When prosperity followed in the wake of the Great Depression of the 1930s, Americans purchased automobiles in record numbers and rediscovered the "great outdoors." Private parks sprang up along many of Oregon's rivers. The largest and most popular parks along the Tualatin were located just upriver: Avalon Park on the north bank, and Roamer's Rest on the south. The parks catered to families with picnic tables, ball fields, rental boats, and lifeguards—dance halls with floating docks for boat access provided evening entertainment. Avalon and Roamer's Rest thrived into the 1950s.

Modern concrete bridges span the Tualatin River at this crossing today, but during the mid-1850s, a ferry operated by John A. Taylor provided the only safe crossing. Taylor trekked the Oregon Trail from Wisconsin in 1852 with his wife and three small children. Securing a donation land claim of 320 acres along this stretch of the river, he quickly installed a ferry and established a road between Portland and Dayton that became Taylor's Ferry Road.

Today, canoeists enjoy the Tualatin River. The old Taylor's Ferry Covered Bridge pilings are still visible. Steamboats traveled the Tualatin River between 1865 and 1950, transporting goods and farm produce between Bridgeport (Tualatin) and Forest Grove. Photo courtesy of the Oregon Historical Society.