

GreenScene

Discover nature in
neighborhoods

SPRING 2006



Spring birds
and blooms

Natural
gardening

Volunteer
ventures

Paddles,
rides and
hikes



METRO



Dear GreenScene reader:



David Bragdon

Spring is just around the corner, which means it's time to start planning for better weather – and a better future.

On Thursday, March 9, the Metro Council will make its final decision regarding the proposed 2006 natural areas bond measure. The measure, which would fund the acquisition and preservation of regionally significant natural areas from willing sellers, aims to protect clean water, fish and wildlife habitat, and access to nature close to home for generations to come.

The Council has been considering citizen comments on the package developed by a scientific team composed of biologists and water quality specialists, and reviewed by a panel of civic leaders from businesses and non-profit organizations. The proposed bond measure is designed to build on the success of the voter-approved 1995 measure that protected more than 8,100 acres of natural areas in our region.

Many people choose to live or stay here because of the nearby natural areas that make our region so special. Protecting these areas is part of what contributes to our quality of life, for now and the future. If you have suggestions or concerns about the proposed bond measure, I encourage you to attend one of the public hearings that are taking place in the community through March 9. Your comments are valuable to us as we craft this important measure, and we will take your advice into account before making our final decision on the package.

In other news, I hope you will enjoy the natural gardening and native plant-related information in this issue of GreenScene. There are exciting projects in progress throughout the region. Some can be found in your neighbor's backyard, and others at our new native plant materials center. One of the goals of our Nature in Neighborhoods program is to educate our region's residents about how to cultivate fabulous gardens while reducing our impact on

the environment, and these projects are excellent examples of how we can all make a difference.

Soon it will be seed-planting season. Whether you've got a hankering to try out some native plants or you'd like to see your favorite wooded area protected, this is a good time to get started. I can't wait to see what grows in our future.

David Bragdon
Metro Council President



C. Bruce Forster photo

Metro

People places • open spaces

The need to protect clean air and clean water does 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 natural areas, 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.

Metro's web site

www.metro-region.org

Your Metro representatives

Metro Council President

David Bragdon

Metro Councilors

Rod Park, District 1

Brian Newman, District 2

Carl Hosticka, deputy council president, District 3

Susan McLain, District 4

Rex Burkholder, District 5

Robert Liberty, District 6

Auditor

Alexis Dow, CPA

On the cover

Willamette Narrows paddler, photo by Michael McDermott; wildflowers at Gotter Prairie, photo by C. Bruce Forster

Illustrations by

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.

Spring nature guide

by Metro naturalist Elisabeth Neely

Cabin fever got you down? Grab some boots, a sandwich, a water bottle and your raincoat (just in case). Then head out the door and visit your regional parks and greenspaces to experience these life-giving signs of spring. Although nature does not always follow a calendar, this naturalist's list should provide some good bets for your very own spring treasure hunt.

Please remember to keep a good distance from nesting birds and other animals with young, and leave wildflowers growing for everyone to enjoy.

MARCH

Spring officially begins on March 20, the vernal equinox, but in our temperate clime there are many earlier signs of its arrival:

In swampy spots, look and sniff for skunk cabbage in bloom with flamboyant yellow flowers. *Oxbow Regional Park*

Scan the skies for the return of swooping swallows. *Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area, Jackson Bottom Wetlands Preserve*

Starting on St. Patrick's Day, look for osprey returning from their wintering grounds in Mexico. Turkey vultures will be arriving, too. Listen for the osprey's high-pitched "kree! kree!" and the deceptively loud croaks of tiny Pacific chorus frogs – formerly called tree frogs – singing to attract mates. *Oxbow and Blue Lake regional parks, Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area, Hagg Lake, Barton Park*

Speaking of frogs, don't forget to look down, too. Watch the ground for hopping frogs, long-toed salamanders and banana slugs. *Howell Territorial Park, Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area, Tryon Creek State Natural Area and Oxbow Regional Park*

Stinging nettles, which began sprouting last month, are getting tall enough to nip an uncovered ankle. *Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area*

Trilliums are in bloom along the ancient forest trails. *Oxbow Regional Park, Tryon Creek State Natural Area, Forest Park*

APRIL

Don't miss the heavenly sweet scent of the buds of the black cottonwood trees. You can begin to smell this as early as February, and it's best on a day when the sun warms the trees. Cottonwoods are the tallest deciduous trees in the Pacific Northwest, and they are found along waterways

all over our region. *Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area, Oxbow Regional Park, Chinook Landing Marine Park*

Salmonberry bushes are beginning to bloom; look for their beautiful dark pink flowers. *Oxbow Regional Park*

Painted turtles can be seen basking on logs in the side ponds on warm days. *Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area*

In the conifer forest, the tiny brown winter wrens are singing their loud, many-trilled song from their perches among the sword ferns. They sound like they are singing on "fast forward." *Oxbow Regional Park, Tryon Creek State Natural Area, Forest Park*

Fiddleheads of bracken ferns are unfurling. Look for places where black-tailed deer have snacked on this tender deer delicacy. *Oxbow Regional Park, Barton Park*

MAY

This month everything seems to be buzzing with new life. Singing, courting birds and blooming wildflowers are abundant and obvious. This is the peak month of bird song, so be sure to stop and listen. The American robin leads the dawn chorus with his

"cheer up, cheerily" starting in the wee hours. *All locations, including right outside your bedroom window*

A multitude of migrating songbirds, especially warblers, come through our area in waves. Each week will bring new ones. *Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area, Tualatin Hills Nature Park, Mt. Tabor*

Osprey and red-tailed hawks hatch, and red fox kits emerge from their dens at the end of the month. *Oxbow Regional Park*

JUNE

Black-tailed deer are born this month. Since young fawns lie hidden most of the day, check mud puddles on the trail to spot their tracks, which start out the size of a nickel. *Oxbow Regional Park, Forest Park*

Swainson's thrushes have returned from the south. Although it's sometimes hard to see them, they are great singers in the morning and at dusk. If you stop and listen, you'll fall in love with their incredibly haunting, rising song, which sounds like a flute. *Oxbow Regional Park, Tualatin Hills Nature Park, Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area*



Common yellowthroat

Jim Cruce photo

Spring calendar

ENJOY NATURE IN NEIGHBORHOODS



A 520-acre Metro natural area in Clear Creek Canyon supports a rich diversity of plant and animal life.

C. Bruce Forster photo

Spring brings birds and blooms to Metro natural areas

In 1995, the voters of the metropolitan region created a model program for landowners, neighborhoods, businesses and government to work together to protect the region's most valuable natural areas. By approving the \$135.6 million open spaces, parks and streams bond measure, voters directed the Metro Council to protect our precious butte tops, stream corridors, river canyons, wetlands and prairies with significant water quality, wildlife habitat and recreation benefits for the region.

Ten years later, more than 8,100 acres of natural area and 74 miles of river and stream frontage have been protected. Spring is a wonderful time to explore these protected natural areas with a Metro naturalist and get to know native birds, rare wildflowers and the unique natural history of the region.

In March, the Metro Council plans to refer a new bond measure for natural area acquisition to voters at the November 2006 general election. For more information, call Ken Ray at (503) 797-1508 or visit www.metro-region.org/bondmeasure.

after you register. Payment of \$5 per adult is required in advance; children are free. Call (503) 797-1715 to register. *Metro*

Clear Creek Canyon tour 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. Sunday, April 9

Join Metro naturalist James Davis for a natural history tour of one of the most beautiful new sites protected by Metro's natural area acquisition program. This forested tributary of the Clackamas River has excellent water quality and significant wild fish runs. Signs of deer, coyote, beaver and river otter 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. Call (503) 797-1715 to register. *Metro*

Cooper Mountain birds and wildflowers

1 to 4:30 p.m. Sunday, April 9

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

Songbirds of Mt. Talbert 9 to 11:30 a.m. Saturday, April 29

Mt. Talbert, a new 144-acre public natural area on top of the largest undeveloped lava butte in northern Clackamas County, was protected by the 1995 open spaces, parks and streams bond measure. Forested hills like Mt. Talbert are hot spots for migrating songbirds such as warblers, tanagers, orioles, flycatchers, vireos, and others. Join Metro naturalist and expert birder James Davis to be among the first to catch the bird watching action on Mt. Talbert during the peak of spring migration. Bring binoculars or borrow some of ours. This birding adventure is suitable for beginning and experienced bird watchers from teens on up. Trails are informal and can be muddy or steep

in places. You will receive directions and other information after you register. Free but advance registration is required; call (503) 557-7873 by April 20. *Metro and North Clackamas Parks and Recreation District*

Birding the Killin Wetlands

10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Sunday, April 30

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 "Bird-athon." Join naturalist James Davis for one of Metro's first birding programs at this special place that has been protected by Metro's natural area 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) 797-1715 to register. *Metro*

Gotter Prairie tour

11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sunday, May 7

Less than 1 percent of the original wet prairie habitat that once covered the Willamette Valley remains today. The Tualatin Riverkeepers and Metro are working together to re-establish a wet prairie and other rare habitat types at Gotter Prairie, a Metro natural area near the Tualatin River. Accompany Metro naturalist Deb Scrivens to learn more about these rare areas and the wildlife they support. We are timing our visit in hopes of viewing a beautiful blue "sea" of camas flowers. For adults and older children. Advance registration and payment of \$5 per adult required in advance; call (503) 797-1715. You will

receive directions to the meeting place and other details after you register. *Metro*

Canemah Bluff Mother's Day Birds and Blooms

1 to 3 p.m. Sunday, May 14

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 Canemah Bluff Natural Area near Oregon City to learn about common wildflowers. And what better accompaniment than the songs of the birds? Registration and payment of \$5 per adult are required in advance; call (503) 797-1715. *Metro*

Tualatin River paddle tour and nature walk

10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday, May 21 and Saturday, June 10

Join Metro naturalist James Davis and 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. 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 river and we will see plenty of evidence of their activities. Birds will be singing from the banks. 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 for an additional \$20. To register, call (503) 590-5813. *Metro and Tualatin Riverkeepers*



Camas

Nature discoveries

Magness Memorial Tree Farm walks

2 to 3:30 p.m. every Sunday

Come to the Magness Memorial Tree Farm near Wilsonville for a guided tour on an easy 1-mile trail. Learn about the history and purpose of the tree farm and the importance of sustainable forestry. Meet at the parking lot on Ladd Hill Road. Free. Advance registration is not required. For more information, call (503) 228-1367 or visit www.worldforestry.org. *World Forestry Center*

Lunch with the birds

noon to 1 p.m. every Wednesday

Meet a Jackson Bottom naturalist and spend your lunch hour learning how to identify migrating waterfowl and other cool birds at Jackson Bottom Wetlands. Spotting scopes, binoculars and field guides will be provided. Meet at the north viewing shelter next to the Clean Water Services sewage treatment plant on Highway 219 south of Hillsboro. Free. Registration is not required. For more information, call (503) 681-6278. *Jackson Bottom Wetlands Preserve*



Guided winter hikes at Tryon Creek

10 to 11:30 a.m. every Saturday

Join a park naturalist to explore the fascinating world of the forest at Tryon Creek State Natural Area, from ancient trees to animals and forest fungi. Each week's hike will explore a different theme. All ages welcome. Free. Advance registration is not required. For more information, call (503) 636-9886. *Tryon Creek State Natural Area*

Story and a stroll at Tryon Creek

1 to 2:30 p.m. Fridays, March 3, 10 and 24, April 7, 21 and 28, May 12, 19 and 26

Join a park naturalist for nature story time followed by a stroll through the park. Themes vary each week. This program is geared toward families with children ages 3-6. Free. Advance registration is not required. For more information, call (503) 636-9886 ext. 25. *Tryon Creek State Natural Area*



Portland harbor paddle

9 a.m. to noon Saturday, March 4

Join Willamette Riverkeeper to explore and learn about the Portland harbor federal Superfund site. This round trip paddle puts in at Cathedral Park in St. Johns. Bring your own boat, or become a member for \$35 and use Willamette Riverkeeper's canoes and gear at no additional charge at this and other events. Free. Advance registration is required; call (503) 223-6418 or send e-mail to amy@willamette-riverkeeper.org. *Willamette Riverkeeper*

Spring bird walks

9 to 11:30 a.m. Saturdays, March 4 and 25, April 8 and 22, May 20 and June 3

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 wetlands in 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) 797-1715. *Metro* ♿

First Mondays at Jackson Bottom

8 to 11:30 a.m. Mondays, March 6, April 3, May 1 and June 5

Get your week off to a great start by spending time in a special place, learning about wetlands and all the amazing plants and animals that live in these unique ecosystems. Join naturalist Sarah Pinnock and explore Jackson Bottom Wetlands Preserve from the ground up. Take a look at wetland soils, water quality, plants, birds, mammals, amphibians, reptiles and more. \$5. To register, call (503) 681-6278. *Jackson Bottom Wetlands Preserve*

How animals work

7 to 9:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 8

How can turtles breathe while they are at the bottom of ponds all winter? How do ducks swim around in freezing cold water with their bare feet without getting hypothermia? Why are there no warm-blooded animals with gills? Join Metro naturalist James Davis for a look at the incredible adaptations of different animals to meet the same basic needs - food, water, oxygen and shelter. Understanding how animals work greatly increases our awareness and appreciation of their amazing abilities and unique ways of life. Meet in room 370 at Metro Regional Center. Reg-

istration and payment of \$10 are required in advance; call (503) 797-1715. *Metro* ♿

Sea kayaking at Sauvie Island

9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, March 11

Paddle by sea kayak into the sheltered area of the Gilbert River on Sauvie Island to explore the wildlife and scenery of this large freshwater island. Suitable for age 16 and older. Additional staff and adaptive equipment can be provided to support people with disabilities. Program fee includes equipment, clothing, instruction and transportation; \$43 for members, \$48 for non-members. Advance registration required; call (503) 681-9471. *Adventures Without Limits* ♿

Wild on the Willamette stroll

8 to 11:30 a.m. Saturday, March 11

Stroll along the Springwater on the Willamette trail with urban naturalist Mike Houck from the north end of Oaks Bottom Wildlife Refuge around the 160-acre wetlands. Mike has led tours at Oaks Bottom for more than 30 years and is intimately familiar with the history of Portland's first official urban wildlife refuge and current efforts to restore fish and wildlife habitat throughout the refuge. Directions and other details will be mailed to registrants. Free. Register online at www.audubonportland.org. *Audubon Society of Portland*

Bird watching basics at Clackamas Community College

7 to 9:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 15

If you have been curious about the birds around you and have wanted to learn how to identify them, and figure out what they are doing, then this is the class for you. Discuss the basics of bird iden-

Smith and Bybee Wetlands 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 natural 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 18

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

2 to 5 p.m. Saturday, April 22

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

noon to 4 p.m. Sunday, May 14

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

tification, talk about the best field guides and binoculars to use, and enjoy a slide show of the "top 20" birds of Portland. Metro naturalist James Davis has been getting beginners off to a good start for 20 years. Meet at the John Inskeep Environmental Learning Center at Clackamas Community College. Suitable for adults and teens. Registration and payment of \$8 per person are required in advance. To register, call Alison at (503) 657-6958, ext. 2644. *Metro and Clackamas Community College* ♿

Introduction to the language of birds

9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, March 18

What can you learn from birds as they communicate with each other and other wild animals? Join naturalists James Davis and Elisabeth Neely 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. Suitable for adults and teens. Meeting location dependent on weather; ask at the gate. Registration and program fee of \$10 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) 797-1715. *Metro*

Winter paddle to Willamette Cove

10 a.m. to noon Saturday, March 18

Join Audubon Society of Portland's Jim Labbe and Kelly Perry for a winter paddle to Willamette Cove and Portland Harbor. Enjoy a leisurely morning paddle in the Portland Harbor and learn about the past, present and future of this unique North Portland natural area. Paddle on to Swan Island and talk about the emerging Willamette River trail network. Bring your own kayak or canoe; personal flotation device required. Directions and other details will be provided to registrants. Boat rentals can be arranged through Alder Creek Kayak and Canoe at (503) 285-0464 or Portland Kayak Company at (503) 459-4050. Register for the free paddle online at www.audubonportland.org. *Audubon Society of Portland*



Michael McDermott photo

Fremont Bridge peregrine falcons 9 to 11 a.m. Sunday, March 19

Join Audubon Society of Portland's Bob Sallinger to watch and learn about the pair of peregrine falcons that have nested and raised young on the Fremont Bridge since 1994. During March the pair is likely to be performing their spectacular courtship displays. Bob has monitored peregrines for more than 12 years and will provide information about peregrine biology, ecology and management in urban ecosystems. Directions and details will be mailed to registrants. Free. Register online at www.audubonportland.org. *Audubon Society of Portland*

Bird watching basics for beginners

7 to 9:30 p.m. Thursday, March 23

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. Suitable for adults and teens. Meet in room 370 at Metro Regional Center in

Portland. Registration and payment of \$10 per person are required in advance; call (503) 797-1715. *Metro* ♿

Willamette Narrows paddle

9 a.m. to noon Saturday, March 25

Destination: Rock Island, where the river narrows, the houses drift away and river scenery abounds. Join Willamette Riverkeeper at Willamette Park in West Linn for this 4-mile paddle trip around the island complex and back. Bring your own boat, or become a member for \$35 and use Willamette Riverkeeper's canoes and gear at no additional charge at this and other events. Free. Advance registration is required; call (503) 223-6418 or send e-mail to amy@willamette-riverkeeper.org. *Willamette Riverkeeper*

The Game of Stealth 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tuesday, March 28

High school age kids are invited to spend a day of their spring break with TrackersNW playing a stealth game in the urban wilderness. Embark on a quest as a cast of characters and hunt through the city finding tracks, solving riddles of wilderness found under steel buildings and concrete sidewalks, harvesting wild edible weeds, learning the

secrets of invisibility and discovering that every person in the urban jungle has a story to tell. Registration and payment of \$25 are required in advance; call Tony at (503) 453-3038. *TrackersNW*

Trillium Festival at Tryon Creek

9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, April 1 and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, April 2

Celebrate spring at the annual Trillium Festival at Tryon Creek State Natural Area with a weekend of activities and events for all ages. Enjoy guided nature hikes, children's crafts, live music performances, storytelling, photography, local authors, refreshments and a native plant sale. There is something for everyone at this favorite event. Free. For more information, call (503) 636-4398. *Tryon Creek State Natural Area*

Bike ride through the buttes

9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, April 1

Join Jim Labbe from Audubon Society of Portland and Christine Hurst from Johnson Creek Watershed Council for a bike ride through the Johnson Creek Watershed via the Springwater Corridor Trail. Stop at several of the protected natural areas along the trail and learn about efforts to protect and restore Johnson Creek, Portland's largest tributary to the Willamette River. Participants are responsible for bringing and maintaining their own bicycles; helmets are required. Directions and other details will be mailed to registrants. Free. Register online at www.audubonportland.org. *Audubon Society of Portland*

Ethnobotany at Oxbow 12:30 to 4 p.m. Sunday, April 2

Ethnobotany is the study of how humans use plants. This entertaining workshop 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 \$10 per person are required in advance; call (503) 797-1715. There also is a \$4 per vehicle entry fee to the park. *Metro*

Spring birds identification class

7 to 9:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 5

Spring brings thousands of migrating birds to our region; some stay to nest and others pass through. Get ready for great spring birding action with this crash course in identifying spring migrants and summer breeders. Metro naturalist James Davis will show slides, 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. Suitable for adults and teens. Meet in room 370 at Metro Regional Center in Portland. Registration and payment of \$10 per person are required in advance; call (503) 797-1715. *Metro* ♿

Columbia Slough restoration tour

9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, April 8

Join Audubon Society of Portland's Jim Labbe and representatives from Portland Bureau of Environmental Services, Columbia Slough Watershed Council and Port of Portland for a morning paddle on the Columbia Slough. Visit several restoration projects in the slough and discuss habitat restoration and enhancement in the urban environment. Bring your own kayak or canoe; personal floa-

tation device required. Directions and other details will be provided to registrants. Boat rentals can be arranged through Alder Creek Kayak and Canoe at (503) 285-0464 or Portland Kayak Company at (503) 459-4050. Register for the free paddle online at www.audubonportland.org. *Audubon Society of Portland*

Wild foods of Oxbow

9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, April 8

Join wild food expert John Kallas and learn about the wild foods of trees, shrubs and herbs at 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 salmon-berry. \$22 per person. There is a \$4 per vehicle entrance fee to the park. Advanced registration required; call (503) 775-3828. *Wild Food Adventures*

Painted turtle walks

1 to 2:30 p.m. Saturdays, April 8 and 22, May 20 and June 3

Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area is home to one of the largest remaining 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 6 and older. Meet in the parking area on North Marine Drive. Free. Advance registration required; call (503) 797-1715. *Metro* ♿

Warblers of Oregon

7 to 9:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 12

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. Suitable for adults and teens. Meet in room 370 at Metro Regional Center in Portland. Registration and payment of \$10 per person are required in advance; call (503) 797-1715. *Metro* ♿

Kayaking Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge

9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Saturday, April 15

Venture to Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge and travel by sea kayak on a 9-mile trip around Bachelor Island in search of bald eagles, river otters, blue herons, sandhill cranes and other wildlife. Some experience with sea kayaks will be helpful, but basic instruction for those with little experience will be provided. Adaptive equipment and trained staff are available to support people with special needs. Suitable for age 16 and older. Program fee includes equipment, clothing, instruction and transportation; \$43 for members, \$48 for non-members. Advance registration required; call (503) 681-9471. *Adventures Without Limit* ♿

Earth Day at Tualatin Hills Nature Park

10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, April 15

Celebrate Earth Day at Tualatin Hills Nature Park and explore the world of recycling. Booths, interactive displays, hands-on activities and crafts will highlight recycling in nature as well as in your community. There also will be a native plant sale. Free. Registration is not required. For more information, call (503) 629-6350. *Tualatin Hills Park and Recreation District* ♿

Fanno Creek bike ride

10 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 22

Join Audubon Society of Portland's Jim Labbe and representatives from Tualatin Riverkeepers and Bridlemile Creek Stewards for a bike ride along the Fanno Creek Greenway. Learn about restoration and enhancement efforts in the Fanno Creek headwaters and the challenges to and opportunities for protecting this important urban stream. Participants are responsible for bringing and maintaining their own bicycles; helmets are required. Directions and other details will be mailed to registrants. Free. Register for the bike trip online at www.audubonportland.org. *Audubon Society of Portland*

Sea lion paddle

9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, April 22

Join Willamette Riverkeeper for a 9-mile paddle from Clackamette Park in Oregon City to Sellwood Riverfront Park in Southeast Portland. This might be your chance to spot a sea lion as they hunt for spring salmon. Bring your own boat, or become a member for \$35 and use Willamette Riverkeeper's canoes and gear at no additional charge at this and other events. Free. Advance registration is required; call (503) 223-6418 or send e-mail to amy@willamette-riverkeeper.org. *Willamette Riverkeeper*

Ross Island paddle

10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sunday, April 23

Join Mike Houck, Bob Sallinger and Travis Williams for a leisurely spring paddle around the Ross Island "archipelago," soon to be Portland's newest natural area park. Paddle around Ross, Hardtack and East islands, down the Holgate Channel and into the Ross Island lagoon to observe ongoing restoration efforts. Bring your own kayak or canoe; personal

floatation device required. Directions and other details will be mailed to registrants. Boat rentals can be arranged through Alder Creek Kayak and Canoe at (503) 285-0464 or Portland Kayak Company at (503) 459-4050. Register for the free paddle online at www.audubonportland.org. *Audubon Society of Portland*

Wildflower identification at Oxbow

11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday, April 23

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. Suitable for adults and teens. Registration and a program fee of \$10 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) 797-1715. *Metro*

Sandy River Delta bird walk

8 to 10:30 a.m. Saturday, May 6

Take a walk on the wild side with naturalist Elaine Murphy and enjoy the bird life along the Sandy River Delta. Suitable for adults and older children with beginning to intermediate birding skills. To carpool, meet at the Gresham Backyard Bird Shop. Free. Advance registration required; call (503) 661-4944. *Backyard Bird Shop*

Animal tracking workshop

10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Sunday, May 7

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 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) 797-1715. *Metro*

Wildflowers at Tualatin Hills Nature Park

9 to 11 a.m. Saturday, May 13

Join ranger Elisa Payne for a hike through the Tualatin Hills Nature Park and learn to identify the many beautiful native wildflowers using field guides. Suitable for adults and children 13 and older. You are welcome to bring your camera. \$8 in-district; \$14 out-of-district. To register, call (503) 629-6350. *Tualatin Hills Park and Recreation District*

Sandy River Spey Clave

8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, May 13 and 14
Come to Oxbow Regional Park for a gathering of anglers interested in two-hand fly rod fishing. There will be 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, each day. 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 or

visit www.flyfishusa.com/spey-clave.htm. *Metro* and *The Fly Fishing Shop*

Song of the land: listening to the messages of birds

10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, May 20

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, rabbit and robin are listening, and our ancestors knew to heed the birds' calls, but it is a lost language to most of us today. In this class, discover how to tune your senses to this wonderful element of nature, and how to interpret what you see and hear from birds that live in your own backyard. Bird language is an exciting window into nature. Class is suitable for any background level and will include indoor discussion and outdoor time. Location is near Deer Island, less than one hour from Portland. Led by naturalist Terry Kem of Deerdance and Elisabeth Neely of Metro. Registration and program fee of \$20 per person is required in advance. For more information and to reserve a space, call (503) 296-6733 or visit www.deerdance.org. *Metro* and *Deerdance*



Step into the past at Metro's pioneer cemeteries




Metro manages 14 historic pioneer cemeteries that offer scenic tranquility and a unique look into the history of the region. Metro's pioneer cemeteries also are managed as active facilities. For information about available burial sites, visit www.metro-region.org/parks or call cemetery services at (503) 797-1709.

Lone Fir tours

10 a.m. to noon

Saturdays, March 11, April 8 and May 13

Embark on a unique history lesson while enjoying the beauty and tranquility of Metro's Lone Fir Pioneer Cemetery in Southeast Portland. The tour highlights Portland's founders, early pioneers and nationally-recognized figures, as well as interesting headstones and monuments. Explore 30 acres of mature trees and a very special rose garden. Suitable for all ages. Advance registration is not required. Meet at the main entrance at Southeast 21st Avenue and Morrison Street. A suggested donation of \$10 goes to headstone restoration and educational programs. For more information, call (503) 775-6278. *Friends of Lone Fir Cemetery*  by arrangement

Lone Fir work days

10 a.m. to noon

Saturdays, April 22 and May 20

Join Friends of Lone Fir Cemetery for a day of general grounds maintenance and cleanup. Gloves and tools will be provided, but bring your own if possible. Suitable for all ages. Advance registration required. Meet at the main entrance at Southeast 21st Avenue and Morrison Street. For more information, call (503) 775-6278. *Friends of Lone Fir Cemetery*

April in Paris

2 p.m. Sunday, April 30


Renowned musician Gabriel Guerro and friends will give a benefit concert featuring accordion and other instruments at Portland's historic St. Andrews chapel. All proceeds will be donated to Friends of Lone Fir for monument repair efforts. Seating is limited; cost is \$10 per ticket. For more information, call (503) 775-6278. *Friends of Lone Fir Cemetery*

Volunteer ventures

KEEP NATURE IN NEIGHBORHOODS

Community plant a tree challenge

9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, March 4

Join your community in a tree planting effort in Washington County. SOLV, the cities of Washington County, Friends of Trees and Clean Water Services are joining together with community members to plant hundreds of trees throughout the county. Events are offered at Stella Olsen Park in Sherwood, Pascuzzi Pond in Tualatin, Beal Pond in Forest Grove, Amberwood Drive in Hillsboro, Downing Creek in Beaverton, Hiteon Creek in Tigard, West Fork Dairy Dell Creek in Banks, and Steamboat Park in Cornelius. For more information, call Monica at (503) 844-9571. SOLV, *Friends of Trees* and *Clean Water Services*  by arrangement

Friends of Trees planting days

9 a.m. to 1 p.m. every Saturday

Join Friends of Trees and others in your community to help plant neighborhood trees or do vital restoration work at urban natural areas. No experience is necessary; gloves, tools and training are provided. For planting day locations and directions, call (503) 284-8733 or visit www.friendsoftrees.org and click on “planting” schedule. *Friends of Trees*

Ivy removal at Forest Park

9 a.m. to noon every Saturday
Join forces with the No Ivy League and help battle what is called the “green plague” at Forest Park. Groups of five

or more are asked to register 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. For more information, call (503) 823-3681. *Forest Park Ivy Removal Project*

Forest park trail maintenance

9 a.m. to noon every Saturday
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 work site. For more information, call (503) 223-5449. *Friends of Forest Park*

SOLV tree plantings

9 a.m. to noon every Saturday
Join SOLV’s Team up for Watershed Health program for tree planting along a stream near you in February and March. Plantings will occur in Canby, Beaverton, Clackamas, Fairview, Gladstone, Lake Oswego, Portland, Tigard and West Linn. Advance registration required; call Jamie at (503) 844-9571. *SOLV*

Salmon Creek restoration

8:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays
March 11 and 25, April 8 and 22 and May 20
Join the StreamTeam in restoring the Salmon Creek watershed in Clark County. Lend a hand planting native trees, potting trees for next year’s planting season and removing invasive species. Your work will help bring salmon back to Salmon Creek. Advance registration required; call (360) 992-8585. *Clark Public Utilities*

Hyland Forest Park work days


9 a.m. to noon Saturdays, March 11 and May 6
Help remove ivy, clematis, holly and blackberry 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*

Tualatin Hills Nature Park project day

9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sunday, March 19
Help ranger Ben eradicate scotch broom and other invasive plants from the area around the tadpole ponds and the new regional trail at Tualatin Hills Nature Park. Bring work gloves and drinking water. To register, call (503) 629-6350. *Tualatin Hills Park and Recreation District*

SOLV IT

9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, April 22


SOLV IT is the largest Earth Day event of its kind in the nation. Help clean up neighborhoods and natural areas or lend a hand with trail maintenance, watershed restoration and other community improvements. There are almost 100 work sites to choose from in the region. Metro sites include Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area, Beggars-tick Wildlife Refuge and a natural area at Glendoveer Golf Course. Register online at www.solv.org or by calling (503) 844-9571 ext. 330. SOLV  by arrangement

No Ivy Day


9 a.m. to noon Saturday, May 6
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 League*

Wilsonville WERK Day

9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, May 20
Join the Wilsonville Environmental Resource Keepers for this citywide cleanup and restoration effort. In conjunction with SOLV’s “Down By the Riverside,” the WERK Day offers opportunities for volunteer participation at a variety of sites including Metro’s Graham Oaks Natural Area. Volunteers will be treated to breakfast, lunch, free t-shirts and prizes. Individuals, families, businesses and service groups are encouraged to participate. For more information or to register, call Patty at (503) 682-3727. *city of Wilsonville* 

Down by the Riverside

9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, May 20
Down by the Riverside, 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, clean up illegally dumped materials, and work on many other valuable projects. Choose from hundreds of restoration and enhancement projects along rivers, streams and lakes across the state including a Metro natural area on the Sandy River. For more information, call Sara at (503) 844-9571. SOLV  by arrangement

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 2005, approximately 1,200 volunteers donated more than 22,000 hours to Metro Regional Parks and Greenspaces. The following volunteers were honored by the Metro Council, staff and their peers at an awards ceremony in January for their leadership, excellence and outstanding contributions.

To learn about volunteer opportunities with Metro Regional Parks and Greenspaces, call Beth Gergick at (503) 797-1733 or send e-mail to gergickb@metro.dst.or.us.

The Osprey Award

is presented to volunteers who have made a significant impact within their first year of service as a volunteer with Metro Regional Parks and Greenspaces.

Phyllis Groelle
Volunteer naturalist

Patty Newland
Volunteer naturalist

Mary Jo and Don Hessel
Volunteer naturalists

Eli Haworth
Planning and outreach assistant

Jason Dumont
Center assistant at the Native Plant Materials Center

The Douglas Fir Award

is presented to volunteers whose leadership has significantly impacted Metro's regional parks and greenspaces work.

Mike Houck
Greenspaces Policy Advisory Committee and Blue Ribbon Committee representative

Tierra Curry
Amphibian researcher

The Black Bear Award

is presented to volunteers for their outstanding volunteer contribution toward department goals.

Mary Glenn
Researcher at Lone Fir Cemetery

Paul Gleason
Volunteer naturalist

Pat Clancy
Volunteer naturalist

Jeff Paine
Lead amphibian and turtle monitor

The Chinook Award

is presented to volunteer groups who have made a significant impact on the restoration and/or maintenance of Metro parks and greenspaces.

Rainbow Employment Services
Blue Lake wetland restoration and maintenance

Mt. Hood Community College Department of Natural Resources
Restoration at multiple natural areas



Metro Councilors and staff helped congratulate award-ees from the Mount Hood Community College natural resources program at a dinner honoring outstanding Metro volunteers from 2005. The group adopted a Metro natural area adjacent to the college where they have taken on several restoration projects and established a 1-year vegetation and bird survey. Pictured above (clockwise from top right) are Metro Councilor Robert Liberty, faculty advisor Kate Holleran and students Ismeida Medina, Jose Roa Vidal, Nuvia Martinez, Claudia Almandares and Francisco Canto.

The You Did It Again! Award

is presented to volunteers who earned one of the awards listed above in a previous year and continue to provide exceptional service to Metro. Many of the following volunteers received this award for the second, third or fourth year in a row.

Portland State University Environmental Science Department

Plant researchers for Smith and Bybee Wetlands

Troy Clark
Bird monitor and committee member for Smith and Bybee Wetlands

Northwest Service Academy
Natural area restoration

Jeff Locke
Volunteer naturalist and Smith and Bybee Wetlands steward

Laila Hungerford
Volunteer resources office assistant

Tualatin Riverkeepers
Natural area restoration

Bob Hungerford
Glendoveer steward

Duane Meissner
Multnomah Channel steward

Larry Everson
Butterfly monitor

Lacey Vogel
Volunteer naturalist

Shelley Young
Volunteer naturalist

Suzan Wells
Volunteer naturalist

Leo Mellon
Volunteer naturalist

Juliana Tennent
Volunteer naturalist

Midge Karp
Camp host at Oxbow Regional Park

George Smith
Blue Lake Regional Park steward

Youth Guidance Association
Natural area restoration

Volunteer opportunities sprout up at Metro's native plant center



Metro's native plant materials center, located near Wanker's Corner in Tualatin, provides an essential supply of native plant materials. This past winter volunteers planted 4,650 native trees and shrubs grown at the plant center at ten different Metro natural areas. A long-term goal of the project is to be able to share stock and seeds with other organizations working on restoration throughout the region.

There are lots of ways to get involved with the project. A number of volunteer positions are available to people interested in becoming plant center "regulars." Scheduled work days offer another way to make a contribution and get to know the plant center. For more information or to get involved, call Beth Gergick at (503) 797-1733 or send e-mail to parkvol@metro.dst.or.us.

HELP WANTED

Plant center assistants

Volunteers will help with native seed processing and planting, weeding, monitoring and harvesting seed for planting back on Metro sites. This is a great opportunity to learn how to propagate native grasses, sedges, forbs and willows and support local restoration efforts. Knowledge of or skills working with native plants or gardening is preferred. *One day per week commitment desired.*

Native seed collectors/processors

Volunteers will collect and process native seeds from Metro sites. Training in native plant identification, seed collection protocol, processing and site mapping will be provided. Monitoring target species for seed collection will begin in mid-March. Seed collection occurs weekly from March to September. *One day per week commitment desired.*

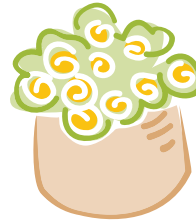
Plant center builders

Volunteers put their building skills to work constructing propagation beds, tables, wetland emergent beds, seed cleaning and drying equipment. *Time commitment based on individual projects.*

WORK DAYS

Potting party

9 a.m. to noon and noon to 3 p.m. **Saturday, March 11**
Help pot surplus native bare root plants for future Metro volunteer plantings. Morning and afternoon sessions available, experience not necessary. All ages welcome. Come prepared to get dirty. Advance registration is required; call (503) 797-1715.
Metro



Plant center work days

9 a.m. to noon and noon to 3 p.m. **Saturdays, April 8, May 6 and June 3**
Choose from morning or afternoon sessions or come for the entire day. Potential activities include transplanting seedlings, planting willows, weeding, planting seeds, building emergent beds and data base entry. Activities will depend on the spring weather and how wet or dry the ground is. Morning and afternoon sessions are available. Experience is preferred, but not necessary. All ages welcome. Come prepared to get dirty and dress for the weather. Gloves, tools, snacks and water will be provided. Bring a lunch if staying all day. Advance registration is required; call (503) 797-1715. *Metro*

Calling all natural garden designers

Metro is seeking individuals or groups interested in designing a natural garden at Blue Lake Regional Park. The demonstration garden, located on a plot the size of an average yard, will show more than 300,000 annual park visitors how to create a beautiful and low maintenance garden featuring naturoscaping, native plants and habitat-friendly practices.

Respond with your interest with a proposed site planting plan that can be planted by volunteers, maintenance plan including survival/replacement guarantees and plant materials specifications. The selected design team will work together to create the plans and supervise the planting. The names of the team participants will be prominently displayed in the garden.

Responses must be received by Monday, April 3. For details about the garden location and size or other information about the project, call Teri Dresler at (503) 797-1790.

Natural gardening



Jerome Hart photo

Naturescaping workshops

9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays and 1 to 5 p.m. Sundays
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. Plus it attracts interesting and beneficial wildlife. 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 for your garden. These free workshops are offered all around the region. For a schedule or to register, call (503) 797-1842 or send e-mail to naturescaping@yahoo.com. *Naturescaping for Clean Rivers*

Worm bin composting demonstration

2 to 3 p.m. Sunday, March 5
Join Rodney Bender from Growing Gardens to learn all

about the art of composting at Tryon Creek State Natural Area. Participants can build their own worm bin to take home with them – worms and all! Advance registration required. For more information about the Sunday at Two lecture series or to register, call (503) 636-9886 ext. 25. *Tryon Creek State Natural Area* ♿ by arrangement

Wild gourmet garden edibles

8 a.m. to noon Saturday, May 6
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. Get real hands-on experience with plants you'll see in your own garden. Bring a salad bowl and a fork. \$25. Advance registration required; call (503) 775-3828 or visit www.wildfoodadventures.com. *Wild Food Adventures* ♿ by arrangement

Natural Celebrity Series

This popular Saturday series brings well-known gardening experts and naturalists who successfully use and support natural gardening techniques to Metro's Natural Techniques Garden in Southeast Portland. The one-hour presentations begin at 10 a.m. and are followed by a 30-minute tour of the garden. Advance registration required; call Metro Recycling Information at (503) 234-3000.

Pruning for dummies

April 15

There's no reason to be afraid of picking up and using a pair of pruners. Master arborist Terrill Collier will explain the basics of plant pruning and demonstrate different pruning techniques on plants growing in the demonstration garden.

Urban gardens + urban greenspaces = über-cool!

April 22

Urban naturalist Mike Houck will describe the new regional parks, trails, and greenspaces vision developed by Metro's Greenspaces Advisory Committee and adopted by the Metro Council. Come learn how urban gardens and urban agriculture fit into the regional vision for a comprehensive, interconnected regional system of parks, trails and greenspaces.

Bodacious borders: mixing it up with culturally compatible plants

April 29

Grouping plants together that have similar water, sun or soil type needs is just plain smart, and certainly doesn't have to be boring. No one is more qualified to offer up excellent suggestions for pairing plants than garden designer Lucy Hardiman.

Appreciating tiny creatures in the garden

May 6

Not every creature with fangs or a stinger that resides in your garden needs to be removed or destroyed. In fact, most spiders and wasps are excellent predators that help keep the pest population in your garden from exploding. Join outdoor journalist Bill Monroe for a fun and informative look at some of your tiny allies in the garden.

The American potage garden: integrating flowers and food

May 13

For centuries the French have been planting and using potage gardens that are both decorative and edible. For decades, gardening writer Vern Nelson has been putting his own stamp on edible gardens. If it's edible and can be grown in a backyard, Vern has probably grown and eaten it.

Problem children, delinquents and escape artists: plants to think twice about

May 20

All plants probably have intrinsic value and can and should be grown someplace. But there are a lot of plants that may have no place in your garden. Find out from gardening writer Kym Pokorny which plants you should avoid bringing into your garden.

BUY A COMPOST BIN!

Beginning in late March, you can purchase the popular Earth Machine compost bin year-round for \$35 at the MetroPaint retail store, located at 4825 N. Basin Ave. on Swan Island in North Portland. For more information, call (503) 234-3000.

School field trips now available at Howell Territorial Park

Field trips for students from kindergarten through grade 6 are now available at Metro's Howell Territorial Park on Sauvie Island. The park is the site of a historic farm, pioneer orchard and natural wetlands area. Students will learn about farming, wildlife, native culture and their interrelationships with the land. Hands-on activities include soil and plant investigation at the working organic farm, a wildlife hike, predator/prey activities, and storytelling focused on the cultural history of the island. For more information, call Sandy at (503) 797-1834. *Metro and Sauvie Island Organics*



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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 restrooms.

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 and drive to the parking area.

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: \$5 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 courts, a driving range and a restaurant.

Location: 140th and Northeast Glisan Street.

Information numbers

General number
(503) 797-1850

Picnic reservations
(503) 665-4995

Registration for Metro activities
(503) 797-1715

Blue Lake Regional Park
(503) 665-4995

The Lake House
(503) 665-4995

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 natural area.

 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.



Drive less. Save more.

www.DriveLessSaveMore.com

Think you have little control when it comes to getting stuck in traffic? Think there's really nothing you can do? Think again! Trip chaining, or combining several errands into one trip, and other travel options are easy ways to cut down on your time on the road. And they can save you money, too.

Each time you drive, it's money out of your pocket. Operating costs quickly add up – gas, parking, car maintenance and more. And that's on top of spending all that time in your car when you'd rather be doing something else.

One simple way to drive less and save more is to work "trip chaining" into your schedule. Trip chaining takes a little planning, but is easy to do. There are lots of ways to work trip chaining into your schedule. Here are some suggestions:

- Start by developing a list of errands for the week.
- Plan the best route. Try using online services and/or GPS technologies.
- Decide on the best day and time to get multiple errands done.
- Avoid rush-hour traffic.

For other convenient actions you can take to save time and money, and information about bicycling, carpool-

ing, public transit and walking, visit www.DriveLessSaveMore.com or call (503) 813-7566.

ODOT, Metro, TriMet, Washington County, and many other public and private partners developed the "Drive Less/Save More" campaign.



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