

GreenScene



Discover nature in
neighborhoods

WINTER 2007



Natural
areas bond
measure
approved

Winter
nature
activities
for all



METRO



Dear GreenScene reader:



David Bragdon

In this issue of GreenScene, we celebrate our renewed commitment to preserving natural areas, protecting water quality, and enhancing the region's recreational opportunities.

On Nov. 7, voters of the metropolitan region passed Measure 26-80 with a majority in all three counties. The \$227.4 million dollars from the bond gives the region a powerful new tool to continue the legacy of the 1995 bond measure. A product of a broad regional collaboration of scientists, conservationists, business leaders, elected officials and citizens, the success of the bond measure is proof that partnerships get results.

Having nature close by is one of the defining qualities of life in our region – great urban communities and natural landscapes exist side by side. We are fortunate that we still have so many beautiful and ecologically rich areas left to protect.

The citizens of this region do not take for granted the importance of clean water, ecological diversity, and nature in the city. As true stewards of the land, the citizens of this region are willing to make the necessary financial investments to protect their heritage. There are many metropolitan regions that have not had the same foresight. Once again this region has demonstrated national leadership in the protection and preservation of nature in urban areas, setting a standard for other parts of the country.

The bond will be used to purchase key parcels of land that will benefit the environmental health of the entire region.

Metro has already obtained options to purchase properties from willing sellers, including land around the Tualatin River headwaters and wetlands along Johnson Creek. The bond will also provide funding for local projects and a neighborhood grants program to bring nature back into our neighborhoods.

The Metro Council is dedicated to preserving and restoring natural areas for the benefit of all communities at the regional, local and neighborhood scale. The bond measure will ensure that a network of natural areas, trails, parks, and streams are protected and available for current and future generations to enjoy.

David Bragdon
Metro Council President



Pileated woodpecker

Jim Cruce 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

Mt. Talbert, photo by C. Bruce Forster; hawk watcher at the Raptor Road Trip.

Illustrations by

Antonia Manda and Abigail Marble.

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.

Voters direct Metro to protect natural areas, rivers and streams



Willamette Narrows near West Linn

C. Bruce Forster photo

Voters of the metropolitan region approved Measure 26-80 at the November 2006 election directing Metro to protect natural areas and clean water.

The \$227.4 million bond measure is designed to preserve natural areas and protect rivers and streams at the regional, local and neighborhood level:

Regional natural areas

Metro will purchase between 3,500 and 4,500 acres of land in identified regional target areas to protect lands around local rivers and streams, preserve significant fish and wildlife habitat, enhance trails and wildlife corridors, and connect urban areas with nature. (*\$168.4 million in bond funds*)

Local projects

Local cities, counties and park districts within Metro's jurisdiction will complete more than 100 projects that protect water

quality, improve parks, preserve natural areas and provide access to nature for people all over the region. (*\$44 million in bond funds*)

Neighborhood grants program

The Nature in Neighborhoods capital grants program will fund neighborhood projects that enhance natural features and their ecological functions on public lands. Schools, neighborhood associations, cities, counties, park providers, nonprofit organizations and other community groups will be invited to apply. (*\$15 million in bond funds*)

Nuts and bolts

- Natural areas will be acquired only from willing sellers or donors.
- All of the bond expenditures will be subject to an annual independent audit published in a local newspaper.
- An independent citizen advisory committee will provide oversight on all elements of the program.

Building on success

The 2006 natural areas bond measure is modeled after the \$135.6 million open spaces, parks and streams bond measure approved by the region's voters in 1995. The new natural areas program will build on the accomplishments of this program, which has protected more than 8,000 acres of natural areas and 74 miles of stream and river frontage.

As the new bond measure reinvigorates acquisition efforts across the region, many of the natural areas acquired with funds from the first bond measure are well into the next phase of their protection. Extensive restoration efforts have put nearly one million trees in the ground and reestablished rare habitat across the region. The Metro Council plans to open three new regional natural areas to the public in the near future – Cooper Mountain near Beaverton, Graham Oaks in Wilsonville and Mt. Talbert in Clackamas (see article on page 6).

Get involved

This spring, the people of the region will have an opportunity to join scientists, natural resource experts, neighbors and community leaders in helping to focus acquisition goals for each of the regional target areas identified in the bond measure.

To stay informed about the natural areas program and upcoming public involvement opportunities, get on the natural areas mailing list by calling (503) 797-1850 or sending e-mail to metroparks@metro.dst.or.us.

More information about regional natural areas, local projects, neighborhood grants and public involvement opportunities is available on the Metro web site at www.metro-region.org/naturalareas.

Metro Council opens second round of Nature in Neighborhoods grants



The Metro Council has opened its second round of Nature in Neighborhoods grants for nature-friendly community projects. Nearly \$370,000 is available for work focusing on restoration, conservation education and other innovative ways to encourage residents to protect the nature of our region. Pre-applications are due Jan. 18, 2007.

The grant program is part of Metro's Nature in Neighborhoods initiative, the Metro Council's commitment to protect fish and wildlife habitat in the region. Citizen groups, businesses, nonprofit organizations, school groups, neighborhoods, government agencies and service groups are eligible to apply. Projects must be located within the Metro jurisdictional boundary.

"This grant program has proved to be very successful and is making a significant difference on the ground," says Metro Councilor Rod Park. "Projects such as SOLV's work on Osborne and Beaver creeks in the eastern part of the region, where stream corridors have been restored, are having positive effects on the environment and the people and animals that use it."

Two categories of grant packages are awarded. The category "Building Community – Your Neighborhood, Your Watershed" is for grants in amounts ranging from \$2,500 to \$25,000 for projects that include a one-to-one match in either financial or in-kind contributions from other organizations. These grants fund community-level projects that link participants and citizens to their watershed through education and active restoration, including removal of invasive plant species, site restoration, cleanup of existing illegal dump sites and planting to enhance watersheds.

Grants of more than \$25,000 are awarded to projects in the category "Creeks to Rivers Regional Challenge," which must

demonstrate a one-to-two match in either financial or in-kind contributions from other organizations. Projects in this category should engage residents and participants in watershed protection, education and active restoration. Funding is targeted at projects that improve and sustain existing restoration sites while expanding these areas, or on projects that can become anchor sites for future restoration efforts.

Funding for the grant program is provided by Metro excise taxes collected on solid waste disposal during the last several years.

Grant applications can be found at www.metro-region.org/nature or by contacting Janelle Geddes at (503) 797-1550 or geddesj@metro.dst.or.us.

Applicants best meeting the grant criteria will be invited to submit a final application which will be due in mid April 2007; grants will be announced in May 2007.

Discover Three Creeks Natural Area

One project funded through Metro's Nature in Neighborhoods grant program is the Three Creeks restoration project, a collaboration between Clackamas County Water Environment Services and a group of community partners.

Three Creeks Natural Area is a 90-acre site at the confluence of Mt. Scott, Phillips and Deer creeks just west of Clackamas Town Center. An urban oasis for wildlife, Three Creeks is home to a rich diversity of wildlife, including beavers, coyotes, butterflies, rubber boa snakes, dragonflies, salamanders, deer, ducks, herons, hawks, owls, pileated woodpeckers, warblers and hummingbirds. Intensive restoration efforts are aimed at making the creeks more hospitable to Coho salmon, steelhead and cutthroat trout.

The \$25,000 Metro grant is being used for volunteer-led events to improve the area in a number of ways.

Trash cleanup and development of a public awareness campaign will make the area safer, reduce inappropriate use of the site and introduce local residents to the natural area. Removing invasive species and planting native trees and shrubs will restore the natural landscape.

Project partners include Friends of Kellogg and Mt. Scott Creek Watershed, Friends of Trees, Waste Management, Clackamas County Sheriff's Office, North Clackamas Parks and Recreation District and other county departments.





A sampling of the Tsunami Crew (from left): Dan Heichelbeck, Logan Lauvray, Bob Storer, Dick Shook, Megan Faria and Chris Runyard.

Photo by Tsunami Crew member Steve Berliner

They call themselves the Tsunami Crew. Anyone who's seen them come crashing down on a stubborn stand of invasive plants knows exactly what they mean by that.

This small but relentless band of volunteers has put in more than 8,000 hours at Three Creeks Natural Area removing invasive species and debris and planting 11,000 native trees and shrubs.

Want to join the Tsunami Crew on one of their weekly work days at Three Creeks? Call Chris Runyard at Friends of Trees at (503) 282-8846 ext. 11.

First round projects under way across the region

In its first round of Nature in Neighborhood grants, awarded last spring, the Metro Council gave \$560,000 to 24 local organizations for 31 projects throughout the region. Projects chosen for funding linked participants and citizens to their watershed through education and active restoration, and focused on multi-partner education and habitat restoration projects. Matching fund requirements leveraged \$3.1 million in other funding.

City of Beaverton
Restoration of Camille Pond \$3,181
Restoration of Golden Pond \$2,372

Clackamas County Water Environment Services
Three Creeks community restoration \$25,000

Clackamas River Basin Council
Clackamas River regional riparian habitat project \$72,854

Columbia Slough Watershed Council
Watershed community capacity building \$21,024
Slough School education program \$41,783

David Douglas School District – Ventura Park School
Spreading the “green word”: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Restore \$25,000

Friends of Trees Youth Tree Corps
\$18,000
Natural area restoration program capacity building \$25,000

Hector Campbell Neighborhood District Association
Homewood Park natural area restoration and trail enhancement \$1,000

Jackson Bottom Wetlands Preserve
Neighborhood ecology (Hillsboro) \$14,360

Johnson Creek Watershed Council
Community outreach brochure and signage \$16,000

Ed Kerns, private citizen
Lents Springwater habitat restoration project \$17,325

Owens Corning
Wise Water and Waste Management (W3M) \$25,000

Portland Parks and Recreation
Fanno basin community stewardship project \$20,318

Portland Public Schools (three grants)
Atkinson wildlife habitat and watershed stewardship project \$5,000
Partnerships to build lifelong stewards \$3,878
Growing a knowledge base for watershed restoration in Southwest Portland \$10,573

Portland State University
Restoring Johnson Creek watershed through learning gardens in schools and neighborhoods \$25,000

Raindrops to Refuge
Sherwood community natural resources outreach and education \$20,000

SOLV
Osborne Creek restoration \$30,858
Beaver Creek restoration \$4,232
Tualatin Basin restoration \$23,720

Sunnyside Neighborhood Association
Sunnyside Green Guide (with Sunnyside Environmental School) \$5,000

The Nature Conservancy
Camassia white oak habitat restoration project in West Linn \$24,896

The Wetlands Conservancy
Central Hedges Creek marsh enhancement \$10,000

Tualatin Hills Park and Recreation District
Greenway habitat enhancement project \$30,049

Tualatin Riverkeepers
Tualatin Basin knotweed and invasive species control \$4,900

Wilkes Community Group
Wilkes Creek bridge and path project \$2,500

Willamette Riverkeeper
River Rendezvous \$20,906

Wolftree, Inc.
Kelly Butte ecological diversity project \$5,000

Mt. Talbert Natural Area opening planned for summer 2007

Neighbors, hikers and nature lovers all eagerly anticipate Mt. Talbert's official opening to the public in summer 2007 – offering a refuge of green for people and wildlife in urban Clackamas County.

The largest undeveloped butte in Northern Clackamas County, Mt. Talbert rises as a forested green sentinel overlooking the web of development that surrounds it and the busy I-205 and Sunnyside Road interchange. With funds from the 1995 open spaces bond measure, 183 acres have been protected on Mt. Talbert, including the butte top and west and north facing slopes, which are visible to tens of thousands of people who travel daily on I-205 or visit Clackamas Town Center.

In 2000 Metro and North Clackamas Parks and Recreation District worked with neighbors, landscape architects and natural resource experts to develop a master plan for public use of Mt. Talbert. Visitor facilities will provide access to existing nature trails, parking, restrooms and a shelter for school field trips.



Mt. Talbert trail

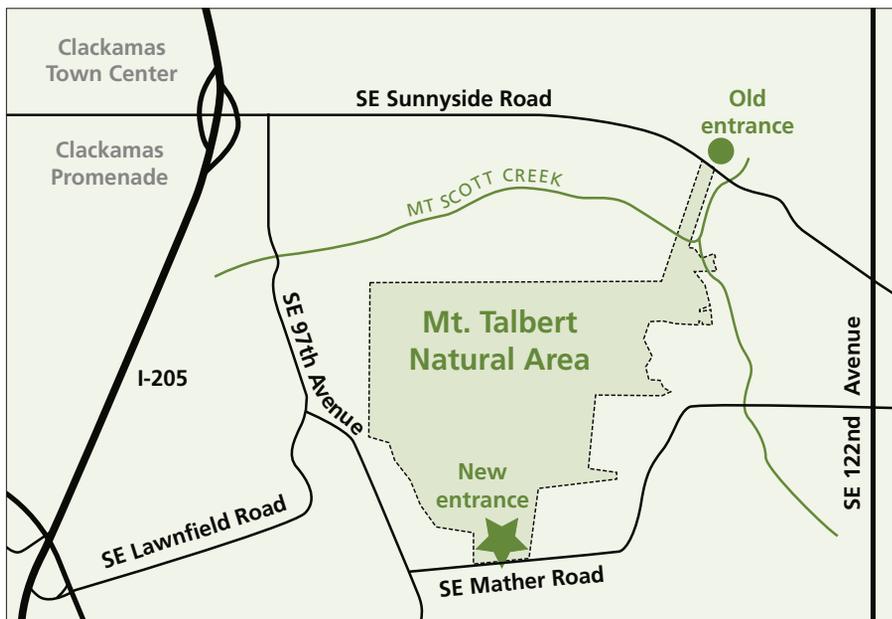
Jane Dunkin photo

Initial design and engineering work for the development of a regional trailhead at 117th and Sunnyside Road has revealed several challenges that suggest a change of plan is needed. Due to topographic, environmental and other site constraints, the two park agencies are proposing an amendment to the master plan to relocate the natural area's main public and ADA accessible entrance

to an access point along Mather Road. The Sunnyside Road entrance will remain as a secondary entrance, but it will not be designed to be universally accessible.

“By relocating the ADA accessible portion of the trail, the picnic shelter and bathroom facilities to an entry point off of Mather Road, we will provide better access to the public and stretch the limited funds we have for improvements at Mt. Talbert,” says Metro Councilor Brian Newman. “The new entrance also allows additional viewing opportunities of a reconstructed oak savannah and a wet prairie meadow, two increasingly rare habitats in the Northern Willamette Valley.”

Design and engineering for the two access points for the Mt. Talbert Natural Area will be completed this winter. Construction is expected to begin spring 2007 and a grand opening is planned for late summer. For more information, call project manager Lydia Neill at (503) 797-1830 or send e-mail to neilll@metro.dst.or.us.



Winter trees of Mt. Talbert

1 to 3:30 p.m.
Sunday, Feb. 25

Have you ever wished you could tell one evergreen from another, or identify a tree in winter by looking at the bark or buds? Can you read the history of a piece of land by looking at its forest? Join Metro naturalist Deb Scrivens for a walk at Mt. Talbert to unravel these mysteries and more. The forest at this Metro natural area is a living laboratory of Northwest trees. Parts of the trail are steep. Best for ages 12 to adult. Free. Advance registration required; call (503) 794-8081. Metro and North Clackamas Parks and Recreation District

Wildlife conservation lectures

at the Oregon Zoo

Global Warming: Disaster for humanity or nicer climate for Northwest?

7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 30

Peter U. Clark, from Oregon State University's department of geosciences, lectures on the causes and effects of global warming. Climate models suggest that warming over the last few decades can only be explained by the known increase in greenhouse gas concentrations. Global warming will impact glaciers and ice sheets, global sea level, species distribution and extinctions, and the frequency and intensity of droughts, heat waves and possibly hurricanes.

Polar Bear: Ultimate Sentinel for Climate Change

7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 27

Steven C. Amstrup, research wildlife biologist with the Alaska Science Center, discusses polar bears in decline due to dramatic climate change. Though their diet consists almost exclusively of seals, polar bears are not aquatic; their only access to seals is from the surface of the sea ice. Over the past 25 years, the summer sea-ice melt period has lengthened, and the summer sea-ice cover has declined by more than half a million square miles. Because of their dependence upon the sea ice, these changes directly affect whether Arctic polar bears will live or die. Ongoing studies are aimed at understanding polar bears' movement patterns in response to changing ice conditions.

Butterflies and climate change: can they survive?

7 p.m. Tuesday, March 27

Jessica J. Hellmann, assistant professor of biological sciences at University of Notre Dame, addresses the impact of global warming on insects, which are extremely useful for investigating the responses of biodiversity to climate change. Hellman

discusses her current studies of butterflies on the West Coast. Findings so far show that species respond differently to climate change based on their ecology, evolutionary history and characteristics. Hellman asks the question, "Should we be optimistic or pessimistic about the future of species with which we share our planet?"

Pro Photo Supply and Shiels Oblatz Johnsen present the series hosted by the Audubon Society of Portland, Oregon Zoo and World Forestry Center. Lectures will be held in the Oregon Zoo's banquet center. \$10 for non-members; \$8 for members of host organizations, students or seniors.

Blue Lake nature and golf learning center

With an eye on enhancing natural resources and providing an affordable golf learning experience to players of all ages and abilities, the Metro Council is considering a proposed nature and golf learning center at Blue Lake Regional Park.

The proposed nature and golf learning center would significantly improve a wetland on the site, increase access to the game of golf and provide the neighboring community with a great place to walk and enjoy nature.

Learn about the design and opportunities to get involved at www.metro-region.org/parks.



"Three Bridges" fill gaps in Springwater Corridor



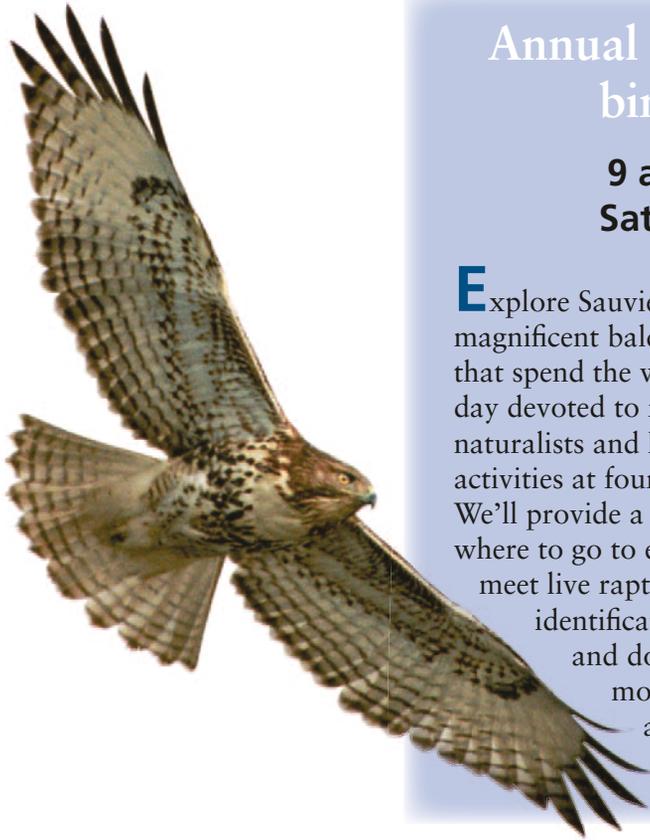
Metro Councilor Brian Newman (left) celebrates with Milwaukie Mayor Jim Bernard, U.S. Congressman Earl Blumenauer and trail enthusiasts at the dedication of the Springwater Corridor's new bridges on Oct. 19.

The three bridges – which cross Johnson Creek, McLoughlin Boulevard and a railroad track – fill major gaps in the popular Springwater Corridor Trail and connect the city of Portland to the city of Milwaukie.

Funding for the bridges came from Metro's Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program, a federally funded program for state and federally approved highway, transit, bicycle and pedestrian facilities in the metro region. Additional funds were provided by the cities of Portland and Milwaukie.

Nearly 20 years in the making, the Springwater Corridor extends 17 miles from Southwest Fourth Avenue and Ivon Street (near OMSI) east to the city of Boring. For more information about the "Three Bridges" project or the Springwater Corridor visit www.portlandonline.com.

Sauvie Island Raptor Road Trip



Annual event celebrates
birds of prey

9 a.m to 2 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. 3

Explore Sauvie Island in search of the magnificent bald eagles, hawks and falcons that spend the winter here. On this special day devoted to raptors, experienced naturalists and hawk experts will host activities at four locations around the island. We'll provide a map, then you choose where to go to enjoy guided bird viewing, meet live raptors up close, and see hawk identification displays. Hot drinks and donuts will be available in the morning so we can stay warm and have breakfast with the birds.



if you have them. Dress for the weather with gloves and a hat; this event takes place rain or shine. Raptor Road Trip is suitable for birders of all skill levels and families are welcome.

Unlike traditional bird watching, you don't have to be an "early bird" and get up at the crack of dawn to see these birds of prey, but we recommend that you allow about three hours if you wish to visit all four locations.

What will you see?

It all depends on what nature has in store, but frequently sighted raptors include bald eagles, red-tailed hawks, American kestrels, and Northern harriers. With a little luck, you also might spot a rough-legged hawk, Cooper's hawk, merlin or peregrine falcon. Beautiful snow geese, sandhill cranes and great blue herons often are seen at this time of year as well.

Advance registration is not required. For more information, call (503) 797-1850.

Sponsored by Metro, Audubon Society of Portland, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and Hawk Watch International.

 Three of the four event locations offer wheelchair access.



Skilled naturalists help visitors of all ages spot hawks at the Raptor Road Trip.



American kestrel Jim Cruce photo

How does the "road trip" work?

This year's trip begins at Kruger's Farm Market, where you will need to stop first to get your event map and guide. To reach Kruger's, go over the Sauvie Island bridge, and continue straight 1.5 miles (passing by Howell Territorial Park) to the farm entrance on your right. The fee for the event is \$5 per vehicle, which includes a one-day Sauvie Island Wildlife Area parking permit, event guide, birding map and checklist, and picture handouts on how to identify birds of prey. If you have a Sauvie Island permit already, the event fee is \$2.50 per vehicle.

We'll provide spotting scopes, a crash course in raptor identification, and naturalists to point out the birds. Bring binoculars and field guides

Winter calendar

ENJOY NATURE IN NEIGHBORHOODS

Bird watching

Lunch with the birds at Jackson Bottom

noon to 1 p.m. Wednesdays
Meet a Jackson Bottom naturalist and spend your lunch hour learning how to identify waterfowl and other birds at Jackson Bottom Wetlands Preserve. Spotting scopes, binoculars and field guides will be provided. Meet at the north viewing shelter next to the Clean Water Services treatment plant on Highway 219 south of Hillsboro. Free. Registration is not required. For more information, call (503) 681-6278. *Jackson Bottom Wetlands Preserve* ♿

Winter birds at Smith and Bybee Wetlands

10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturdays, Jan. 6 and 20, Feb. 17 and March 3
It's a waterfowl wonderland in the Portland area with thousands of ducks, geese and even swans spending the winter here. On a good day, you can see a dozen different species of waterfowl and other water birds such as grebes, gulls, coots, cormorants and herons. This is also the best time of year to see bald eagles and other birds of prey. Bundle up and meet naturalist James Davis at the natural area parking lot on Marine Drive. Binoculars will be available to borrow. Suitable for adults and teens. Free. Advance registration is required; call (503) 797-1715. *Metro* ♿



Waterfowl identification class

7 to 9:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 11
Tens of thousands of ducks, geese and swans spend the winter in our local wetlands. By the end of January all hunting is over and it's the best time of the year for observing waterfowl and learning how to identify these easy-to-see, beautiful birds. Metro naturalist James Davis will simplify identification techniques for what can seem like an overwhelming variety of species. Suitable for adults and teens. Meet in room 370 at Metro Regional Center. Registration and payment of \$10 are required in advance; call (503) 797-1715. *Metro*



Birds of prey identification class

7 to 9:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 1
Join Metro naturalist James Davis for an evening class about the diurnal birds of prey and get ready for great winter raptor watching. Learn to identify eagles, hawks, falcons, vultures and related birds and discuss the natural history and adaptations of these powerful predators. This class is excellent preparation for the Raptor Road Trip on Feb. 3. For adults and teens.

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

Nature discoveries

Winter solstice paddle at Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area

11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 23
Traveling by canoe or kayak is the best way to explore Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area in North Portland. Come on special paddle celebrating the winter solstice. 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 due to low water levels. Meet at the parking lot on North Marine Drive. Advance registration required; call Frank Opila at (503) 283-1145 or send e-

mail to franko@hevanet.com. *Friends of Smith and Bybee Lakes*

Fundamentals of tracking at Oxbow

9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Jan. 6
Learn the basics of human, pet and wildlife tracking, including speed, direction and more with Metro volunteer naturalist John Halsell. Meet at the Dragonfly Shelter at Oxbow Regional Park, one of Oregon's premier tracking locations. Registration and a \$8 fee are required in advance. There is a \$4 per vehicle entry fee, payable at the gate. To register, call (503) 797-1715. *Metro*

The hidden world of decaying logs

7 to 9 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 11
Learn about the fascinating world of decaying logs at the monthly nature education meeting at Jackson Bottom Wetlands Preserve education center. Free. Advance registration is required; call Jan at (503) 681-6283. *Jackson Bottom Wetlands Preserve* ♿

Clackamas River salmon refuge project tour

12:30 to 3 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 14
Two years ago Metro and its partners completed a \$1.2 million side-channel restoration project for salmon. It is the largest such project in Oregon and provides critical habitat for young salmon to rest, feed, grow and hide from predators. The side channels were built at a Metro natural area on the Clackamas River protected by the 1995 open spaces bond measure just downstream from the Barton Bridge and Barton Park. Winter is when the most

water is in the channels and the project can best be seen in action. Join Metro science and stewardship manager Jim Morgan and naturalist James Davis to learn more about this exciting habitat enhancement for salmon. There have been sightings of large mammals in the area and we will find various signs of their presence, as well as see local birds. Suitable for adults and children 9 and older able to walk on rocky, uneven, muddy terrain. Tour will happen rain or shine. Directions to the site will be mailed to participants. Registration and payment of \$10 are required in advance; call (503) 797-1928. *Metro*

Smith and Bybee Wetlands paddle trip noon to 4 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 20

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; call Dale Svart at (503) 285-3084 or send e-mail to dsvart@earth-link.net. *Friends of Smith and Bybee Lakes*

Urban Ecology and Conservation Symposium: Seeking Science for Solutions 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 22

The 5th annual symposium hosted by the Urban Ecosystem Research Consortium at Portland State University will bring the Portland-Vancouver community together to network and exchange

information about urban ecology and conservation. Come to learn, share and be inspired. For more information and to register, visit www.esr.pdx.edu/uerc or call Jennifer Thompson at (503) 231-6179. *Urban Ecosystem Research Consortium* ♿ by arrangement

Dirt time at Oxbow 9 a.m. to noon Sundays, Jan. 28 and Feb. 25

“Dirt time” means spending time practicing animal tracking. Join a practice session with regional expert trackers and gain experience identifying and interpreting the subtle and complex clues left by wildlife. Please note, this is not a class, but an informal practice session. Meet at the floodplain parking lot at Oxbow Regional Park. All ages and skill levels are welcome. Free with the \$4 per vehicle entry fee to the park. Advance registration is not required. For more information, call (503) 797-1715. *Metro*

How animals work 7 to 9:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 8

How can turtles breathe while they are at the bottom of a pond all winter? Why don't ducks get hypothermia swimming around in freezing cold water with their bare feet? Why are there no warm-blooded animals with gills? Join Metro naturalist James Davis for a look at the incredible adaptations different animals have 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. For adults and teens. Meet in room 370 at Metro Regional Center. Registration and payment of \$10 per person are required in advance; call (503) 797-1715. *Metro* ♿

Nocturnal predators

7 to 9 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 8
Who are they? What do they eat? Where do they hang out during the day? Explore the nocturnal predators that live at Jackson Bottom Wetlands Preserve at the monthly nature education meeting in the education center. Free. Advance registration is required; call Jan at (503) 681-6283. *Jackson Bottom Wetlands Preserve* ♿

Animal tracking in snow: evening class

6:30 to 9 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 8
Terry Kem, skilled naturalist and animal tracker, will lead this popular class that is followed by a field trip into the snow on Saturday, Feb. 10. Terry will share the skills and secrets he was taught by some of the best trackers in the country. You will learn how to identify animals from the clear tracks, blurry trails and subtle signs they leave behind as they move in their winter environments. Learn about special challenges that snow conditions create on clear tracks. Suitable for adults and teens. Class meets at Metro Regional Center. You are welcome to sign up for the class without the field trip. Registration and payment of \$10 per person is required in advance; call (503) 797-1715. *Metro* ♿

Animal tracking in snow: snowshoe field trip

10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 10
Let's go play in the snow! Spending time with the tracks is how you really learn tracking. Join expert tracker Terry

Kem and travel to the beautiful Cooper Spur area on the north side of Mt. Hood to practice the skills learned in the class on Thursday, Feb. 8. Plan to drive and/or carpool and bring lunch and snowshoes. The trip is open to adults and teens who have taken the evening class or any other basic tracking class. Registration and payment of \$20 per person is required in advance; call (503) 797-1715. *Metro*

Smith and Bybee Wetlands paddle trip 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 18

See description for Jan. 20 trip. Advance registration required; call Jeff Locke at (503) 771-1500 or send e-mail to keith_locke@msn.com. *Friends of Smith and Bybee Lakes*

Mammals of Portland identification class 7 to 9:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 22

Did you know you can see mink, beaver and river otter at Oxbow Regional Park and Smith and Bybee Wetlands? What kind of squirrels are those running around your neighborhood? Are there really mountain lions and bears in Forest Park? How can you tell muskrat, nutria and beaver apart when all you see is the top of a brown head moving through the water? Metro naturalist James Davis will show you how to identify the mammals that live in your neighborhood and in Metro's parks and natural areas. There will be pelts, skulls,



stuffed specimens and even some scat on hand to help you become familiar with our local furry critters. You'll be surprised at who some of our wilder residents are. Suitable for adults and teens. Meet in room 370 at Metro Regional Center. Registration and payment of \$10 are required in advance; call (503) 797-1715. *Metro* 

Volunteer ventures

KEEP NATURE IN NEIGHBORHOODS

Friends of Trees natural area restoration planting days

8:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturdays

Join Friends of Trees and others in your community to help with 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." Just show up on planting day, or call (503) 282-8846 ext. 12 to sign up large groups of volunteers. *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 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. Advance registration is not required. For more information, call (503) 823-3681. *Forest Park Ivy Removal Project*

Friends of Trees neighborhood trees planting days

8:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. most Saturdays

Join Friends of Trees and others in your community to help plant street and yard trees. 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." Just show up on planting day, or call (503) 282-8846 ext. 12 to sign up large groups of volunteers. *Friends of Trees*

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*

Native plant center volunteer Saturdays

9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays, Jan. 27 and Feb. 24
Volunteer Saturdays are a great way to see what's growing at Metro's native plant center in Tualatin. Help maintain the grow-out beds where volunteers planted 24,000 native plugs last October and November. Volunteers will also help plant native seeds into propagation flats, plant native bulbs into field beds and pot native trees and shrubs. This is a great opportunity to check out all the projects taking root at the plant center and learn more about Metro's role in the conservation and restoration of native species throughout the region. All ages are wel-

come; no previous experience or skills are required. This is a rain or shine event so come prepared to get a little dirty and have lots of fun in any kind of weather. Gloves, light snacks, water and warm beverages will be provided. Advance registration is required; call (503) 797-1733 to register. *Metro*

Rosa Park planting

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

Join fellow community members working with SOLV's Team Up for Watershed Health program to plant native trees and shrubs along Butternut Creek in Aloha. Help improve local habitat and water quality. Tools and training will be provided. All ages are welcome. Advance registration required; visit www.solv.org or call Rhyana at (503) 844-9571 ext. 363. *SOLV*

Arbor Lodge Park work parties

9 a.m. to noon Saturdays, Jan. 6 and Feb. 3

Come to Arbor Lodge Park in North Portland to join in a new effort to replace the use of pesticides in parks by weeding. Snacks, gloves and tools will be provided. Meet at North Bryant Street and Greeley Avenue. For more information, call Megan at (503) 423-7549. *Northwest Coalition for Alternatives to Pesticides* 

Lair Hill Park work parties

11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays, Jan. 6 and Feb. 3

Come to Lair Hill Park in Southwest Portland to join in a new effort to replace the use of pesticides in parks by weeding. Snacks, gloves and tools will be provided. Meet at Southwest 2nd Avenue and Woods Street. For more information, call Megan at (503) 423-7549. *Northwest Coalition for Alternatives to Pesticides* 

Gabriel Park swale planting

9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Jan. 6

Join the Friends of Vermont Creek for a morning of planting native and ornamental plants in a roadside swale at Gabriel Park. The swale will help to store, slow and treat runoff from the street and park before it enters Vermont Creek. Learn about stormwater management and naturescaping while getting to know your neighbors. Bring water and sturdy shoes; tools and training will be provided. Advance registration is not required. For more information, call (503) 823-7016 or send e-mail to marissa.dorais@bes.ci.portland.or.us. *Portland Parks and Recreation*

Keller Woodlands restoration

9 a.m. to noon Saturdays, Jan. 6 and Feb. 3

Help take back the forest at Keller Woodlands in South-west Portland. English Ivy is threatening to overtake the ecosystem by out-competing native plants, toppling trees and destroying wildlife habitat in the process. Gloves, tools and snacks will be provided. Volunteers must be able to work on uneven terrain. To register, call Melissa at (503) 699-9825. *Three Rivers Land Conservancy*

Sewallcrest Park work parties

10 a.m. to noon Sundays, Jan. 7 and Feb. 4

Come to Sewallcrest Park in Southeast Portland to join in a new effort to replace the use of pesticides in parks by weeding. Snacks, gloves and tools will be provided. Meet at Southeast 31st Avenue and Market Street. For more information, call Megan at (503) 423-7549. *Northwest Coalition for Alternatives to Pesticides*

Dickinson Park Restoration

9 a.m. to noon Saturdays, Jan. 13 and Feb. 10
Join the Dickinson Park Stewards and help beautify this nature park in Southwest Portland. Come out for a morning of planting native species in a swale, wetland and riparian area as well as invasive plant removal and general park care. Bring water, gloves and sturdy shoes; tools and training will be provided. Meet at the turnout on Southwest 55th Avenue south of Taylors Ferry Road. Advance registration is not required. For more information, call (503) 823-7016 or send e-mail to marissa.dorais@bes.ci.portland.or.us. *Portland Parks and Recreation*

Stream Team captain training

6 to 9 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 16 (also meets Jan. 18 and 20)
SOLV needs your help leading volunteers at stream restoration projects. Training will cover the basics of watersheds and restoration as well as how to work with volunteers. Stream Team captains then lead Saturday tree planting events across the metro region. Participants also must attend sessions on Jan. 18 and 20. Free. Advance registration is required; call Rhyan at (503) 844-9571 or send e-mail to rhyan@solv.org. *SOLV*

Woods Park restoration

9 a.m. to noon Saturdays, Jan. 20 and Feb. 17
Join the Friends of Woods Park for a morning of planting native species, reworking trails, removing invasive species



and other activities. Bring water and sturdy shoes; tools and training will be provided. Advance registration is not required. For more information, call (503) 823-7016 or send e-mail to marissa.dorais@bes.ci.portland.or.us. *Portland Parks and Recreation*

Beacon Hill Wetlands Park planting

9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 3
Join fellow community members working with SOLV's Team Up for Watershed Health program to plant native trees and shrubs in Beaverton. Help improve local habitat and water quality. Tools and training will be provided. All ages are welcome. Advance registration required; visit www.solv.org or call Rhyan at (503) 844-9571 ext. 363. *SOLV*

Copper Creek planting

9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 10
Join fellow community members working with SOLV's Team Up for Watershed Health program to plant native trees and shrubs in Tigard. Help improve local habitat and water quality. Tools and training will be provided. All ages are welcome. Advance registration required; visit www.solv.org or call Rhyan at (503) 844-9571 ext. 363. *SOLV*

Goat Island planting

9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 10
Join fellow community members working with SOLV's Team Up for Watershed Health program to plant

native trees and shrubs at Goat Island along the Clackamas River in Gladstone. Help improve local habitat and water quality. Tools and training will be provided. All ages are welcome. Advance registration required; visit www.solv.org or call Rhyan at (503) 844-9571 ext. 363. *SOLV*

Beaverton Tree for All

9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Feb. 17
Join in a stream restoration event in Beaverton. Plant native trees and shrubs in an effort to improve water quality and wildlife habitat. Suitable for all ages. Advance registration requested at www.solv.org. For more information, call Monica at (503) 844-9571 or send e-mail to monica@solv.org. *SOLV, Clean Water Services, Friends of Trees and City of Beaverton* ♿ by arrangement

Phillips Creek planting

9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 17
Join fellow community members working with SOLV's Team Up for Watershed Health program to plant native trees and shrubs in Clackamas. Help improve local habitat and water quality. Tools and training will be provided. All ages are welcome. Advance registration required; visit www.solv.org or call Rhyan at (503) 844-9571 ext. 363. *SOLV*

Tualatin Tree for All

9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Feb. 17
Join in a stream restoration event in Tualatin. Plant native trees and shrubs in an effort to improve water quality and wildlife habitat. Suitable for all ages. Advance registration requested at www.solv.org. For more information, call Monica at (503) 844-9571 or send e-mail to monica@solv.org. *SOLV, Clean Water Services and City of Tualatin* ♿ by arrangement

Carter Creek planting

9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 24
Join fellow community members working with SOLV's Team Up for Watershed Health program to plant native trees and shrubs in Lake Oswego. Help improve local habitat and water quality. Tools and training will be provided. All ages are welcome. Advance registration required; visit www.solv.org or call Rhyan at (503) 844-9571 ext. 363. *SOLV*

Lewis and Clark campus planting

9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 24
Join fellow community members working with SOLV's Team Up for Watershed Health program to plant native trees and shrubs along Tryon Creek on the Lewis and Clark Law School campus. Help improve local habitat and water quality. Tools and training will be provided. All ages are welcome. Advance registration required; visit www.solv.org or call Rhyan at (503) 844-9571 ext. 363. *SOLV*

Sherwood Tree for All

9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Feb. 24
Join in a stream restoration event at Stella Olsen Memorial Park in Sherwood. Plant native trees and shrubs in an effort to improve water quality and wildlife habitat. Suitable for all ages. Advance registration requested at www.solv.org. For more information, call Monica at (503) 844-9571 or send e-mail to monica@solv.org. *SOLV, Clean Water Services, Friends of Trees and City of Sherwood* ♿ by arrangement

Wildlife monitors needed at Metro natural areas



Metro's volunteer wildlife monitoring program provides valuable information about Metro's natural areas while offering a unique, in-depth service opportunity for community members. By focusing on indicator species, such as amphibians and birds, volunteers provide data to help Metro's science and stewardship team gauge the progress of its restoration efforts and track the effects of public use on wildlife.

There are several ways to get involved in Metro's volunteer wildlife monitoring program. Metro is currently looking for volunteers to fill the following positions.

Amphibian monitors

Enjoy tromping around in the rain and mud? Metro is currently recruiting volunteer monitors for amphibian egg mass surveys at 10 Metro natural areas. Prior experience identifying egg masses is not required, though a scientific aptitude is appreciated. Surveys are conducted in February through early April. Volunteer training will be held in late winter and includes amphibian identification and survey techniques.

Avian monitors

Are you able to identify birds by sight and sound? If so, please consider joining our team of avian monitors. Metro seeks enthusiastic, responsible people with intermediate to expert bird identification skills. Volunteer monitors will adopt one of 10 natural areas for seasonal or year-round monitoring of waterfowl and breeding bird species. Winter waterfowl surveys begin in late fall and continue through spring. Breeding bird surveys are conducted during the peak of the breeding season, mid-May through the end of June, and follow a specific habitat-based protocol.

Turtle monitors

Like sneaking around searching for reptiles as old as the dinosaurs? Metro would like to develop baseline data about native turtles inhabiting Metro natural areas. Metro is looking for volunteers to assist with visual surveys and monitor basking and nesting activity. Surveys are conducted during summer.

Data entry

Detail oriented? Metro is seeking volunteers with good computer skills to input and manage data for all monitoring information collected.

Data base design

Tech-savvy? Metro is looking for volunteers who have a background in data base design to help us create data bases to manage amphibian and turtle data and to maintain the inventory of all wildlife species at each Metro natural area.

Internship

Looking for an internship opportunity? Each year Metro recruits volunteer interns to assist the wildlife monitoring program. Interns act as a liaison between Metro staff and volunteers, providing the necessary motivation and guidance to ensure that assigned sites are properly monitored, safety rules are followed and volunteers have a positive experience. The interns also conduct occasional site visits, perform monitoring as needed and collect and process information from

Continued on page 14

Wildlife monitoring interns make big impact in 2006

In 2006, Metro recruited three college interns to provide additional support to volunteer wildlife monitors. The 2006 group included Marie Boisvert and George Padilla, both students at Lewis and Clark College, and Kristina Peyrollaz, a student from Mt. Hood Community College (pictured above from left). Metro plans to increase ties with local universities, providing more opportunities for internship experiences and graduate research with Metro's natural areas.

The interns assisted with all aspects of volunteer coordination, which they handled with ease. From assisting in the field with volunteer training, volunteer field visits, and conducting surveys to the wild world of office work, there was never a dull day. The energy and enthusiasm of the interns made a tremendous impact on the quality of the program. Not only was this a great learning opportunity for the interns, it also brought the wildlife monitoring program to the next level – expanding the reach of the program and enhancing the experience for volunteers.



Wildlife monitors continued
from page 13

volunteers. Interns need to be available approximately 10 hours per week from January through July to support amphibian and avian monitoring. Preference is given to college and graduate students but school affiliation is not required.

How to volunteer

If you are interested in any of these volunteer opportunities or would like additional information, call Katy Weil, program coordinator, at (503) 797-1688 or send e-mail to weilk@metro.dst.or.us.

Find a Park

Metro's new Find a Park web tool helps you search more than 1,000 parks and natural areas throughout the region to find the best places near you to unpack your picnic, shoot some hoops, put your canoe in the water or look for wildlife.

www.metro-region.org/parks



Calendar at a glance

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MARCH

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See you there!

Metro regional parks, greenspaces and facilities

Blue Lake Regional Park

provides a water spray ground for all ages, swimming in the lake, fishing, archery, volleyball, softball, horseshoes, food concessions 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 spray ground, 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. 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 and picnic areas.

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.

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.

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) 665-4995

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

Annual passes for Metro parks available now

Purchase your 2007 annual park pass for free admission and parking at Oxbow and Blue Lake regional parks, Chinook Landing Marine Park and the M. James Gleason Boat Ramp. Passes are valid Jan. 1 through Dec. 31. Passes are not accepted for special events such as Salmon Festival and Fourth of July fireworks at Blue Lake.

A regular pass is \$40; a senior pass is \$30 and a low-income/disability pass is \$10 (documentation required). MasterCard and Visa are accepted. Pick up a pass at the Blue Lake or Oxbow park office or Metro Regional Center. You also can purchase your pass online at www.metro-region.org/parks or call (503) 665-4995 to order by phone.

Nature in your neighborhood starts at home

Winter is the perfect time to take stock of your garden's health and dream up plans for spring. Learn what you can do to ensure the next garden season is full of wildlife, beauty and bounty. Natural gardening is simply using gardening techniques learned from nature, such as composting, planting appropriate plants for your area, and fostering biodiversity. You can use natural techniques to grow a great garden while avoiding toxic chemicals. This way, your garden helps to protect people, pets, wildlife and your local waterways – keeping nature in neighborhoods.

Metro offers a wealth of resources to help you garden naturally. For more information, call (503) 234-3000 or visit www.metro-region.org/gardening.

Free "Natural gardening from the ground up" presentations

Have a Metro natural gardening expert give a free presentation to your garden club or organization. Pick from a list of possible topics (such as composting, chemical-free lawn care, beneficial insects, safe pest management and more), or ask for a special presentation topic just for your group. Pre-registration is required and there is a minimum group size of 20. The meeting place must be within Metro's boundaries.

Free natural gardening publications and online resources

Dig deeper into natural gardening topics by reading Metro's print and web resources. You'll find information about alternatives to pesticides, composting, protecting your plants from slugs, how to remove a lawn without using herbicides, and much more.

Compost bins

Compost at home to help your garden grow naturally, improve soil, reduce waste and prevent runoff into local waterways. You can purchase the popular Earth Machine compost bin for \$35 (an \$80 value) at the MetroPaint Store at 4825 N. Basin Ave. on Swan Island. Also available is a special bin floor to keep out burrowing animals for \$7. Compost improves all kinds of soils and increases water absorption, holding capacity and drainage.



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