The Lava Butte cinder cone erupted 7,000 years ago. The volume of rock in the Lava Butte Lava Flow is equivalent to a paved road circling the world six and a half times. Assuming a paved road 24 feet wide and 6 inches thick, there is enough rock in the flow to pave 160,000 miles of road. This is equivalent to a paved road circling the earth nearly 20 times.

The Deschutes River continues to use this railroad today. Burlington Northern acquired the railroad on April 7, 1932. Burlington Northern and its successor company, BNSF Railway, own and operate the railroad. Burlington Northern and BNSF Railway collaborated with Mount Bachelor Ski Area to use the railroad and related facilities to accommodate Ski Area traffic.

The Old Mill District is a vibrant area of shopping, dining, entertainment, and nightlife. It was originally a massive Brooks-Scanlon sawmill complex that began lumber production in 1917. Today, the Old Mill District is home to the Deschutes Brewery, the layout studio, and many other businesses. It is a popular destination for visitors to Bend.

Carrying 1.3 million tons of rock per year, the Portland cement industry uses the Butte as a source of crushed stone for making concrete. The Butte is a popular location for hiking and climbing. The butte offers a panoramic view of central Oregon, including Mount Bachelor and the Butte’s own summit, Pilot Butte, named in 1851, is a cinder cone estimated to be 900 years old. It rises nearly 500 feet above the surrounding plains. It makes Bend one of only three cities in the continental U.S. to have an extinct volcano within its city limits.