

Pre's Trail

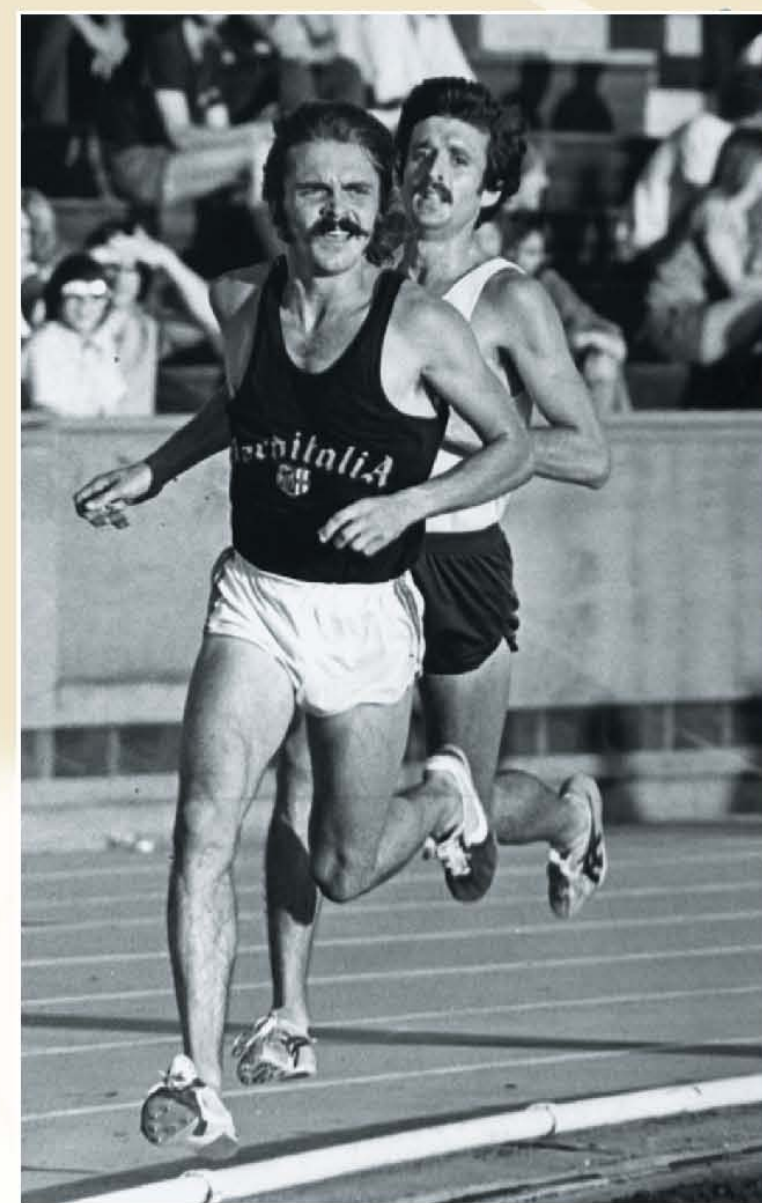
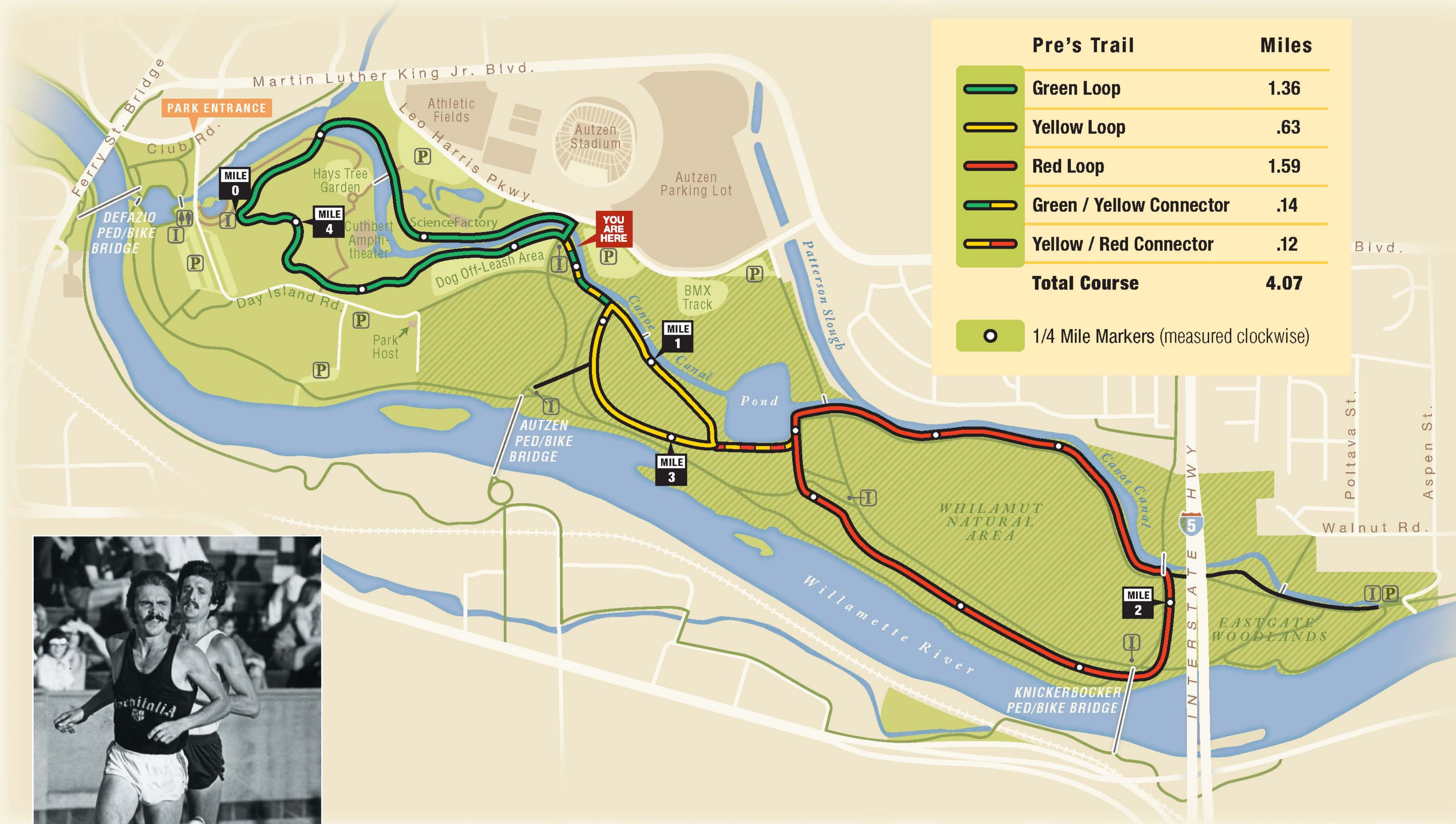
Celebrating an Oregon Track Legend

Steve Prefontaine was born in Coos Bay, Oregon, and set national prep records while at Marshfield High School.

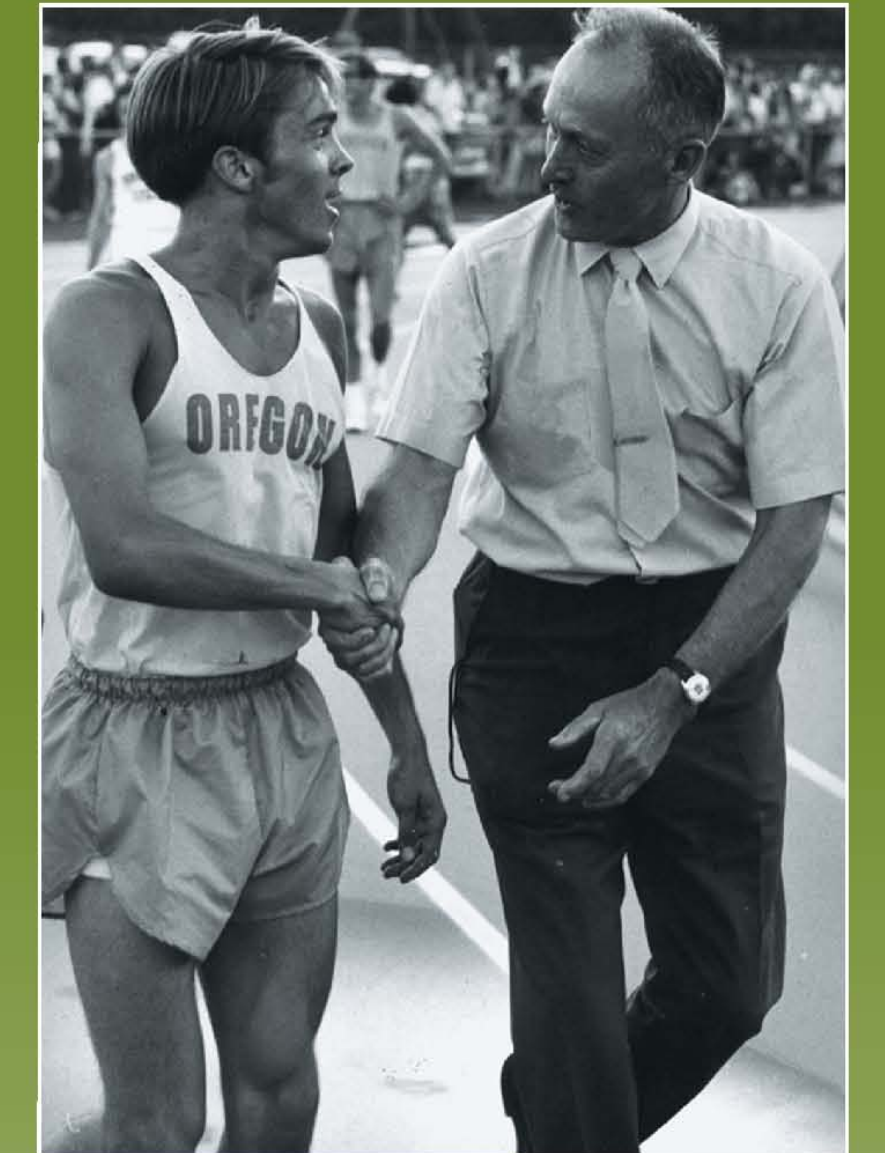
In 1969, he came to Eugene to attend the University of Oregon and stayed on after his graduation in 1973. At the time of his death, in May 1975 at age 24, Pre was the American record holder in every distance from 2,000 to 10,000 meters.

Nearly every summer from 1969 on, Pre traveled to Europe to race against the world's best. While competing in Scandinavia, he was impressed by the soft-surface running trails found in almost every city.

To Pre, Alton Baker Park seemed the natural location for a similar trail in the Eugene-Springfield area. He envisioned paths covered with bark chips, a material available from the local wood products industries. Just four months after his death, 500 runners competed in a memorial run on the newly completed four-mile course.



Today, Pre's trail is connected to a large network of riverside walking and biking trails throughout Eugene and Springfield. It is a beloved resource for local runners and walkers, and draws visitors from across the country and around the world.



"Pre's trail was built by the community. It took such an effort to make Pre's dream come true. But Eugene saw it as a good thing, and continues to."

—University of Oregon Coach
Bill Bowerman

This trail was restored and upgraded from 2002 to 2007 by Oregon Track Club, City of Eugene Parks and Open Space Division, and Oregon Track Club Masters with the generous help of volunteers and donors.



www.eugene-or.gov/parks

