in the Douglas-fir forest? How does this habitat benefit a hunter, such as a hawk, looking for mice?

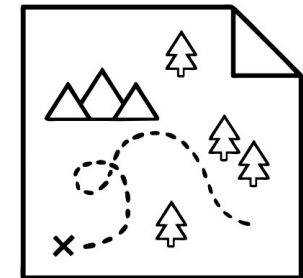


**Remember:** Watch out for poison oak!  
Stay on the trail.



Tualatin Hills Nature Park and  
Cooper Mountain Nature Park

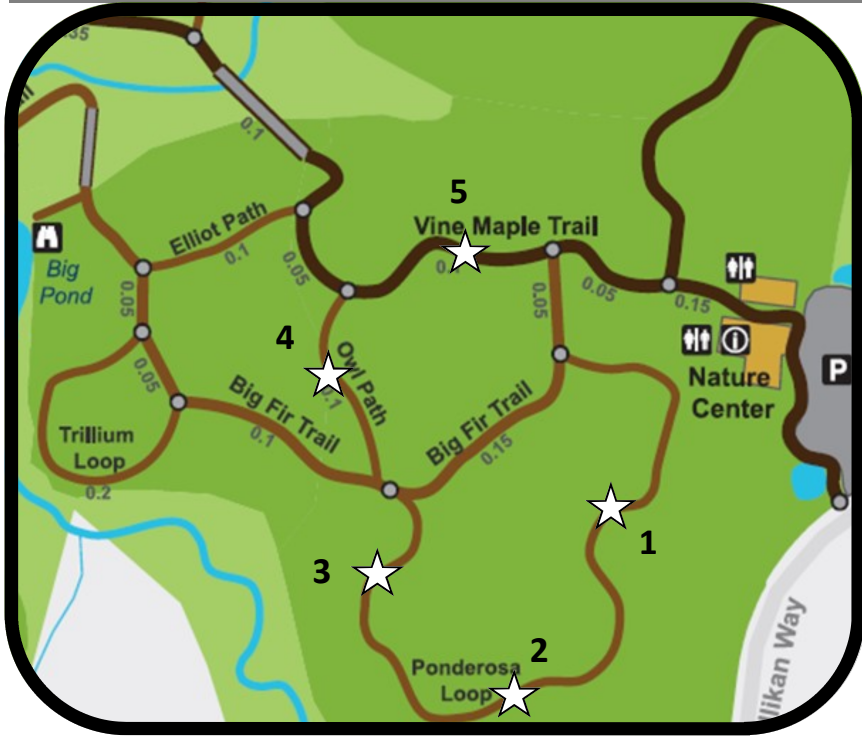
# Letterbox Activity



Bring your completed clue sheet back to the Tualatin Hills Nature Center to receive a small prize, while supplies last!

**#THPRDNature**

# Tualatin Hills Nature Park Letterbox Activity

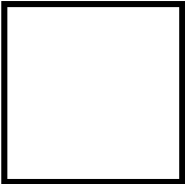


**What is Letterboxing?**  
 Letterboxing is a fun type of scavenger hunt. The clues will guide you to spots in the park the trail where you will search for the letterbox hidden within one or two steps of the trail. When you find the box, you will use the stamp and pad inside to stamp your clue sheet. Remember to replace the letterboxes as you found them, hidden out of site, with lids closed tight and all contents in the containers provided.  
 Good luck and have fun!

**Terrain:** Paved and dirt trails  
**Difficulty:** Easy  
**Distance:** 1.2 mile round trip

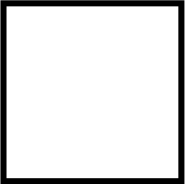
**Tualatin Hills Nature Park Letterbox #1:**

Begin your adventure by following the Vine Maple Trail. Stay straight on the main trail and take your first left on the Big Fir Trail and then the next left to the Ponderosa Loop. As you walk, notice the grove of Oregon white oak trees you are walking under. Just before you reach the oak interpretive sign, look for a cluster of oak trees on your left. Look in between the two, large oak trees closest to the path about twenty yards before the oaks interpretive sign.



**Tualatin Hills Nature Park Letterbox #2:**

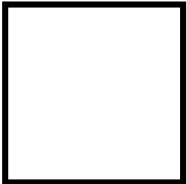
Continue on the Ponderosa Loop. How are the trees changing as you walk into an evergreen forest. Look for an old stump from long ago to the left of the path. Just across on the right, you will see a notable Douglas-fir tree that curves away from the trail and then back again. Your clue box can be found by the tree just past the stump on the left side of the trail. Notice the understory of our incredible vine maple trees.



Please share your experience using **#THPRDNature**

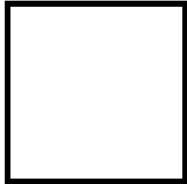
**Tualatin Hills Nature Park Letterbox #3:**

As you walk along the path, stop to admire the large, fallen trees and their exposed roots. Do you see any critters in this habitat? Continue on the path until you pass a bench on your left. Just before the boardwalk, look for the clue box where the two large fallen trees intersect. What do you think caused all these trees to fall?



**Tualatin Hills Nature Park Letterbox #4:**

Continue on the trail until you come to an intersection lined with tree rounds. Make a slight left and then take the first right onto the Owl Path. Keep your eye to the left of the trail for a large big-leaf maple with seven trunks. Your clue box is attached to the small tree with two trunks in front of the maple and nestled in the Oregon grape. How are the leaves of the big-leaf maple different from the vine maple?



**Tualatin Hills Nature Park Letterbox #5:**

Head back towards the paved Vine Maple Trail and take a right towards the Nature Center. Continue on the trail past the "Lichens Like Clean Air" sign. The path curves to the right and is flanked by two large trees. On the right is a black cottonwood with two trunks. On the left is a Willamette Valley ponderosa pine with the clue box below. If you reach the cluster of three stumps on the right, you have gone too far. How does the bark of the trees compare to each other?

