

# Metro GreenScene

NEWS & THINGS TO DO  
*Winter 2003-2004*



**METRO**  
PEOPLE PLACES  
OPEN SPACES

#### What's inside?

**Cooper Mountain  
master plan**

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guide**

**Knotweed project  
update**

**Winter nature  
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# Planning begins for a nature park on Cooper Mountain



Rising to an elevation of about 700 feet, Cooper Mountain is on the west edge of Beaverton.

**J**ust minutes from downtown Beaverton and the bustle of urban Washington County, Cooper Mountain rises serenely from the floor of the Tualatin River Valley, offering precious plant and wildlife habitat and stunning views of the Chehalem Mountains. In 2004, Metro will invite the public to participate in planning for a nature park on Cooper Mountain.

With funds from the 1995 open spaces, parks and streams bond measure, Metro has purchased 256 acres at the summit and on the southern slope of Cooper Mountain. Metro staff and hundreds of volunteers have worked to remove invasive weeds and plant and care for nearly 60,000 trees to restore the site, which was logged in the early 1990s. Pockets of oak

## **Metro** *People places • open spaces*

Clean air and clean water do not stop at city limits or county lines. Neither does the need for jobs, a thriving economy and good transportation choices for people and businesses in our region. Voters have asked Metro to help with the challenges that cross those lines and affect the 24 cities and three counties in the Portland metropolitan area.

A regional approach simply makes sense when it comes to protecting open space, caring for parks, planning for the best use of land, managing garbage disposal and increasing

recycling. Metro oversees world-class facilities such as the Oregon Zoo, which contributes to conservation and education, and the Oregon Convention Center, which benefits the region's economy.

### **Your Metro representatives**

**Metro Council President** – David Bragdon  
**Metro Councilors** – Rod Park, deputy council president, District 1; Brian Newman, District 2; Carl Hosticka, District 3; Susan McLain, District 4; Rex Burkholder, District 5; Rod Monroe, District 6.  
**Auditor** – Alexis Dow, CPA

**Metro's web site**  
[www.metro-region.org](http://www.metro-region.org)

**Metro GreenScene** is produced by Metro's Regional Parks and Greenspaces Department.

### **On the cover**

(clockwise from top left): "Women in Science" day volunteers plant trees, wintery oak tree, red-tailed hawk, sun through trees at Oxbow Regional Park.

**Photographs by** Audubon Society of Portland, C. Bruce Forster, Lupine Hudson, Terry Kem, Ron Klein, Deb Scrivens, SOLV, Chijo Takeda, Lia Waiwaiole, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Curt Zonick

**Illustrations by** Carey Cramer, Kathy Deal, Barbara Macomber, Antonia Manda

**If you have a disability** and need accommodations, call (503) 797-1850, or call Metro's TDD line at (503) 797-1804. If you require a sign interpreter, call at least 48 hours in advance. Activities marked with this symbol are wheelchair accessible: 

**Bus and MAX information:**  
(503) 238-RIDE (238-7433).

**To be added to the mailing list (or to make any changes), call (503) 797-1850 option 3.**

and madrone trees balanced with open meadow areas and wetlands now support a fascinating array of plants and wildlife. The increased presence of the beautiful and endangered pale larkspur and the return of Western bluebirds are two examples.

Master planning for public access to the site will strike a balance between natural resource protection and recreation opportunities. The plan will determine the types of activities that will be available at the park, such as hiking, wildlife watching, school field trips and picnicking. It also will identify park amenities such as trails, restrooms and a parking area. Tualatin Hills Park and Recreation District and city of Beaverton will help fund the planning process.

To participate in the master planning process or to get on the Cooper Mountain mailing list, call Ron Klein at (503) 797-1774 or send e-mail to [kleinr@metro.dst.or.us](mailto:kleinr@metro.dst.or.us). Visit the Metro web site at [www.metro-region.org/parks](http://www.metro-region.org/parks) to participate in a survey about the future nature park. The web site also contains information about the master planning activity schedule, site tours and volunteer opportunities.



*Activities at the future nature park on Cooper Mountain will include wildlife watching and hiking. If you are interested in getting a sneak preview of the site, keep an eye on Metro GreenScene for public walks and volunteer activities offered every spring and summer.*

### *“CyberTrackers” gather important wildlife data on Cooper Mountain*



A volunteer team of local animal tracking experts is using CyberTracker to gather data for the master planning process on Cooper Mountain. CyberTracker was developed by a wildlife biologist in South Africa and modified for use in North America by naturalist Jon Young. Using global positioning system equipment and handheld computers, trackers enter data on the animal tracks and signs they observe in the field. Later, this information can be downloaded, analyzed and plotted on maps.

The team hopes to determine the presence or absence of a variety of bird and animal species, and analyze how their use of the site changes seasonally. They also hope to find out if large mammals are using the site, and if they are, what routes they use to enter and leave the property. This information will be used in the master planning process and aid in making decisions about where to site trails, parking areas and other infrastructure.

If you would like to become a “CyberTracker,” check out the CyberTracker workshop on pg. 10. For more information, visit [www.deerdance.org](http://www.deerdance.org).



# A Guide to Winter Wildlife Watching

by Metro naturalist  
James Davis

**W**inter rains bring a big increase in the activity of two underground animals – earthworms and the moles that prey on them. You will see more of the fresh piles of dirt that moles push out of their tunnels and up to the surface. We have the smallest and the largest moles in the world right here. Harder to see are “worm piles” made by night crawlers as they drag food into their burrows. Look for little clumps of tiny twigs and leaves about the size of half a ping-pong ball. They are especially common in thin parts of lawns under trees.

Winter turns the region into a waterfowl wonderland. Tens of thousands of **ducks, geese and swans** spend the winter in the northern Willamette Valley and lower Columbia River basin. Places like Smith and Bybee Lakes Wildlife Area, Sauvie Island and Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge offer spectacular viewing of large flocks of many different species. All hunting is finished



*Tens of thousands of ducks, geese and swans spend the winter around the region's wetlands.*

by the end of January, so February provides the most hassle-free viewing.

By the end of November, all the leaves are gone from the deciduous trees. That means it's a great time to see wintering raptors. Not only are the birds of prey easier to see in the bare trees, there are actually more of them here in the wintertime. **Red-tailed hawks** and **bald eagles** arrive in the Portland area in large numbers for the winter, joining the year-round residents. Expect to find eagles hanging out in areas with lots of wintering waterfowl, feeding on the ducks and geese that don't make it through the winter. Two other raptors seen here in winter are the rough-legged hawk and the merlin.

Look up in the big, bare deciduous trees in old neighborhoods and parks and you are likely to see two different kinds of clumps of plant debris. These are **crows' nests** and **dreys**. Think of a pirate ship and you'll know where to look for the crows' nests – they are near the top of the tallest trunk in a small group of

trees. (Small wonder how the ship's lookout got the name.) Crows' nests are made of little sticks and are basically cone-shaped. A drey is the nest of a tree squirrel, but the term is not commonly used in the United States. The dreys most commonly seen in Portland are the balls of leaves made by the introduced Eastern fox squirrel,

**S**ee some of these sights for yourself on a guided Metro bird walk or wildlife watching trip, led by James Davis and other Metro naturalists. (See the calendar on pages 9-13.) Favorite programs like Breakfast with Birds of Prey and Winter Birds at Smith and Bybee Lakes fill up quickly, so register early.

James also teaches a series of in-depth nature classes on Thursday evenings in the winter. Look for How Animals Work, Winter Birds in Your Yard, Waterfowl Identification and Mammals of Metro Parks.

the biggest tree squirrel in North America. Their nests are about the size of a soccer ball, made almost entirely of dried leaves with a few sticks, and are usually placed close to the trunk and lower in trees than crows' nests. Every winter, you will see a new batch of these structures since they rarely survive winter weather.

Winter is the time of the most activity at bird feeders. Birds need more calories at the same time that food is getting scarce, so they come to your feeder for those tasty and energy-rich sunflower and other seeds. Some common **"feeder birds"** are rarely seen at other times of the year. Dark-eyed juncos are even called "snowbirds" by some folks since this little sparrow is only at feeders during winter. Other winter visitors are the plain pine siskin, often mistaken for a female house finch, and the varied thrush. These winter visitors join the regulars seen at feeders any time of year such as song sparrows, house sparrows, house finches, spotted towhees, chickadees, scrub jays and Steller's jays. If you are lucky, you might also get white-crowned and golden-crowned sparrows and American goldfinches. If you put out suet, expect to see downy woodpeckers, red-breasted nuthatches, bushtits and more chickadees.

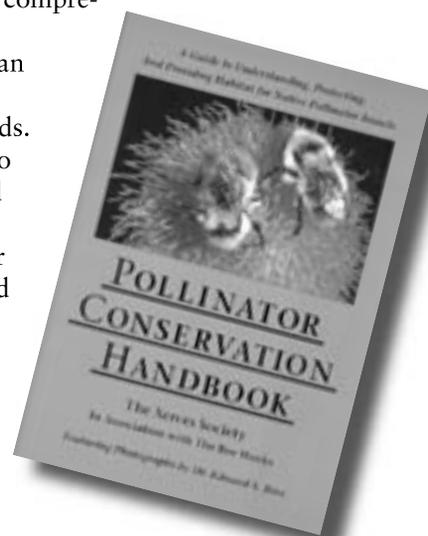
## *Wild on the Willamette Map*

Wild on the Willamette, Exploring the Lower Willamette River is a color-illustrated map covering the lower 35 river miles between Molalla River State Park near the Canby Ferry to the Willamette's confluence with the Columbia River at Kelley Point Park. It shows pedestrian trails, bicycle routes and canoe/kayak launch sites. The map also contains information about plants and animals of the lower Willamette and detailed site descriptions to 35 natural areas. The map is \$6.95 and can be purchased at the Audubon Society's Nature Store, 5151 NW Cornell Rd., Portland. Purchase online by visiting [www.audubonportland.org](http://www.audubonportland.org) or by calling (503) 292-9453.



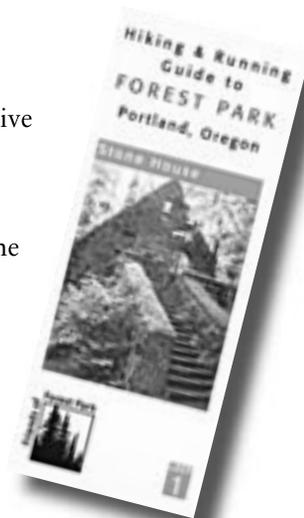
## *The Pollinator Conservation Handbook*

The Pollinator Conservation Handbook is the first comprehensive book on the conservation of native bees, butterflies and other native pollinator insects. It is an indispensable resource for gardeners, farmers and managers of parks, recreational areas and wild lands. The 145-page handbook will help you learn how to create and enhance habitat for bees, butterflies and other insects. The handbook also includes an extensive, up-to-date resource section and ideas for educational activities. The handbook was produced by the Xerces Society and the Bee Works, funded in part by Metro and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service through the greenspaces grant program. Cost, including shipping and handling, is \$18.45 for Xerces Society members and \$22.45 for non-members. For more information, visit [www.xerces.org](http://www.xerces.org) or call (503) 232-6639.



## *Forest Park Hiking and Running Guides*

Is your experience of Forest Park limited to Leif Erikson Drive or a short stretch of the Wildwood Trail? Friends of Forest Park is ready to help you stretch your boundaries. The Hiking and Running Guide to Forest Park is a set of 10 individual maps that feature various loops throughout the park, with distances ranging from 3 to 9 miles. The maps include detailed directions to trailheads and the highlights along each loop. The maps are water- and wear-resistant, ready to throw in your pack or shove in your pocket as you explore the park. At \$14.95, the set makes a great gift for a holiday or special occasion. For more information, call (503) 223-5449 or send e-mail to [info@friendsofforestpark.org](mailto:info@friendsofforestpark.org).



# Knocking out *knotweed*



**M**ore than 1,100 acres and nine miles of river and stream frontage on the Clackamas River and its tributaries have been protected with funds from Metro's 1995 open spaces bond measure. These vital lands protect water quality, provide valuable fish and wildlife habitat and offer access to nature for generations to come.

Like the rest of the newly acquired greenspaces protected by the 8,000-acre acquisition program, these lands come with a "to do" list for Metro's natural resource managers. Near the top of that list for the Clackamas River watershed is getting rid of the noxious plant Japanese knotweed.

When Curt Zonick, Metro's natural resource scientist, began to assess the rapidly growing problem of knotweed in the Clackamas River basin three years ago, two things were immediately clear. "We knew we needed to act right away in order to stand a chance," says Zonick. "And we knew we couldn't do it alone. Because knotweed spreads so easily and quickly, just treating it

on your own property is totally ineffective."

In 2002 with partial funding from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) and the Northwest Service Academy (NWSA), Zonick enlisted the help of a four-person AmeriCorps crew. The volunteers mapped the mainstem knotweed infestation from the River Mill Dam downstream to the Carver Boat Launch near the confluence of Clear Creek. Approximately 500 isolated patches of knotweed were found and about 20 percent of them were treated in 2002.

Thanks in part to a second year of funding from OWEB and NWSA, Metro directed a full-time, five-person knotweed eradica-

tion crew for the Clackamas watershed in 2003. The crew treated nearly all of the knotweed on the Clackamas downstream to Deep Creek, reducing the mainstem infestation by more than 70 percent.

The team also has helped pioneer a new herbicide injection technique that is more efficient in killing knotweed and reduces the risk of introducing herbicide into the surrounding environment. Metro partnered with The Nature Conservancy of Oregon this year to conduct a study to identify the lowest effective injected dose of herbicide needed to kill knotweed. The study is expected to lead to changes in product information labels for two herbicides leading to better and safer treatment options, which will be used internationally.

Metro is teaming up with the Clackamas River Basin Council to make a final request to OWEB and the NWSA to cover knotweed crews for the next two years. By the end of 2004, Metro expects to have effectively eradicated Japanese knotweed from the Clackamas River watershed from the headwaters downstream to Deep Creek. In 2005, the CRBC will tackle Deep Creek.

As important as killing existing knotweed plants, according to Zonick, is building the capacity of organizations, volunteers and private landowners in the Clackamas basin to continue the effort. "There is a growing coalition of experienced and vigilant knotweed hunters who can help keep the Clackamas knotweed-free for generations to come – a lofty goal that is now well within reach."

## What is knotweed?

**A**lso called fleeceflower or Mexican bamboo, Japanese knotweed is an introduced ornamental plant with bright green heart-shaped leaves and hollow reddish colored stems. Knotweed grows extremely rapidly, establishes extensive root systems more than 2 meters deep, is shade tolerant, spreads through an extensive network of rhizomes (roots that can sprout) and is capable of propagating from minute stem or root fragments. Any one of these characteristics might make it a tough weed, but the combination of these traits establishes Japanese knotweed as a serious threat to Oregon's native plant communities. Once established, knotweed can form dense forest-like patches more than 10 feet tall. For more information, visit the Metro web site at [www.metro-region.org](http://www.metro-region.org) and search for "knotweed." A brochure is available by calling (503) 797-1850.





Cassie Mellon, Greg Ciannella, Bradlee Mertz, Andrea Thury and Andrew Zachary spent 2003 battling knotweed on the Clackamas River.

## Restoring a river

Calling themselves “The Rhodies,” veteran knotweed fighters Cassie Mellon and Andrea Thury and AmeriCorps volunteers Bradlee Mertz, Greg Ciannella and Andrew Zachary tackled the second year of Metro’s effort to eradicate knotweed in the Clackamas River watershed.

“It’s very satisfying to see all of our hard work paying off,” says monitoring coordinator Cassie Mellon. “I truly believe we’re turning the corner on this weed on the Clackamas.”

The Rhodies hit the river in inflatable kayaks armed with hand-held computers, machetes, maps and the hopes of a promising new herbicide injection treatment. More than 12,800 stems were treated in 2003, and so far the results are extremely encouraging.

The team also continued its outreach efforts to raise awareness of the problem to local landowners and stakeholders with mailings, public work parties and community events. Outreach coordinator Andrea Thury says Metro relies on the participation of the broader community in the watershed to meet its goals. “They’re great people, and the offers for help are starting to pour in.” An impressive number of private and public landowners in the watershed have become partners in the project, and more than 1,000 volunteer hours were logged this year on restoration projects.

Here’s what some of these partners had to say about The Rhodies:

“When they first started this project, I thought they were crazy [to think] that they could actually get

rid of this weed. But now, after seeing the results of this summer’s efforts, I can see the light at the end of the tunnel.”

*Philip Kazmierowicz,  
private landowner*

“It is reassuring to know that we have such an exceptional group not only defending against the spread of Japanese knotweed, but also making amazing strides toward total eradication.”

*Jeremy Watkins,  
Northwest River Guides*

“The outstanding work that Metro and this team have done in the past two years cannot be replicated. They are enthusiastic and dedicated to their mission. They are self-starters and take pride in a job well done. We are honored to be a part of their program.”

*Dave Albrecht,  
Concordia University*

“Three Rivers Land Conservancy is one of many organizations that will use the valuable lessons learned from this program, and the information will result in a more thorough and effective regional control of knotweed.”

*Jim Closson,  
Three Rivers Land*

## HELP WANTED

### Become a member of the 2004 crew

Metro and the Northwest Service Academy are filling four 11-month AmeriCorps positions for the third year of the knotweed control project. Each member of this community-based conservation team will have a unique role in an integrated restoration and public outreach team.

Individuals with a strong commitment to conservation and an interest in either the scientific or human aspects of natural resources management are encouraged to apply. Previous kayak or research experience desirable but not required. For more information, call Curt Zonick at (503) 797-1729 or send e-mail to [zonickc@metro.dst.or.us](mailto:zonickc@metro.dst.or.us)

# Winter Calendar



## Volunteer VENTURES

### **New Volunteer Orientations**

noon to 1 p.m. or 6 to 7 p.m. Wednesdays, Dec. 17, Jan. 21 and Feb. 18

Start your Metro volunteer experience on the right foot. Join us for new volunteer orientation either during the lunch hour or in the evening at Metro Regional Center, 600 NE Grand Ave., Portland. Learn about Metro's Regional Parks and Greenspaces Department, hear about the benefits of volunteering, receive information on volunteer job opportunities in the field and office, complete your volunteer application and enjoy the company of other new volunteers. To register, call (503) 797-1850 option 7. *Metro Regional Parks and Greenspaces Department* ♿

### **Johnson Creek Restoration**

9 a.m. to noon Saturdays, Dec. 20 and Jan. 17  
Help plant trees in critical regions along Johnson Creek. For more information and to register, call (503) 239-3932. *Johnson Creek Watershed Council*

### **Powell Butte Trail Maintenance**

9 a.m. to noon Saturdays, Jan. 10 and Feb. 14  
Help restore the trail system at Powell Butte Nature Park. Bring water, gloves and sturdy shoes. Meet at the parking lot at the top of the hill on Southeast 162nd Avenue off Powell Boulevard. To register, call (503) 823-6131. *Portland Parks and Recreation*

### **Clear Creek Planting Party**

9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Jan. 17  
This site includes an incredible vista, wetland, forest and a fish-bearing creek. Located in Clackamas County, east of Oregon City, this creek is one of the healthiest tributaries to the Clackamas River. Volunteers will plant native trees and shrubs as part of Metro's plan to convert this former farm to a natural area. To register and receive directions, call (503) 797-1850 option 8. *Metro Regional Parks and Greenspaces Department*

### **Errol Heights Wetlands Work Days**

9 a.m. to noon Saturdays, Jan. 17 and Feb. 21  
Help restore this 14-acre wetland in the heart of Southeast Portland. Help remove invasive plants and replace them with native plants. Meet at the corner of Southeast 52nd and Tenino. Bring water, gloves and sturdy shoes. To register, call (503) 823-6131. *Portland Parks and Recreation*



## *Friends of Trees planting season begins*

### **Friends of Trees Work Days**

9 a.m. to noon Saturdays and Sundays  
Join Friends of Trees and others in your community on most Saturdays and some Sundays to help plant neighborhood trees or do vital restoration work at urban natural areas. No experience is necessary; gloves, tools and training are provided. For work party locations and directions, call (503) 284-8733 or click on "planting schedule" at [www.friendsoftrees.org](http://www.friendsoftrees.org).

### **Commemorative Tree Planting**

9 a.m. to noon Sunday, Feb. 8  
You are invited to a special planting of commemorative trees at the Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge. For more information about purchasing a commemorative tree, visit [www.friendsoftrees.org](http://www.friendsoftrees.org).

### **Mayor's Work Days at Mary S. Young State Park**

9 a.m. to noon Saturdays, Jan. 17 and Feb. 21  
On the third Saturday of each month, the mayor of West Linn and the Oregon State Parks Department welcome volunteers to help remove invasive English ivy at Mary S. Young State Park. Bring gloves and clippers. For more information, call (503) 723-2544. *city of West Linn*

### **Woods Memorial Natural Area Restoration**

9 a.m. to noon Saturdays, Jan. 17 and Feb. 21  
Help remove invasive plants and replace them with native plants at this park in Southwest Portland. Meet at the corner of Southwest Alice Street and 43rd Avenue. Bring water and gloves. For more information, call (503) 823-6131. *Portland Parks and Recreation*

### **North Portland Wetlands Work Days**

9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sundays,  
Jan. 18 and Feb. 15

Help restore Metro's 2,000-acre Smith and Bybee Lakes Wildlife Area by installing protective barriers and weeding around native plantings, removing invasive plants and picking up trash. Celebrate the end of the work day with a wildlife walk on the Interlakes Trail. For more information, call (503) 797-1850 option 8. *Metro Regional Parks and Greenspaces Department*

### **Cooper Mountain Tree Planting**

9 a.m. to noon Saturday,  
Jan. 24

Plant native trees and shrubs while you enjoy the views on this 250-acre property west of Beaverton. Let this future forest be one of your legacies. For more information or to register, call (503) 797-1850 option 8. *Metro Regional Parks and Greenspaces Department*

### **Historic Orchard Clean-up at Howell Territorial Park**

1 to 3 p.m. Saturday,  
Jan. 31

Help give the old orchard surrounding the historic Bybee House at Howell Territorial Park on Sauvie Island its winter pruning. Gather debris and move branches out from under the trees while enjoying the amazing winter wildlife. For more information, call (503) 797-1850 option 8. *Metro Regional Parks and Greenspaces Department* ♿

### **Valentine's Day Planting Party for Singles Only**

9 a.m. to noon Saturday,  
Feb. 14

Are you single? Do you want to do something productive on Valentine's Day? If you answered "yes" to both questions, help plant native trees and shrubs at a former horse stable on Fanno Creek. The Fanno Creek Trail runs through this Metro greenspace next to Woodard Park in the heart of Tigard. Enjoy a walk through rare Oregon oak and ponderosa pine forests. To register and receive directions, call (503) 797-1850 option 8. *Metro Regional Parks and Greenspaces Department*

### **Beggars-tick Wildlife Refuge Work Day**

9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday,  
Feb. 28

Join Metro and the Johnson Creek Watershed Council for a planting at this vital Southeast Portland wetlands. You'll have an opportunity to see some of the birds that rely on this area in the winter while you work to improve their habitat. For more information, call (503) 797-1850 option 8. *Metro Regional Parks and Greenspaces Department*

### **Butterfly Park Planting**

9 a.m. to noon Saturday,  
Feb. 28

Plant native trees and shrubs with Portland Parks and Friends of Trees. Meet at Willamette Park picnic area and walk to Butterfly Park. Bring water and gloves. For more information, call (503) 823-6131. *Portland Parks and Recreation*

### **Johnson Creek Watershed Wide Restoration Event**

9 a.m. to noon Saturday,  
Feb. 28

Join hundreds of volunteers from throughout the Johnson Creek watershed to restore the creek's natural functions and beautify our community. Plant trees and shrubs, remove invasive plants, and clean up trash at eight different sites. For more information and to register, call (503) 239-3932. *Johnson Creek Watershed Council*



### **Buy Recycled Holiday Fair**

10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday,  
Dec. 5

Come to Metro's fifth annual Buy Recycled holiday fair for gifts made from recycled materials. You'll find a variety of items – useful, whimsical and beautiful – all made from materials that used to be something else. The fair will feature many new and repeat artists and retail stores with items such as jewelry, toys, garden art, sculpture, ceramics, clothing, household accessories, holiday ornaments and cards as well as other fun gifts. The fair takes place at Metro Regional Center, 600 NE Grand Ave., Portland. For more information, call (503) 234-3000. *Metro Solid Waste and Recycling Department* ♿

### **Holiday Wreath Making at Blue Lake**

noon to 3 p.m. Saturday,  
Dec. 6

Learn the art of holiday wreath making from Metro's master gardeners. Each participant will take home a beautiful and unique craft. Greens, rings and wire supplied. Bring decorations, glue guns, clippers and gloves. Cost is \$10 per wreath. Meet at the operation and maintenance warehouse at Blue Lake Regional Park. Advance registration required. For more information and to register, call (503) 665-6918. *Metro Regional Parks and Greenspaces Department* ♿

### **Balch Creek Hike**

8:30 a.m. to noon Saturday,  
Dec. 6

Explore Balch Creek watershed on a 5-mile hike with Jayne Cronlund, executive director of Three Rivers Land Conservancy. Balch Creek is a small watershed near Forest Park. Suitable for age 15 and older. Meet at the public parking lot on State Street and Foothills Road in Lake Oswego. \$2 for Lake Oswego residents; \$3 for all others. To register, call (503) 675-2549. *Lake Oswego Parks and Recreation*

### **Makin' Tracks Program**

2 to 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 7

Learn how to become a wildlife tracker while making plaster tracks of animals that live in the park. Parents must accompany children under 8. Free. No registration required. For more information, call (503) 636-9886 ext. 25. *Tryon Creek State Park* ♿  
*by arrangement*

**Magness Memorial Tree Farm Walk**

*2 to 3 p.m. every Sunday*  
Come to the Magness Memorial Tree Farm near Wilsonville for a guided tour on an easy 1-mile trail. Learn about the forest, its many uses, as well as how to identify plants, animals, bugs and birds. Free; registration is not required. Meet at the parking lot on Ladd Hill Road. For more information, visit [www.worldforestry.org](http://www.worldforestry.org) or call (503) 228-1367. *World Forestry Center* ♿

**Winter Solstice Party at Tryon Creek State Park**

*2 to 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14*  
Celebrate the shortest day of the year at this event for all ages at Tryon Creek State Park. Make yule logs in the Nature Center. Enjoy hot spiced cider and snacks. Take a guided nature walk through the winter magic of the woods. For more information, call (503) 636-5318. *Friends of Tryon Creek State Park* ♿

**Dirt Hikes at Tryon Creek**

*10 to 11:30 a.m. Saturdays, Dec. 20 and Jan. 17*  
Join the park naturalist at Tryon Creek State Park for a guided hike through the winter forest to learn about forest soil and everything that lives within. Be prepared to explore and get dirty. Suitable for all ages. Free; no registration required. For more information, call (503) 636-9886 ext. 25. *Tryon Creek State Park*

**Coniferous Tree Hike at Tryon Creek**

*10 to 11:30 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 10*  
Join Tryon Creek State Park naturalist Christal Nicholson for a free guided hike exploring the evergreen trees in the winter forest. Suitable for all ages. For more information, call (503) 636-9886 ext. 25. *Tryon Creek State Park*

**CyberTracker I Workshop**

*10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 17*  
Join animal tracker Terry Kem at Jackson Bottom Wetlands Preserve and learn how to use CyberTracker, software for handheld computers that allows people to learn about and collect data on wildlife, habitat and other aspects of ecological systems. When CyberTracker is combined with GPS equipment, valuable wildlife data can be transposed to maps. The workshop will balance indoor and outdoor time to help participants learn to make observations and gather data in the field, download the data to a personal computer and map your observations. \$35. To register, call (503) 296-6733. *Deerdance and Jackson Bottom Wetlands Preserve*

**Peninsula Crossing Trail Winter Wildlife Walk**

*1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 24*  
Join Metro naturalist James Davis to explore the plants, art and winter birds along the newest section of the Peninsula Crossing Trail in North Portland. This segment of the trail winds through the forested area east of the Columbia

Boulevard wastewater treatment plant and crosses the Columbia Slough on a new bridge. Binoculars and spotting scopes will be available to borrow. To register, call (503) 797-1850 option 4. Directions to the meeting place will be mailed. *Metro Regional Parks and Greenspaces Department* ♿

**Winter Twig Identification**

*10 a.m. to noon Saturday, Jan. 31*  
Identifying deciduous trees and shrubs is a great skill for those with an interest in plants, restoration projects and more. Once you learn how to shift your focus from the familiar leaves and flowers, you'll realize that a leafless twig is sometimes even more diagnostic for identification purposes. In the warm comfort of the Berry Botanic Garden's visitor center, learn how to identify 12 common shrubs and trees solely by their twigs. \$15. To register, call (503) 636-4112 ext. 22. *Berry Botanic Garden* ♿

**How Animals Work**

*7 to 9:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 12*  
How can turtles breathe while they are at the bottom of ponds all winter? Why don't ducks get hypothermia swimming around in freezing cold water with their bare feet? Why are there no warm-blooded animals with gills? Join Metro naturalist James Davis for a look at the incredible adaptations of different animals to meet the same basic needs – food, water, oxygen and shelter. Understanding how animals work greatly increases our awareness

and appreciation for their amazing abilities and unique ways of life. Meet in room 370 at Metro Regional Center, 600 NE Grand Ave., Portland. Registration and payment of \$8 are required in advance; call (503) 797-1850 option 4. *Metro Regional Parks and Greenspaces Department* ♿

**Taxidermy Workshop**

*10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 21*  
This workshop is for anyone who wants to learn more about animal anatomy. Participants will create study specimens, which will be used in the Metro environmental education program to teach people about wildlife. Guided by instructors, each person will work on skinning and stuffing a small wild mammal or bird accidentally killed by an automobile. (The study specimens, also called museum mounts, are not posed in lifelike positions.) Metro operates this program under state and federal wildlife salvage permits. Class will meet at Oxbow Regional Park in the naturalist's office. Bring a sack lunch. A fee of \$15 per person includes instruction and tools. There is also an additional \$4 per vehicle entry fee payable at the gate. Advance registration and payment are required; call (503) 797-1850 option 4. *Metro Regional Parks and Greenspaces Department*

### **Clackamas River Greenway Tour**

*1 to 3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 22*  
Metro's open spaces, parks and streams bond measure has protected 608 acres in the Clackamas River Greenway. One of these areas, near Barton Park, offers a scenic and wildlife-rich winter walk through a shelter wood. Join Metro naturalist Deb Scrivens for the first public tour of this 174-acre property, focusing on native plants and the restoration of the area from farm to forest. To register, call (503) 797-1850 option 4. Directions to the site will be mailed to you. *Metro Regional Parks and Greenspaces Department*

### **Mammals of Metro Parks**

*7 to 9:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 26*  
Did you know you can see mink and river otter at both Oxbow and Smith and Bybee Lakes Wildlife Area? How about flying squirrels? And what kind of squirrels are those running around Blue Lake? And how in the world can you tell muskrat, nutria and beaver apart when all you see is the top of a brown head moving through the water? James Davis will take you on a

basic survey of the mammals that live in Metro's regional parks and green-spaces with an emphasis on how to see them and identify them in the wild. You'll be surprised at who some of our "wilder" residents are. Meet in room 370 at Metro Regional Center, 600 NE Grand Ave., Portland. Registration and payment of \$8 are required in advance; call (503) 797-1850 option 4. *Metro Regional Parks and Greenspaces Department* 

### **Winter Trees of Mt. Talbert**

*1 to 3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 29*  
Have you ever wished you could tell one evergreen from another, or identify a tree in winter by looking at the bark or buds? Can you read the history of a piece of land by looking at its forest? Join Metro naturalist Deb Scrivens for a Leap Day walk at Mt. Talbert to unravel these mysteries and more. The forest at this Metro greenspace is a living laboratory of Northwest trees. To register, call (503) 794-8080. *North Clackamas Parks and Recreation District and Metro Regional Parks and Greenspaces Department*



## **PADDLE Trips**

### *Smith and Bybee Lakes Paddle Trips*

Traveling by canoe or kayak is the best way to explore Metro's Smith and Bybee Lakes Wildlife Area in North Portland. Meet at the parking lot on North Marine Drive. Free. Advance registration required. Bring your own kayak or canoe and personal flotation device. *Friends of Smith and Bybee Lakes*

*11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 21*  
To register, call Frank Opila at (503) 283-6419.

*noon to 4 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 25*  
To register, call Troy Clark at (503) 249-0482.

*noon to 3:30 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 15*  
To register, call Emily Roth at (503) 235-4828.

### **Ross Island Paddle Trip**

*9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Jan. 10*  
Join Travis Williams for a paddle around Ross Island. Though the river is running high this time of year, it can be a great time to see the island complex, learn about restoration issues and view local wildlife. Meet at Sellwood Waterfront Park. Bring water, snacks and warm clothing. You can paddle your own canoe or kayak, or use one of Willamette Riverkeeper's canoes if you are a member. (Membership is \$25 per year.) To register, call (503) 223-6418. *Willamette Riverkeeper*

### **Newberg to West Linn Paddle**

*9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 21*  
Join riverkeeper Travis Williams for this 22-mile paddle down the Willamette from Roger's Landing in Newberg to Willamette Park in West Linn. The river is full this time of year, so canoes and kayaks will travel quickly. While the water is fairly calm, experience is required to deal with current, eddies and floating debris. There will be a shuttle back to Newberg at the end of the trip. You'll see lots of wildlife and natural areas and learn about river issues. You can paddle your own canoe or kayak, or use one of Willamette Riverkeeper's canoes if you are a member. (Membership is \$25 per year.) To register, call (503) 223-6418. *Willamette Riverkeeper*





## BIRD Watching

### **Lunch with the Birds**

*noon to 1 p.m. every  
Wednesday*

Meet a Jackson Bottom naturalist and spend your lunch hour learning to identify all the migrating waterfowl and other cool birds at Jackson Bottom Wetlands. Spotting scopes, binoculars and field guides will be provided. Meet at the north viewing shelter next to the Clean Water Services sewage treatment plant on Highway 219 south of Hillsboro. Free. For more information, call (503) 681-6278. *Jackson Bottom Wetlands Preserve* ♿

### **Summerlake Waterfowl** *8 a.m. to noon Saturday, Dec. 6*

Join avian instructor Doug Robberson for a crisp, cool hike through Summerlake Park in Tigard. Check out returning wintering waterfowl as you follow the shoreline of the lake. To register, call (503) 590-5813. *Tualatin Riverkeepers* ♿

### **Discovery Trail Backyard Bird Walk**

*8 to 10:30 a.m. Saturday,  
Dec. 13*

Learn more about bird identification and behavior on this nature walk with Elaine Murphy. Meet at the Vancouver Backyard Bird Shop. Free. To register, call (360) 253-5771. *Backyard Bird Shop*

### **Owls: Silent Hunters of the Night**

*10 to 11:30 a.m. Saturday,  
Dec. 13*

Come to Tryon Creek State Park for a guided hike through the winter forest to learn about the silent hunters of the night. Explore owl habitat, adaptations and lifestyle as you walk the trails of the park. Free. For more information, call (503) 636-9886 ext. 25. *Tryon Creek State Park* ♿

### **Crystal Springs Bird Walk** *8 to 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 20*

Hone your waterfowl identification skills and learn about bird behavior with naturalist Laura Whittemore. Free. To register, call (503) 635-2044. *Backyard Bird Shop* and *Audubon Society of Portland*

### **Pinecone Birdfeeders at Tryon Creek**

*2 to 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 21*

Join the park naturalist at Tryon Creek State Park for a program about the winter birds of Tryon Creek. Make decorative pinecone birdfeeders to take home. Suitable for all ages. Free; no registration required. For more information, call (503) 636-9886 ext. 25. *Tryon Creek State Park* ♿

### **Winter Birds at Smith and Bybee Lakes**

*10 a.m. to noon Saturdays,  
Jan. 10 and 24 and March 6*

It's a waterfowl wonderland in the Portland area with thousands of ducks, geese and swans spending the winter here. On a good day, you can see a dozen different species of waterfowl and other water birds such as grebes, gulls, coots, cormorants and herons.

This also is the best time of year to see bald eagles and other birds of prey. Meet naturalist James Davis at the wildlife area parking lot on Marine Drive. Binoculars will be available to borrow. Suitable for adults and teens. Free. Advance registration is required; call (503) 797-1850 option 4. *Metro Regional Parks and Greenspaces Department* ♿

### **Oxbow Park Backyard Bird Walk**

*8 to 10:30 a.m. Saturday,  
Jan. 10*

Join naturalist Elaine Murphy on a bird walk at Oxbow Regional Park, and learn about wild bird identification and bird behavior. Suitable for older children and adults. Meet at Gresham Backyard Bird Shop. There is a \$4 per vehicle entry fee to the park. To register, call (503) 661-4944. *Backyard Bird Shop*

### **Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge**

*8 to 10:30 a.m. Saturday,  
Jan. 17*

See wintering waterfowl and other birds while improving your identification skills and learning about bird behavior with naturalist Laura Whittemore. Free. To register, call (503) 635-2044. *Backyard Bird Shop* and *Audubon Society of Portland*

### **Suet Cones for Backyard Birds**

*5 to 6:30 p.m. Sunday,  
Jan. 18*

Naturalist and child educator Kim Wilson will help you make a yummy winter treat for your backyard birds at the Portland Backyard

Bird Shop on Southeast Hawthorne Boulevard. Each child takes home a cone to share with his or her feathered friends. Suitable for ages 4 and older, accompanied by a parent. Advance registration required. A \$5 registration fee will be refunded with a \$5 gift certificate the evening of class. For more information, call (503) 230-9557. *Backyard Bird Shop* ♿ *by arrangement*

### **Waterfowl Identification Class**

*7 to 9:30 p.m. Thursday,  
Jan. 22*

Thousands of ducks, geese and swans can be seen flying over our region's wetlands in the winter. Come to this class with Metro naturalist James Davis to find out who's who in the waterfowl world and get ready for some great winter bird watching. Meet in room 370 at Metro Regional Center. Registration and payment of \$8 are required in advance; call (503) 797-1850 option 4. *Metro Regional Parks and Greenspaces Department* ♿

### **Noble Woods Bird Walk** *8 to 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 24*

Learn about wild bird identification and bird behavior on a nature walk with naturalist Elaine Murphy. Meet at Beaverton Backyard Bird Shop and carpool to the site. Suitable for older children and adults. Free. Advance registration required. For more information, call (503) 626-0949. *Backyard Bird Shop*



Winter birdwatchers flock to Smith and Bybee Lakes Wildlife Area to see waterfowl and birds of prey.

**Birds of Prey Class**

7 to 9:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 29

Hawks, eagles, falcons and owls have always fascinated people. Metro naturalist James Davis will discuss how to tell these major groups of raptors apart and the key points for identifying the most common species. We'll also discuss the amazing adaptations of these birds for catching and killing their prey. Meet in room 370 at Metro Regional Center. Registration and payment of \$8 are required in advance; call (503) 797-1850 option 4. *Metro Regional Parks and Greenspaces Department* ♿

**Breakfast with Birds of Prey**

9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturdays, Jan. 31 and Feb. 7

Each year, magnificent bald eagles, hawks and falcons spend the winter on Sauvie Island. Enjoy a morning of hawk and eagle viewing with hot drinks, pastries and spotting scopes provided. Metro naturalists Elisabeth Neely and James Davis will lead the trip and provide tips on raptor identification and behavior. Suitable for any skill level; beginning birders and families are welcome. Meet at the barn behind the historic Bybee House at Metro's Howell Territorial Park and we'll car-pool from there. A Sauvie Island parking permit is required (available at Sauvie Island General Store).

Registration and payment of \$8 are required in advance; call (503) 797-1850 option 4. *Metro Regional Parks and Greenspaces Department*

**Tryon Creek Owl Prowl**

6 to 8 p.m. Friday, Feb. 6

Take a short class to learn about these magnificent night hunters, then go on a family adventure deep into the woods of Tryon Creek State Park to listen for owl calls. \$5. Adults must accompany children. To register, call (503) 675-2549. *Lake Oswego Parks and Recreation*

**Owl Prowl at Tualatin Hills**

7 to 9 p.m. Friday, Feb. 20

Listen for courting owls as you journey into Tualatin Hills Nature Park at night. View a slide show, see preserved specimens and listen to recordings of owl

calls. Age 6 and older. \$9 in-district, \$15.75 out-of-district. To register, call (503) 644-5595. *Tualatin Hills Park and Recreation District*

*Metro parks annual pass – a gift that keeps on giving*

**B**oaters, anglers and frequent visitors to Metro regional parks should consider purchasing an annual park pass. The pass provides free admission and parking at Oxbow and Blue Lake regional parks, Chinook Landing Marine Park and the M. James Gleason Boat Ramp. Passes are not accepted for special events such as Salmon Festival and the Fourth of July fireworks. The pass is valid for one calendar year, January through December. A regular pass is \$40; a senior pass is \$30. You can purchase a pass in person at the Blue Lake or Oxbow park offices or Metro Regional Center, 600 NE Grand Ave., Portland. To pay by MasterCard or Visa and have your pass mailed to you, call (503) 797-1850. The pass is not transferable to multiple vehicles. Up to two additional passes are available for vehicles from the same household at \$5 each.

## Show off your garden

**M**etro is looking for host gardeners for the 2004 Gardens of Natural Delights tour on July 18. The tour, in its sixth season, shows more than a dozen gardens that illustrate that a healthy, attractive garden can flourish without the use of chemicals. If you answer “yes” to the following questions, your garden could be one of them:

- Do you control pests using organic and/or natural controls?
- Do you have the knowledge base to employ natural gardening techniques and would you enjoy sharing this information with the public?
- Do you maintain your own garden?

To request an application, call Metro Recycling Information at (503) 234-3000 after Dec. 27. The application deadline is March 12.



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Visit [www.metro-region.org/greenscene](http://www.metro-region.org/greenscene) for more winter activities.

# See you there!

## Metro regional parks, greenspaces and facilities

**Blue Lake Regional Park** provides archery, volleyball, softball, horseshoes, playgrounds, food concessions, bike and boat rentals, swimming, fishing and large picnic shelters perfect for family reunions and company picnics. Bikers, runners and walkers enjoy the trails along the lake and throughout the park. The Lake House is an elegant site for weddings and other special events.

**Location:** Between Marine Drive and Sandy Boulevard off Northeast 223rd Avenue. From I-84, take the Fairview exit (14) and go north on 207th Avenue to Sandy Boulevard. Turn right onto Sandy and travel east to 223rd and turn left. Proceed north to Blue Lake Road and the park.

**Entrance fee:** \$4 per car and \$7 per bus.

**Oxbow Regional Park**, a 1,200-acre natural area park located within the wild and scenic Sandy River Gorge, offers the opportunity to walk through an old-growth forest or watch fall chinook salmon swim upstream to spawn. The river draws swimmers, rafters, kayakers and anglers. Hiking trails, wooded campsites, reservable picnic areas, horse trails, playgrounds and play fields are also available.

**Location:** Eight miles east of Gresham. From I-84, take the Troutdale exit (17). Go past the truck stop to the light. Turn right on 257th, go 3 miles to Division Street. Turn left onto Division. Follow the signs 6.5 miles and turn left. Follow the road to the park.

**Entrance fee:** \$4 per car and \$7 per bus.

**Howell Territorial Park** on Sauvie Island is a scenic blend of natural and cultural history. The Oregon Historical Society provides interpretive tours of a pioneer house and agricultural museum on summer weekends. Picnickers and birdwatchers enjoy this idyllic site, which also includes nine acres of wetland and surrounding pastoral land.

**Location:** Take Highway 30 north past Linnton to the Sauvie Island Bridge. Cross the bridge, proceed north approximately 1 mile and turn right onto Howell Park Road.

**Smith and Bybee Lakes Wildlife Area** is the largest protected wetland within an American city. Home to beaver, river otter, black-tailed deer, osprey, bald eagles and Western painted turtles, this 2,000-acre wildlife area offers a paved trail with two wildlife viewing platforms. Non-motorized boats are welcome.

**Location:** On Marine Drive between the Expo Center and Kelley Point Park. Take I-5 to exit 307. Go west on N. Marine Drive for 2.2 miles. Turn left at the large brown and white wildlife area sign.

**Beggars-tick Wildlife Refuge**, a 20-acre greenspace located along the Springwater Corridor Trail, was named after a species of native sunflower. The refuge is home to a variety of native plant species and wildlife, and provides open water for migratory waterfowl in the winter.

**Location:** Southeast 111th Avenue, just north of Foster Road. Also accessible from the Springwater Corridor Trail.

**Pioneer cemeteries** in Multnomah County offer a unique look into the history of the region and are managed as operating facilities. Dating back as early as 1851, 14 pioneer cemeteries offer scenic tranquility and a glimpse into the past.

**Chinook Landing Marine Park**, a 67-acre marine park with six launching lanes on the Columbia River, is the largest public boating facility in Oregon. The park offers picnic and viewing areas, wetland and wildlife habitat, disabled-accessible docks, restrooms and a seasonal river patrol station.

**Location:** Adjacent to Blue Lake Regional Park on Marine Drive.

**Entrance fee:** \$5 per vehicle.

**M. James Gleason Memorial Boat Ramp** is a convenient public boat launch on the Columbia River, minutes from downtown Portland. Amenities include launch lanes, boarding docks, restrooms, river maps and a river patrol office.

**Location:** Northeast 43rd Avenue and Marine Drive.

**Entrance fee:** \$4 per vehicle.  
**Sauvie Island Boat Ramp** enables boaters to enjoy the quiet waters and wildlife of Multnomah Channel. Picnic tables, parking and restrooms are available.

**Location:** At the junction of Burlington Ferry and Sauvie Island roads.

**Glendoveer Golf Course** provides challenging play for every level with two 18-hole golf courses. A 2-mile fitness trail along the perimeter of the course draws joggers and walkers to the natural setting. There are also tennis and racquetball courts, a driving range and a restaurant.

**Location:** 140th and Northeast Glisan Street.

**Note:** In order to protect wildlife habitat, and for their own safety, **pets are not permitted** at any Metro park or greenspace.

 Except for Howell Territorial Park and Glendoveer Golf Course, the parks and facilities above each provide some wheelchair access. For more specific accessibility information, call (503) 797-1728.

## Reserve early for group picnics

Reservations are now being accepted for group picnics at Oxbow and Blue Lake regional parks and Howell Territorial Park for 2004. Make reservations by calling (503) 797-1850 option 2. Detailed information about the parks and picnic areas is available on the Metro web site at [www.metro-region.org/parks](http://www.metro-region.org/parks).

## Information numbers

**General number**  
(503) 797-1850

**Picnic reservations**  
(503) 797-1850 option 2

**Registration for Metro activities**  
(503) 797-1850 option 4

**Blue Lake Regional Park**  
(503) 665-4995

**The Lake House**  
(503) 667-3483

**Oxbow Regional Park**  
(503) 663-4708

**Howell Territorial Park**  
(503) 665-6918

**James Bybee House**  
(503) 222-1741

**Smith and Bybee Lakes Wildlife Area**  
(503) 797-1515

**Marine facilities**  
(503) 665-6918

**Glendoveer Golf Course**  
(503) 253-7507

**Pioneer cemeteries**  
(503) 797-1709



# Nature University

## *Volunteer naturalist training*

Where do osprey nest? Why do beavers cut down trees? What do salmon eat? Learn to answer these questions and many more by becoming a volunteer naturalist in Metro's parks.



If you enjoy nature and like working with children, Metro Regional Parks and Greenspaces Department can use your help. Thousands of children visit our parks each year on school field trips and summer programs. Volunteer naturalists are needed to help provide environmental education programs for these groups on weekdays in the spring and fall at Oxbow Regional Park and Smith and Bybee Lakes Wildlife Area. Opportunities also are available year-round at other Metro parks and greenspaces.

### **Discover the naturalist in you**

Enroll in Nature University and attend a series of 11 core training classes in the winter and spring and one in the fall. All class sessions meet in the parks and are taught by Metro naturalists. Classes cover wetland ecology, ancient forests, salmon, common plants and animals, animal tracking, restoration activities, first aid and teaching techniques. A menu of elective training classes also will be available throughout the year to increase your expertise in certain areas of interest.

Volunteers are trained to do activities that comprise a field trip program. No specific prior experience is required, but any experience in biology, natural history or working with youth groups will be helpful. Volunteer naturalists need to have access to personal transportation.

In exchange for training, Metro volunteer naturalists are asked to provide a minimum of 40 hours of service – about 10 field trips. Field trips are during September, October, April, May and the first part of June. Staff will help you track your progress toward completing your service hours.

### **Enrolling in the class of 2004**

Training sessions are from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesdays, Jan. 20 through April 6. To request an application or for more information, call volunteer services at (503) 797-1850 option 7 or send e-mail to [parkvol@metro.dst.or.us](mailto:parkvol@metro.dst.or.us).

600 NE Grand Ave.  
Portland, OR 97232-2736

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