



Image property of the Klamath County Museum

“Where are the falls?”

Ask that question in the city of Klamath Falls, Oregon, and you’re likely to get a variety of answers, ranging from “I don’t know,” to “We don’t have any falls.”

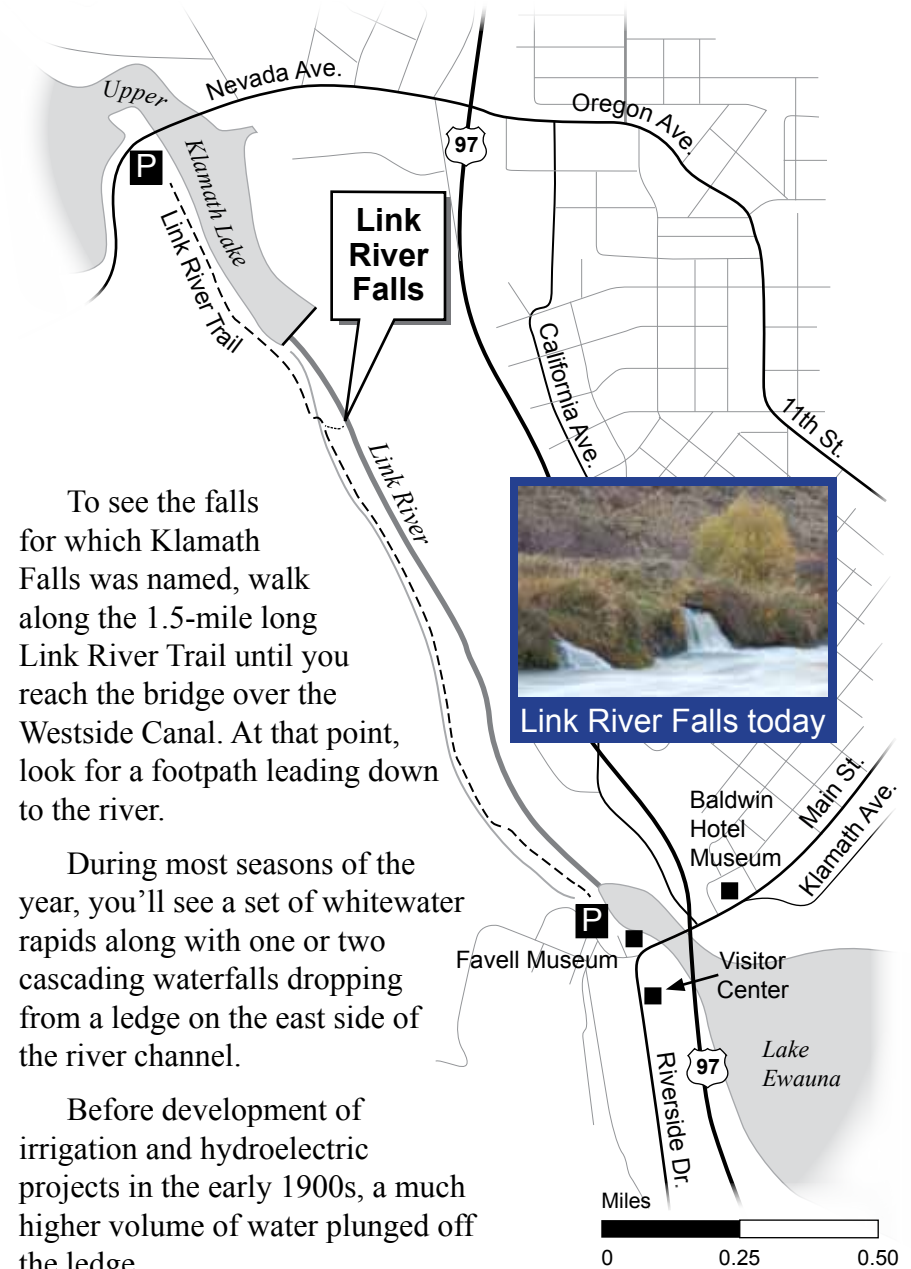
What’s the true answer? Historical records indicate the city was named for a series of cascading falls and rapids on Link River, a mile-long stream located in the heart of the city. The image above shows the section of falls that was most often photographed in the late 1800s and early 1900s.

A series of irrigation and hydroelectric developments in the early 1900s diminished the extent of the falls, including the rocky features seen in the right half of the photo shown here. As the years passed, memory of the falls that once were began to fade. And so today, many local residents are unclear about Klamath’s falls.

Nevertheless, the whitewater rapids and a few of the cascades on the left side of the above image can still be seen today.

PacifiCorp, which operates two hydroelectric plants on the river, plans to decommission its facilities in the near future. That may lead to a greater volume of water in the river, and could potentially bring back some of the falls.

To find the falls, follow the map on the reverse side of this flyer.



To see the falls for which Klamath Falls was named, walk along the 1.5-mile long Link River Trail until you reach the bridge over the Westside Canal. At that point, look for a footpath leading down to the river.

During most seasons of the year, you’ll see a set of whitewater rapids along with one or two cascading waterfalls dropping from a ledge on the east side of the river channel.

Before development of irrigation and hydroelectric projects in the early 1900s, a much higher volume of water plunged off the ledge.

Visit the falls in the spring when surplus water spills from Upper Klamath Lake, and you’ll get a good idea of how Klamath Falls got its name!