

# GreenScene

Discover nature in  
neighborhoods

SPRING 2007



Gardening  
with nature

Protecting  
natural  
areas

Spring  
nature  
activities  
for all



METRO



## Dear GreenScene reader:



David Bragdon

**I**t is spring once again and we are on a fresh path. A year ago the Metro Council laid out a plan to conserve our natural

areas and protect water quality for generations to come. Last November voters of the metro region overwhelmingly approved the \$227.4 million natural areas bond measure, the largest urban land conservation bond measure in the country. Today we are on the road to realizing this shared vision for our future.

Continuing the success of Metro's 1995 bond measure, more than \$165 million will be used to acquire land of regional significance providing protection for local rivers and streams, preserving important fish and wildlife habitat, enhancing trails and wildlife corridors, and connecting urban areas with nature.

Approximately \$44 million will be used in a revenue sharing program with local cities for capital projects, and \$15 million will be awarded to non-profits and other agencies through the Nature in Neighborhoods capital grant program.

### Spending taxpayer dollars wisely

The Metro Council is committed to accountability and wise management of the public's investment. An independent financial oversight committee of citizens from around the region will review the procedures and practices of the acquisition program. Recommendations and evaluations from the oversight committee, in addition to an annual audit, will ensure that program funds are spent responsibly using the best business practices.

### Shape the nature of your neighborhood

Dozens of scientists and hundreds of citizens helped the Metro Council choose 27 areas to target for natural area protection in the bond measure. Voters of the region endorsed broad goals for these areas and a conservation approach grounded in ecological principles. Now your help is needed to refine these goals. This spring the Metro Council invites you to help us determine specific objectives and adopt detailed acquisition plans for each of the target areas.

Starting in May 2007 my colleagues on the Metro Council and I will host a series of public forums for people to learn more about the natural areas program and help prioritize objectives in each of the 27 target areas. You will also be able

to review information and give us your input online at [www.metro-region.org/naturalareas](http://www.metro-region.org/naturalareas) beginning in May.

I am personally very excited and honored to be a part of this important work. All of us on the Metro Council are inspired by the foresight and determination of the people of this region, who continue to invest in our children's future and the region's health and economy. Together we will preserve our precious butte tops, stream corridors, river canyons, forests, wetlands and prairies to protect water quality, wildlife habitat and the essence of this place we call home.

Enjoy the spring weather and the natural areas that are a part of our cities and neighborhoods, knowing that these special places – and others – will be here for generations to come.

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](http://www.metro-region.org)

### Your Metro representatives

Metro Council President

**David Bragdon**

Metro Councilors

**Rod Park**, deputy council president, District 1

**Brian Newman**, District 2

**Carl Hosticka**, District 3

**Kathryn Harrington**, District 4

**Rex Burkholder**, District 5

**Robert Liberty**, District 6

Auditor

**Suzanne Flynn**

### On the cover

Mother and son planting, photo by Jerome Hart; American coot family, photo by Jim Cruce.

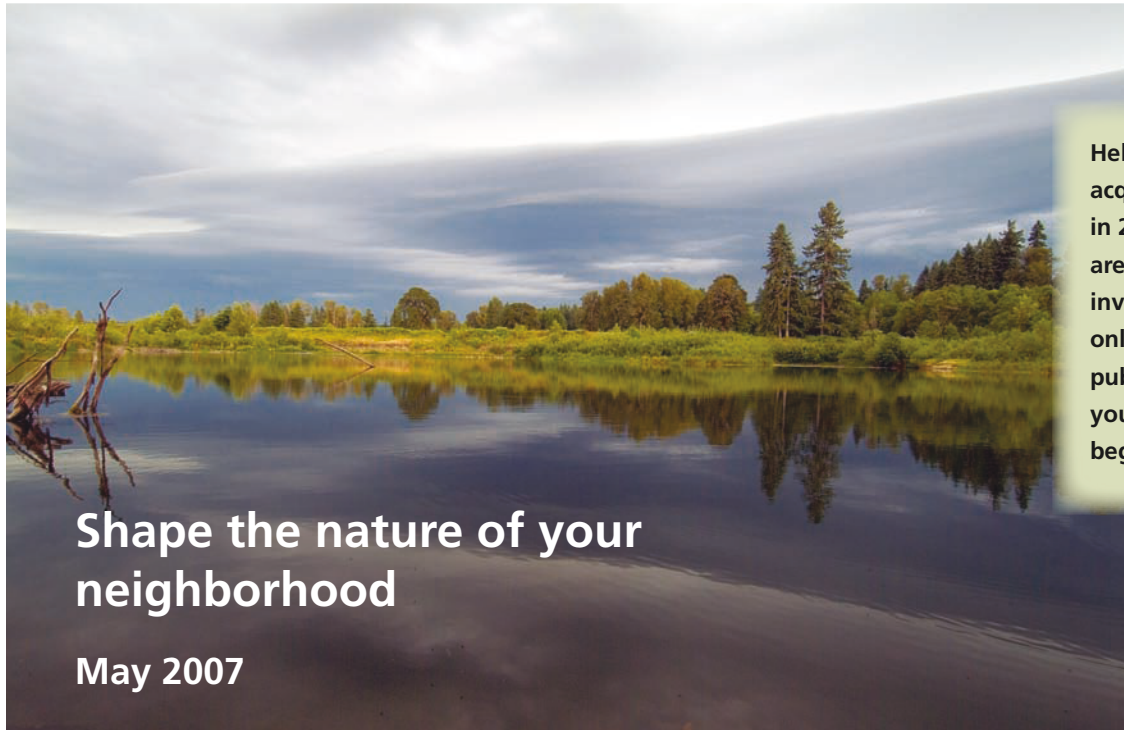
### Illustrations by

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.



## Shape the nature of your neighborhood

May 2007

Help determine acquisition objectives in 27 regional natural areas. You will be invited to participate online or attend a public forum hosted by your Metro Councilor beginning in May.

C. Bruce Forster photo

## Metro Council protects water quality with first new bond acquisition on Johnson Creek

The Metro Council's purchase of a 1-acre natural area in Sellwood along Johnson Creek kicks off the program voters approved in November for natural area and water quality protection. Adjacent to the Springwater Corridor Trail and Johnson Creek Park, the property offers opportunities to restore native vegetation, enhance water quality and protect fish and wildlife habitat.

"This first acquisition may be small in size but it represents the great things the natural areas program can do," says Metro Councilor Robert Liberty, who represents the Metro district where the property is located. "In one transaction we are helping to protect and improve the quality of water in our streams, restore salmon and trout populations in Johnson



Robert Liberty

Creek, and keep a part of nature in older neighborhoods as we grow."

The natural area can be seen from the recently opened bicycle and pedestrian bridge over Johnson Creek, part of the popular Springwater Corridor Trail used by hundreds of thousands of people each year. Portland Parks and Recreation will manage the site and already has plans in the works for removing the blackberry and other invasive weeds and replanting its stream banks with native vegetation.

Johnson Creek remains the most densely urbanized creek in the region and is one of the 27 target areas identified for protection in Metro's 2006 natural areas bond measure. The property is one of several that Metro held under option prior to the bond measure's passage.

"This acquisition was easy to identify as a priority for early acquisition in the Johnson Creek target area because we know that replanting it will meet our primary goal – to enhance water quality," says Councilor Liberty. "For other acquisitions in this and other target areas, the Metro Council will need the help of our stakeholders and citizens to refine our objectives and be sure we're getting the best value – for fish and wildlife and for our taxpayers."

The Metro Council will host a series of public forums to prioritize acquisition objectives in May 2007. GreenScene readers will receive an invitation to participate by mail. For more information about Metro's natural areas program, visit [www.metro-region.org/naturalareas](http://www.metro-region.org/naturalareas) or call (503) 797-1741.

Get on the natural areas mailing list by calling (503) 797-1741 or sending e-mail to [metroparks@metro.dst.or.us](mailto:metroparks@metro.dst.or.us).



# Natural gardening

## KEEP NATURE IN NEIGHBORHOODS

## Better soil, less toil

### Compost works while you rest

by Metro natural gardening and toxics reduction specialist Carl Grimm



**W**ith 5-10 billion organisms in a heaping tablespoon of fertile soil, many “hands” make gardening work light. We owe our very existence to this life in the soil. From each morsel of food we chew, to the well-being of Earth’s vast oceans, from home gardens to global climate change, soil organisms play a vital role. For a key to harnessing this humble work force to do the chores in your garden, look no further than your compost pile.

#### Little helpers fertilize and till your soil

Why waste time and money buying and applying fertilizers? Soil organisms from compost continuously generate fertilizers for your plants so you don’t have to. Bacteria, fungi, and other microscopic organisms dissolve minerals in tiny rocks, recycle nutrients in dead plants and ani-

mals and release these into the soil where roots can absorb them. Some bacteria even “fix” nitrogen from the air, making it available to plants. To ensure these little workers stay on task, avoid fast-acting fertilizers and pesticides, maintain proper moisture levels, and keep all soil covered with mulch or living plants. For best results, reapply compost at least once each year.

Larger soil organisms like earthworms and insects make tiny tunnels and transport organic matter down from the surface and soil up from the depths – without the hassle, noise and air pollution caused by rototilling. When applied as an amendment, mulch or tea, compost improves structure by gluing microscopic soil particles together into visible aggregates or crumbs. This allows air and water to flow in and plant roots to grow more easily. It also makes your soil look and feel a little like chocolate cake.

#### Compost practically makes itself

Thanks to the ubiquity of organisms that decompose plant and animal wastes and materials, compost is pretty easy to make. For fall leaves and small garden clippings (six inches or shorter), a simple pile covered in winter and kept a little moist in summer will break down in about a year. Larger woody materials and fruit and vegetable trimmings do require a little more effort to compost, but not much.

The basic ingredients for compost are “browns,” “greens,” air and water. Browns like fall leaves and woody materials are high in carbon, an essential energy source for microorganisms in the compost. Greens like grass clippings and fruit and vegetable trimmings are high in nitrogen, an essential nutrient for the decomposer organisms.

For best results, chop up materials as you add them, as this will increase the surface area microorganisms have to work on, speeding the process. Be sure to mix browns and greens so the microbes have a balanced diet. Maintain moisture as damp as a wrung-out sponge so they have the water they need, but not so much that they “suffocate.” Excessive moisture blocks the flow of oxygen and can foster anaerobic microbes that produce smelly, sulfurous gasses. Another way to speed the composting process is to turn the pile regularly. When it looks like soil and smells sweet and earthy, it is ready to use. Dig into your compost pile and fork out the best soil conditioner on the planet.

#### Humble beginnings, grand achievements

The work done by creatures few pay attention to and many walk on daily is indeed the beginning of a long process of topsoil formation absolutely critical to our gardens and our lives. Thanks to this process, the earth’s thin fragile crust can absorb the rain, recharge groundwater supplies and protect streams, rivers and oceans from harmful soil-laden runoff. Humus formed by soil organisms even acts as a carbon sink, sequestering greenhouse gasses that may otherwise contribute to global warming. To help tiny creatures achieve Herculean tasks, all you need is a compost pile.

#### Discounted compost bins available

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. For more information, call Metro recycling information at (503) 234-3000 or visit [www.metro-region.org/gardening](http://www.metro-region.org/gardening).

## Metro's free natural gardening seminars

Get more from your garden with nature as your helper

**W**hat is "natural gardening?"

Natural gardening is simply gardening with nature as your guide. Using compost to improve your soil, growing plants that are adapted to your climate, and using non-toxic pest management are the essentials. Gardening naturally protects your family, pets and local waterways from harmful and polluting garden chemicals, and helps keep nature in our neighborhoods.

For more information, visit [www.metro-region.org/gardening](http://www.metro-region.org/gardening). To register for a free Metro natural gardening seminar, call (503) 234-3000.



### Green, "green" lawns

10 to 11:30 a.m. Saturday, April 28

Lake Oswego West End Building  
4101 Kruse Way, Lake Oswego

Learn cutting-edge professional techniques for turf grass management from horticulturist Steve Varga. Your lawn will look great, and your children and pets will be safe from hazardous lawn care products. Green lawn care also helps to protect local lakes, rivers and streams from home lawn pollution. Also hear tips for selecting green lawn care products and services.

### Voluptuous gardens

10 to 11:30 a.m. Saturday, May 5

Cistus Nursery  
22711 NW Gillihan Road, Sauvie Island

Open up to a world of stimulating contrasts in your garden: fragrances from savory to sweet, colors from sassy to silvery, and striking plants from here to as far afield as the Mediterranean and the tropics. Sean Hogan, owner of Cistus Nursery, will show you how these beautiful and diverse plants are actually well adapted to our summer dry climate, and see a myriad of specimens in extensive demonstration gardens.

### Grow it 'n' grill it!

11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, May 19

Forest Grove residential location (address provided with registration)

Pick fresh vegetables and herbs right from a home garden, cook them over an open flame with the help of celebrated chef Cathy Whims of Nostrana. Taste what you can grow and grill right at home. With garden areas to learn tips for growing your own fresh pesticide-free foods, to cooking stations that include a fire pit, grills, and an earth oven, get ready for a feast of the senses.

### Noxious weeds not invited

10 to 11:30 a.m. Saturday, May 26

Hall Elementary School  
2505 NE 23rd St., Gresham

Don't let weeds get the best of you. Learn how our worst local weeds invade our gardens and natural areas and return home with techniques for keeping them at bay without toxic chemicals. From merely annoying dandelions in the lawn to truly invasive blackberries at your fence line, many weeds threaten to take over. You don't have to let them!

### Better soil, less toil

10 to 11 a.m. Saturday, March 17

Dennis' 7 Dees nursery  
10455 SW Butner Road, Cedar Hills  
*and*

10 to 11 a.m. Saturday, March 24

Drake's 7 Dees nursery  
16519 SE Stark St., Portland

Learn from local gardening luminary Glen Andresen how to make and use compost so your soil can generate some of its own fertilizers and till itself. From no fuss methods of turning fruit, vegetable and yard trimmings into rich compost to easy techniques for applying compost to your garden, return home with essential tips for soil fertility success.

### Why waste the rain?

10 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 7

Garden Fever!  
3433 NE 24th Ave., Portland

Transform perfectly good rainwater from a stormwater pollution hazard into a boon for your beautiful landscape. Learn the basics of bioswales, downspout disconnections, rain barrels, rain gardens and permeable paving from landscape designer Mary Jaron Kelley. See it all in action on a tour of a beautiful private garden a mile from the store.

### Gardens of natural wonder

10 to 11:30 a.m. Saturday, April 14

Bosky Dell Nursery  
23311 SW Bosky Dell Lane, West Linn

You can turn a little know-how and some fun plantings into your own garden paradise. Learn basic principals for using natives, trees and other plants to attract amazing birds, bees and butterflies from naturoscaping expert Kathy Shearin. Hear tips to reduce water use, stormwater runoff and pollution and how to save time, money and energy. See Bosky Dell's demonstration gardens and stream restoration area.

### Jumpstart your soil's biology

10 to 11:30 a.m. Saturday, April 21

Metro Regional Center  
600 NE Grand Ave., Portland

An incredible diversity of life in the soil makes healthy, productive plants possible. Hear from Dr. Elaine Ingham, the researcher who helped pioneer and continues to inspire an international movement of using aerated-compost tea with dramatically positive results. See active compost tea brewers, application of compost tea to the Metro Regional Center's landscape and live projections of soil microorganisms.

# Natural gardening volunteer opportunities abound at Metro's native plant center

**M**etro's native plant materials center, located near Wanker's Corner in Tualatin, provides an essential supply of rare native seeds and plant stock to support Metro's restoration projects.

If you are interested in one of the volunteer opportunities described below, call plant center coordinator Marsha Holt-Kingsley at (503) 701-7554 or send e-mail to [kingsleym@metro.dst.or.us](mailto:kingsleym@metro.dst.or.us).

**Plant center assistants** help process and plant native seeds, monitor and maintain seed and nursery beds, and monitor and harvest seed for planting back onto Metro natural areas and partner sites. Learn more about native grasses, graminoids, forbs and willows and support local conservation and res-

toration efforts. Experience working with native plants or gardening is preferred but not required. Wednesday and Friday are volunteer days.

**Native seed collectors** monitor and collect seeds from Metro natural areas with rare or unique habitat throughout the region. Training in plant identification, seed collection protocol, processing and site mapping will be provided. Monitoring target species and sites for seed collection begins in March; seed collection is weekly from May through September. Experience with native plant identification is preferred but not required. Seed collection involves rough terrain, exposure to the sun and contact with poison oak and bees.

**Native seed bed stewards** are individuals or groups who plant, maintain and harvest the seeds of a grow-out bed, taking it from "seed to seed." You and your family, group of friends or scout troop can plant a bed of native plugs (young plants) and tend the plants by weeding, mulching, and watering throughout the year on a monthly basis. When the seeds ripen, the stewards help harvest their seed bed. Learn all about where your plants grow in the natural environment, their water and sun requirements, bloom time, seed setting and dispersal methods.

**Saturday work parties at the native plant center are listed in Volunteer Ventures on pages 12 to 14.**

## Follow that seed



**H**ow does prairie junegrass travel from Cooper Mountain Natural Area in Beaverton to an oak savanna restoration project near Wilsonville? By way of Metro's native plant materials center and through the hands of many dedicated volunteers.

It all begins and ends with a seed.

### Meet a restoration all-star

Prairie junegrass (*koeleria macrantha*) is a short, tufted perennial grass found in dry prairies, open savannas and rocky hillsides such as Metro's Cooper Mountain Natural Area. Junegrass, like other grasses, plays an important role in prairie restoration by protecting and stabilizing soil and preventing erosion and reinvasion by nonnative plants. At sites like Metro's Graham Oaks Natural Area in Wilsonville, junegrass will play an important role in recreating healthy plant communities in a large oak savanna restoration project.

## A journey from seed to seed

- In the summer of 2005 volunteers collected junegrass seeds from Metro's Cooper Mountain Natural Area near Beaverton. Later the seed was dried and cleaned at the plant center.
- In December 2005 the junegrass seed was sown into nursery containers and set out for "conditioning." The warm days and cold nights provided by an unheated greenhouse kicked the seeds out of dormancy and into germination in a few short weeks.
- Volunteers cared for the young plants throughout spring 2006, keeping them watered and weed-free. The junegrass was placed in the prairie species irrigation block on a watering plan that reduced the amount of water during the summer and fall.
- With the cooling rains and moderate temperatures of fall, the container-grown junegrass could be safely planted into the field. By the end of December 2006 it was thriving in its permanent home, a nursery bed at the plant center.
- Along the way, volunteers and staff have gathered extensive data about collection, conditioning, treatment, germination and transplanting that will help



fill some of the knowledge gaps about growth requirements of Oregon's native plants.

- This summer, staff and volunteers will complete the cycle by collecting seeds from the junegrass growing in the nursery field. Later in the fall, after the plants have gone dormant and rains have made burning safe, the junegrass field will be burned to encourage strong spring regrowth and seed set.
- Some of the seeds collected from this first cycle of junegrass will be sown directly onto Metro natural areas in fall 2007 and spring 2008. The rest will be sown into nursery containers for transplanting onto Metro properties in fall 2008.

Without the plant center and the intact communities of junegrass protected at Cooper Mountain Natural Area, junegrass would not be in Metro's restoration toolbox. Like many of the diverse native plants that are desirable for restoration, junegrass of our local ecotype is not available commercially. Thanks to the "seed to seed" process made possible by the plant center, the seeds are perfectly adapted to our unique local environment and conditions.

*Koeleria drawings by N. L. Britton, A. Brown and A. S. Hitchcock.*



# Spring calendar

ENJOY NATURE IN NEIGHBORHOODS

## Natural gardening

### Naturescaping workshops

#### Tigard Library

9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, March 10

#### Beaumont Middle School in Portland

9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, March 17

#### Tryon Creek State Natural Area

1 to 5 p.m. Sunday, April 29

#### Clackamas

9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, May 19

Learn how to protect our rivers while beautifying your yard. Naturescaping features native plants, natural landscapes and water-friendly gardening practices. Get ideas for your garden, a guide book and a native plant to get you started. Free. To register, call (503) 797-1842 or send e-mail to [naturescaping@yahoo.com](mailto:naturescaping@yahoo.com). *Naturescaping for Clean Rivers* ♿

### Basic propagation with natives

9 a.m. to noon Saturday, March 24

Theory and hands-on practice of techniques (e.g. seed, cutting, division) provide a solid foundation in plant propagation. Learn how to prepare plant materials, obtain supplies, manage pests and more. Take home the essential skills for growing your own plants. Dress for the outdoors and in your greenhouse grubbies. Bring sharp, clean pruners and a propagation/florist/bud-

ding knife if you have them. \$12 for members; \$15 for non-members. Advance registration is required; call (503) 636-4112 ext. 102. *Berry Botanic Garden* ♿

### Favorite natives in garden design

10 a.m. to noon Saturday, March 31

What are the native plants? Where do they belong? Those are key questions in any landscape design. Gail Dresner of Circadian Consulting and Design will present a sizable selection of native plants and a lively discussion of their ideal places and special graces. You'll learn about the part these plants play in the wider ecosystem as well. \$12 for members; \$15 for non-members. Advance registration is required; call (503) 636-4112 ext. 102. *Berry Botanic Garden* ♿

### Native plant garden tour

9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, April 7

How do you create a native plant garden that fits your landscape wishes without it looking too wild? Visit three gardens that have beautifully and uniquely blended native plants into the home landscape. See how things grow and where they do best, pick up design ideas and discover some new plants. \$12 for members; \$15 for non-members. Advance registration is required; call (503) 636-4112 ext. 102. *Berry Botanic Garden* ♿



## Nature discoveries

### Guided hikes at Tryon Creek

10 to 11:30 a.m. every Saturday

Join a park naturalist to explore the fascinating world of the forest and stream ecosystems at Tryon Creek State Natural Area. Each week's hike will explore a different theme from cedar trees, to spring babies and nest tours. All ages welcome; parents must accompany children. Free. Advance registration is not required for groups of 10 or less. For more information, call (503) 636-9886 ext. 25. *Tryon Creek State Natural Area*

### Soup on the Slough

11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Fridays, March 9 and May 18

You are invited for an informal soup lunch at Whitaker Ponds, a thriving natural area and environmental education center on the Columbia Slough that was once a junkyard. Enjoy a tour, meet slough neighbors and businesses and learn about watershed activities and events. Free. Advance registration required; call (503) 281-1132. *Columbia Slough Watershed Council* ♿ by arrangement

### Animal tracking practice at Smith and Bybee Wetlands

9:30 a.m. to noon Saturdays, March 10, April 14 and May 12

Metro volunteer naturalist and experienced tracker John Halsell is starting a new, monthly tracking program at

Metro's Smith and Bybee Wetlands in North Portland. The 2,000-acre natural area offers tracking on sand, mud, trees and the forest floor. It is an outstanding place to find evidence of a variety of urban wildlife including beaver, deer, coyote, raccoon and rabbits. At each program John will cover different topics in the ancient art of using tracks and sign to know who has been around and what they have been doing. Most of the time will be spent walking on sand or paved trail to find and discuss tracks and sign "in the wild." All skill levels are welcome; suitable for adults and teens. Meet in the parking area on North Marine Drive. Free. Advance registration required; call (503) 797-1715. *Metro* ♿

### Lone Fir Pioneer Cemetery tours

10 a.m. to noon Saturdays, March 10, April 14 and May 12

Embark on a unique history lesson while enjoying the beauty and tranquility of Metro's Lone Fir Pioneer Cemetery. 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. Meet at the main entrance at Southeast 21st Avenue and Morrison Street. Advance registration is not required. 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

**Jackson Bottom and Fernhill Wetlands tour**  
10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday,  
March 11

Join urban naturalist Mike Houck for a tour of two of the most important birding areas in the Tualatin River basin – the 243-acre Fernhill Wetlands in Forest Grove and 650-acre Jackson Bottom Wetland Preserve in Hillsboro. See waterfowl, shorebirds, bald eagles, great blue herons and more. Free. Register online at [www.audubonportland.org](http://www.audubonportland.org) (preferred) or call (503) 292-6855 ext. 116. *Audubon Society of Portland*

**Eastbank Esplanade to Oaks Bottom walk**  
4 to 7 p.m. Tuesday,  
March 13

Take off from work a little early and join urban naturalist Mike Houck for a 3- to 4-mile walk on the Eastbank Esplanade and Springwater on the Willamette Trail to Oaks Bottom Wildlife Refuge. Look for courtship activity among the herons nesting on the downstream tip of Ross Island. This will be a one-way walk with a return via TriMet bus. Free. Register online at [www.audubonportland.org](http://www.audubonportland.org) (preferred) or call (503) 292-6855 ext. 116. *Audubon Society of Portland*

**Waud Bluff walk**  
6 to 8 p.m. Thursday,  
March 15

Walk Waud Bluff and explore a potential trail link to the future Willamette Greenway with members of npGREENWAY. Learn about this new organization that is advocating for the extension of the Willamette Greenway from the end of the Eastbank Esplanade to the St. Johns Bridge and eventually on to Kelley Point Park. For more information, visit [www.npgreenway.org](http://www.npgreenway.org) or call (503) 823-4099. *npGREENWAY*

**Ride on the wild side**  
10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday,  
March 18

Bicycle the Willamette River Greenway from the Eastbank Esplanade to Smith and Bybee Wetlands with urban naturalist Mike Houck. Mike will lead the group along Willamette Boulevard and take the Peninsula Crossing Trail to the Columbia Slough and on to Smith and Bybee Wetlands. There are three moderate hills on this 25-mile ride. Participants are responsible for bringing and maintaining their own bicycles; helmets are required. Free. Register online at [www.audubonportland.org](http://www.audubonportland.org) (preferred) or call (503) 292-6855 ext. 116. *Audubon Society of Portland*

**Nature artist lectures at Tryon Creek**

2 to 3 p.m. Sundays, March 18, April 15 and May 20  
Come to the Sunday at Two lecture series at Tryon Creek State Natural Area and meet featured artists from the Natural Cycles art exhibit. Refreshments will be provided. Free. Advance registration is not required. For more information, call (503) 636-9886 ext. 25. For a full schedule of lecture series topics, visit [www.tryonfriends.org](http://www.tryonfriends.org). *Tryon Creek State Natural Area*

**Introduction to Wild Foods**

9 a.m. to noon Saturday,  
March 31  
Join wild food expert John Kallas and learn the essentials of wild food use on a hike through Mt. Tabor. Become a successful forager, sample plants and get expert advice. \$16. Advanced registration required; call (503) 775-3828. *Wild Food Adventures*

**Ethnobotany at Oxbow**  
12:30 to 4 p.m. Sunday,  
April 1

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 \$8 per person are required in advance; call (503) 797-1715. There also is a \$4 per vehicle entry fee to the park. *Metro*

**Fundamentals of tracking at Oxbow**  
9 a.m. to noon Saturday,  
April 7

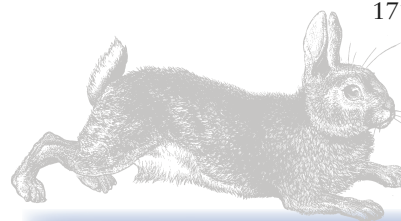
Learn the basics of human, pet and wildlife tracking, including speed, direction and more with Metro volunteer naturalist John Halsell. Discover Oxbow Regional Park, one of Oregon's premier tracking locations. Meet at the floodplain parking lot. Suitable for adults and teens. Registration and a \$8 fee are required in advance. There is a \$4 per vehicle entry fee, payable at the gate. To register, call (503) 797-1715. *Metro*

**Wild foods of Forest Park**  
9 a.m. to noon Saturday,  
April 7

Join wild food expert John Kallas and explore blooming wildflowers and wild greens in Forest Park. Learn plants like wild violet, Solomon's seal, fairy bells, nettles, wild ginger and other plants. Meet at the entrance to the Wildwood Trail off Germantown Road. \$22. Advanced registration required; call (503) 775-3828. *Wild Food Adventures*

**Painted turtle walks**  
1 to 2:30 p.m. Saturdays,  
April 7, May 5 and 19 and  
June 2

Oregon's turtles are rare, shy and hard to find, but Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area is home to one of the largest populations of Western painted turtles in the Northwest. See these beautiful reptiles with the help of Metro naturalist James Davis, who will have small telescopes for a close look. Learn about the natural history of painted turtles and why they are so rare. Suitable for adults and children 5 and older. Meet in the parking area on North Marine Drive. Free. Advance registration required; call (503) 797-1715. *Metro*



**Blue Lake Bunny Bonanza Egg Hunt**  
10 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 7

Bring the family to Blue Lake Regional Park the Saturday before Easter for a fun filled candy egg hunt. Children age 4 and under will search begin their search at 10:30 a.m. Children ages 5-10 will seek their treats beginning at 11 a.m. There will be fun activities including free face painting and coloring activities under covered shelters. Join us for a hoppin' good time rain or shine at Blue Lake Regional Park. Free with your annual pass or park entry fee of \$4 per car or \$7 per bus. Registration is not required. For more information, call Sue at (503) 665-4995. *Metro*



### Tax break bike ride

10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, April 14

Forget about the bottom line. Come ride the trails from the Willamette River to the Columbia River. Members of npGREENWAY will host this ride highlighting the future connectivity that the Willamette Greenway trail system will provide. Families with trailers and cargo bikes are welcome. For more information, visit [www.npgreenway.org](http://www.npgreenway.org) or call (503) 823-4099. npGREENWAY

### Wild foods of Oxbow

1 to 5 p.m. Sunday, April 15

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 salmonberry. \$22 per person. There is a \$4 per vehicle entrance fee to the park. Advanced registration required; call (503) 775-3828. *Wild Food Adventures*

### Fanno Creek bike ride

9 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 21

Join Audubon Society of Portland's Jim Labbe for a bike ride along the Fanno Creek Greenway. This is a great opportunity to explore new and future sections of the trail including the newly opened bridge over the Tualatin River at Cook Park. 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](http://www.audubonportland.org) (preferred) or call (503) 292-6855 ext. 116. *Audubon Society of Portland*

### Celebrating Water: Connecting water, land and people

9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, April 21

Bring your family and join in a celebration of water with informational water resource booths, speakers and lots of hands-on activities for kids. Learn more about what agencies in Clackamas County are doing to protect our resources. The event takes place in the Gregory Forum at Clackamas Community College. Free. For more information, call (503) 723-9692. *Clackamas County Water Education Team* ♿

### Earth Day at Woodlawn Park

10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Saturday, April 21

Come to Woodlawn Park in Northeast Portland for an 8th annual Earth Day celebration. Meet representatives of more than 150 sustainable and local businesses and organizations. Check out the Kid's Village organized by students at Woodlawn Elementary School and I Have a Dream Foundation. Enjoy three stages of live music and entertainment. Join in bicycle rides to the celebration from starting points all around Portland. Free. For more information, visit [www.cityrepair.org](http://www.cityrepair.org). *City Repair Project* and *Woodlawn Neighborhood Association*



### Clear Creek Canyon tour

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

Join Metro naturalist James Davis for a natural history tour of one of the most beautiful 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. Bring your binoculars or borrow a pair of ours. The trip includes leisurely walking for 2 to 3 miles over uneven

### "Three Bridges" grand opening celebration on the Springwater Corridor Trail

9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, May 19

Celebrate the grand opening of the newly completed "Three Bridges" which fill critical gaps on the 17-mile Springwater Corridor Trail. Explore the trail by bike, wheel or foot, stopping at stations hosted by local neighborhoods, community groups and trail partners. Enjoy activities for all ages. For more information, visit [www.portlandparks.org](http://www.portlandparks.org).



terrain on old dirt roads. Suitable for adults and children 10 and older. You will receive directions after you register. Registration and payment of \$5 per adult are required in advance; call (503) 797-1715. *Metro*

### Sandy River Spey Clave

8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, May 5 and 6

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. *Metro* and *The Fly Fishing Shop*

### Animal tracking workshop at Oxbow

10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Sunday, May 6

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*

### Salmon and lamprey moms on Mother's Day

2 to 3 p.m. Sunday, May 13

What better way to celebrate Mom than to learn how mother fish take care of their young. All ages welcome for educational craft and hike activities. Free. Advance registration is not required. For more information, call (503) 636-9886 ext. 25. *Tryon Creek State Natural Area* ♿

## Paddle trips

### Columbia Slough restoration paddle

9 a.m. to noon Saturday, March 10

Join Jim Labbe and Bob Sallinger with Audubon Society of Portland and Ry Thompson from Portland's Bureau of Environmental Services for a morning paddle on the Columbia Slough. Visit the Ramsey Refugia restoration project and several mitigation projects in the lower slough, discuss habitat restoration and enhancement in the urban environment, and do some birding along the way. Bring your own kayak or canoe; personal floatation device required. Directions and other details will be provided to registrants. Register for the free paddle online at [www.audubonportland.org](http://www.audubonportland.org) (preferred) or call (503) 292-6855 ext. 116. *Audubon Society of Portland*

### Portland harbor paddle

9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, March 17

Join Willamette Riverkeeper to explore and learn about the Portland harbor. 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. *Willamette Riverkeeper*

### Ross Island paddle

7:30 to 10:30 a.m. Sunday, March 25

Join urban naturalist Mike Houck on an early morning paddling jaunt around Ross, Hardtack, East and Toe Islands. Enjoy a serene

paddle down the placid Holgate Channel and into the Ross Island lagoon to look for nesting bald eagles. Get great views of herons engaged in courtship in their nests on the downstream tip of Ross Island. Bring your own kayak or canoe; personal floatation device required. Directions and other details will be mailed to registrants. Register for the free paddle online at [www.audubonportland.org](http://www.audubonportland.org) (preferred) or call (503) 292-6855 ext. 116. *Audubon Society of Portland*

### Willamette Narrows paddle

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

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. *Willamette Riverkeeper*

### Canoe the Slough

6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, May 30

Enjoy a calm evening paddle on the Columbia Slough in search of beavers, herons, ospreys, red-tailed hawks and numerous songbirds. Experts will guide participants in canoe bimarans (two canoes lashed together) on two 40-minute trips. This is a great introductory paddle for the whole family. Free. Advance registration required; call (503) 281-1132. *Columbia Slough Watershed Council, Portland Bureau of Environmental Services and Northwest Discoveries*

### Smith and Bybee Wetlands paddle trip

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 floatation 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 24

Call Dale Svart at (503) 285-3084 or send e-mail to [dsvart@earthlink.net](mailto:dsvart@earthlink.net) to register.

noon to 4 p.m. Sunday, April 29

Call Troy Clark at (503) 249-0482 or send e-mail to [brillobrain@ureach.com](mailto:brillobrain@ureach.com) to register.

noon to 4 p.m. Sunday, May 20

Call Troy Clark at (503) 249-0482 or send e-mail to [brillobrain@ureach.com](mailto:brillobrain@ureach.com) to register.

## New Smith and Bybee Wetlands canoe trip

Boats provided!

1 to 4 p.m. Sunday, May 6

For the first time Metro is offering boat trips at Smith and Bybee Wetlands for those who do not own a boat. Experiencing Smith and Bybee Wetlands from the water is a completely new experience. Chances are good that you will see wildlife that is not easily seen walking on the trail. Metro naturalist James Davis and volunteers guide these small group trips. Suitable for adults and families; children must be accompanied by an adult. Some experience being in a canoe or kayak is helpful but not essential. If you own a boat and are interested in a guided paddle trip, check out the trips offered by the Friends of Smith and Bybee Lakes. We know your black lab would be in heaven but pets are not allowed in Metro's natural areas and parks. Program fee includes boat, paddles and personal floatation devices provided by Alder Creek Kayak.

\$45 – 2 people in a canoe or double kayak

\$50 – 2 adults and 1 child (or 2 if small) in a canoe

\$35 – 1 person in a single kayak

\$25 – 1 adult or teen to be paired with another in a canoe or kayak

Registration and payment are required in advance; call (503) 797-1715. *Metro*

## Bird watching

### Bald eagles at Jackson Bottom

9 to 11 a.m. Saturdays, March 3 and April 7  
Bald eagles are considered one of the most effective aerial predators in the animal kingdom. They have amazing adaptations and behaviors to help them survive and compete in their habitat. Learn about the pair of eagles that nest at Jackson Bottom Wetlands Preserve and view the bald eagle nest salvaged from Fernhill Wetlands in Forest Grove. Enjoy hands-on activities and a visit to the north end of the preserve to view the active nest. \$3. Advance registration required. For more information, call (503) 681-6278. *Jackson Bottom Wetlands Preserve*

### Lunch with the birds at Jackson Bottom

noon to 1 p.m. every Wednesday  
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*

### Owl prowling night hike at Tryon Creek

6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Thursday, March 15  
Each spring the owls in Tryon Creek State Natural Area begin their courtship rituals and can often be seen and heard right outside of their hollows

or nests. Join a park naturalist to explore the night forest and, with some luck, get up close and personal with the owls. All ages welcome. Free. Advance registration required; call (503) 636-9886 ext. 25. *Tryon Creek State Natural Area*

### Bird watching basics for beginners

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

### Spring bird walks at Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area

9 to 11:30 a.m. Saturday, March 24, April 7, May 5 and 19 and June 2  
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*



*Bullock's oriole*

Jim Cruce photo

### Spring birds identification class

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

### Introduction to the language of birds

9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, April 14  
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*

### Warblers of Oregon

7 to 9:30 p.m. Thursday, April 19  
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*

### Songbirds of Mt. Talbert

9:30 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 28  
Mt. Talbert Natural Area, protected by Metro's natural area acquisition program, is a hot spot for migrating songbirds such as warblers, tanagers, orioles, flycatchers, vireos and others. Join Metro naturalist James Davis 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. Advance registration is required; call (503) 794-8084 by April 20. *Metro and North Clackamas Parks and Recreation District*

### **Migratory Songbird Festival**

10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, May 12

Celebrate the annual Migratory Songbird Festival at Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge in Sherwood. Activities will include bird walks, nature talks, hands-on educational activities for visitors of all ages, food, a live raptor presentation by the Oregon Zoo, paddle trips and interactive exhibits. Free. Registration for the festival is not required, but to reserve space in guided paddle trips at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m., call Tualatin Riverkeepers at (503) 620-7507. For more information about the festival, visit [www.fws.gov/tualatinriver](http://www.fws.gov/tualatinriver) or call (503) 590-5811. *Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge*

 by arrangement

### **Birding the Killin Wetlands**

10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Sunday, May 20

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. 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. Suitable for adults and children 8 and older. You will receive directions and other information after you register. Registration and payment of \$5 per adult are required in advance; call (503) 797-1715. *Metro*

## Volunteer ventures

### KEEP NATURE IN NEIGHBORHOODS

#### **Friends of Trees neighborhood and natural area plantings**


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

Saturdays through April

Join Friends of Trees and other volunteers in planting trees and shrubs to make our neighborhoods greener and restore the ecosystems of our natural areas. No experience is necessary. Tools and guidance are provided. For site locations and directions, call (503) 284-8733 or visit [www.friendsoftrees.org](http://www.friendsoftrees.org). If you are bringing 10 or more volunteers, call Kathryn at (503) 282-8846 ext. 12. *Friends of Trees*

#### **Arbor Lodge Park work parties**


9 a.m. to noon Saturdays, March 3, April 7 and May 5

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* 

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


9 a.m. to noon Saturday, March 3

Join in an annual event that takes a watershed-wide approach to winter invasive removal, native planting, creek cleanup, mulching and other efforts to improve habitat along Johnson Creek. Hundreds of volunteers will work at 11 different sites in

the Johnson Creek watershed. Following the event, participants will be invited to a celebratory lunch party. For more information and to register, call (503) 652-7477 or visit [www.jcwc.org](http://www.jcwc.org). *Johnson Creek Watershed Council*  by arrangement

#### **Lair Hill Park work parties**

10 a.m. to noon Saturdays, March 3, April 7 and May 5

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* 

#### **Marshall Park restoration**

9 a.m. to noon Saturdays, March 3, April 7 and May 19

Join the Friends of Marshall Park and help remove invasive species to restore this park to its natural beauty. Bring gloves and water. Training will be provided. Meet at the trailhead on Southwest 12th Avenue. For more information, call (503) 823-6131. *Portland Parks and Recreation*

#### **Steigerwald Lake plantings**

9 a.m. to noon Saturdays, March 3, 10, 17 and 24 and April 7

Help plant native shrubs to restore two natural sites at Steigerwald Lake National Wildlife Refuge east of Washougal. Learn about the refuge and enjoy great wildlife sightings as you work. Bring gloves, waterproof footwear and something to drink; snacks will be provided. Advance registration required; call Wilson at (360) 835-5947 or Carol at (360) 834-4344. *U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service*

#### **Sewallcrest Park work parties**

10 a.m. to noon Sundays, March 4, April 8 and May 6  
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*

#### **Clark County restoration**

8:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays, March 10, April 7 and May 19

Join the Clark Public Utilities StreamTeam to improve salmon habitat, water quality and watershed health in Clark County. Enjoy a great day of restoration work, community camaraderie and environmental education. Equipment, tools and light refreshments will be provided. Bring gloves and a reusable mug. Advance registration required by March 8; call (360) 992-8585. *Clark Public Utilities*

#### **Columbia Slough stewardship Saturdays**

9 a.m. to noon Saturday, March 10, April 7 and May 5

Work to improve habitat within the Columbia Slough watershed. Help with a variety of activities, including invasive species removal, native tree planting, and trail maintenance. Advance registration required; call Melissa at (503) 281-1132. *Columbia Slough Watershed Council*

#### **Cornelius tree planting**

9 a.m. to noon Saturday, March 10

Join in a stream restoration event at the King Property in Cornelius. Help 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](http://www.solv.org). For more information, call

Monica at (503) 844-9571. *SOLV, Clean Water Services, Metro and City of Cornelius* by arrangement

### **English holly removal at Cedar Mill Park**

9 a.m. to noon Saturday, March 10

Help mulch native plants and remove English holly from the natural areas of Cedar Mill Park. Bring loppers, a shovel and work gloves, if possible. Refreshments will be provided. Meet at the tennis courts located at the lower parking lot of Cedar Mill Elementary School at Northwest 103rd Avenue and Cornell Road. To register, call Melissa at (503) 629-6305 ext. 2953. *Tualatin Hills Park and Recreation District*

### **Goat Island tree planting 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, March 10**

Set along the lower Clackamas River, 22-acre Goat Island provides seasonal refuge for migrating salmon and steelhead. Native birds such as osprey, kingfisher and a variety of ducks can be found along the banks and side channels. Restoration work on the island will improve bird and fish habitat and water quality. Tools and training will be provided. All ages are welcome. Advance registration required; visit [www.solv.org](http://www.solv.org) or call Rhyan at (503) 844-9571 ext. 363. *SOLV*

### **Moonshadow Park work days**

9 a.m. to noon Saturdays, March 10 and 17

Help remove English ivy and Himalayan blackberry from the natural areas of Moonshadow Park. Bring loppers, a shovel and work gloves, if possible. Refreshments will be provided. Meet at the park entrance at the end of Southwest Alden Court just off Southwest Alden Street. To register, call Melissa at (503) 629-6305 ext. 2953. *Tualatin Hills Park and Recreation District*

### **Phillips Creek planting**

9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, March 10

Surrounded by extensive urban development including 82nd Avenue and Clackamas Town Center, this natural area along Phillips Creek contains mature Oregon ash, big leaf maple, red alder and Western red cedar. Plant native trees and shrubs to improve habitat and water quality. Tools and training will be provided. All ages are welcome. Advance registration required; visit [www.solv.org](http://www.solv.org) or call Rhyan at (503) 844-9571 ext. 363. *SOLV*

### **Native garden maintenance at Tualatin Hills Nature Park**

9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, March 17

Help weed and mulch in the native plant display garden at Tualatin Hills Nature Park. Bring your favorite weed removal tool if you have one. Refreshments will be provided. To register, call (503) 629-6350. *Tualatin Hills Park and Recreation District*

### **Blackberry pull at Rosa Park**

9 a.m. to noon Saturday, March 17

Help clear Himalayan blackberry from the natural areas of Rosa Park. Bring loppers, a shovel and work gloves, if possible. Refreshments will be provided. Meet at the park entrance on Southwest Rosa Road east of 196th Avenue. To register, call Melissa at (503) 629-6305 ext. 2953. *Tualatin Hills Park and Recreation District*

### **George Himes Park work days**

9 a.m. to noon Saturdays, March 17, April 21 and May 19

Help remove invasive plants from the trees in George Himes Park in Southwest Portland. Meet at the corner of Southwest Nebraska Street

and Terwilliger Boulevard, south of Capitol Highway. Bring your own cutting tools. For more information, call Don at (503) 246-2088 or send e-mail to [baack@pacifier.com](mailto:baack@pacifier.com). *Hillsdale Neighborhood Association*

### **Woods Park restoration**

9 a.m. to noon Saturdays, March 17, April 21 and May 19

Join the Friends of Woods Park to remove invasive species, build trails and boardwalks and plant native shrubs at this 43-acre wooded natural area in Southwest Portland. Bring water and sturdy shoes; tools and training will be provided. Meet at the trailhead on Southwest Marigold Street. Advance registration is not required. For more information, call (503) 823-7016. *Portland Parks and Recreation*

### **Potting party at Metro's native plant center**

9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, March 17

Join other volunteers at Metro's native plant materials center to help pot up native bare root plants for future plantings at Metro natural areas. Other activities may include planting native species into grow-out beds, planting seeds and mulching. Prior plant knowledge and experience is not necessary and all ages are welcome. Come prepared to get dirty and dress for the weather. Gloves, tools, snacks and water are provided. Advance registration is required; call (503) 797-1715. *Metro*

### **Clark County potting event**

8:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, March 24

Join the Clark Public Utilities StreamTeam to pot native saplings for future plantings at Clark County natural areas. Enjoy a great day of community camaraderie and environmental education. Equipment, tools and light

refreshments will be provided. Bring gloves and a reusable mug. Advance registration required by March 22; call (360) 992-8585 or send e-mail to [streamteam@clarkpud.com](mailto:streamteam@clarkpud.com). *Clark Public Utilities*

### **Blackberry removal at Hideaway Park**

9 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 7

Help remove Himalayan blackberry from the natural areas of Hideaway Park. Bring loppers, a shovel and work gloves, if possible. Refreshments will be provided. Meet at the park entrance on Southwest Oleson Road south of Miles Court. To register, call Melissa at (503) 629-6305 ext. 2953. *Tualatin Hills Park and Recreation District*

### **Native plant center volunteer Saturday**

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

It's spring and time to plant bulbs at Metro's native plant center. Volunteers will transplant native camas and allium bulbs grown from seed collected from Metro natural areas and prepare beds and plant several annual native species for seed collection this fall. Prior gardening experience and plant knowledge is helpful but not required. Come prepared to get dirty and dress for the weather. Gloves, tools, snacks and water will be provided. All ages are welcome. Advance registration is required; call (503) 797-1733 to register. *Metro*

### **Salmon Creek restoration 8:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, April 21**

Join the Clark Public Utilities StreamTeam for an Earth Day celebration. Plant native trees to improve salmon habitat, water quality and watershed health in Clark County. Enjoy a great day of restoration work, community camaraderie, children's activities, environmental education and a

prize raffle. Equipment, tools and light refreshments will be provided. Bring gloves and a reusable mug. Advance registration required by April 19; call (360) 992-8585. *Clark Public Utilities*

## SOLV IT

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

SOLV IT, one of the largest Earth Day events in the nation, focuses on cleaning up illegal dumpsites and neighborhoods, trail maintenance, watershed restoration and community center improvements. Thousands of volunteers converge at more than 100 project sites throughout the region. Register online at [www.solv.org](http://www.solv.org) or by calling (503) 844-9571. *SOLV*

 by arrangement

## No Ivy Day

9 a.m. to noon Saturday, May 5

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](http://www.noivyleague.com) or call (503) 823-3681. *No Ivy League*

## Native plant center volunteer Saturday

9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, May 5

Come to Metro's native plant center and choose from a wide range of activities including building wetland emergent beds, planting seeds, maintaining plantings, staking plants and planting plugs. Prior gardening experience and plant knowledge is helpful but not required. Come prepared to get dirty and dress for the weather. Gloves, tools, snacks and water will be provided. All ages are welcome. Advance registration is required; call (503) 797-1733 to register. *Metro*

## Down by the Riverside

9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, May 19

Down by the Riverside brings thousands of Oregonians together to restore and enhance

riversides and improve the health of watersheds across the region. Volunteers help build trails, plant native trees and shrubs, remove invasive vegetation, clean up illegally dumped materials, and work on many other valuable projects. For more information, visit [www.solv.org](http://www.solv.org) or call Sara at (503) 844-9571. *SOLV*  by arrangement

## Invasive plant removal at Tualatin Hills Nature Park

9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sunday, May 20

Help improve habitat in the West Woods at Tualatin Hills Nature Park. Remove blackberry, ivy and other invasives as well as trash from the area. Refreshments will be provided. To register, call (503) 629-6350. *Tualatin Hills Park and Recreation District*

# Calendar at a glance

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Guided hikes at Tryon Creek, pg. 7

## 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, fishing, archery, volleyball, softball, horseshoes, food concessions and large shelters perfect for family reunions and company picnics. 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.

## Information numbers

### General number

(503) 797-1850

### Picnic reservations

(503) 665-4995

### Registration for Metro nature activities

(503) 797-1715

### Blue Lake Regional Park

(503) 665-4995

### The Lake House

(503) 252-1718

### Oxbow Regional Park

(503) 663-4708

### Howell Territorial Park

(503) 665-4995

### 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

### Metro recycling and natural gardening information

(503) 234-3000




## 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](http://www.metro-region.org/parks)

**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.

# Celebrating wildflowers



## Trillium Festival

9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, March 31 and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, April 1  
Celebrate spring at this annual 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. Free. For more information, call (503) 636-4398. *Tryon Creek State Natural Area*

## Cooper Mountain birds and wildflowers

1 to 4:30 p.m. Sunday, April 15  
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

Metro natural area, 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. Terrain is steep and rough in some places. For adults and children 6 or older. You will receive directions after you register. Registration and payment of \$5 per adult are required in advance; call (503) 797-1715. *Metro*

## Wildflower identification at Oxbow Regional Park

noon to 3 p.m. Sunday, April 29  
Have you ever wondered about trailside wildflowers and wished you knew their names? 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 \$5 per person are required in advance. There also is a \$4 per vehicle entry fee to the park, payable at the gate. To register, call (503) 797-1715. *Metro*

## Celebrating wildflowers at the Oregon Zoo

10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, May 12  
Habitat begins at home. Come to the Oregon Zoo to learn how plants in your own backyard are beneficial for animals. Help plant habitat for the birds, insects, squirrels and other animals who live at the zoo. Tour the beautiful backyard habitat garden surrounding the Winged Wonders exhibit with butterfly expert Matthew Shepherd from the Xerces Society. Learn the basics of attracting and providing a home for local butterflies. Free with zoo admission. For more information, visit [www.oregonzoo.org](http://www.oregonzoo.org) or call (503) 226-1561. *Oregon Zoo*



## Gotter Prairie tour

noon to 2:30 p.m. Sunday, May 13  
Don't bring the flowers to Mom, bring Mom to the flowers. We are timing this Mother's Day walk in hopes of viewing a beautiful blue "sea" of camas flowers. Metro is working to re-establish a wet prairie and other rare habitat types at Gotter Prairie, a Metro natural area near the Tualatin River. Join Metro naturalist Deb Scrivens to learn more about these rare areas and the wildlife they support. For adults and older children. You will receive directions after you register. Registration and payment of \$5 per adult required in advance; call (503) 797-1715. *Metro*



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