

WINTER 2009

GreenScene



Your winter guide
to great places and
green living

www.oregonmetro.gov



discover
join
wander
float
aspire
follow
be



Metro | *People places. Open spaces.*



Sandy Salmon's holiday wish list

25 things you can do to protect wild salmon habitat

Sandy Salmon's wish list for the holidays gives you a choice of 25 simple things you and your family can do to preserve and protect the water quality for Sandy's habitat and our own.

Why is healthy salmon habitat important? When salmon are healthy, so is our soil, water and food supply.

Salmon need cold, clean and clear water to thrive – and so do humans. Clean water comes from a healthy watershed. Any place in your neighborhood or community where water and snowmelt move downstream and converge into other bodies of water counts as a watershed. Everything you do in your yard, neighborhood or community affects watershed health, water quality and the condition of salmon habitat.

By choosing one or more actions from Sandy Salmon's holiday wish list, you can help ensure that future generations will enjoy the clean water that is so critical to the quality of life in the Pacific Northwest.

At home...

1. Take shallow baths and short showers.
2. Include more plant-based foods in your diet to minimize the environmental impact of food production.
3. Make your yard pesticide-free to prevent the runoff of toxic chemicals into streams, lakes and waterways.
4. Dispose of toxic household chemicals responsibly.
5. Choose recycled paints for home decorating projects to keep paint out of landfills.
6. Disconnect your downspout from the sewer system and redirect it to a rain garden.



At work...

7. Get a reusable coffee cup and water bottle and commit to using them.
8. Reuse your printer ink and toner cartridges up to four times to keep plastic cartridges out of landfills.
9. Support or start a recycling program at your office with clearly marked bins.
10. Reduce paper use by selecting duplex printing (printing on both sides) as the default setting on the copier.
11. Turn off the lights – and your computer – when leaving at the end of the day to reduce carbon emissions and energy bills.
12. Swap out workplace lighting with low-energy equivalents and use natural light when working during the daylight hours.

At school...

13. Place reminders over light switches in every classroom to turn lights out when you leave.
14. Support or start student-organized recycling programs in the classroom and the school.
15. Request that your school district purchase and use environmentally friendly cleaning products.
16. Recruit parent and student helpers to create a native garden to provide shade, wildlife habitat and opportunities for learning about the environment.
17. Minimize car trips to and from school by having children ride the bus or walk or bike with friends.

18. Teach your children how to care for the environment and encourage them to lead by example with their classmates.
19. Collaborate with other families to buy back-to-school supplies in bulk to reduce packaging, unused supplies and costs.



In the community...

20. Refuse plastic bags at the supermarket to reduce the more than 100 billion that end up clogging sewers, gutters and waterways, entangling birds and being swallowed by whales, turtles and other marine life.

21. Get out of your car and walk or bicycle to your destination at least one day a week.
22. Clean up your dog's waste to prevent it from washing into streams and contaminating drinking water and salmon habitat.
23. Plant a tree to filter stormwater, clean the air, prevent erosion and create habitat for fish and wildlife.
24. Ask supermarkets and restaurants to stock only sustainably-caught salmon.
25. Get to know your watershed council and volunteer with stream restoration and education projects.



Resources for more information on protecting wild salmon habitat and preserving water quality are available on Metro's web site.

www.oregonmetro.gov/sustainableliving



Volunteers at Cooper Mountain

C. Bruce Forster photo

Lend a hand at Metro's natural areas

Is your service club, faith group, school or scout troop looking for a service project? Is your workplace planning a team-building day? Metro's 12,000-plus acres of natural areas and parks offer a variety of done-in-a-day and recurring restoration projects suitable for groups of all sizes and ages.

Most of Metro's natural areas and parks need active and ongoing restoration to enhance their habitat value for native plants and animals and to protect water quality. From building beaver fences around vulnerable trees to digging erosion control "water bars" on trails to planting native trees, volunteer groups play a key role in Metro's stewardship efforts.

By volunteering with Metro, your group can:

- join with others to increase the livability of your community now and for future generations
- get outdoors in a beautiful Metro natural area or park that may not be generally open to the public
- connect to nature in your neighborhood
- enjoy a hands-on learning experience
- gain the satisfaction of immediate, tangible results – trees protected from hungry beavers, a field full of new native plantings, established plantings freed from smothering English ivy, piles of scotch broom gone.

Metro provides tools, snacks, water and staff guidance to ensure a safe, enjoyable and productive day. To learn more or to arrange a project, contact volunteer services at parkvol@oregonmetro.gov or 503-797-1653.

Natural areas highlights



Chicken Creek on its way to Sherwood and the Tualatin River

C. Bruce Forster photo

Acquisition protects Chicken Creek and helps the Tualatin River

Rolling hills and houses dot the landscape where the slow-moving waters of Chicken Creek flow through small farms and rural properties on their way to the Tualatin River. Chicken Creek winds through the 38-acre property Metro recently purchased, located about a mile outside of Sherwood's city limits. Large, single parcels of land are hard to find in this area and the property is particularly valuable because of its relatively large size, quality and creek frontage. Small springs feeding into Chicken Creek at this location keep water moving all year long.

At its confluence with the main stem of the Tualatin River, Chicken Creek flows into the Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge. The stretch of Chicken Creek that crosses the Metro acquisition passes through a mature forested drainage that provides shade to the creek, protects water quality and gives wildlife food and shelter.

First report to citizens from oversight committee

The Natural Areas Program Performance Oversight Committee presented their first annual report to the Metro Council in October. The 14-member committee's overall view, according to the report, is that Metro is conducting the Natural Areas Program in a way that is accountable and transparent. The report contains the committee's assessment of Metro's

progress implementing the strategies, goals and objectives of the voter-approved bond measure. Download the entire report and learn more about the committee at www.oregonmetro.gov/naturalareas.

My view is that Metro is meeting its responsibilities on the bond initiative with skill and professionalism. As a taxpayer, I feel very comfortable that the processes are in place to manage our money well. – committee member David Pollock

Metro's voter-approved Natural Areas Program funds land acquisition and capital improvements that protect water quality and fish and wildlife habitat, enhance trails and wildlife corridors, and provide greater connections to nature in urban areas throughout the Portland metropolitan area. Visit Metro's web site for acquisition updates, information about grant opportunities and new projects near you.

www.oregonmetro.gov/naturalareas



Thomas Dairy: A key link to Forest Park



// remember
the morel
mushrooms

that grew under the
pear trees," recalls
Ella Thomas, age
95, hiking over to
the edge of the woods.

Ella moved to this place in 1915 when she was two years old and her parents, Reinhold and Rosalie Bieberdorf, bought the property on Newberry Road and established a dairy. "Trilliums," she adds. "The woods should be full of trilliums. Across the gulch will be ladyslippers and maidenhair ferns. Wild iris. The little wild blackberries were so delicious." She scans the landscape, with its meadows, woods and buildings. "Lots of memories."



Western hemlock in Forest Park

David Bostock photo

One of the first acquisitions of Metro's voter-approved 2006 natural areas bond measure, the 58-acre Thomas Dairy property is a key link between Forest Park and 280 acres to the north that Metro protected along Ennis Creek. Now mainly a mixed coniferous and deciduous forest, the land provides a significant wildlife corridor and a potential future extension of the Wildwood Trail. Two streams cross the landscape, which provides habitat for bald eagles, coyotes and myriad other species of birds. From the crest of the hill, a deep gulch slices through the property, its steep sides lined with wildflowers, ferns and enormous cedars, Douglas firs and maples. A herd of 40 to 50 elk frequent the site, their trails and tracks visible in the two remnant meadows. "Look," Ella says, "you can see where they nibble on the grass."



Ella Thomas

"I took it for granted then," she comments. "I doubt I appreciated the place." She was worried that her schoolmates would discover that she lived without running water or electricity. Back then, the dairy had about 40 cows and fruit trees, including pear, walnut, plum, cherry, filbert and "all kinds of wonderful apple trees." Grazing goats helped clear the land. "Horses did all the work. There was Jack the mule and Buster the one-eyed horse. Before the St. Johns Bridge, Pa took the horse and buggy and crossed the river on the ferry." A weathered ledger lists 14

boxes of Bartlett pears sold to Joe's in Linnton for a dollar each.

They collected rainwater in a cistern from the barn and hauled drinking water from the springs. A 1952 newspaper article shows a photograph of Ella's father tapping maple trees and making maple syrup. She remarks, "It was not the place to do it if you want to make money out of it."

Ella specifically notes that she walked 6.3 miles to school and coming back up Newberry Road alone recalled thinking "there'd be bears. I was scared." Her dad bought leather and re-soled her shoes. She was the youngest of five children and they all picked raspberries and wild strawberries to sell. During the Depression they peeled bark and sold it for a few pennies.

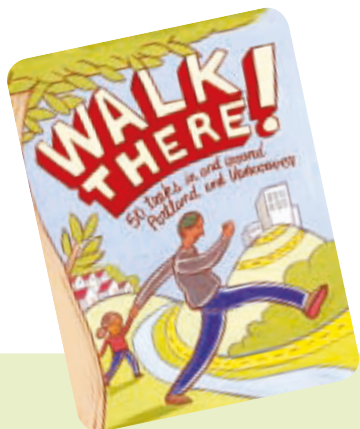
When Ella was 17 she married Delbert Thomas. They moved to Idaho, had three children

and over the years, added thirteen foster children. Around 1950, her parents needed help and asked Ella and Delbert to move back to the farm, and it became Thomas Dairy. Delbert bought a tractor and had a well drilled, reaching water at 300 feet. Their children built hideouts and rode horse trails through Forest Park, which was established in 1937. In the aftermath of the Columbus Day storm in 1962, the family lost electricity for 13 days. They ran the milking machines with a generator and, since the roads were blocked, fed the milk to the pigs.

In the 70s they sold the property to the Margolis family who planted more fir trees and raised cattle organically. They put it up for sale in late 2006. Although the bond measure had not yet passed, the property's extraordinary value as a wildlife corridor and Forest Park connection was recognized. The Trust for Public Land agreed to option the property in anticipation of the subsequent passage of the measure. In 2007 it was purchased from TPL by Metro.

Buildings remain that tell the stories of those lives. There's a modern looking house that is an expanded, remodeled version of the 1923 farmhouse. It started as a one-room structure that was rolled down the hill to be closer to the electric hookup. "My brother rolled the house down. It wasn't supposed to get so close to the road."

"There's so much history here," Ella reminisces. She is pleased that the property will be preserved as a natural area. "I'm glad someone will take care of this. It joins Forest Park. It's a good thing to do. People should be enjoying it. I think it's wonderful."



Walk There! – Metro’s guide to great places to walk in the Portland-Vancouver area – leads you on 50 explorations of urban natural areas, scenic parks, historic neighborhoods and bustling main streets. Detailed maps and route descriptions will help you discover the region’s rich history and varied landscapes while you enjoy the benefits of walking.

Visit Metro’s web site to download walking route maps and directions for each of the 50 walks. You’ll also discover safety tips, walking events and information about walking clubs, books and other resources.

www.oregonmetro.gov/walk



Historic Downtown Gresham walk

Gresham was named in 1884 after U.S. Postmaster General Walter Quinton Gresham.

Since then the small community on the banks of Johnson Creek has grown to Oregon’s fourth largest city. This walk explores its revitalized downtown and MAX connections. With MAX access and portals to the Springwater Corridor Trail, Gresham is an easy place to explore while leaving your car at home.

Begin at the Cleveland Avenue MAX Station near Liberty Avenue and 7th. Walk on the south side of the MAX tracks west toward Cleveland Avenue. Look across the tracks to the Chestnut Lane Assisted Living Community, which serves deaf and deaf-blind individuals from across the United States. Turn right on Cleveland and then left on 8th. Walk west on 8th, passing Alpha High School, an alternative school that offers a school-to-work curriculum; Cedar Neighborhood Park; and the East County Health, Aging and Disability Service Center, home to the Community Senior Center and Loaves and Fishes. Continue west on 8th through the Gresham Central Transit Center. Cross Hood Avenue, heading south (left) on Hood. Cross 10th Street and the MAX tracks and then turn right onto the promenade that runs parallel and south of the tracks. The promenade is a joint project of TriMet, which donated the land; the City of Gresham, which maintains the facilities; and the Gresham Central Apartments, which maintains the grass, sweeps the walks and empties trash cans. From the promenade, turn left on Roberts, right on 5th Street and left on Main.

Like many commercial centers along the MAX line, Gresham’s downtown is a place where people live, work and recreate without getting into a car. The Historic Downtown Plan has been in effect since



Gresham at night

1993, revitalizing a downtown that had languished post World War II, but is now revived with shops, restaurants, housing and parks. The plan changed zoning to encourage mixed-use development, pedestrian friendly buildings and a strong orientation to the light rail line and bus transit. Old storefronts commingle with newer buildings. Don’t miss the Gresham Pioneer Museum at 410 N. Main, housed in an old Carnegie library that was superseded in 1990 by the new library, a few blocks away at 385 NW Miller Ave.

From Main, turn left onto Powell Boulevard; as you walk one block, you skirt the northern edge of Main City Park, a large park bordering Johnson Creek. The land was once called Camp Ground, after the Portland Methodists’ use of the land for meetings in the 1880s.

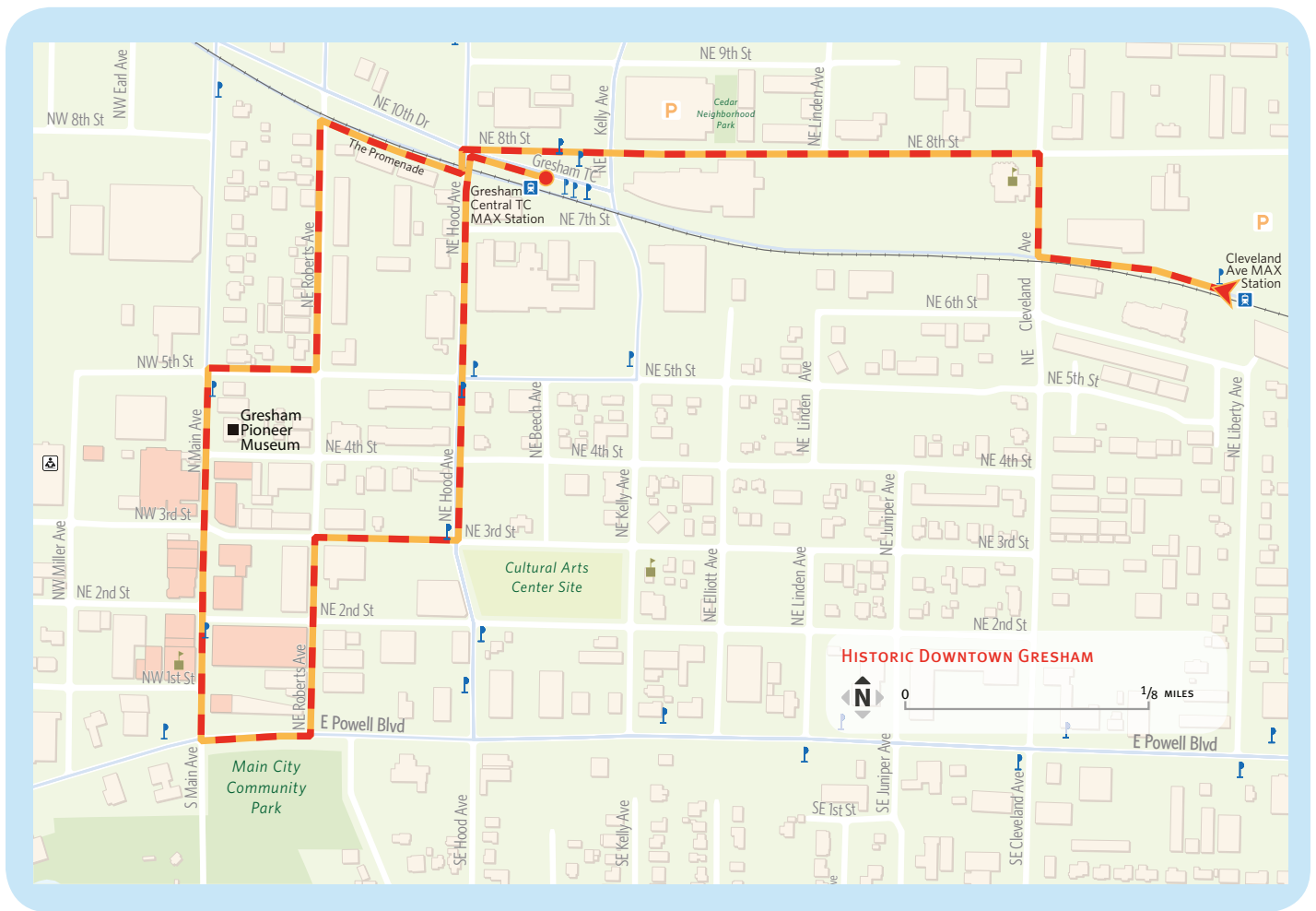
From Powell, turn left onto Roberts Avenue, right on 3rd and left on Hood. Here is visible the future site of the Center for the Arts, at the southeast corner of 3rd and Hood. A pedestrian plaza will be home to outdoor events. Continue north on Hood, cross the MAX tracks and turn right on 10th to end at the Central Transit Center.

1.6 miles

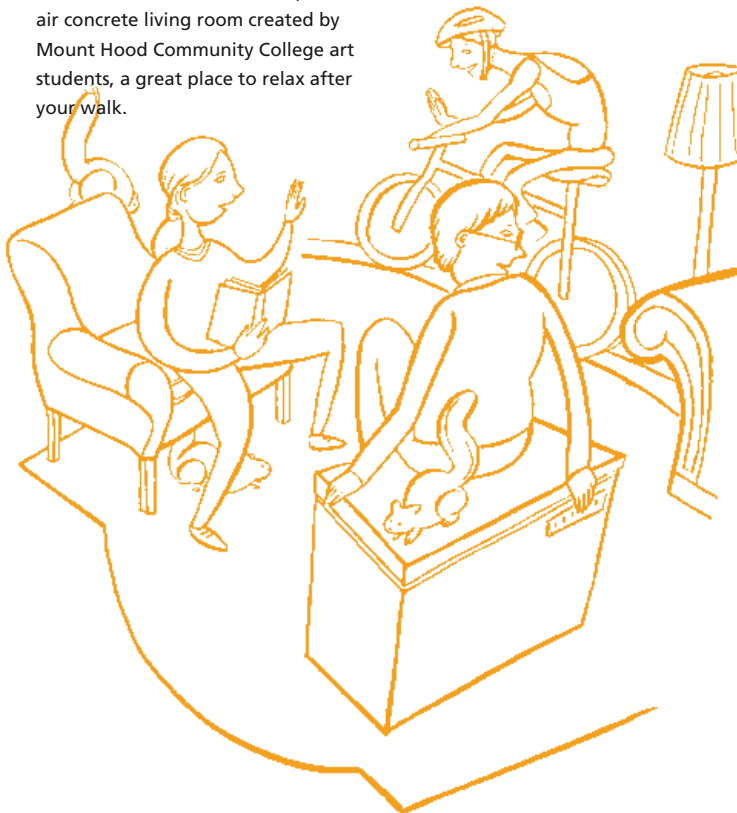
3,377 steps

difficulty

45.502, -122.426



At the end of the walk is an open air concrete living room created by Mount Hood Community College art students, a great place to relax after your walk.



Get the Bike There! map

Bike There! has guided cyclists through the region's streets, paths and bike lanes for 25 years. Updated in 2007, it is a colorful, easy-to-use guide to bicycle-friendly streets and bike paths around the Portland metropolitan area. The map rates selected through-streets where bicyclists share the road with motorists. Whether you are an avid bike commuter or recreational biker, Metro's bike map will help you find the best and safest way to travel around the region.

Visit Metro's web site to buy the map online, view the map on Google Earth and discover other great tips and tools for cyclists.

www.oregonmetro.gov/bike



See nature up close and personal as a Metro wildlife monitoring volunteer

Each year a courageous team of volunteer wildlife monitors search the wintry waters within Metro's pristine natural areas for frog and salamander egg masses. Last year 55 volunteers gave more than 350 hours of their time at 11 natural areas looking for a variety of amphibian species. This cheerful, creative band of amphibian monitors are committed to collecting the valuable information Metro needs to gauge the effectiveness of restoration projects and secure future restoration grant funding. Join the volunteer team and help make a difference in Metro's natural area restoration programs.



Help wanted for 2009 season



Volunteers counted 766 red-legged frog masses and 1,055 Northwestern salamander masses last year.

Amphibian monitors

Metro has been very lucky to have veteran amphibian egg mass monitors these past years, but the wildlife monitoring program is always looking to expand its survey crew. The new season begins in February and continues through the beginning of April. Volunteers are asked to commit to a minimum of three surveys, at least every other week, at one site. Orientation consists of classroom training in January and field training in February. Prior experience identifying egg masses is not required, though a scientific interest is appreciated. Waders and necessary equipment are provided; volunteers should dress for the weather.

Wildlife interns

Are you looking for an internship opportunity? Each year Metro recruits volunteer interns to help coordinate the wildlife monitoring program. Interns assist with field season planning, site visits, volunteer coordination, surveys and data management. Interns need to be available for approximately 5-10 hours per week during field season. Preference is given to college and graduate students (service learning is an option), but school affiliation is not mandatory.

For more information, call Katy Weil at 503-797-1688 or send e-mail to katy.weil@oregonmetro.gov.

Featured volunteers



Paul and Mary Ellen Hagewood, recently retired and ready to explore the natural world with an open mind, muddy boots and a sense of humor, signed up to monitor frogs and salamanders at the Lovejoy natural area in Forest Grove last year. They not only surveyed the site from north to south and east to west multiple times, but they brought new insight about the natural area that proved just how special a place it is. They documented an increase in the Northern red-legged frog, a sensitive species, which greatly surpassed what had been projected.

But the true story lies in their ingenuity and commitment to the beautiful seasonal wetland. High water levels and impressive mud brought out Paul's capacity for invention; he turned a portable golf wagon into a unique all-terrain carrier for chest waders, survey materials and perhaps a snack or two. The couple also made frequent use of one of Metro's inflatable kayaks, a great way to get around and cover more territory. "I really looked forward to hearing Paul and Mary Ellen's updates," says program coordinator Katy Weil. "Their get-it-done attitude and terrific sense of humor made the monitoring season so wonderful and helped us 'think outside the pond.'"

Raptor Road Trip

Annual event celebrates birds of prey

9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 7

Explore Sauvie Island in search of magnificent bald eagles, hawks and falcons that spend the winter on the island. On this special day devoted to raptors, experienced naturalists and hawk experts host activities and answer your questions at four locations around the island. Enjoy guided bird viewing, meet live raptors up close and sharpen your hawk identification skills. Hot drinks and donuts are available in the morning to keep you warm while you breakfast with the birds.

How does the road trip work?

Begin at Kruger's Farm Market and pick up your event map and raptor identification guide. The event fee is \$5 per vehicle, cash only, and includes a Sauvie Island Wildlife Area parking

permit. To reach Kruger's, take the Sauvie Island Bridge and continue straight 1.5 miles (past Howell Territorial Park) to the farm entrance on your right. Carpooling is encouraged.

Spotting scopes and a crash course in raptor identification are provided, and naturalists will be on hand to point out the birds. Bring binoculars and field guides if you have them, and dress for the weather. This event takes place rain or shine. The road trip is suitable for birders of all skill levels and families are welcome.

While you don't have to be an "early bird" and get up at the crack of dawn to see these birds of prey, you should allow approximately three hours to visit all four locations.

What will you see?

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



The fantastic four

Metro naturalist James Davis offers identification tips for the most common raptors seen on the Raptor Road Trip or on any winter day in the region.

Arranged from the largest to the smallest

Bald eagle

Long, broad wings look plank-like
Big head and beak
Adults have white head and tail
Biggest raptor in Oregon



Red-tailed hawk

Broad, fairly long wings
Short, broad tail
Underside has "dark head, white breast, dark belly" pattern
Most common raptor in the Portland area



Northern harrier

Long wings and long tail
Flies low over fields with wings held up in a shallow "V"
Has a bright, white rump patch



American kestrel (falcon)

Streamlined shape
Narrow, pointed wings
Long, narrow tail
Perches on wires and hovers over fields
Smallest hawk-like bird in the Portland area



For more information about the Raptor Road Trip, 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.

Winter calendar



Backyard botany and beyond

10 to 11:30 a.m. Saturdays, Dec. 6, 13 and 20 and Jan. 10, 17 and 24

This six-week series of classroom lectures and discussion at Zenger Farm introduces concepts and techniques for the organic backyard gardener. Learn about botany, planning, fruit and vegetable cultivation, composting and seed saving. \$65 for all six classes or \$13 each. To register, call Ryan at 786-972-1333. *Zenger Farm* by arrangement



Clackamas watershed restoration

9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays, Dec. 6, Jan. 10 and Feb. 7
Help the Clackamas watershed by removing invasive species and planting native trees. Carpool to various restoration sites throughout the Damascus, Boring and Happy Valley area. For more information, call Laura at 503-558-0550. *Clackamas River Basin Council*



Keller Woodlands work days

9 a.m. to noon Saturdays, Dec. 6, Jan. 3 and Feb. 7
Join Three Rivers Land Conservancy and the West Willamette Restoration Project for a morning of urban forest renewal. The site is at a pullout on Southwest Terwilliger Boulevard south of Bancroft Terrace and north of Westwood Drive. Snacks, gloves and tools are provided. To register, call Amanda at 503-699-9825. *Three Rivers Land Conservancy*



Naturescaping basics

9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6
Naturescaping is the practice of designing a landscape so that it reduces water use, stormwater

runoff and pollution without sacrificing splendor. It saves you time, money and energy – all while providing a beautiful habitat for birds, wildlife and you. Free. To register, call 503-935-5368. *East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District*



Friends of Trees planting and restoration days

9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays
Join members of your community to help with vital restoration work at urban natural areas or to plant street and yard trees. Gloves, tools and guidance are provided. For planting day locations and directions, call 503-284-8733 or visit www.friendsoftrees.org. Advance registration not required. For more information or to sign up a large group, call 503-282-8846 ext. 12. *Friends of Trees*



Tree plantings at Tryon Creek

9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays, Dec. 6, Feb. 14 and Feb. 28
Help restore critical habitat for plants and wildlife at this natural area in Southwest Portland. Plant native trees and shrubs and remove invasive species. Tools and trees are provided. Suitable for all ages. To register, visit www.solv.org or call Brett at 503-844-9571 ext. 332. *SOLV*



Lunch with the birds at Jackson Bottom

noon to 1 p.m. every Wednesday and first and third Sundays
Spend your lunch hour learning how to identify waterfowl and other birds. Spotting scopes, binoculars, field guides and naturalists are provided. Meet at the north viewing shelter next to the

Clean Water Services treatment plant on Highway 219 south of Hillsboro. Free. Registration not required. For more information, call Sarah Pinnock at 503-681-6278. *Jackson Bottom Wetlands Preserve*



Columbia Slough stewardship Saturdays

9 a.m. to noon Saturdays, Dec. 13, Jan. 10 and Feb. 14
Work to improve habitat within the Columbia Slough watershed. Help with a variety of activities, including invasive species removal, native tree planting, trail maintenance and canoe-based trash cleanups. Refreshments, gloves and tools provided. For more information, call Jesse at 503-281-1132. *Columbia Slough Watershed Council*



Native Plant Center volunteer Saturdays

9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays, Dec. 13, Jan. 10 and 24, Feb. 7 and 21
Help out at Metro's Native Plant Center in Tualatin which provides an essential supply of rare native seeds and plant stock to support Metro's restoration projects. Volunteers will help harvest native bulbs, replant seedlings grown from seed collected at Metro's natural areas, harvest willow stakes, pot up native species into gallon pots, maintain seed beds, and harvest and replant wetland beds. This is a family-friendly volunteer opportunity and a great way to learn more about Metro's native species conservation program. Prior gardening experience is not required. Gloves, tools, water and a snack are provided. For more information and to register, call Marsha at 503-701-7554. *Metro*



Powell Butte work days

9 a.m. to noon Saturdays, Dec. 13, Jan. 10 and Feb. 14
Help repair and rebuild the trails at Powell Butte Nature Park. Bring water and gloves. Meet at the parking lot at the top of the hill on Southeast 162nd Avenue south of Powell Boulevard. To register, call 503-823-6131. *Portland Parks and Recreation and PUMP*



Terwilliger restoration work days

9 a.m. to noon Saturdays, Dec. 13, Jan. 10 and Feb. 14
Join Friends of Terwilliger and the West Willamette Restoration Project for a morning of urban forest renewal. Meet at the corner of Terwilliger Boulevard and Southwest Hamilton Street. Snacks, gloves and tools are provided. To register, call Amanda at 503-699-9825. *Three Rivers Land Conservancy*



Eastbank Esplanade to Oaks Bottom walk

9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 17
Join urban naturalist Mike Houck for a 4-mile walk on the Eastbank Esplanade to the north meadow and wetlands at 160-acre Oaks Bottom Wildlife Refuge. This is a one-way walk along the Springwater on the Willamette trail with a return via TriMet bus. Free. Advance registration required; visit www.audubonportland.org or call 503-292-6855 ext. 116. *Audubon Society of Portland*



wildlife watching



volunteering



nature discoveries



paddling



natural gardening



wheelchair accessible



Barred owl

Tryon Creek photo

Solstice celebration at Tryon Creek

4 to 6 p.m. Friday, Dec. 19
Celebrate the year's shortest day and longest night at Tryon Creek State Natural Area. Enjoy an indoor audience participation program followed by craft making and goodie preparation in Dutch ovens. Nature guides will lead short walks in the winter forest. Free. For more information, call 503-636-9886 ext. 225. *Tryon Creek State Natural Area*

Errol Heights Wetlands work days

9 a.m. to noon Saturdays, Dec. 20, Jan. 17 and Feb. 21
Help restore this wetland in the heart of Southeast Portland. Remove invasive plants like English ivy, Himalayan blackberry and clematis. Bring gloves and meet at the corner of Southeast 52nd and Tenino. To register, call 503-823-6131. *Portland Parks and Recreation*

George Himes Park work days

9 a.m. to noon Saturdays, Dec. 20, Jan. 17 and Feb. 21
Join the Hillsdale Neighborhood Association and the West Willamette Restoration Project for a morning of urban forest renewal. Meet at the corner of Southwest Nebraska Street and Terwilliger Boulevard. Snacks, gloves and tools are provided. To register, call Amanda at 503-699-9825. *Three Rivers Land Conservancy*

Oaks Bottom Wildlife Refuge walk

noon to 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 21
Join naturalist Mike Houck for a stroll around the 160-acre Oaks Bottom Wildlife Refuge. Mike has been hiking in Oaks Bottom for more than 30 years and is intimately familiar with the history and natural history of Oaks Bottom and its diverse fish and wildlife habitats. The walk is a 2-mile loop on both paved and uneven dirt paths, with two moderate hills. Suitable for families. Free. Advance registration required; visit www.audubonportland.org or call 503-292-6855 ext. 116. *Audubon Society of Portland*

Holiday paddle at Smith and Bybee Wetlands

noon to 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 27
Explore this 2,000-acre wetland from the water. Bring your own kayak or canoe and personal flotation device. 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 Dale Svart at 503-285-3084. *Friends of Smith and Bybee Lakes*

Marquam Nature Park work days

9 a.m. to noon Saturdays, Dec. 27, Jan. 31 and Feb. 28
Join Friends of Marquam Nature Park and the West Willamette Restoration Project for a morning of urban forest renewal. Meet at Council Crest Park. Snacks, gloves and tools are provided. To register, call Amanda at 503-699-9825. *Three Rivers Land Conservancy*


Rosemont Bluff work days

9 a.m. to noon Saturdays, Dec. 27, Jan. 24 and Feb. 28
Help remove ivy and clematis from the only natural area in this part of Northeast Portland. Rosemont Bluff Natural Area is on Northeast 68th Avenue just off Glisan. To register, call 503-823-6131. *Portland Parks and Recreation*


Urban ethnobotany explorations

10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 28
Explore a new part of Portland each month by foot, bike or boat and learn the stories of the plants that surround you everyday. Native species, weeds and horticultural plants combine to create amazing plant diversity in the city. Learn identification skills as well as how many of these plants can be used for food, medicine, fiber, tools and more. Suitable for adults and teens 14 and older. \$40. Advance registration required; call 503-253-5898. *TrackersNW*


Story and stroll at Tryon Creek: Garbage monster

1 to 2 p.m. Friday, Jan. 2
Join a park naturalist for nature story time and a stroll through the park. This program is geared toward families with children ages 3-6, but all are welcome. Free. For more information, call 503-636-9886 ext. 225. *Tryon Creek State Natural Area*  by arrangement

Sunday at two at Tryon Creek: The art of owling

2 to 3 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 4
Join park ranger Christal Florin for a peek at the owls who call Tryon Creek home. Early winter is the perfect time to look for owls, since this is when they begin their mating rituals. Learn about mating and nesting behavior as well as tips and tricks to successful owling. Free. For more information, call 503-636-9886 ext. 225. *Tryon Creek State Natural Area* 

Story and stroll at Tryon Creek: Busy beavers

1 to 2 p.m. Friday, Jan. 9
Join a park naturalist for nature story time and a stroll through the park. This program is geared toward families with children ages 3-6, but all are welcome. Free. For more information, call 503-636-9886 ext. 225. *Tryon Creek State Natural Area*  by arrangement

Saturday guided nature hike: Cones, cones, cones

10 to 11:30 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 10
Join a park naturalist for a guided nature hike to explore the forest and stream ecosystems and natural history at Tryon Creek State Natural Area. All ages welcome; parents must accompany kids. Free. Advance registration not required for groups smaller than 10 people. For more information, call 503-636-9886 ext. 225. *Tryon Creek State Natural Area*

Ivy removal at Fanno Creek Greenway Trail

9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Jan. 17
Help remove English ivy from the natural areas surrounding a new trail connection to the Fanno Creek Greenway Trail near Allen Boulevard. Bring heavy-duty work gloves, loppers, a round-tipped shovel and a reusable water bottle if possible. Refreshments are provided. To register, call 503-629-6305. *Tualatin Hills Park and Recreation District*

Mulching native plants at Rosa Park

9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Jan. 17

Help mulch native trees and shrubs throughout the floodplain of Celebrity Creek. Bring a shovel, set of loppers and heavy-duty work gloves, if possible. Refreshments are provided. Meet at the park entrance on Southwest Rosa Road east of 196th Avenue. To register, call 503-629-6305. *Tualatin Hills Park and Recreation District*

Birding at Wapato Greenway

9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 17

Discover Wapato Greenway Access on Sauvie Island with a winter bird walk led by a naturalist from Tryon Creek State Natural Area. The natural area provides optimum habitat for the great blue heron, bald eagle and abundant waterfowl. Bring a lunch. Suitable for adults and children age 8 and older. Free. Advance registration required; call 503-636-9886 ext. 225. *Tryon Creek State Natural Area*

Ducks 101: Waterfowl identification class

7 to 9:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 21

In autumn, half a million ducks, geese and swans fly over the region's wetlands and tens of thousands stay to spend the winter. Waterfowl, among the region's most abundant and diverse groups of wintering birds, are easy to identify. Join Metro naturalist and expert birder James Davis to find out who's who in this large group of beautiful birds. Suitable for adults and teens. Meet in room 370 at Metro Regional Center in Portland. Registration and payment of \$10 per person required in advance; call 503-797-1850 option 4. *Metro* 

Winter twig identification

10 to 11:30 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 24

Join a park naturalist for a guided nature hike to explore the forest and stream ecosystems

and natural history at Tryon Creek State Natural Area. All ages welcome; parents must accompany kids. Free. Advance registration not required for groups smaller than 10 people. For more information, call 503-636-9886 ext. 225. *Tryon Creek State Natural Area*

Waterfowl walks at Greenway Park

1 to 3 p.m. Saturdays, Jan. 24 and Feb. 21

Join ranger Kelly Perry to learn how to identify local grebes, geese and ducks. See many winter species and develop your identification skills. Meet at Fanno Farmhouse at 8405 SW Creekside Place in Beaverton. Free. Registration not required. For more information, call 503-629-6350. *Tualatin Hills Park and Recreation District*


Midwinter paddle at Smith and Bybee Wetlands

noon to 3 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 25

Explore this 2,000-acre wetland from the water. Bring your own kayak or canoe and personal flotation device. 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 Emily at 503-235-6272. *Friends of Smith and Bybee Lakes*

Oregon conservation strategy

2 to 3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 1

Join wildlife biologist Susan Barnes for a regional look at Oregon's conservation strategy. What is a wildlife action plan? This proactive plan examines the health of wildlife and prescribes actions to conserve wildlife and vital habitat before they become more rare and more costly to protect. Learn how every citizen can contribute to the protection of Oregon's natural resource heritage for future generations. Free. For more information, call 503-636-9886 ext. 225. *Tryon Creek State Natural Area* 




Pied-billed grebe

Jim Cruce photo

Winter birds at Smith and Bybee Wetlands

10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturdays, Jan. 24 and Feb. 21

It's a waterfowl wonderland with thousands of ducks, geese and even swans spending the winter in the area. 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. Meet naturalist James Davis in the natural area parking lot on North Marine Drive. Bring binoculars or borrow a pair of ours. Suitable for adults and teens. Free. Advance registration required; call 503-797-1850 option 4. *Metro* 

Raptor identification class

7 to 9:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 4


Hawks, eagles and falcons have always fascinated people. Metro naturalist James Davis will discuss how to tell these groups of raptors apart and the key points for identifying the most common species in Oregon. Get ready for great winter raptor watching and be well prepared for the Sauvie Island Raptor Road Trip on Feb. 7. Also learn about the natural history of raptors and the amazing adaptations of these birds for catching and killing their prey. Suitable for adults and teens. Meet in room 370 at Metro

Regional Center in Portland. Registration and payment of \$10 per person required in advance; call 503-797-1850 option 4.

Metro 

Story and stroll at Tryon Creek: Owl moon

1 to 2 p.m. Friday, Feb. 6

Join a park naturalist for nature story time and a stroll through the park. This program is geared toward families with children ages 3-6, but all are welcome. Free. For more information, call 503-636-9886 ext. 225. *Tryon Creek State Natural Area*  by arrangement

North Portland oak groves walk

9 to 11 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 7
Join in a guided walk along the proposed North Portland Willamette Greenway and Baltimore Woods. Experience the beauty of groves of native Oregon oak trees that have been identified for preservation. Meet at the corner of North Baltimore and Edison streets. Free. To register, send e-mail to info@npgreenway.org or call 503-823-4524. *npGREENWAY and Friends of Baltimore Woods*

Tree planting at Beacon Hill Wetland

9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 7
Help restore critical habitat for plants and wildlife at this natural area in Beaverton. Plant native trees and shrubs and remove invasive species. Tools and trees are provided. Suitable for all ages. To register, visit www.solv.org or call Brett at 503-844-9571 ext. 332. *SOLV*

Tree planting at Goat Island

9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 7
Help restore critical habitat for plants and wildlife at this natural area in Gladstone. Plant native trees and shrubs and remove invasive species. Tools and trees are provided. Suitable for all ages. Advance registration required; visit www.solv.org or call Brett at 503-844-9571 ext. 332. *SOLV*


Tree planting at Rinearson Creek

9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 14
Help restore critical habitat for plants and wildlife at this natural area in Gladstone. Plant native trees and shrubs and remove invasive species. Tools and trees are provided. Suitable for all ages. Advance registration required; visit www.solv.org or call Brett at 503-844-9571 ext. 332. *SOLV*

Magnificent moss and lovely lichen

10 to 11:30 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 21
Join a park naturalist for a guided nature hike to explore the forest and stream ecosystems and natural history at Tryon Creek State Natural Area. All ages welcome; parents must accompany kids. Free. Advance registration not required for groups smaller than 10 people. For more information, call 503-636-9886 ext. 225. *Tryon Creek State Natural Area*

Johnson Creek watershed native planting

10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 21
Plant native species along Bear Creek, an important tributary of Johnson Creek in Gresham to help make the watershed a healthier place for native fish and wildlife. Families are welcome. Free. For more information, call Melanie at 503-618-2740 *City of Gresham, Watershed Management Division*  by arrangement

Restoration site monitoring training

9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Feb. 21
Build your resume as you volunteer to monitor restoration sites throughout the district. The training is for people who are interested in a long-term volunteer position. Learn to identify common native and non-native plant species found in local parks as well as the basic protocols involved with surveying restoration sites. Meet at the interpretive center. Refreshments are provided. To register, call 503-629-6305. *Tualatin Hills Park and Recreation District*

Tree planting at Beaver Creek

9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 21
Help restore critical habitat for plants and wildlife at this natural area in Troutdale. Plant native trees and shrubs and remove invasive species. Tools and trees are provided. Suitable for all

ages. To register, visit www.solv.org or call Brett at 503-844-9571 ext. 332. *SOLV*

Tree planting at Trillium Creek


9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 21
Help restore critical habitat for plants and wildlife at this natural area in Southwest Portland. Plant native trees and shrubs and remove invasive species. Tools and trees are provided. Suitable for all ages. To register, visit www.solv.org or call Brett at 503-844-9571 ext. 332. *SOLV*

Winter paddle at Smith and Bybee

noon to 4 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 22
Explore this 2,000-acre wetland from the water. Bring your own kayak or canoe and personal flotation device. 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 Troy at 503-249-0482. *Friends of Smith and Bybee Lakes*

Mammals of Portland


7 to 9:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 25
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? 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, slides, stuffed specimens and even some scat 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 per person required in advance; call 503-797-1850 option 4. *Metro* 



Volunteer at Gotter Prairie

C. Bruce Forster photo

Story and stroll at Tryon Creek: Diary of a worm

1 to 2 p.m. Friday, Feb. 27
Join a park naturalist for nature story time and a stroll through the park. This program is geared toward families with children ages 3-6, but all are welcome. Free. For more information, call 503-636-9886 ext. 225. *Tryon Creek State Natural Area*  by arrangement

Tree planting at Carter Creek

9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 28
Help restore critical habitat for plants and wildlife at this natural area in Lake Oswego. Plant native trees and shrubs and remove invasive species. Tools and trees are provided. Suitable for all ages. To register, visit www.solv.org or call Brett at 503-844-9571 ext. 332. SOLV

Winter calendar at a glance

WEEKLY

Wednesdays

Lunch with the birds at Jackson Bottom, pg. 10

Saturdays

Friends of Trees planting and restoration days, pg. 10

Sundays

Lunch with the birds at Jackson Bottom, pg. 10

DECEMBER

- 6 Backyard botany and beyond, pg. 10
- 6 Clackamas watershed restoration, pg. 10
- 6 Keller Woodlands work days, pg. 10
- 6 Naturescaping basics, pg. 10
- 6 Tree plantings at Tryon Creek, pg. 10
- 13 Backyard botany and beyond, pg. 10

- 13 Columbia Slough stewardship Saturdays, pg. 10
- 13 Native Plant Center volunteer Saturdays, pg. 10
- 13 Powell Butte work days, pg. 10
- 13 Terwilliger restoration work days, pg. 10
- 17 Eastbank Esplanade to Oaks Bottom walk, pg. 10
- 19 Solstice celebration at Tryon Creek, pg. 11
- 20 Backyard botany and beyond, pg. 10
- 20 Errol Heights Wetlands work day, pg. 11
- 20 George Himes Park work days, pg. 11
- 21 Oaks Bottom Wildlife Refuge walk, pg. 11
- 27 Holiday paddle at Smith and Bybee Wetlands, pg. 11
- 27 Marquam Nature Park work days, pg. 11
- 27 Rosemont Bluff work days, pg. 11
- 28 Urban ethnobotany explorations, pg. 11

JANUARY

- 2 Story and stroll at Tryon Creek: Garbage monster, pg. 11
- 3 Keller Woodlands work days, pg. 10
- 4 Sunday at two at Tryon Creek: The art of owling, pg. 11
- 9 Story and stroll at Tryon Creek: Busy beavers, pg. 11
- 10 Backyard botany and beyond, pg. 10
- 10 Clackamas watershed restoration, pg. 10
- 10 Columbia Slough stewardship Saturdays, pg. 10
- 10 Native Plant Center volunteer Saturdays, pg. 10
- 10 Powell Butte work days, pg. 10
- 10 Saturday guided nature hike: Cones, cones, cones, pg. 11
- 10 Terwilliger restoration work days, pg. 10
- 17 Backyard botany and beyond, pg. 10
- 17 Birding at Wapato Greenway, pg. 12
- 17 Errol Heights Wetlands work day, pg. 11
- 17 George Himes Park work days, pg. 11
- 17 Ivy removal at Fanno Creek Greenway Trail, pg. 11
- 17 Mulching native plants at Rosa Park, pg. 12
- 21 Ducks 101: Waterfowl identification class, pg. 12
- 24 Backyard botany and beyond, pg. 10
- 24 Native Plant Center volunteer Saturdays, pg. 10
- 24 Rosemont Bluff work days, pg. 11
- 24 Waterfowl walks at Greenway Park, pg. 12
- 24 Winter twig identification, pg. 12

- 25 Midwinter paddle at Smith and Bybee Wetlands, pg. 12
- 31 Marquam Nature Park work days, pg. 11

FEBRUARY

- 1 Oregon conservation strategy, pg. 12
- 4 Raptor identification class, pg. 12
- 6 Story and stroll at Tryon Creek: Owl moon, pg. 12
- 7 Clackamas watershed restoration, pg. 10
- 7 Keller Woodlands work days, pg. 10
- 7 Native Plant Center volunteer Saturdays, pg. 10
- 7 North Portland oak groves walk, pg. 13
- 7 Raptor road trip, pg. 9
- 7 Tree planting at Beacon Hill Wetland, pg. 13
- 7 Tree planting at Beacon Hill Wetland, pg. 13
- 7 Tree planting at Goat Island, pg. 13
- 14 Columbia Slough stewardship Saturdays, pg. 10
- 14 Powell Butte work days, pg. 10
- 14 Terwilliger restoration work days, pg. 10
- 14 Tree planting at Rinearson Creek, pg. 13
- 14 Tree plantings at Tryon Creek, pg. 10
- 21 Errol Heights Wetlands work day, pg. 11
- 21 George Himes Park work days, pg. 11
- 21 Johnson Creek watershed native planting, pg. 13
- 21 Magnificent moss and lovely lichen, pg. 13
- 21 Native Plant Center volunteer Saturdays, pg. 10
- 21 Restoration site monitoring training, pg. 13
- 21 Tree planting at Beaver Creek, pg. 13
- 21 Tree planting at Trillium Creek, pg. 13
- 21 Waterfowl walks at Greenway Park, pg. 12
- 22 Winter paddle at Smith and Bybee Wetlands, pg. 13
- 25 Mammals of Portland, pg. 13
- 27 Story and stroll at Tryon Creek: Diary of a worm, pg. 14
- 28 Marquam Nature Park work days, pg. 11
- 28 Rosemont Bluff work days, pg. 11
- 28 Tree planting at Carter Creek, pg. 14
- 28 Tree plantings at Tryon Creek, pg. 10

Annual passes for Metro parks available now

Purchase your 2009 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 at Oxbow 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.oregonmetro.gov/parks or call 503-665-4995 to order by phone.

Metro honors Oregon State Parks passes for disabled veterans; call 503-665-4995 for more information.



Jerome Hart photo

You're invited

There are so many great things to do in the Portland metropolitan area that they won't all fit on these pages. Check out Metro's online calendar for hundreds of nature activities, volunteer ventures, tours, pedals, walks, workshops, seminars and public meetings. Visit www.oregonmetro.gov/calendar.

Places to go

Metro's parks offer wildlife watching, hiking, boating, camping, fishing and more. Visit www.oregonmetro.gov/parks or call 503-797-1850 to get directions and park information, reserve a picnic shelter or plan a field trip.

Sustainable living

Make the region greener at home, in your garden and on the road. Visit www.oregonmetro.gov/sustainableliving for guides to biking, walking, reducing waste, green cleaning and gardening with nature.

Getting rid of stuff

Discover everything you need to know about recycling, composting and disposing of garbage and hazardous waste on Metro's web site. Find your hauler, become a recycling star and help keep your neighborhood clean. Call Metro Recycling Information at 503-234-3000.

Volunteer

As a Metro volunteer, you will be directly involved in improving and protecting the region's great places for people and wildlife now and in the future. Find volunteer stories and opportunities at www.oregonmetro.gov/volunteer.

Participate

Help shape the future of the region by contributing your ideas on land, transportation, recycling, parks, trails and how we grow. Visit www.oregonmetro.gov/participate for public comment opportunities, meeting schedules and more.

Featured places

Blue Lake Regional Park

20500 NE Marine Drive, Fairview
503-665-4995

Oxbow Regional Park

3010 SE Oxbow Parkway, east of Gresham
503-663-4708

Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area

5300 N. Marine Drive, Portland
503-797-1850

Mount Talbert Nature Park

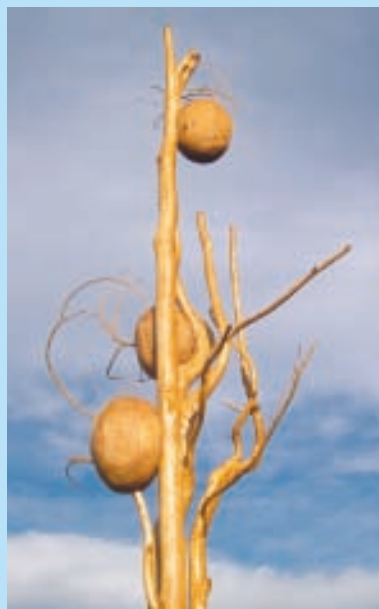
10695 SE Mather Road, Clackamas
503-794-8041

Metro's natural techniques garden

6700 SE 57th Ave., Portland
503-234-3000

Oregon Zoo

4001 SW Canyon Road, Portland
www.oregonzoo.org



Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area features environmental art

Seven sculpted wooden poles inspired by naturally occurring snag trees were designed to provide perches and nesting sites for swallows, purple martins, bats, owls and other wildlife.

Metro | People places. Open spaces.

Clean air and clean water do not stop at city limits or county lines. Neither does the need for jobs, a thriving economy and good transportation choices for people and businesses in our region. Voters have asked Metro to help with the challenges that cross those lines and affect the 25 cities and three counties in the Portland metropolitan area.

A regional approach simply makes sense when it comes to protecting open space, caring for parks, planning for the best use of land, managing garbage disposal and increasing recycling. Metro oversees world-class facilities such as the Oregon Zoo, which contributes to conservation and education, and the Oregon Convention Center, which benefits the region's economy.

Metro's web site

www.oregonmetro.gov



Metro Council

From left: Carl Hosticka, district 3; Rod Park, district 1; Kathryn Harrington, district 4; David Bragdon, Council President; Carlotta Collette, district 2; Robert Liberty, district 6; Rex Burkholder, district 5

Auditor

Suzanne Flynn

On the cover

Grand fir branch and volunteer planter; photos by C. Bruce Forster

Illustrations by

Eben Dickinson and Antonia Manda

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

Bus and MAX information:

503-238-RIDE (7433)

To be added to the GreenScene mailing list or to make any changes, call 503-797-1850 option 4.



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Visit Metro's web site for nature guides,
garden tips, recycling information, biking
and walking maps, sustainable living
tools, volunteer opportunities and more.