**From the Washington Trails Association** [Website](https://www.wta.org/go-hiking/hikes/palouse-to-cascades-trail-rattlesnake-lake?fbclid=IwAR1AYV3xpv4Sh_LIcALDDdmPbylcez6UUWdcCMVQeV4SplDk2H5sQHYNQ_k)

“Formerly known as the John Wayne Trail, the Palouse to Cascades Trail in Iron Horse State Park provides access to notable North Bend hikes, views of mountains and waterfalls, and a journey back into Washington’s history. Take in the wildlife and cross soaring bridges as you make a level traverse from Rattlesnake Lake to Change and Hall Creeks 5.5 miles to the east.

The Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul, and Pacific Railroad operated from 1908 until 1980, when it went bankrupt. The Department of Natural Resources acquired the railroad’s land, forming the 100-foot-wide Iron Horse State Park that traverses the state from east to west. The park contains more than 100 miles of trail from Cedar Falls to the Columbia River, all of it with a grade of 2.2% or less. The John Wayne Pioneer Wagons and Riders Association helped create the trail.”

**From the Snoqualmie Tribe’s** [Website](https://snoqualmietribe.us/snoqualmie-tribe-ancestral-lands-trails/)

“For time immemorial, the Snoqualmie People used an extensive trail system to reach fishing, hunting and gathering places and to visit relatives in other tribes across the region. The Snoqualmie villages along Lake Sammamish & Lake Washington connected to a series of trails that made it easy to travel throughout Snoqualmie ancestral lands. Travel regularly occurred from Snoqualmie villages between the southern Salish sea, the Tolt, Cedar and Snoqualmie Rivers and then across the Cascades to Yakama. Taking advantage of these ancient trails and using Indigenous guides, early settlers were able to travel across Snoqualmie Pass connecting eastern Washington to Seattle. Many of these trails eventually became rail lines and roads because they were already established travel paths. Using the original trails over the Cascades, the Snoqualmie Wagon Road would eventually become known as the Sunset Highway and later Interstate 90. The next time you are traveling along one of these ancient trails, take a mindful moment to remember the history of this land and it’s ancient, unbroken connection with the Snoqualmie People.”

**About the park (**From [Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iron_Horse_State_Park))

Iron Horse State Park, part of the Washington State Park System, is a 1,612-acre (7 km2) state park located in the Cascade Mountains and Yakima River Valley, between Cedar Falls on the west and the Columbia River on the east.

The park is contiguous with a rail trail that crosses Snoqualmie Pass. The trail is located within the former right-of-way of The Milwaukee Road, officially the Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul and Pacific Railroad. Most of the right-of-way between Cedar Falls and the Idaho border was acquired by the state, through a quitclaim deed, as a result of the railroad's 1977 bankruptcy. As part of the reorganization of the company, the railroad embargoed its lines west of Miles City, Montana, in 1980 and ceased service in Washington. The state acquired the land in the early 1980s and eventually converted the right-of-way west of the Columbia River into a 110-mile (177 km) hiking, mountain biking, and horseback riding trail. The trail, known as the Palouse to Cascades State Park Trail, continues beyond Iron Horse State Park to the Idaho border.[1][2] Iron Horse State Park contains the most developed portion of the trail.

At Cedar Falls, the west end of Iron Horse State Park, the Palouse to Cascades State Park Trail connects to the Snoqualmie Valley Trail of the King County Regional Trail System.[3] The Snoqualmie Valley Trail is built on a portion of the former Milwaukee Road branch line from Cedar Falls to Everett.

Also of interest: <https://mtsgreenway.org/blog/legacy-of-the-milwaukee-road-railway/>