

Metro GreenScene

NEWS & THINGS TO DO

Spring 2005



METRO

PEOPLE PLACES
OPEN SPACES

Learn about
Nature in
Neighborhoods
INSIDE

Working together to protect nature in neighborhoods



We live in a region blessed with clean water, healthy rivers and streams, and natural areas that bustle with wildlife. As the region grows, we must work together to protect these natural riches for our children, our communities and our future. Metro collaborates with the people, businesses and governments in the region to conserve nature in neighborhoods and ensure fair, responsible growth in our communities.

Open space acquisition

In 1995, voters overwhelmingly supported Metro's \$135.6 million open spaces, parks and streams bond measure. The program buys land from willing sellers to help conserve significant natural areas while providing recre-

ational opportunities and access to nature for people now and for generations to come. To date, Metro has acquired more than 8,170 acres of natural areas, far exceeding the original 6,000-acre goal. These lands protect 74 miles of stream and river frontage and thousands of acres of wetlands and other important water resources. The benefits to water quality and fish and wildlife habitat in the region are profound. For detailed information about Metro's open spaces acquisition program, visit the Metro web site at www.metro-region.org/parks.

Restoration and stewardship

Even the region's most pristine natural areas and waterways have been altered by the vast change and development in the region during the last 200 years. And even under conservation ownership, these resources are threatened by the spread of harmful invasive species, erosion and other impacts. Metro is working hard to enhance and restore the natural resource values of its parks and natural areas and to protect them

from any further degradation. More than 700,000 trees have been planted, and thousands of volunteers have helped remove truckloads of invasive scotch broom, ivy, blackberry and knotweed. These and other restoration efforts directly and indirectly improve water quality in the region.

All of this work is coordinated by a team of scientists at Metro who are applying cutting-edge restoration techniques to a long-term vision for site management that returns these natural areas to their historic conditions. Metro also works with conservation groups and public and private landowners to address restoration issues on a regional scale. Read about innovative work going on at Metro natural areas along Multnomah Channel and the Clackamas River on pages 4 and 5.

Natural gardening

More and more people are helping protect and conserve water by adopting natural gardening techniques. Metro offers workshops, a demonstration garden and other resources to help people care

for their yards and gardens without the use of toxic products that end up in rivers and streams. By building healthy soil and choosing native plants, people are able to grow beautiful gardens that work with nature instead of against it. Learn more at one of the workshops listed on page 17 and on the back cover. Attend Metro's annual Gardens of Natural Delights tour in July to see first-hand a sampling of flourishing, natural gardens. Lots of information about alternatives to pesticides and natural gardening is available on the Metro web site at www.metro-region.org or by calling (503) 234-3000.

Greenspaces grant program

The Metropolitan Greenspaces Program, a partnership between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Metro, provides financial support for conservation, restoration, and environmental education efforts spearheaded by local partners. Since the program's inception in 1991, tens of thousands of citizens throughout the region – young and

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 25 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, District 1; Brian Newman, District 2; Carl Hosticka, District 3; Susan McLain, District 4; Rex Burkholder, deputy council president, District 5; Robert Liberty, District 6.
Auditor – Alexis Dow, CPA

Metro's web site

www.metro-region.org

On the cover

(clockwise from top left): Wetland plants, great blue heron, public art at Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area, volunteers at SOLV-IT.

Photographs by Jim Cruce, C. Bruce Forster, Mike Houck, Ron Klein, Portland Water Bureau, Seth Ring, SOLV

Illustrations by Carey Cramer, Kathy Deal, Barbara Macomber and 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.

old, from Forest Grove to Troutdale, Wilsonville to Vancouver – have been involved in projects to combat non-native species, restore native habitats and learn about our natural ecosystems. More than \$2.2 million have been awarded in grant funding to more than 300 different projects. Through project partnerships, an additional \$9 million in local match has been leveraged. To read about the latest round of education projects selected to receive funding, see page 6. For a booklet describing the program’s accomplishments over the last 14 years, call (503) 797-1545.

Recycling and safe disposal of hazardous waste

Metro’s recycling and waste prevention programs help homeowners and businesses create less waste, recycle more and dispose of waste safely and efficiently. This region boasts one of the highest recycling rates in the nation – we currently recover 57 percent of the waste we generate. In a recent year, residents of the region recycled more than 400,000 tons of paper, enough to save 7.5 million trees.

One of the most important ways you can contribute to cleaner water in the region is by using and disposing of toxics safely. If you have questions about what’s hazardous in your home or want to learn about alternatives to these products, visit www.metro-region.org or call Metro Recycling Information at (503) 234-3000. For information about Metro’s free neighborhood collection events, see page 17.

Protecting fish and wildlife habitat

Water, fish and wildlife know no boundaries. The 25 cities and three counties that make up the metro area share in the benefits and responsibilities of preserving them. To ensure we integrate our efforts, Metro and its partners are developing a regional fish and wildlife habitat protection program that increases the impact of city and county programs. Metro is committed to conserving nature in neighborhoods, protecting the fair market value of private property and contributing to a strong regional economy.

“The overall goal is to conserve, protect and restore a continuous ecologically viable streamside corridor system, from the streams’ headwaters to their confluence with others streams and rivers, and with their floodplains in a manner that is integrated with the surrounding urban landscape.”

Habitat protection program vision statement

Metro Council and staff are developing a comprehensive plan that relies on voluntary, incentive-based and educational approaches for most habitat areas, with changes in development standards for the most valuable streamside habitat areas. Metro will take a leadership role to protect and restore habitat with the following strategies:

Education and awareness

Invest in long-term educational outreach that capitalizes on and expands existing programs and builds effective partnerships.



C. Bruce Foister

Expert assistance

Help homeowners, developers, and city and county staff implement habitat-friendly practices directly and through partnerships.

Restoration

Support individual, nonprofit and government-sponsored restoration and conservation efforts in all watersheds.

Incentives

Encourage habitat-friendly development through recognition programs, grants and other measures.

Development standards

For the most valuable and vulnerable habitats in the region, standards will be proposed to reduce the impact of development and help conserve habitat areas. These standards are intended to increase the value of property by allowing development to occur while preserving habitat and ecological function. However, a process to make exceptions is proposed in the rare situations when a property’s fair market value is decreased.

How can you get involved?

Your ideas will help the Metro Council as it finalizes and adopts its regional fish and wildlife habitat plan. A series of public meetings and hearings in April and May will offer opportunities to learn about the proposed plan and offer your comments. Attend a Nature in Neighborhoods fair to learn about low-impact development strategies, natural gardening methods, stewardship opportunities and restoration techniques. Metro Council will consider the proposed plan for adoption on May 19.

As the program is developed, information and opportunities to comment will be available at www.metro-region.org/habitat or by calling Metro’s planning information and comment line at (503) 797-1888 option 2.

Relic Clackamas River channel brought back to life for salmon refuge

Something has been missing for salmon in the Clackamas River for some 100 years. In the past, young salmon seeking a good place to grow on their way to the ocean had an opportunity to use riverside channels and backwaters to rest, feed and grow a little bigger. But dams, urban development and agricultural practices changed the nature of the river and essentially eliminated these vital places for salmon.



The new groundwater-fed lower channel provides year-round refuge for young salmon in the Clackamas River.

Side channels are natural features created as the river shifts course over long periods of time or from flood events. The ever-changing creation and destruction of these areas are part of a natural process to refresh and redistribute river rock, gravel and debris for fish and other aquatic life. In the Northwest, these places provide vital habitat for young salmon as a place to feed and grow up before their journey to the ocean or as a rest stop along the way.

Metro, along with the Oregon Wildlife Heritage Foundation, Portland General Electric, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and Interfluve, Inc., recently teamed up to rebuild side channel habitat along the Clackamas River downstream from the Barton Bridge. The \$1.2 million project, the largest of its kind in Oregon, will help increase the ability for

coho, chinook, steelhead and trout to survive and perhaps improve the status of salmon populations in the river.

“A project of this size could not have happened without this team,” notes Jim Morgan, Metro natural resource manager. “The project site is within 510 acres of riparian and island natural area purchased by Metro with funds from the open spaces, parks and streams bond measure approved by voters in 1995. The other partners provided the necessary funding and technical expertise to establish new habitat for salmon.”

Last summer, a specialized group of heavy equipment operators led by the project team removed about 40,000 cubic yards of earth to create 4,400 linear feet of side and backwater channels. The channels were sculpted in a place where the river once flowed and designed to mimic naturally occurring channels with fallen trees, woody debris and large rocks. Some 450 40-foot logs, many with massive roots still attached, were carefully “planted” and anchored to provide safe havens for fish and habitat for fish food production. Many huge boulders were placed to create quiet pools, eddies

and riffles. The project was completed last fall in time for winter rains to fill the Clackamas River and provide valuable new habitat for fish.

The salmon refuge consists of three primary parts:

- A 1,650-foot upper channel where water from the river enters and exits when river flows exceed 2,000 cubic feet per second. This section provides seasonal, winter habitat for juvenile salmon and steelhead.
- A groundwater-fed lower channel that provides cool, year round refuge and rearing habitat for juvenile salmon.
- The restoration of an existing side channel on the north side of the river that provides increased winter refuge and rearing habitat for juvenile salmon.

“The dynamic forces of the Clackamas River have been altered since European settlement, affecting natural processes and the historical salmon populations,” says Morgan. “But the project partners hope that restoring this historic river habitat feature will contribute to growing salmon populations for decades to come.”

The early results are very promising. One sweep of a seine during a fish survey conducted at the groundwater-fed channel in late February netted 134 coho, four steelhead, one chinook and six cutthroat trout.

Changing tides at Multnomah Channel Natural Area produce dramatic results

Not so long ago, a freshwater tidal marsh thrived along the Multnomah Channel, just west of Sauvie Island. The emergent wetland, 4 miles north of the Portland city limits, was once home to such uncommon sights as old-growth ash forest meandering through marshes full of wapato and water lily and fringed with Columbia sedge, spikerush and other native emergent plants. Beavers, not nutria, ruled the marsh and lived in harmony with now rare red-legged frogs and painted turtles, river otters and great blue herons. Seasonal flooding nurtured the marsh and maintained a proper balance for native plants and animals.

When Metro acquired the 326-acre Multnomah Channel Natural Area as part of the 1995 open spaces, parks and streams bond measure, it inherited a very different place. Wetland filling, stream diversions, deforestation and other human alterations to the area, coupled with more erratic and reduced flood water entering the system from the Multnomah Channel due to dams on the Columbia River, created a much drier landscape.

“Our general restoration strategy is one of ‘faithful reflection,’” notes Curt Zonick, Metro natural resources scientist. “We knew from the soils present and vegetation surveys conducted in the 1850s that the area was once much wetter and supported a mixture of emergent marsh, willow shrubland and ash/cottonwood riparian forest. We also knew that if we wanted to restore these native plant communities, and

the wildlife that rely upon them, we needed to mimic the natural flood regime that kept the site ponded through the winter and spring before the floodplain naturally drained in the summer. Unfortunately, since we don’t control water levels on the Columbia or Multnomah Channel, we had to work with what we had on our own property.”

In 2001, Metro partnered with Ducks Unlimited, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Natural Resource Conservation Service to install two water control structures on Metro’s property that recreate the seasonal flooding that was once natural to the area. The primary goals were to suppress reed canary grass and other invasives, improve conditions for native plant species, expand habitat for native amphibians, waterfowl and wading birds, and provide much needed off-channel rearing habitat for salmonids.

While some of the data on the effects of managed flooding is still preliminary, the results appear to be dramatic:

- Despite abnormally dry winters during the last two years, reed canarygrass cover has been reduced from at or near 100 percent cover prior to flooding to between 25 and 70 percent cover at most monitored locations after two years of flooding.
- Northern red-legged frogs, which bred in only two small ponds in 2000, now breed in greater numbers throughout the site.
- A new great blue heron rookery has become established. The first nests recorded on site became



Duane Meissner has volunteered more than 500 hours during the last three years as a site steward at Metro’s Multnomah Channel Natural Area. A retired teacher, Duane visits the area twice a week, spending two to three hours checking the water control structures, monitoring a well, clearing debris from streams, measuring water levels and recording his observations about natural features. His dedication earned him the Volunteer Program’s “Osprey Award” in 2002, the “You Did It Again Award” in 2003, and “You Did It Again, And Again! Award” last year.

established the year after seasonal flooding began, and the colony has grown steadily to approximately a dozen nests in 2004.

- There have been several observations of Western painted turtles, a native species that had not been documented in the area prior to flooding.

Metro’s Multnomah Channel Natural Area is part of a larger conservation program along the channel seeking to protect and restore a connected tract of nearly 1,000 acres of freshwater tidal wetlands. With the help of these partners and many volunteers, Metro will continue to monitor the effects of the water control structure and the overall restoration of the site. If you are interested in joining a crew to monitor birds or amphibians at Multnomah Channel, call Seth Ring at (503) 797-1688.

Multnomah Channel tour

1 to 3 p.m. Saturday, May 21

Explore the Multnomah Channel with Metro naturalist Deb Scrivens. This Metro greenspace is a large remnant of a once common system of braided channels, wetlands and riparian areas along the Willamette and Columbia rivers. Biologically diverse, it is important habitat for juvenile salmon, birds and native amphibians such as frogs and salamanders. Wapato and tule (soft stemmed bulrush) were historically harvested here and can still be found. Suitable for all ages. You will receive directions after you register. Payment of \$5 per adult is required in advance; children are free. Call (503) 797-1928 to register. *Metro*

Metro Council awards grants for environmental education

Volunteer opportunities available

The Metro Council in partnership with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, awarded 14 grants totaling \$82,514 to schools and environmental groups in the region. The funds will be used for hands-on, outdoor projects including environmental data collection, habitat improvements for fish and wildlife and teacher training in 2005 and 2006. Many of the projects offer ways for the community to get involved; note the volunteer opportunities in the following descriptions.

West of the Willamette

Friends of Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge

This project will allow thousands of students to experience urban wild lands, view wildlife, discover historic landscapes and learn habitat management techniques while visiting the refuge. To become a volunteer naturalist at the refuge, call Berk Moss at (503) 537-0777.

Friends of Tryon Creek State Park

Fifteen teachers will learn about place-based education and how to incorporate schoolyards and local greenspaces into their daily lessons. Four hundred elementary school students will receive the benefits of their training. To volunteer with the friends, call Sheilagh Diez at (503) 636-4398.

Jackson Bottom Wetland Preserve

A continuous water quality monitoring station will be installed on the Tualatin River.

Volunteers will be trained to use the equipment, and the data collected will contribute to the preserve's watershed education for students of all ages. To be trained as a volunteer water quality monitor, call Frank Opila at (503) 681-6419.

Friends of Forest Park

This program will develop a collection of clues and maps to guide visitors through the largest forested city park in the country. The "quests" will be a fun and engaging way for explorers of all ages to learn about the unique natural and cultural history of the park. To serve on the planning committee, call John Halsell at (503) 816-6501.

Metro Regional Parks and Greenspaces Department

Thirty-six eighth graders from Scappoose Middle School will learn earth science by engaging in hands-on field studies and plantings at Metro's Howell Territorial Park near the Multnomah Channel on Sauvie Island.

East of the Willamette

Urban Water Works

Grant funds will support the completion of two creative courtyard projects at Astor and Bridger elementary schools. Students and community members will plant rain gardens and build sculptural elements to redirect storm water. To participate in one of the work parties, call Erin Middleton at (503) 231-8103.

Christ the King Parish School

Middle school students will adopt Furnberg Park in Milwaukie to learn about wetlands and the effects of human interactions on ecological systems. They will create and publish a field guide documenting their studies and lead "docent dialogues" for visiting elementary students. Grant funds will support the acquisition of equipment for data collection and testing.

The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation

In collaboration with the Columbia Slough Watershed Council, volunteers of all ages will collect, sort, identify and interpret macroinvertebrate samples to acquire data for ongoing water quality monitoring. To become a volunteer sampler, call Jeff Adams at (503) 232-6639.

Willamette Riverkeeper

This project provides an opportunity for middle and high school students throughout the region to explore the Willamette River by canoe. The trips will focus on harbor wildlife and riparian vegetation.

George Middle School, Portland Public Schools

Sixty middle school students will learn about a local ecosystem by identifying plant and animal species, mapping the area, removing non-native invasive plant species, plant-

ing native plant species and monitoring the results of their restoration efforts.

Friends of Zenger Farm

This former farm and adjacent wetland in Southeast Portland will provide hundreds of students a hands-on opportunity to learn about the ecological impacts of agriculture, the importance of species diversity and watershed health and the impact of food and energy choices on the environment. To assist with the farm's educational programs, call Wisteria Loefler at (503) 282-4245.

Clackamas High School

Grant funds will support a three-week intensive summer course on watershed processes. High school students will develop a research project in collaboration with their local watershed council, and will collect data on water quality, riparian vegetation, habitat quality and macroinvertebrate diversity.

North of the Columbia

Environmental Information Cooperative

Fifty environmental educators will learn about the ecology of freshwater mussels. By "teaching the teachers," this project will contribute to water quality education efforts throughout the region.

Lower Columbia River Estuary Partnership and Water Resources Education Center

This project will engage 10 classes of Clark County fourth and fifth graders in earth science. Students will study wetland ecology, participate in the revegetation of a riparian zone and share their learning at two community events. To participate in one of the work parties, call Jennie Boyd at (503) 226-1565 ext. 222.

The Bull Run watershed: Main source of Portland's drinking water

Tucked away in the Sandy River Basin, east of Portland in the Mt. Hood National Forest, is the Bull Run watershed. This 140-square-mile landscape is famous for clean, fresh water. Annually, 80-200 inches of rain fall in the watershed as storm clouds lift over the Cascades. Bull Run's lush forest ecosystem soaks up the wet season rains, gradually releasing the water into the river during the dry summer. Replenishing rains come again in the fall. Water captured in reservoirs flows through miles of pipe to emerge at homes and businesses in and around Portland.

The Bull Run River flows into the Sandy River at Dodge Park, a few miles upstream from Metro's Oxbow Regional Park. The Bull Run watershed drains about 20 percent of the Sandy Basin's annual precipitation. Located at lower elevations in the western Cascade foothills, the river is fed more by late spring rains than by snow melt. The Bull Run River also is a "clear water stream" not affected by melting glaciers on Mt. Hood.

Partnerships key to resource protection

Since most of the Bull Run watershed is located in the national forest, the Portland Water Bureau and the USDA Forest Service work together to protect the watershed and to manage the related facilities. The U.S. Geological Survey and the Natural Resource Conservation Service also par-



An ancient landslide helped form Bull Run Lake, a natural lake at the eastern edge of the watershed. Seepage through that landslide emerges at two large springs. Flow from the springs become the headwaters of the Bull Run River.

ticipate in coordinated stream and snow monitoring.

The lower Bull Run River is home to salmon and steelhead. Fall and spring chinook and winter steelhead are listed as threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act. More than a dozen partner organizations (public and private) are working to recover wild populations of these fish in the Sandy River and its tributaries, including Bull Run.

Public access is limited, but tour groups are welcome

The portion of the watershed located inside the Bull Run watershed management unit is closed to public access to protect water quality and to lessen the potential for human-caused wildfire. Trespass in the management unit carries a \$5,000 federal fine. The lower two miles of the river

are accessible to the public from Dodge Park and from the county bridge located next to Portland General Electric's Bull Run powerhouse. Anglers and kayakers are frequent visitors.

Want to visit the Bull Run watershed? The Portland Water Bureau provides guided tours for community groups and the general public each summer and fall. Tour groups visit salmon spawning grounds in the lower river, the dams and reservoirs that store water for summer supply, historic log cabins at Bull Run Lake and old growth forests. School groups visit in the spring and fall. While in the watershed, students do hands-on activities such as testing water quality and measuring the age of trees.

Dates for general public tours will be listed in the summer GreenScene and on the Water Bureau web site at www.portlandonline.com/water. For more information, call (503) 823-7407.

Escaped cattle in the mid-1800s, possibly from settlers crossing Lolo Pass and the Barlow Trail, gave Bull Run its name. In 1895, water began flowing from Bull Run to Portland replacing other local sources then polluted and prone to water-borne disease. Some 110 years later, about 800,000 Oregonians (or 20 percent of the state's population) open their water faucets to receive Bull Run water.

Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area

*Revitalized wildlife habitat and
new visitor facilities make it easier
to get close to nature*

People have had a centuries-long relationship with this North Portland wetland – sometimes good, sometimes bad. Metro, Friends of Smith and Bybee Lakes, Ducks Unlimited and others have worked diligently to improve living conditions for wildlife and provide a richer experience in the natural area for visitors. It was no easy task as it took several years to plan, obtain permits and secure funding. But good things come to those who wait.

At the end of 2003, Metro replaced an old dam along the south side of Bybee Lake with a new water control structure that is helping return the natural area to its roots as a freshwater tidal marsh. During the structure's first year of operation in 2004, the response from nature has been remarkable. Wapato and bulrush were indicators that the native wetlands were back. Young chinook salmon used the wetlands for refuge on their journey to the ocean. A pair of bald eagles nested at the natural area for the first time in recent history. Hundreds of shorebirds used the exposed mudflats in late fall, and flocks of herons and egrets waded in the shallow water of Smith Lake hunting warm water fish. During the winter when the wetlands were replenished, the area



Habitat poles offer beauty and function to the landscape at the wetlands.

was host to thousands of waterfowl.

In 2004, construction began on new visitor facilities at the wetlands. Improvements include a trailhead and parking for 40 vehicles, a bus drop-off area, a restroom, interpretive displays, a covered shelter, bike racks and a drinking fountain. A half-mile segment of old Marine Drive, now a part of the 40-Mile Loop trail system, is improved for

bicycle and pedestrian use with a newly paved surface. Habitat restoration, stormwater swales and nature-related art complete the project.

The new Smith Lake canoe launch should be great news to paddlers, who had to maneuver their watercraft through a slough and then portage into Bybee Lake to get into the heart of the natural area. The new canoe launch is situated directly on

Smith Lake, providing more direct and convenient access. Located a quarter-mile east of the new parking lot, the canoe launch area includes 10 parking spaces reserved for paddlers.

Improvements were designed to increase and enhance visitor use of the natural area and better protect sensitive wildlife habitat. The facilities are ADA accessible and will serve thousands of visitors and participants in school field trips and public nature programs at the natural area. With the facilities ready to enjoy and use, a grand opening celebration will take place Sunday, May 15.

The entrance to Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area is on North Marine Drive between the Expo Center and Kelley Point Park. Take I-5 to exit 307 and go west on North Marine Drive about two miles. Turn left at the large brown and white natural area sign. In order to prevent conflicts with wildlife, pets and bicycles are not allowed in the natural area.

What's in a name?

Since the new water control structure was installed in late 2003, Metro has turned back the clock more than 200 years for the natural area around Smith and Bybee lakes. It's not exactly the way Lewis and Clark found it, but the area is returning to the extensive network of sloughs, wetlands and forests that formerly existed at the confluence of the Willamette and Columbia rivers. The lakes and wetlands are now reconnected to a larger water regime. To better reflect the nature of the site, the natural area has been renamed Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area.

Art that teaches and connects



Stone sculptures highlight plants and animals found at Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area and honor the cultural past of the area.

In an innovative approach to project design, artists worked alongside landscape architects, engineers and habitat experts on the new facilities at Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area. The result is a unique blend of form and function. Visitors will encounter amazing pieces of environmental art that invite them to discover the natural and cultural history of the area. Some of the pieces provide habitat for wildlife, too.

- A large “creation stone” is the centerpiece of the visitor orientation area. The round stone reflects the creation story of the Chinook people in which woman was born from a hole in a rock.
- Seven sculpted wooden poles inspired by naturally occurring snag trees were designed to provide perches and nesting sites for swallows, purple martins, bats, owls and other wildlife.
- A number of carved boulders, placed around the trailhead area, portray patterns of skulls, flower buds, diatoms and a turtle egg embryo.
- Several large, gnarled tree roots are placed in the water near the canoe launch. These forms highlight the dynamic change of water levels and the return of a vital piece of habitat to the wetland.
- A large gathering stone placed near the canoe launch was carved to resemble a freshwater mussel. Like a tree trunk, the lines of the mussel reveal a timeline for the wetlands.
- Basalt canoe sculptures offer seating and provide a link to the time when the Chinook people gathered and harvested wapato and camas bulbs from the area.

Lango Hansen Landscape Architects worked closely with artists Valerie Otani and Fernanda D’Agostino to create art that was functional and connected visitors to the natural area. “Upon your arrival at the wetlands, the landscape and art begin to reveal the ecology and history of the site by subtly reaching out to visitors and posing questions that might otherwise go unasked,” notes Elizabeth Crane of Lango Hansen. “It connects people to natural and cultural elements of the wetlands that invite deeper exploration.”

The facilities and landscape design also tell the story of the wetlands. The gentle arc of the parking lot, the sweeping forms of the bioswales and the drifts of the native plantings all recall the simplicity and power of the natural landscape. Together with the art, the design provides a living classroom that will continue to change over time.

Funding for the facility improvements was provided by Metro’s open spaces bond measure (local share), Oregon State Parks’ local government grant program, and a conservation and restoration grant from the Metropolitan Greenspaces Program. Funds for the artwork came from the public art budget associated with a nearby Multnomah County corrections facility. The percent for art program is administered by the Regional Arts and Culture Council.

Wetlands and Wildlife

Grand opening adventure exploring the wilds of Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area

11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, May 15

Check out the new visitor facilities at Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area and celebrate nature at this family-friendly grand opening event. Solve a nature mystery by visiting “exploration stations” along the trail and learning about the magnificent outdoor art. You’ll see resident wildlife such as Western painted turtles and great blue herons. Guided paddle trip tours will offer a first look at the wetlands beyond the new canoe launch.

Bikers can take the MAX yellow line to the Expo Center and then ride two miles on the 40-Mile Loop trail to the event. By car, take I-5 to exit 307 and go west on North Marine Drive about two miles. Turn right into “event parking” areas located directly across from the entrance to the wetlands. Please leave pets at home.

Home improvement for Western painted turtles

Improvements at Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area are a welcome addition for visitors, but they also make life easier for wildlife, especially turtles. From the turtles' perspective, the old parking lot and informal canoe launch were located in one of the worst possible places. Paddlers continually disturbed the turtles, and visitors trampled their nesting habitat. The new parking lot and launch are located away from prime turtle habitat. The existing interlakes trail will continue to provide ample opportunity for people to view turtles sunning themselves on logs.

Why all the fuss about disturbing turtles? The wildlife area is home to one of the last remaining large populations of Western painted turtles in Oregon. The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife considers the status of the turtle as "sensitive-critical." That means unless Western painted turtles reverse their current downward population trend, the species could become listed as threatened or endangered. Metro and its partners can take some credit in providing important habitat for the turtles while giving people a special opportunity to view and enjoy these interesting animals.

The best time to view the turtles is late spring, when temperatures first approach 70 degrees. These first warm days bring the turtles out of the water and onto logs to bask in the sun. Western painted turtles are aquatic, and they spend the winter



Jim Cruce

Western painted turtles bask in the spring sun.

underwater. A few may come up for air once or twice, but most turtles stay underwater in the mud all winter.

Warm, spring days are critical for turtles to begin their reproductive activities. Sunning on logs is a vital part of the day to be able to breathe, move, breed and eat. When turtles are disturbed and dive off their basking sites, their ability to meet basic life needs becomes more difficult.

What can you do to help?

Keep your distance when watching turtles. Use binoculars or a spotting scope for close-up views. Staying quiet also improves wildlife watching. Do not release pet

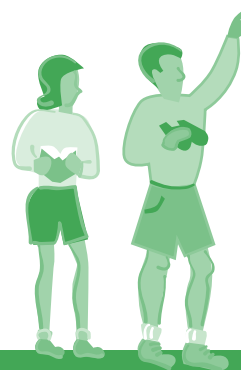
turtles (or any pet animals) in the natural area. They can compete for food and spread deadly diseases to native wildlife. Report anyone attempting to capture turtles from the wildlife area to the Oregon State Police.

Visitors to Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area can view turtles from the interlakes trail, a quarter-mile west of the new parking lot. Look for knobs or lumps on floating logs. Those "lumps" are probably turtles. It takes a little practice to see them, but after you learn how to spot turtles, you'll quickly realize Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area is a great place for turtles.

How can an air-breathing animal hold its breath for months? Turtles, like most animals, are ectotherms or "cold-blooded." That is, their body temperature matches the surrounding temperature. When turtles hibernate at the bottom of a pond or slough, they are as cold as the water and their metabolism slows way down. Turtles need so little oxygen when hibernating that they can absorb all the oxygen they need from the water through their skin.

Schedule a school field trip

Springtime is fabulous for school field trips to Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area. Metro naturalists have created popular, structured environmental education programs that maximize students' chances of actually seeing wildlife. If you are an educator or parent interested in having a classroom visit the wetlands, call Susan Lowe at (503) 797-1928 or send e-mail to lowes@metro.dst.or.us.



Explore the wetlands

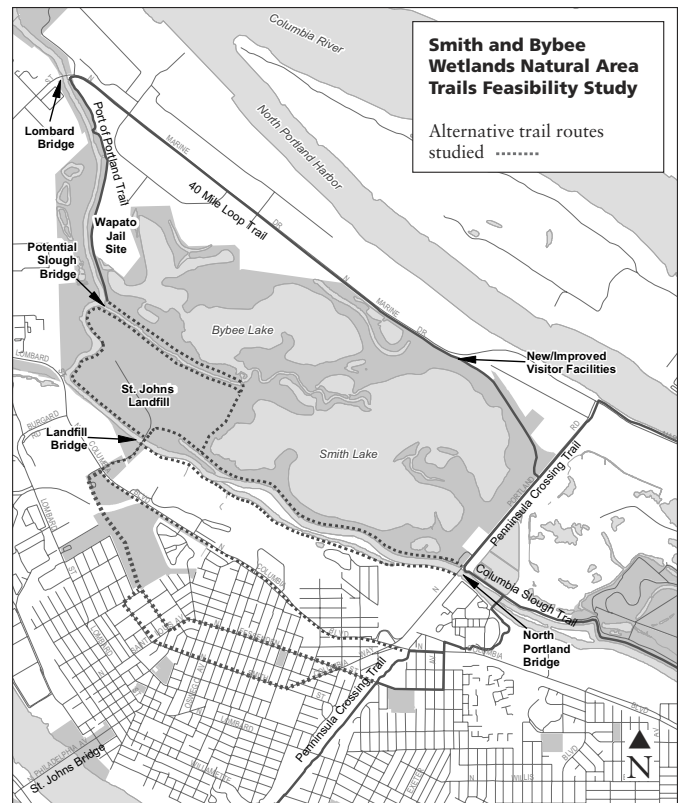
For guided bird and turtle walks and paddle trips, see pages 14, 15 and 19.

Additional trail connections to wetlands studied

Four possible trail alignments that would connect North Portland neighborhoods to Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area and other trails in the community are being studied by Metro, city of Portland and other interested groups and citizens. The trail study will be completed this summer and will feature alternative trail routes, designs and amenities. The Metro Council will make a decision about the final trail alignment shortly after the study is published.

Metro Councilor, Rex Burkholder, whose district includes the wetland points out, "It's critical that people have an opportunity to experience, understand and appreciate the benefits nature brings to our communities. Connecting neighborhoods to places like Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area will offer countless learning and outdoor activities, but trail routes must be carefully considered to minimize conflicts with wildlife and their habitat."


For details about the project and to offer your comments, visit Metro's web site at www.metro-region.org/parks or contact Metro project manager Jane Hart at (503) 797-1585 or hartj@metro.dst.or.us.



Down by the Riverside 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, May 21



Last year, nearly 17,000 Oregonians at 400 sites participated in watershed restoration and enhancement projects, removing more than 1 million pounds of man-made trash and 4 million pounds of invasive plants and green debris.

SOLV's 10th annual Down by the Riverside event, presented by the Oregon Lottery, brings thousands of Oregonians together for the largest river enhancement event in the nation. Volunteers help build trails, plant native trees and shrubs, remove invasive vegetation and clean up illegally dumped materials, among other projects. For more information and to review the list of project sites, visit www.solv.org/downbytheriverside or call (503) 844-9571.  by arrangement

Down by the Riverside at Chinook Landing

Participate in SOLV's Down by the Riverside event by rolling up your sleeves at Metro's Chinook Landing Marine Park along the Columbia River. Chinook Landing not only is Oregon's largest public marine facility, but it includes 67 acres of wetland, beaches and wildlife habitat. Help remove invasive plants that threaten native species, clear brush and pick up litter. Advance registration required; call (503) 797-1928.

Wilsonville WERK Day at Graham Oaks

Join the Wilsonville Environmental Resource Keepers for their annual WERK Day. In conjunction with Down by the Riverside, volunteers work at a variety of sites including Metro's Graham Oaks Natural Area. Breakfast, lunch, t-shirts and prizes are provided. To register, call (503) 570-1525.

Fishing at Metro parks and facilities

by Metro park supervisor Jim Lind



Metro offers diverse fishing opportunities at many of its facilities. There are opportunities for bank fishing and fishing from both non-motorized and motorized boats. Hike to a fishing hole or get in your boat and paddle or motor to your favorite spot. Before fishing, consult Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife fishing regulations and be familiar with the rules and regulations, which are applicable to each site.

Oxbow Regional Park

Oxbow provides opportunities for bank and boat angling on the Sandy River. The park includes four miles of river-bank access on the state and federally recognized scenic waterway. At the beginning of 2005, a new rule opened four additional miles of the Sandy to “angling from a floating device.” For the first time since 1949, anglers may fish from their boats the entire 12 miles from a point 200 feet below the Oxbow boat ramp to the mouth of the river.

Winter and spring are seasons when incredible winter steelhead angling can be found on the Sandy River. Conversion to a Sandy River native stock has moved the peak season into late January and through February. Good numbers of both native and hatchery winter steelhead can be present through June.

Spring chinook and summer steelhead are the quarry of choice later in spring and into early summer. Anglers “in the

know” have learned there is a great spring chinook and summer steelhead fishery on the Sandy River. First appearing in late March or early April, a surprisingly large number of spring chinook, weighing as much as 30 pounds, are caught from the Sandy River. Summer steelhead can be caught as early as March and continue entering the system into the fall.

Autumn brings fall chinook and coho salmon back to the Sandy. Hatchery fall chinook are not released into the Sandy River, resulting in a catch-and-release fishery.

The native fall chinook can provide quite a show in their easily viewed spawning areas. Both native and hatchery coho salmon return to the Sandy River, mostly in late September and through October. When conditions are right, angling for this species can be very productive.

Remember: all native salmonids must be released unharmed; barbless hooks are recommended.

Blue Lake Regional Park

Bluegill, largemouth and smallmouth bass, crappie, catfish and trout can be found in Blue Lake. Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife plants hatchery trout in the lake several times each spring. Currently 1,500 legal size trout are scheduled to be planted the weeks of March 14 and April 18.

There is easy access for people of all ages and abilities from accessible fishing docks and pathways along the north side of the lake. From Oct. 1 through April 30, anglers also may launch personal watercraft for angling purposes. Craft may be no longer than 16 feet in length and may be non-motorized or powered by a motor less than 10 horsepower.

Chinook Landing Marine Park

Access to the Columbia River from Oregon’s largest public boat ramp facility is provided at Chinook Landing Marine Park, located just north of Marine Drive at 223rd Avenue. Salmon, steelhead and sturgeon are popular targets for anglers from this boat ramp. Less publicized are the walleye, shad, bass and northern pikeminnow fisheries.

When anglers tire of salmon and sturgeon fishing (yes, some of them do) several other species can provide attractive alternatives.

When angling for salmon is open on the Columbia (usually spring and fall, sometimes through summer too) the boat ramp at Chinook Landing Marine Park is often packed with vehicles and trailers. A huge number of prime angling locations can be found very near to the ramp, both upstream and downstream. Just look for the groupings of boats, usually anchored in “hoglines.” Take someone who knows the fishery or get as much information as possible before trying to anchor and/or fish on the Columbia. Practice far away from other boats and always wear your personal flotation device.

Productive sturgeon angling areas also can be found very close to the Chinook Landing Boat Ramp. These fish, weighing into the hundreds of pounds, are a real thrill to hook. Open seasons and rules change often. Check for current regulations if you are unsure.

Shad return by the millions to the Columbia River and a few of its tributaries. They are not known for their great table qualities, but they do provide some great sport. During the peak of their migration in May and June, they can be caught nonstop for hours.

Sandy River Spey Clave

8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, May 14-15

Come to Oxbow Regional Park for a gathering of anglers interested in two-hand fly rod fishing. There will be 12 manufacturers’ booths set up with a huge selection of the latest tackle to try as well as free casting lessons. On-the-water casting demonstrations by some of the world’s foremost casting instructors go on all day both days. Lunch will be served. Overnight camping is available in the park on a first-come, first-served basis for \$15 per night (up to six people per site). Program is free with a \$4 entrance fee to the park. For more information, call The Fly Fishing Shop at (503) 622-4607. Metro and *The Fly Fishing Shop*

Simple gear requirements combined with their great fight for weight reputation make them an ideal fish to target while fishing with beginners and kids.

Pikeminnow angling can actually help pay for your fishing. During summer months, a bounty is paid for each pikeminnow returned to a weigh-in station. A weigh-in station is located right at the entry to Chinook Landing Marine Park. Bounty amounts vary but usually start at \$4 per fish and increase with the amount an angler catches. Night fishing for this species also is popular.

Walleye and bass can provide another opportunity away from the throngs that can sometimes show up to pursue salmon.

M. James Gleason Boat Ramp

Access to the Columbia River also is provided for boaters at M. James Gleason Boat Ramp, located at Northeast 42nd Avenue and Marine Drive. This boat ramp offers the same opportunities as those found at Chinook Landing Marine Park.

Sauvie Island Boat Ramp

This boat ramp on the west side of Sauvie Island provides similar opportunities to those on the Columbia River but also provides access to the Multnomah Channel and the Willamette River.

Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area

Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area provides non-motorized access for bluegill, carp, crappie, bass and other warm water fishes.

Metro Council honors outstanding volunteers

Metro volunteers make a significant contribution to the nature of the region by caring for our parks and greenspaces, educating others about our natural resources, building stewardship in our communities, or supporting the day to day work of planning and protecting a regional system of parks, natural areas, and trails. These contributions directly benefit fish, wildlife and people today and help ensure a lasting legacy of clean air and water and access to nature for generations to come.

In 2004, 1,500 volunteers donated approximately 32,000 hours to Metro parks and greenspaces programs. This donation is valued at \$550,080. It also represents a 70 percent increase in volunteer hours from the previous year. For a copy of the 2004 volunteer program report, call (503) 797-1834.

The following exceptional Metro volunteers were honored by the Metro Council, staff and their peers at an awards ceremony in January for their leadership, excellence and outstanding contributions.

Courtney Brooks

Donated 238 hours of service providing data analyses on the Western painted turtle database.

Midge Karp

Oxbow campground host for eight years; gave 1,100 hours in 2004 and an estimated 9,000 total.

Terry Kem

Leader of Cybertracking data gathering project on Cooper Mountain; donated 122 hours in 2004.

Leo Mellon

Donated 85 hours to Metro education and restoration programs and special events in 2004.

Elena Ochoa

Contributed more than 200 hours working with Metro's open spaces acquisition team to develop a land donation program.

Juliana Tennent

Volunteer naturalist for three years; donated more than 300 hours (including 115 in 2004) to school field trips, summer programs and office assistance for the education program.

Lacey Vogel

Donated 87 hours of service as a volunteer naturalist leading school field trips and youth programs and as a "roving naturalist."

Suzan Wells

Donated the most hours as a volunteer naturalist in 2004 (120 hours); filled every available role for volunteer naturalists including campfire host at Oxbow.

Shelley Young

Led field trips and helped with summer programs and community events as a volunteer naturalist.

Jim Zehren

Contributed 80 hours, leveraging 500 total, as chair of Metro's Greenspaces Policy Advisory Committee.

Outstanding groups recognized

Multnomah County Adult Community Service

Crews donated nearly 2,000 hours of service in several of Metro's parks and pioneer cemeteries.

Portland State University School of Urban Studies and Planning, Professors Deborah Howe and Ethan Seltzer

Students donated more than 500 hours monitoring vegetation around Smith and Bybee Lakes to help assess the success of new water control structure.

PSU Maseeh College of Engineering and Computer Science, Professor Rob Bertini

Ten students donated 1,200 hours working to produce engineering drawings and documents for the proposed Sullivan's Gulch Trail.

PSU Department of Environmental Sciences and Resources, professor Alan Yeakley

Four students and their advisors spent more than 550 hours combined to create a feasibility study for the Sullivan Gulch Trail.

You did it again! for outstanding volunteers who received awards in the past and continued to meet award criteria for service in 2004:

Northwest Service Academy
Tualatin Riverkeepers
Youth Guidance Association
Troy Clark
Bob Hungerford
Laila Hungerford
Jeff Locke
Duane Meissner
George Smith

Director's Award for staff excellence in working with volunteers:

Rachel Mortenson, park ranger
Elaine Stewart, natural resource scientist

Spring Calendar



BIRD Watching

Vancouver Lake bird walk

8 to 10:30 a.m. Sunday,
March 20

See grebes, loons, cormorants, eagles, owls and a number of different songbirds at Vancouver Lake on a guided nature walk with Backyard Bird Shop. Suitable for older children and adults with beginning to intermediate birding skills. Meet at the Vancouver Backyard Bird Shop to carpool. Free. Advance registration required; call (360) 253-5771. *Backyard Bird Shop*

Spring bird walks at Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area

9 to 11 a.m. Saturdays, April 9, May 7 and 21 and June 4

Spring brings more than 25 different songbirds to join the resident birds nesting at Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area. Lingering winter waterfowl and birds of prey add to the hot birding action at the wildlife area in early spring. Meet Metro naturalist and expert birder James Davis in the parking lot on North Marine Drive. Learn to identify birds by sight and songs. Bring binoculars or borrow a pair of ours. Suitable for adults and children 10 and older. Free. Advance registration is required; call (503) 797-1928. *Metro*



Lewisville Park bird walk

8 to 10:30 a.m. Saturday,
April 9

Hone your bird identification skills and hear interesting tips on bird behavior on a bird-oriented nature walk at Lewisville Park. Suitable for adults and children with beginning to intermediate birding skills. Meet at the Vancouver Backyard Bird Shop. Advance registration is required; call (360) 253-5771. *Backyard Bird Shop*

Bird watching basics for beginners

7 to 9:30 p.m. Wednesday,
April 13

Metro naturalist James Davis has been getting beginning bird watchers off to a good start for more than 20 years. Discuss the basics of bird identification, talk about the best field guides and binoculars and watch a slide show of the “top 20” birds of the Portland metropolitan area. This class is excellent preparation for the Saturday bird watching trips and other bird classes. For adults and interested teens. Meet in room 370 at Metro Regional Center in Portland. Registration and payment of \$10 per person are required in advance; call (503) 797-1928. *Metro*



Introduction to the language of birds

9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday,
April 16

What can you learn from birds as they communicate with each other and other wild animals? Join naturalists Elisabeth Neely and James Davis at Oxbow Regional Park for this introduction to the fascinating art of interpreting the meaning of bird songs and calls, using methods learned from renowned tracker Jon Young. This popular class combines modern birding tools and

techniques with ancient awareness skills known to native people worldwide. Class will be indoor/outdoor; bring a notepad, sack lunch and something to sit on in the woods. Meeting location dependent on weather; ask at the gate. Registration and program fee of \$5 per person is required in advance. There also is a \$4 per vehicle entry fee to the park, payable at the gate. To register, call (503) 797-1928. *Metro*

Sauvie Island bird walk

8 to 10:30 a.m. Saturday,
April 16

Explore Sauvie Island bird life with Audubon naturalist Steve Jagers. Explore the island searching for raptors, waterfowl and songbirds. To carpool, meet at the Vancouver Backyard Bird Shop. Free. Advanced registration required; call (503) 635-2044. *Backyard Bird Shop* and *Audubon Society of Portland*

Spring birds identification class

7 to 9:30 p.m. Tuesday,
April 19

Spring brings thousands of migrating birds to the region. Get ready for some great spring birding with this crash course in identifying spring migrants and summer breeders. Metro naturalist James Davis will show slides and play recordings of bird songs and simplify what seems like a confusing variety of birds to many beginners. This class is excellent preparation for bird walks at Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area. For adults and interested teens. Meet in room 370 at Metro Regional Center in Portland. Registration and payment of \$10 per person are required in advance; call (503) 797-1928. *Metro*



Bird watching on Mt. Talbert

9:30 a.m. to noon Saturday,
April 23

Be among the first to catch the birding action during the peak of spring migration on Mt. Talbert in Clackamas County. Join Metro naturalist and expert birder James Davis at this open space acquired with funds from the open spaces, parks and streams bond measure. Forested hills like this one are hot spots for warblers, tanagers, orioles, vireos, flycatchers and other spring migrants moving through the region. There are no developed trails or other facilities; some walking will be on rough ground. Bring binoculars or borrow some of ours. You will receive directions and other information after you register. Free. Advance registration is required; call (503) 557-7873 by April 11. *Metro* and *North Clackamas Parks and Recreation District*

Birding the Killin Wetlands

10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Sunday, April 24

The Killin Wetlands in Banks, known to local birders for years as Cedar Canyon Marsh, is a great place to see (or at least hear) three very hard to find marsh birds – American bittern, sora and Virginia rail. Many other common wetland birds are also seen here this time of year, making it a regular stop on Audubon’s Birdathon. Join naturalist James Davis for one of Metro’s first birding programs at this special place that has been protected by Metro’s open space acquisition program. You will receive directions and other information after you register. Payment of \$5 per adult is required in advance; children are free. Call (503) 797-1928 to register. *Metro*

Bird watching basics for beginners at Clackamas Community College
7 to 9:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 27

Metro naturalist James Davis has been getting beginning bird watchers off to a good start for more than 20 years. Come to a special Clackamas County offering of his popular beginners class at the John Inskeep Environmental Learning Center – easy to get to from Milwaukie, West Linn, Lake Oswego or Oregon City. You'll discuss the basics of bird identification, talk about the best field guides and binoculars to use, and have a slide show of the "top 20" birds of Portland. For adults and interested teens. Registration and payment of \$8 per person are required in advance. To register, call Alison at (503) 657-6958 ext. 2644. *Clackamas Community College and Metro*

Warblers of Oregon
7 to 9:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 4

One of the most colorful and musical groups of birds to arrive in spring is the warblers. The different species in the Portland area can be quite confusing to beginning and experienced birders alike. Let Metro naturalist and expert birder James Davis make warbler identification easier for you. This class takes place near the peak of warbler migration so you can get out right away and practice your new skills. For adults and interested teens. Meet in room 370 at Metro Regional Center in Portland. Registration and payment of \$10 per person are required in advance; call (503) 797-1928. *Metro* ♿

Song of the land: listening to the messages of birds
10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, May 7

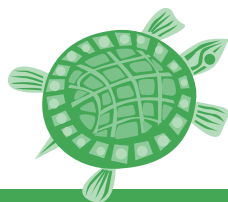
Each morning, the birds all around us are speaking with one another in an ancient and beautiful language of song

and call. Bear and bobcat, fox and rabbit and robin are listening, and our own ancestors knew to heed the birds' calls, but to most of us today this is a language lost to our understanding. In this class, recover the skills to understand this wonderful element of nature, and to interpret what you see and hear from birds that live in your own backyard. Class is suitable for any background level and will include indoor discussion and outdoor time; location within one hour drive of Portland. Registration and payment of \$20 per person are required in advance; call (503) 296-6733 or visit www.deerdance.org. *Metro and Deerdance*

Migratory Songbird Festival

10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Saturday, May 14

Come to the Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge for a day of guided bird walks, canoe trips, hands-on educational activities, food, entertainment, a native plant sale and more. Free. For more information, visit www.friendsoftualatinrefuge.org or call (503) 590-5811. *Friends of the Refuge* ♿ *by arrangement*



NATURE Discoveries

Ethnobotany at Oxbow
12:30 to 4 p.m. Sunday, March 13, and Saturday, March 26

Ethnobotany is the study of how humans use plants. These entertaining workshops will include the ethics and safety protocols involved in plant harvest and a walk in the springtime woods of Oxbow Regional Park to get

to know plants traditionally used for food, medicine, baskets, etc. You also will receive a resource list for further study. We will create cordage and tea from stinging nettles. Meet at the naturalist office. Registration and payment of \$5 per person are required in advance; call (503) 797-1928. There also is a \$4 per vehicle entry fee to the park. *Metro*

Ancient forest walk

1 to 3 p.m. Sunday, March 27

Spend Easter afternoon in an 800-year-old cathedral forest at Oxbow Regional Park. Naturalist Deb Scrivens will guide this easy 1-mile hike. The pace will be slow and quiet to fully appreciate this magnificent forest. Bring binoculars if you have them. Meet in the parking area across from Alder Shelter (group picnic area "A"). Best for adults and older children. The hike is free with a \$4 entry fee to the park. Advance registration is required; call (503) 797-1928. *Metro*

Clear Creek Canyon tour
12:30 to 3:30 p.m. Saturday, April 2

Join Metro naturalist James Davis for a natural history tour of one of the most beautiful new sites protected by Metro's open spaces acquisition program. This forested tributary of the Clackamas River has excellent water quality and significant wild fish runs. Dear, coyote, beaver and river otter sign are common and there is a good variety of other wildlife and plants on the property. Bring your binoculars or borrow a pair of ours. Leisurely walking for 2 to 3 miles over uneven terrain on old dirt roads. Suitable for adults and children 10 and older. You will receive directions after you register. Payment of \$5 per adult is required in advance; children are free. All (503) 797-1928 to register. *Metro*

Painted turtle walks

12:30 to 2 p.m. Saturdays, April 9, May 7 and 21 and June 4

Oregon's turtles are rare, shy and hard to find, but Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area is home to one of the largest populations of Western painted turtles in the Northwest. See these beautiful reptiles with the help of Metro naturalist James Davis, who will have small telescopes for a close look. Learn about the natural history of painted turtles and why they are so rare. Suitable for adults and children 5 and older. Meet in the parking area on North Marine Drive. Free. Advance registration required; call (503) 797-1928. *Metro* ♿

Wild foods of Oxbow

9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, April 16

Join wild food expert John Kallas and learn the trees, shrubs and herbs of Oxbow Regional Park on the Sandy River. Find a diversity of edible wild plants including fiddlehead fern, elderberries, Solomon's seal, fairy bells, nettles, red huckleberries and salmonberry. \$22 per person. There is a \$4 per vehicle entrance fee to the park. Advance registration required; call (503) 775-3828. *Wild Food Adventures*

Incredible Journey – A Watershed Tale

10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, April 16

Celebrate Earth Day and the arrival of spring at the Tualatin Hills Nature Park. Booths and activities will explore watersheds, how they function and what we can do in our daily lives to improve the health of the watershed we live in. There will be self-guided interpretive hikes, crafts for kids and a native plant sale. Free. Registration is not required. For more information, call (503) 629-6350. *Tualatin Hills Park and Recreation District* ♿

Wildflower identification at Oxbow

11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday, April 24, and Saturday, May 14

Have you ever wondered about trailside wildflowers and wished you knew their names? This class is for you. We will learn how to use plant family information and field guides to aid in identification. Half of this class is indoors, and the other half is an outdoor exploration of a flower-rich trail. For adults and interested teens. Registration and a program fee of \$5 per person are required in advance. There also is a \$4 per vehicle entry fee to the park, payable at the gate. To register, call (503) 797-1928. *Metro*

Vancouver Lake Lowlands walk

10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, April 30

Explore the historical changes in vegetation in the Vancouver Lake Lowlands since Lewis and Clark came to this area. Enjoy a gentle loop walk while identifying native and introduced plants and contrasting them to the historical landscape. Meet at the north end of the Vancouver Lake parking lot. Bring water. Free. Advance registration required; call Thom at (360) 573-5239. *Friends of Vancouver Lake Lowlands*

Animal tracking workshop

11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Sunday, May 1


Oxbow Regional Park is rich in tracks at this time of year, when beaver, otter, fox, mink, mouse and deer often leave clear footprints in the sand. With practice, you can learn to read the ground like a book. We will also learn to make plaster casts of animal tracks. Local tracker Terry Kem will introduce you to the basics of track identification and interpretation and the awareness and

Discovering nature: for parents and children

Saturday, April 30


11 a.m. to noon
Holgate Library
7905 SE Holgate Blvd.
Portland

3 to 4 p.m.
Woodstock Library
6008 SE 49th Ave.,
Portland

Encouraging a child's innate sense of wonder is at least as important as teaching them the names of plants and animals. But as a parent, wouldn't it be nice to know the names of the plants and animals as well? Or at least know how to find out? If you have ever felt less-than-adequately prepared to introduce your child to nature, this class is for you. Metro naturalist Deb Scrivens will cover the basics of nature observation and show you how to use field guides. Suggestions for easy outdoor nature study activities and a bibliography of the best field guides will be available. Children are welcome. Registration is not required. For more information, call (503) 797-1928. *Metro and Multnomah County Library* 

stealth skills needed to watch wildlife at close range. Suitable for adults and families. Bring a snack and meet at the floodplain parking area. Registration and a \$10 fee are required in advance. There is a \$4 per vehicle entry fee, payable at the gate. To register, call (503) 797-1928. *Metro*

Hypertufa planter party

6 to 9 p.m. Wednesdays, May 4 and 18
What the heck is hypertufa? It is the art of creating antique-looking planters from cement, sand and peat moss. Picture the weathered aggregate planters in English gardens. Join Metro staff for a hands-on workshop to create these planters for your spring garden. In the first session, we will mix and form the planters; during the second session, we will plant them with spring color spots. \$25 per planter (includes materials and plants). Cardboard boxes are used for forms (computer paper boxes work best). Bring your own or use some of ours. Meet at the Curry Maintenance Building at Blue Lake Regional Park. There is a \$4 per vehicle entry fee to the park. Advance registration required; call (503) 665-6918. *Metro* 

Lacamas Lake lily fields

10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, May 7
Enjoy a gentle walk up onto the lava fields at Lacamas Lake with a focus on geology and plant identification. Meet at the north end of the Lacamas Lake parking lot near the fishing bridge. Bring water. Free. Advance registration required; call Thom at (360) 573-5239. *Friends of Vancouver Lake Lowlands*

Mother's Day birds and blooms

1 to 3 p.m. Sunday, May 8
Instead of taking flowers to Mom this Mother's Day, why not take Mom to the flowers? Join Metro naturalist Deb Scrivens on a leisurely stroll at Noble Woods Park in Hillsboro to learn about common wildflowers. And what better accompaniment than the songs of the birds? Meet at the shelter. Registration and payment of \$3 per person are required in advance; call (503) 681-5397 and refer to

bar code number 8360. *Metro and Hillsboro Parks and Recreation*

Wild gourmet garden edibles

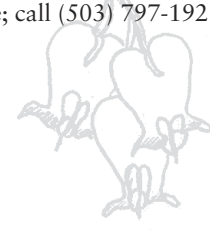
9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, May 14

Tired of pulling garden weeds? Get revenge by eating them. Visit an organic farm in Portland and make a delectable wild gourmet salad from the weeds that farmers would be pulling. Learn how to identify common, plentiful, nutritious and flavorful wild vegetables. Bring a salad bowl and a fork. \$25. Advance registration required; call (503) 775-3828. *Wild Food Adventures*

Cooper Mountain birds and wildflowers

12:30 to 3 p.m. Sunday, May 22

The tale of the Cooper Mountain landscape includes volcanoes and wildfire, Oregon white oaks and perched wetlands, rare wildflowers and uncommon birds. Recent controlled burns have encouraged a proliferation of native wildflowers, including a rare larkspur. Explore this greenspace, compare diverse habitats and track wildlife with Metro naturalist Deb Scrivens. We may spot a savannah sparrow, a lesser goldfinch, or perhaps a Western bluebird. Bring a snack and plenty of water for this stroll. Terrain is steep and rough in some places. For adults and children 6 or older; children must be accompanied by an adult. You will receive directions after you register. Registration and payment of \$5 per person are required in advance; call (503) 797-1928. *Metro*





NATURAL Gardening

Naturescaping workshop 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays, March 12, April 2 and 30 and May 21

Learn how to protect our rivers while beautifying your yard. Naturescaping features native plants, natural landscapes and water-friendly gardening practices. The result is less water use, fewer chemicals and less maintenance – direct benefits to you, your garden and the environment. The workshop will include a short outdoor field trip to a nearby home or community project to see naturescaping in action. You will receive a guidebook, a free native plant and a lot of great ideas and advice for your garden. Free. To register, call (503) 797-1842 or send e-mail to naturescaping@yahoo.com. *Naturescaping for Clean Rivers*

Gardening with native plants at Luscher Farm 1 to 4 p.m. Saturday, March 26

Combat the encroachment of alien species by planting native species in your garden. Native plants have adapted to local environments and thrive easily with low maintenance. This workshop includes discussions of Northwest native plants for edible, perennial and ornamental gardens, plus a walk around Lake Oswego's historic Luscher Farm. \$15 for Lake Oswego residents; \$17 all others. Advance registration required; call (503) 675-2549 or visit www.lakeoswegoparks.org. *Lake Oswego Parks and Recreation*

Metro's natural gardening seminars

Metro offers free natural gardening seminars and workshops each spring. Learn how you can grow a healthier garden using "greener" methods. What you do in your own backyard or garden makes a difference in the quality of our rivers, streams and wildlife habitat. Advance registration required; call (503) 234-3000.

A natural approach to controlling slugs, insects and fungus in your garden

Are you in constant combat with slugs, insects and fungus? Learn how to use nature's tools to your advantage and how to avoid those tattered leaves and sickly plants.

10 to 11 a.m. Saturday,
March 12
Dennis' Seven Dees
6025 Powell Blvd., Portland

noon to 1 p.m. Saturday,
March 12
Dennis' Seven Dees
1090 McVey Ave.,
Lake Oswego

Compost tea: the best brew for your garden

Volumes have been written about the benefits of compost tea to soil and its therapeutic value for some plant ailments. Learn about compost tea basics – how it is brewed and even some suggestions on how to brew up a batch of compost tea at home.

10 to 11 a.m. Saturday,
March 19
Portland Nursery
9000 SE Division, Portland

What's wrong with my compost pile?

You've got the bin and the ingredients for compost but nothing seems to be happening. Learn tips and techniques to improve your compost. Create some heat and even successfully compost materials in a cold pile. Bring your composting questions and we will help you learn the tricks to creating good compost.

10 to 11 a.m. Saturday,
March 26
Drake's 7 Dees Nursery
16519 SE Stark St., Portland

Convert lawn to garden beds organically

Tired of mowing, watering and fertilizing your lawn? Looking for organic ways to turn that turf into a variety of plantings? Convert all or part of your lawn to raised flower or vegetable beds, native plant borders and hardy ground cover. Learn effective techniques for lawn removal or renovation that don't require the use of chemicals.

10 to 11 a.m. Saturday,
April 2
Garden Fever!
3433 NE 24th Ave., Portland

Attracting more beneficial insects means fewer pests and a compost tea primer

Join us for a two-part seminar. First, learn about some very common beneficial insects and what you can do to make them your pest control allies. Then, discover the basics of brewing compost tea, how to use this nutrient rich brew and why generations of gardeners have used it on their plants.

10 to 11 a.m. Saturday,
April 9
Cornell Farm
8212 SW Barnes Rd.
Portland

Top 10 tips for aphid control

Learn 10 tips for dealing with aphids (and other soft-bodied insects) – all without the use of synthetic chemicals. It's not as hard as you think. A little bit of planning and the right plant selection can keep aphids under control.

10 to 11 a.m. June 4
Max and Hildy's Garden Store
19350 NW Cornell Rd.,
Hillsboro

Hazardous waste collection events

Dispose of your household's toxic trash and learn about safer alternatives at Metro's household hazardous waste permanent facilities or community roundup events.

Free household hazardous waste collection events take place from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. every week (except Memorial Day, Fourth of July and Labor Day weekends) between early March and mid-November in many communities across the Portland tri-county area. These events are small, frequent and community-friendly. Visit the Metro web site at www.metro-region.org for a detailed schedule.

Household hazardous waste is accepted year round at Metro's two permanent household hazardous waste facilities. In 2002, residents disposed of more than 700,000 pounds of hazardous waste at Metro's collection events.

Be sure to prepare materials properly: no containers larger than five gallons and 35-gallon limit per load.

For more information, call Metro Recycling Information at (503) 234-3000 between 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

Wild in the City, Wild on the Willamette

Exploring the lower Willamette River by land and water

Join urban naturalist Mike Houck and urban conservation director Bob Sallinger from Portland Audubon Society for a series of bicycle, kayak and hiking tours on the lower Willamette River. The trips will feature sites highlighted in the book “Wild in the City, A Guide to Portland’s Natural Areas” and the Wild on the Willamette map, both published by Portland Audubon Society. For more information about these popular natural history guides, call Portland Audubon at (503) 292-9453. To register for the trips, call Portland Parks and Recreation at (503) 823-5132 or visit www.portlandparks.org. Program fees are \$8 per person.

Portland Audubon Society
and Portland Parks and
Recreation

Bicycle the Willamette: Eastbank Esplanade to Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area

*8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays,
March 19 and May 21*
Join Mike Houck for an easy,
relatively flat bike ride along
Willamette Boulevard and the
Peninsula Crossing Trail to
the Columbia Slough and on
to Smith and Bybee Wetlands
Natural Area.



Mike Houck

Springwater on the Willamette hike

*8 to 11 a.m. Wednesday,
March 23*

Urban naturalist Mike Houck will lead this early morning hike from the Eastbank Esplanade to Oaks Bottom Wildlife Refuge and back. Highlights will include nesting great blue herons on Ross and East islands. This is a great trip for families and young birders are welcome.

Kayak the Portland Harbor: Cathedral Park to Willamette Cove and Swan Island Lagoon

*9 a.m. to noon Saturday,
March 26*

Paddle with urban naturalist Mike Houck from Cathedral Park upstream to Swan Island, with a stop at Metro’s Willamette Cove natural area. You’ll see osprey, peregrine falcons and possibly a bald eagle or two.

Fremont Bridge peregrine falcons

*10 to 11:30 a.m. Saturdays,
April 2 and May 21*

Peregrine falcons have nested and raised young on the Fremont Bridge since 1994. In early April, the peregrines

complete their courtship and begin laying eggs. Peregrine biologist Bob Sallinger will give a brief presentation on the recovery of peregrine falcons and the history of the Fremont Bridge pair.

Bicycle the Willamette: Willamette Park to Oaks Bottom

*8 a.m. to noon Saturday,
April 9*

Urban naturalist Mike Houck will lead the group to Oaks Bottom Wildlife Refuge and Sellwood Riverfront Park, on to the Springwater on the Willamette trail, across the river and upstream back to Willamette Park.

Ross Island evening paddle

*6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday,
April 13*

Join urban naturalist Mike Houck for an evening paddle around Ross Island to watch nesting heron and eagle activity. Enjoy a leisurely after-work adventure around what will become Portland’s newest urban wildlife refuge, the Ross Island complex.

Wildflowers and birds of Camassia

*9 a.m. to noon Sunday,
April 17*

Explore spring birds and wildflowers that inhabit one of the region’s most unique natural areas, Camassia Nature Conservancy Preserve. The preserve is an outcrop of basalt that sits high above the Willamette River. In the spring, Camassia is ablaze with its namesake, the bright blue camas lily, and pink plectritis.

Ross Island paddle

8 to 11 a.m. Sunday, April 24

Paddle around Ross Island with Mike Houck and explore what will soon be Portland’s newest natural area park. Paddle across the Willamette River and around Toe, Hardtack and East islands, down the Holgate Channel and into the Ross Island lagoon to view nesting bald eagles and great blue herons.

Kelley Point Park to Smith and Bybee hike

*8 to 11 a.m. Wednesday,
April 27*

Enjoy a leisurely evening stroll from the mouth of the Willamette River to Metro’s Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area. Mike Houck will lead participants from Kelley Point Park along the newly completed section of the 40-Mile Loop Trail along the Columbia Slough.

Kayak the Willamette Narrows

*9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sunday,
May 1*

Paddle upstream from West Linn’s Willamette Park to Little Rock Island and Rock Island near the Canby Ferry. Quiet backwaters of the Rock Islands provide a respite from motorized craft. Early-returning migratory songbirds echo between the newly acquired Metro open spaces on the cliffs above and the wildflower-covered islands.

Walking the Willamette: Willamette Park to Oaks Bottom Wildlife Refuge
noon to 2 p.m. Wednesday, May 4

Enjoy a weekday nature walk along the Springwater on the Willamette Trail and back to Willamette Park with Mike Houck. Learn to identify wildflowers and birds by sight and sound. Eat your lunch along the way.

Ross Island paddle
7 to 10 a.m. Sunday, May 8

Cross the Willamette River and paddle around Toe, Hardtack and East islands before heading downstream along the quiet Holgate Channel. Then paddle into the Ross Island lagoon to look for young bald eagles in their nest.

Elk Rock Island and Spring Park
6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, May 11

Enjoy a leisurely stroll to Elk Rock Island, the geologically oldest basalt outcrop on the lower Willamette River. Highlights will be nesting great blue herons and wildflowers unique to the island's thin volcanic rock. This is a great trip for families; young birders are welcome.

Springwater on the Willamette stroll
6:30 to 9 p.m. Wednesday, May 25

Travel from the Eastbank Esplanade to 160-acre Oaks Bottom Wildlife Refuge and back along the Springwater on the Willamette trail. Mike Houck will help identify wildflowers and point out nesting great blue herons and bald eagles. This is a great trip for families and young birders are welcome.



PADDLE Trips

Ross Island paddle
8 to 10 a.m. Sunday, March 13

Join Willamette Riverkeeper for a paddle around Ross Island. Take this opportunity to explore the Ross Island Lagoon and learn about the past, present and future of this local island. You can paddle your own canoe or kayak, or use one of Willamette Riverkeeper's canoes if you are a member. (membership is \$35 per year). Previous paddling experience is required. Free. To register, call (503) 223-6418. *Willamette Riverkeeper*

Gladstone to Portland paddle
8 to 11 a.m. Saturday, April 9

Take advantage of the spring flows and join us on a paddle from Meldrum Bar Park to the Portland Boathouse. Explore 11 miles of the Willamette River, passing by Cedar, Hog, Elk Rock and Ross islands. Discover the back channel habitats that are home to beaver, river otters and native riverside plants. You can paddle your own canoe or kayak, or use one of Willamette Riverkeeper's canoes if you are a member. (Membership is \$35 per year.) Previous paddling experience is required. Free. To register, call (503) 223-6418. *Willamette Riverkeeper*

Willamette Narrows evening paddle
6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Thursday, May 19

Destination Rock Island, where the river narrows, the houses drift away and river scenery abounds with beautiful madrone, oak and fir for-

Smith and Bybee paddle trips

Traveling by canoe or kayak is the best way to explore Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area in North Portland. Meet at the parking lot on North Marine Drive. Bring your own kayak or canoe and personal flotation device. The new water control structure is helping to restore the wildlife area to a seasonal wetland. The changes are great for wildlife but they make paddle conditions difficult to predict. The trip leader will contact participants if it is necessary to cancel the trip. Advance registration required. *Friends of Smith and Bybee Lakes*

noon to 4 p.m. Saturday, March 19

To register, call Dale Svart at (503) 285-3084.

2 to 5 p.m. Saturday, April 23

To register, call Keith Locke at (503) 771-1500.

noon to 4 p.m. Sunday, May 8

To register, call Troy Clark at (503) 249-0482.

ests. This 4-mile paddle trip around the island complex is a great opportunity to get out of the city without having to go far. You can paddle your own canoe or kayak, or use one of Willamette Riverkeeper's canoes if you are a member (membership is \$35 per year). Previous paddling experience is required. Free. To register, call (503) 223-6418. *Willamette Riverkeeper*

Accessible raft trip on the Sandy River
9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, May 21

Enjoy a day of rafting on an easy section of the Sandy River. Look for osprey, blue heron, cormorants, various species of ducks and other

birds that frequent the river. No experience is needed. Adaptive equipment and trained staff are available to support people with special needs. \$45 program fee includes equipment, clothing, instruction and transportation from Forest Grove or designated pickup spots in the Portland area. Advance registration required; call (503) 681-9471. *Adventures Without Limits*

Tualatin River paddle tours and nature walks
10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday, May 22, and Saturday, June 11

Join Metro naturalist James Davis and members of the Tualatin Riverkeepers for a leisurely paddle upstream and back from one of Metro's future river access points west of Tigard. Before the paddle trip we'll take a brief walk to explore the forested part of the property, looking for wildflowers, birds, and animal sign. Then explore the habitats of this area paddling the river for about three hours. Beaver, nutria and river otter are common in this stretch of the Tualatin and we will see plenty of evidence of their activities, even if we do not see the critters themselves. Birds will be singing from the banks for the entire trip. Bring drinking water, snacks, insect and sun protection, and waterproof binoculars if you have them. Advance registration and payment are required. The registration fee is \$5 for members of the Tualatin Riverkeepers and includes free canoe use. Non-members pay \$10 to register for the trip with their own boat and can rent a canoe from the riverkeepers for an additional \$20. To register, call Tualatin Riverkeepers at (503) 590-5813. *Metro and Tualatin Riverkeepers*



VOLUNTEER Ventures

Metro volunteer orientation

noon to 1 p.m. or 6 to 7 p.m. Tuesdays, March 15, April 19 and May 17

Start your Metro volunteer experience off on the right foot. Join us for new volunteer orientation either during the lunch hour or in the evening at Metro Regional Center. Learn about Metro's parks and greenspaces, 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) 797-1928. *Metro*

Friends of Trees work days

9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays and some Sundays through April 9

Join Friends of Trees and other volunteers in your community to help plant neighborhood trees or do vital restoration work at urban natural areas. No experience is necessary. Gloves, tools and guidance will be provided. For work party locations and directions, call (503) 284-8733 or visit www.friendsoftrees.org and click on "planting schedule." *Friends of Trees*

Forest Park ivy removal

9 a.m. to noon Saturdays
Join forces with the No Ivy League and help battle what they call the "green plague" at Forest Park. Groups of five or more are asked to regis-

ter in advance. Bring water, work gloves and a conquering attitude. Meet at the Lower Macleay Field House at the end of Northwest Upshur just past 29th. Advance registration is not required. For more information, call (503) 823-3681. *Forest Park Ivy Removal Project*

Forest Park trail maintenance

9 a.m. to noon Saturdays
Join the Friends of Forest Park for trail maintenance and repair work parties on the beloved trails of Forest Park. Meet at the Lower Macleay Field House at the end of Northwest Upshur just past 29th. Bring water and work gloves and be prepared for a short hike to a worksite. Advance registration is not required. For more information, call (503) 223-5449. *Friends of Forest Park*

Team Up plantings

9 a.m. to noon Saturdays, March 5 and 19
Join SOLV's Team Up for Watershed Health program for tree planting along a stream near you. There are many sites from which to choose, and activities will include removing invasive species and planting native trees and shrubs. Advance registration required; call (503) 844-9571. *SOLV*

Mt. Talbert tree planting

9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, March 12
Help plant trees at Mt. Talbert Natural Area in Clackamas. Experience is not necessary. Tools, training and snacks will be provided. Dress for the weather and come prepared to plant hundreds of native seedlings. Meet at Southeast Mather and Cedar Park Drive. Registration is not required except for groups of 10 or more. For more information, call (503) 282-8846 ext. 12. *Metro and Friends of Trees*

Dickinson Woods restoration

9 a.m. to noon Saturdays, March 12, April 9 and May 14

Join the Friends of Dickinson Woods and neighbors to help remove ivy and blackberry at Dickinson Park. See the new trail built by volunteers. Meet at the cutout on Southwest 55th Avenue south of Taylors Ferry Road. Bring gloves and water. To register, call (503) 823-6131. *Portland Parks and Recreation*

Powell Butte trail maintenance

9 a.m. to noon Saturdays, March 12, April 9 and May 14
Help restore the bike trail system at Powell Butte Nature Park. Bring water and gloves and be prepared for a good workout. Meet at the parking lot at the top of the hill on Southeast 162nd Avenue south of Powell Boulevard. To register, call (503) 823-6131. *Portland Parks and Recreation*

Bauman Park work day

9 a.m. to noon Saturdays, March 19 and June 4
Help remove Himalayan blackberry from the natural areas of Bauman Park. Bring a shovel, loppers and work gloves, if possible. Refreshments will be provided. The park is southwest of the intersection of Southwest Oleson Road and Ames Way. Meet at the dead end on the north side of the park. To register, call Melissa at (503) 629-6305 ext. 2953. *Tualatin Hills Park and Recreation District*

Blackberry pulls at Rosa Park

9 a.m. to noon Saturdays, March 19, April 16 and May 14
Help remove Himalayan blackberry along Celebrity Creek. Bring loppers, a shovel and work gloves, if possible. Refreshments will be provided.

ed. Meet at the park entrance on Southwest Rosa Road east of 196th Avenue. To register, call Melissa at (503) 629-6305 ext. 2953. *Tualatin Hills Park and Recreation District*

Woods Memorial Natural Area restoration

9 a.m. to noon Saturdays, March 19, April 16 and May 21
Help restore the trailhead at this 32-acre wooded park in Southwest Portland. Meet at the corner of Southwest Alice Street and 43rd Avenue. Bring water and gloves. To register, call (503) 823-6131. *Portland Parks and Recreation*

Stewardship day at Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area

9 a.m. to noon Sunday, March 27
Help restore native plant communities at a variety of sites around Metro's 2,000-acre Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area in North Portland. Restoration activities include maintaining native plants and removing invasive species that threaten the habitat. Wear long pants and sleeves and sturdy shoes. Tools, snacks and water will be provided. Advance registration required; call (503) 797-1928. *Metro*

Hyland Forest Park work day

9 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 2
Help remove English ivy from the natural areas of Hyland Forest Park. Bring loppers, a shovel and work gloves, if possible. Refreshments will be provided. Meet at the park entrance near the intersection of Southwest Sexton Mountain Drive and Sexton Mountain Court. To register, call Melissa at (503) 629-6305 ext. 2953. *Tualatin Hills Park and Recreation District*

Team Up spring cleaning
9 a.m. to noon Saturday,
April 2

Monitoring and maintenance are important to successful watershed restoration projects. Help SOLV's Team Up for Watershed Health program "clean up" sites this spring. Activities include invasive species removal, mulching, caging and caring for young plants. Advance registration required; call (503) 844-9571. SOLV

Wilkes Creek community stewardship day

9 a.m. to noon Saturday,
April 2
See what stream restoration can do for a community as the Columbia Slough Watershed Council teams up with SOLV and the Wilkes Community Group to protect Wilkes Creek from the encroachment of invasive weeds. Tools and refreshments provided. Advance registration required; call (503) 281-1132. *Columbia Slough Watershed Council, SOLV and Wilkes Community Group*

SOLV IT

9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday,
April 23
SOLV IT is the largest Earth Day event of its kind in the nation and you can be a part of it. Join a project at one of these Metro sites where all kinds of cleanup and restoration work will be accomplished. Register online at www.solv.org or by calling (503) 844-9571. SOLV

Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area (North Portland) – Remove litter, eradicate invasive species and care for native plants at the largest protected wetland inside a city in the nation.

Beggars-tick Wildlife Refuge (Southeast 111th and Foster) – Help remove loads of litter and invasive Himalayan blackberry from this 21-acre wetland. Enjoy seeing

the many birds that rely on this location.

Howell Territorial Park (Sauvie Island) – Remove invasive species and help restore this historic orchard and valuable wetlands area.

Pioneer cemetery progressive work day
Saturday, May 7

9 to 11 a.m.
Lone Fir Cemetery
Southeast 20th Avenue and Morrison Street, Portland

noon to 2 p.m.
Multnomah Park Cemetery
Southeast 82nd Avenue and Holgate Boulevard, Portland

3 to 5 p.m.
Douglass Cemetery
Cherry Park Road and Southeast 262nd, Gresham

Take a journey through Portland history by pitching in at one, two or three of Metro's pioneer cemeteries. At each location, volunteers will work to prepare the cemeteries for busy Memorial Day weekend by weeding and trimming around headstones, cleaning headstones and removing litter. Bring grass clippers and gardening gloves. Water, snacks, extra tools and training will be provided. To register, call (503) 797-1928. *Metro*

Monumental evenings at Lone Fir
6:30 p.m. to sunset Tuesdays,
May 10 and 24
Enjoy the beauty and tranquility of Lone Fir Pioneer Cemetery in Southeast Portland. Discover stories of days gone by as you help care for the headstones and landscape of this historic pioneer cemetery. The focus this year is tombstone transcription, site maintenance and beautification. For more information, call Becky at (503) 775-6278. *Friends of Lone Fir Cemetery*

No Ivy Day
9 a.m. to noon Saturday, May 7

English ivy, the ivy species originally used for landscaping, is infesting more than 25,000 acres of parks and natural spaces in the region. When left unchecked, ivy shrouds trees, causing their premature death and the loss of valuable forest canopy. Ivy's biological bullying will backfire on No Ivy Day when "ivy busters" all over the region will strike a blow in the name of biodiversity. Join the fight to stop this threat to the region's natural beauty and environmental quality. For more information and a list of work sites, visit www.noivyleague.com or call (503) 823-3681.

No Ivy Day at Glendoveer Fitness Trail

Participate in No Ivy Day by helping to restore a section of this popular nature trail around Metro's Glendoveer Golf Course. Clear invasive English ivy to make way for the native plants and animals to return. Volunteers have made an impressive impact on this site's ivy infestation, but more hands are needed to get this invasive species under control. Advance registration required; call (503) 797-1928.

No Ivy Day at the Peninsula Crossing Trail

Celebrate No Ivy Day with the Columbia Slough Watershed Council along the Peninsula Crossing Trail. Help battle English ivy and protect native trees. Tools and refreshments provided. Advance registration required; call (503) 281-1132.

Lone Fir work day
10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday,
May 21

Help restore Metro's Lone Fir Pioneer Cemetery. Activities include cleaning and leveling headstones, raising sunken stones, gardening, landscaping and recording headstone information for a research project. For more information, call Becky at (503) 775-6278. *Friends of Lone Fir Cemetery*



**Help wanted:
Volunteer bird
monitors**

Do you have skills in local bird identification and a commitment to protecting our local environmental heritage? Metro is launching its second year of volunteer-mediated bird monitoring and is looking for volunteers to adopt Metro natural area sites for seasonal or year-round monitoring. Enthusiastic people with intermediate to expert audio and visual bird identification skills are encouraged to apply. Must be willing to make a minimum one-year commitment and be able to get up with the birds. For more information, call Seth Ring at (503) 797-1688 or send e-mail to rings@metro.dst.or.us.

2005 Wildlife Lecture Series features women in conservation

The Oregon Zoo's 2005 Wildlife Lecture Series highlights women in conservation science. The annual series is hosted by Audubon Society of Portland, the Oregon Zoo and the World Forestry Center. This spring, the zoo welcomes women who have explored treetop habitats in hot-air balloons, navigated remote rivers in the Russian wilderness, explored the dense forests of Papua New Guinea, and discovered how environmental changes affect primates in the shadow of Kilimanjaro. Lectures are held in the zoo's Cascade banquet center at 7 p.m. March 29, April 26 and May 24. Tickets for each lecture are \$8 for members of the host organizations and \$10 for non-members. For more information, call (503) 226-1561 or visit www.oregonzoo.org.

Glendoveer bunny hop 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, March 12

Bring the family and join Rabbit Advocates at the Glendoveer Golf Course Fitness Trail at Northeast 148th and Halsey in Portland to learn more about abandoned domestic rabbits and how you can help. Lots of unwanted domestic rabbits are abandoned at places like Glendoveer, where they are unable to survive and can also interfere with resident wildlife. Domestic rabbits need good homes with proper care and you can help. Children ages 4 to 12 can participate in a "bunny hop" to support the homeless rabbit adoption program. A face painter will be on hand to apply bunny noses on the hoppers. \$2 donation requested. Registration is not required. For more information, call (503) 797-1781 or go to www.rabbitadvocates.org. *Metro and Rabbit Advocates*

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For more nature activities, visit www.metro-region.org/greenscene.

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.

Accessible features: parking, restrooms, archery, fishing dock, picnic areas, water play area, playgrounds, park paths, office, food concession, wetlands observation deck and trail loop.

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.

Accessible features: parking, office, restrooms, shower buildings, three campsites, picnic shelters and campground amphitheater.

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. There are two rustic areas that can be reserved for small picnics or weddings.

Accessible features: restrooms, picnic areas and barn museum.

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 Wetlands Natural Area is the largest protected wetland within an American city. Home to beavers, river otters, 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.

Accessible features: parking, Interlakes Trail, wildlife viewing platforms and restroom.

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

Accessible features: parking and paths (compacted gravel).

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.

Accessible features: parking, restrooms, picnic area and observation deck.

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.

Accessible features: parking and restrooms.

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.

Accessible features: parking, restrooms and picnic area.

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 also are tennis and racquetball courts, a driving range and a restaurant.

Location: 140th and Northeast Glisan Street.

Information numbers

General number
(503) 797-1850

Picnic reservations
(503) 797-1928

Registration for Metro activities
(503) 797-1928

Blue Lake Regional Park
(503) 665-4995

The Lake House
(503) 797-1928

Oxbow Regional Park
(503) 663-4708

Howell Territorial Park
(503) 665-6918

James Bybee House
(503) 222-1741


Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area
(503) 797-1844

Marine facilities
(503) 665-6918

Glendoveer Golf Course
(503) 253-7507

Pioneer cemeteries
(503) 797-1709

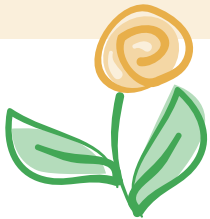
Note: In order to protect wildlife habitat, and for their own safety, **pets are not permitted** at any Metro park or greenspace.

 The "accessible features" listed above are facilities and activities that are accessible to wheelchair users. For information about other kinds of access or accommodations, call (503) 797-1728.



Natural gardening celebrity series

This spring series features hour-long presentations by well-known gardening experts and naturalists who support and successfully use natural gardening techniques. The series takes place on Saturdays at Metro's natural techniques garden, 6800 SE 57th Ave. (at Cooper), Portland. Presentations begin at 10 a.m., followed by a 30-minute walking tour of the garden. Reservations are required and space is limited to 100 for each presentation. Call Metro Recycling Information at (503) 234-3000 to reserve your space.



April 16
Mace Vaughn
Attracting bees and bee mimics for pollination and pest control in your garden

Mace is the conservation director at the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation. He is a coauthor of the award-winning Pollinator Conservation Handbook, as well as many papers about endangered insects and butterflies.

April 23
Linda Beutler
Something to savor: summer and autumn flowers for hummingbirds

Linda has an organic cottage-style garden in the Sellwood neighborhood of Portland, which has been on several Metro natural gardening tours. She is the Pacific Northwest garden writer for Birdwatcher's Digest, and is an instructor of horticulture

at Clackamas Community College. Her first book, Gardening with Clematis, was published by Timber Press in September 2004.

April 30
Elizabeth Petersen
Make nature an ally in your garden

Elizabeth draws on her roots as a lifelong Oregon gardener to write for gardeners and garden businesses. She tends a sloping one-acre garden in West Linn and relies on a thriving ecosystem to keep the garden healthy and robust. Compost, mulch, birds and beneficial insects work with tough (but non-invasive) groundcovers and Northwest natives to control weeds and other pests.

May 7
John Caine
No space for the urban gardener? Create fabulous natural gardens on decks, rooftops and balconies

John has a degree in landscape architecture and currently works as a landscape designer for Joy Creek Nursery.

May 14
Lucy Hardiman
Spinning the color wheel: creating culturally compatible plant combinations

Lucy owns Perennial Partners, a garden design business. She is a garden designer, national lecturer, contributing editor to Horticulture magazine and freelance writer for Fine Gardening and other regional and national publications.

May 21
Kym Pokorny
Trickle down: how and why to install drip irrigation and soaker hoses

Kym is a staff writer for the Oregonian's Homes & Gardens Northwest. She has been a journalist for 23 years, 16 with The Oregonian. Kym grew up in the family wholesale nursery business in Northern California and has been able to combine her journalism career with her passion for gardening.



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