

Hikes at Valhalla Tree Farm

Explore the natural beauty of our lowland forest with these curated trails. From hidden ponds to panoramic views, each hike offers a unique experience tied to the land's rich history and evolving ecosystem.

1. Jill's Secret Lake Trail

½ Mile Round Trip

This isn't truly a lake—it's the next beaver pond upstream from the Norwegian Hytte on Jordan Creek. Our niece Jill discovered it in the early 2000s, and we've called it hers ever since.

Massive boulders the size of garages tumbled down from Deer Mountain centuries ago and now rest gracefully across the creek. Beavers have tried off and on to build dams among these rocks, making each visit to the pond a little different.

Trailhead: Look for a signpost near the end of the gravel road, across from the Norwegian Cabin. Follow the flags through a second-growth forest to a clearing beside a large log. From there, you can venture carefully out on the logjam of massive, preserved old-growth timbers and enjoy views of Deer Mountain's rugged slope.

2. Creek Extension – For Adventurous Hikers Only

Optional Add-On

Continue upstream past Jill's Lake by finding the flag at the south end of the grove. A faint game trail follows the creek and reveals signs of abundant wildlife. You'll come upon another quiet beaver pond and eventually emerge onto an abandoned logging road.

This road, once considered for gravel extraction, was spared thanks to local efforts—and the rocky cliffs nearby were designated a falcon reserve. Follow the road to the historic Jordan Cemetery (about ½ mile), resting place of early homesteaders.

Note: This 2-hour loop is rough and best for experienced hikers. Return via Jill's Lake Trail or carefully walk to Jordan Road back to the main gate. Use caution—there's little shoulder.

3. Huckleberry Hill, Chapel, and Loop Trail

¼ Mile Round Trip

Just beyond Dave's House and across the culvert, this hill rises steeply on your left. The NW slope was harvested and replanted with cedar in 2018, while the SE side remains a lovely second-growth forest of fir, cedar, and hemlock—thinned in 2019 to promote healthy growth.

Trailhead: Start at the bottom road near the Huckleberry Hill campsite. On the way up, you'll pass the off-grid A-Frame cabin. Continue to a small chapel built by Dave's dad, inspired by the 13th-century stave churches of Norway.

4. Huckleberry Hill (H/H) Loop Trail

¾ Mile Loop

Look for the "H/H Loop" sign behind the A-Frame parking area. This gentle loop trail winds through a young cedar stand (planted 2008), then into the older forest, eventually connecting to an historic 1901 logging road. The route descends toward the gravel creek road and the Norwegian Cabin with further trails upstream.

As you walk, keep an eye out for the massive old-growth stump with a huge huckleberry bush growing out of the top, eight feet above your head. A reminder of the forest's original grandeur.

5. Popcorn Pond Loop Trail

1/8 Mile Round Trip

Trailhead: Begins at the Popcorn Pond camp or the sign along the gravel road. Caution: There may be a camper at the popcorn pond site. In that case, go to the sign along the gravel road and visit the pond from that direction, making sure to respect the camp's privacy

Back in 1958, this one-acre pond was full of tiny jumping fish—earning its name from the popcorn-like activity on the water's surface. Though it's now a smaller gravel-bottom pond, the area teems with life including salmon smolt.

Relax on the bench in a quiet cove, then follow the trail past the remnants of the old dam, watching for young trout and salmon fry. The loop brings you to a second bench at a pond overlook where our canoe and dock sit. The trail loops back to the main gravel road.

6. Lookout Rock Trail

1/2 Mile Round Trip (Steep in places)

Trailhead: Behind the Norwegian Hytte Cabin.

Ask the cabin guests if you can access the trail—it begins behind and to the left of the building. The short, steep trail threads up to a rocky outcrop with sweeping views of the Valhalla property, Olympic Mountains, and surrounding forest.

At night, look for the solar-powered spotlight installed at the lookout—it can be seen from miles away. Please don't disturb it, and stay back from the edge for safety.

7. Cattail Cove Trail

250 Ft Round Trip

Trailhead: Off the main gravel road.

This short, grassy path leads to the edge of the large pond where parts of the movie *Penelope* were filmed in 2022. You'll find thriving cutthroat trout, birds, and even freshwater shrimp.

You're welcome to fish here by kayak or canoe, but please avoid the area near the beaver dam to the left—our local beavers may be living nearby.

8. Lower Pond Loop Trail

1/8 Mile Round Trip

Trailhead: Just before the culvert on the way to the back of the property.

Follow the marked trail alongside a small stream. About 400 feet in, the trail splits:

- **Right:** Leads to the lower pond and the old dam site.
 - **Left:** Loops through a 2018 clear-cut now replanted with cedar, offering views of Dave's house and the in-law apartment. The trail reconnects with the main gravel road.
-

Trail Tips & Notes

- Bring good shoes—some trails include uneven footing, log crossings, or steep sections.
- Make noise as you walk—talking or whistling helps avoid surprise wildlife encounters.
- Interested in trail work? Talk to Dave! Help us maintain trails in exchange for future stays.