Deep Creek
Riverside State Park NW of Spokane
2 Miles or 5.5 Miles
Almost no Elevation gain
Loop
Low Strenuousness
Some balancing with hands required

The trail described in this link is the longer 5.5 mile version of the loop, but you can also do a much simpler 2 mile loop that captures all the best bits of the hike. For the shorter version, simply hike north past the gate at the end of the parking lot and on the dirt road. After about a quarter take the signed trail to your left that drops down into the bottom of the canyon. Follow the creek bed for ¾ of a mile all the way out to the Spokane. Some very short scrambling is required and the route is on river rock so watch your step. Once you reach the Spokane, double back along the canyon rim to your car. If you double back to your right (on the east side of the canyon) follow the centennial trail until it meets the same dirt road you started on. Follow it back to your car. If you double back on the left (the west side of the canyon) climb up through old basaltic lava on good singletrack trail until it drops you back to canyon floor. Head to your right (upstream) about 100 feet. On your left you’ll find the original trail that dropped you into the canyon. Hike up it and then head to your right on the dirt road, past the gate and to your car.

The Passage of Time: Time is a challenging concept for any person to wrap their head around. Sometimes dragging and sometimes flashing past. And sometimes both at once. The Basalt the Deep Creek cuts through was laid down here in great sheets and floods approximately 16 million years ago. No time at all in the hands of God, but nevertheless beyond our understanding. So, what will we do with the time that we have?

God our Father, you are the Maker of everything that exists, the Author of the world of nature and of all living things, the Creator of both space and time. Without you there would be no past, present or future; no summer or winter, spring or autumn, seedtime or harvest; no morning or evening, months or years. Because you give us the gift of time we have the
opportunity to think and to act, to plan and to pray, to give and to receive, to create and to relate, to work and to rest, to strive and to play, to love and to worship. Remind us of those that have come before us and those many that will come after. And bring us always back to this moment. That we may act in a way that sees time as you do. That you may hold all of it and us in your hand. Amen.