

SPRING 2009

GreenScene



Your spring guide
to great places and
green living

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Metro | *People places. Open spaces.*

Natural areas highlights



The Tualatin River's Gotter Prairie is a remnant of the wet prairies that once were common throughout the Willamette Valley. These prairie plants need long, wet spring weather to flourish and burst with blooms.

C. Bruce Forster photo

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



Watch online



Watch a video about efforts to restore oak woodlands and other rare habitats at natural areas throughout the region using the native plants and seeds sorted and grown by volunteers at Metro's Native Plant Center.

www.oregonmetro.gov/naturalareas



NarrativeLab, Inc. photo

Sneak preview tour at Gotter Prairie

10 a.m. to noon Saturday, May 2

Oregon's wet prairies boast incomparable spring blooms of camas, popcorn flower and lupine. In 2007, Metro purchased 40 additional acres at Gotter Prairie with funds from the voter-approved natural areas bond measure. Council President David Bragdon, Metro Councilor Kathryn Harrington and Washington County Chair Tom Brian will co-host this sneak preview tour to highlight the partnerships that made protection of this unique prairie habitat possible.

Travel back in time to a landscape that once flourished throughout the Northern Willamette Valley. The trip is timed with hopes of viewing a beautiful blue "sea" of camas lilies. Metro scientist Curt Zonick will explain how fire, seasonal flooding and other restoration and management techniques are used to support native plants and wildlife at the prairie. Metro naturalist James Davis will help visitors see and hear the wildlife that has benefitted from restoration. Tualatin Riverkeepers will describe how its members and community volunteers are helping to expand rare habitats and improve water quality in the Tualatin basin.



Lupine

C. Bruce Forster photo

Suitable for adults and children 10 and older. Free. Registration required two weeks in advance; call 503-797-1850 option 4. Site directions sent upon registration.

Voter-approved funds are protecting natural areas and improving parks in your community

Metro's 2006 natural areas bond measure included \$44 million for more than 100 local projects that improve water quality, protect wildlife habitat and provide access to nature where people live, work and play. Funds are provided directly to local cities, counties and park districts to stretch local investments and spur partnerships. Nearly a quarter of these local projects have already been completed – here are a few highlights. For the entire list, visit www.oregonmetro.gov/naturalareas.



Former Mayor Rob Drake (left) and Metro Council President David Bragdon complete a restoration project at Beaverton's Sexton Mountain Reservoir.

Beaverton

The City of Beaverton matched funds from Metro's natural areas bond measure with money from the city's stormwater fund to restore a section of Beaverton Creek at the Cedar Hills Crossing Mall. Retaining walls planted with native vegetation helped re-establish the creek channel. Beaverton Creek flows into Rock Creek, a tributary of the Tualatin River. Stabilization of the banks will improve water quality and habitat value for local wildlife.

Beaverton also completed a project in fall 2008 to remove invasive species, install an irrigation system and plant native trees and shrubs at the Sexton Mountain Reservoir. The native plantings will reduce erosion and runoff into South Johnson Creek, Hiteon Creek and Summer Creek and improve wildlife habitat.

Clackamas County

The county's park department has completed several projects that improve river access for residents. On the Clackamas River, the new acquisition of 2 acres at Billy Goat Island provides park access where there previously was none. This additional land creates a 20-acre park that will be developed for visitors to use this summer.

Clackamas County also acquired 17 acres along the Molalla River in Canby at Knight's Bridge in 2008 and has already improved the site to provide river access. The area now has a gravel parking lot and portable restrooms; future improvements may include the addition of trails and picnic areas.

Lake Oswego

Lake Oswego used its local funds in 2008 to purchase the only developed parcel within the city's 49-acre Iron Mountain Park. The house will be removed and the area restored. A system of trails offers visitors opportunities for wildlife viewing at the wetlands and throughout this natural area located in the heart of Lake Oswego.



With the help of Metro bond funds, residents are gaining access to enjoy all that the Clackamas River has to offer. Rob Crouch shows why the river is well-loved for its steelhead fishing.

David Moskowitz photo

Oregon City

Oregon City purchased a 9-acre property near the high school and Glen Oak Road, widely recognized by local residents as the highest priority for park land acquisition. The property has excellent connections to surrounding neighborhoods, Oregon City High School and Clackamas Community College. Funding for the nearly \$2 million acquisition came from the Metro bond measure and local funds, primarily park system development charges.



Oregon City's new parkland near the high school and Glen Oak Road connects to surrounding neighborhoods.

Washington County – Cedar Mill area

Tualatin Hills Park and Recreation District added an important 1-acre parcel to Jordan Park and Jackie Husen Park, two existing parks located next to each other in the Cedar Mill area of unincorporated Washington County. The bond measure will fund the design and development of the park improvements. The additional acre allows for more trails and play fields. Construction of the improvements will begin later this year.

West Linn

Located along a scenic stretch of the Willamette River, Mary S. Young Park in West Linn offers visitors a peaceful place to enjoy the river or walk the park's miles of forested trails. Last spring the city completed construction of a new restroom at the park with a combination of local park funds, Metro bond measure funds and a grant from the Land and Water Conservation Fund through Oregon State Parks.



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. Pocket-sized and bound for easy carrying, this colorful guide includes detailed maps and route descriptions to help you discover the region’s rich history and varied landscapes while you enjoy the benefits of walking.

The 50 walking route maps and descriptions are also featured on Metro’s web site to view and print individually along with more information and resources that will keep you walking!

- Learn about walking events and activities.
- Link to more local walking maps.
- Map your own path and share favorite routes with friends and family.
- Get active with walking clubs and organizations in your community.

www.oregonmetro.gov/walk



Wilsonville Memorial Park walk

The 126-acre Memorial Park in Wilsonville encompasses the best of Oregon with its people-centered Murase Plaza, community garden on Kolbe Lane, and forested natural areas adjacent to Boeckman Creek and Willamette River frontage. Begin at Murase Plaza at Wilsonville Road and Memorial Drive. This upper portion of Memorial Park transitions between the developed, urban areas near Wilsonville Road and the wooded, natural character of the lower park.

From the plaza, head south on the trail past the children’s play area and historic barn. As you descend the trail, Boeckman Creek is to the east. Fish barriers have been removed from the creek and its banks restored with native vegetation. After passing the lower barn, join the Central Loop Trail by turning left toward the off-leash dog area. Here, access undeveloped park areas including open meadows and primitive trails along the Willamette River and Boeckman Creek. Continue on the Central Loop Trail past two picnic shelters and around the athletic fields or walk through the wooded area along the Willamette to the public boat dock.

Other park facilities include a skatepark, basketball courts, tennis courts, playgrounds and a sand volleyball court. Memorial Park is also home to a community garden, east of Murase Plaza along Kolbe Lane. For a longer walk, take any of the trails off the Central Loop Trail into less developed natural areas. Many trails have level grades and are ADA accessible.



In 2006, Wilsonville unveiled the 22-acre Murase Plaza, named to honor Robert Murase (muir-ah-zee), a landscape architect whose vision was to create connections among citizens through natural and architectural beauty. Murase Plaza mixes water play, play structures and formal plantings with apple and walnut orchards to reflect the land’s days as a farm. Murase also designed Beaverton’s Nike World Headquarters and the Japanese American Historical Plaza at Portland’s Waterfront Park.

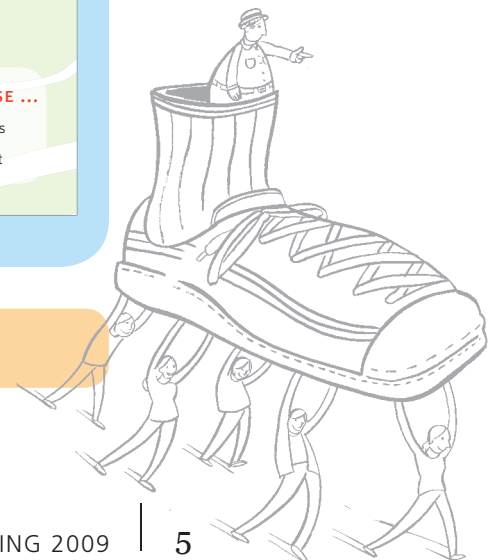
Getting there

South Metro Area Regional Transit (SMART) is a convenient and easy way to travel within Wilsonville and outlying areas such as Canby, Salem and the south end of Portland. SMART services are free within the city of Wilsonville. Memorial Park is served by routes 4 and 2X. The bus stop is directly across the street from the entrance to the park. For more information about using SMART including how to connect to TriMet services, visit www.ridesmart.com.

Consider using transit to build walking into your daily activities. Every Walk There! route begins and ends near a bus or MAX stop. Use TriMet's online Trip Planner to plan your trip. TransitTracker™ lets you know exactly when your ride is coming. Call 503-238-RIDE (7433) or visit www.trimet.org. For Vancouver and Clark County, Wash., walks call C-TRAN at 360-695-0123 or visit www.c-tran.com.



3.4 miles :: 7,172 steps :: difficulty :: 45.301, -122.758





New Gardens of Natural Delights™ tour and seminar programs

Fresh from its record-breaking 10th anniversary in 2008, Metro's popular home garden tour is debuting a new look. This year's program features four mini-tours over three months. Each event will showcase three organic home gardens plus a public demonstration garden with seminars and free resources. With tour sites grouped closer together, visitors can enjoy more time with garden hosts, spend less time driving and discover natural gardening education opportunities close to home.

Gardens of Natural Delights tour: Hillsboro area noon to 4 p.m. Sunday, May 3

See incredible edibles, a naturescape and a small four-season blossom bonanza among the home gardens of Charlene and Richard Murdock-White, John and Dresden Skees-Gregory, and Corrine Gosnell. Enjoy tours and seminars on composting and limited-mobility organic gardening at the Master Gardeners' Washington County Fair Complex Demonstration Garden. Garden locations provided with registration. *Registration opens 8:30 a.m. Monday, March 23.*

Upcoming tours

June 13 | Gresham – registration opens 8:30 a.m. Monday, May 4

June 28 | Oregon City – registration opens 8:30 a.m. Monday, May 18

July 19 | Lake Oswego – registration opens 8:30 a.m. Monday, June 8

To register for garden tours or for more information, call Metro Recycling Information at **503-234-3000**.

NATURAL GARDENING

Grow green

Grow a natural garden to protect the ones you love



Kent Derek photo

You can grow a garden that's not only beautiful and abundant, but also safe for children, pets, forests and streams. Join your many neighbors who care for their yards without pesticides, amend their soil naturally with compost and choose native plants. With organic gardening, you'll also taste the delicious difference when harvesting homegrown foods.

Learning gardens show the way

In every corner of the region you'll find a Metro demonstration garden to help you learn safe, natural yard care techniques. The Blue Lake Natural Discovery Garden is open daily and full of ideas for gardening with children and protecting wildlife. In Southeast Portland, the Natural Techniques Demonstration Garden is also open daily and features flower displays, a rain garden, edibles and more. At the Oregon Zoo, don't miss the new Backyard Makeover exhibit, a wildlife-welcoming garden between the Insect Zoo and Lorikeet Landing. And starting in July, you can see the beautiful demonstration garden at the region's newest nature park – Cooper Mountain in Beaverton.

Pledge to make your home and garden pesticide-free

Ready to show harmful chemicals the door? Make the "pesticide-free" pledge for your home and garden and receive a beautiful, long-lasting yard sign that lets the world know. Visit www.oregonmetro.gov/ garden for details, or call 503-234-3000. Good while supplies last.

CALENDAR

Oregon Zoo Backyard Makeover spring kickoff

11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, April 4 and 5

Enjoy hands-on make-and-take activities for all ages. Get tips from master gardeners to give your yard a nature-friendly beauty makeover. Located between the Insect Zoo and Lorikeet Landing. Free with zoo admission. *Registration not required.*

Organic soils and compost

10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, April 11

From 10 to 11 a.m., hear a presentation on how to make great compost and improve your soil with all-organic methods and amendments. From 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., practice making a compost pile and applying organic fertilizers as a hands-on activity. Meet at Metro's Natural Techniques Demonstration Garden, 6800 SE 57th Ave. in Portland. Free, including complimentary bag of compost while supplies last. *Registration not required.*

Grow your own organic summer veggies

10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, May 9

It's time to plant summer veggies! From 10 to 11 a.m., learn which vegetables to plant, where to put them in the ground and how to grow them organically. From 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., you'll practice planting seeds and seedlings. Meet at Metro's Natural Techniques Demonstration Garden, 6800 SE 57th Ave. in Portland. Free, including veggie seedling while supplies last. *Registration not required.*

NATURAL GARDENING RESOURCES FROM METRO

\$5-off coupons for natural gardening supplies

Attend a Metro gardening program and get a coupon redeemable at participating stores regionwide.

Free publications online and on paper

Get a copy of "Natural gardening," "Grow smart, grow safe," "Make your own compost" and more.

Free group presentations and event exhibiting

Schedule a Metro educator to lead a gardening presentation for your group or to host an exhibit at your community event.

Compost bins for sale

Get your own Earth Machine compost bin for just \$39 (an \$80 value) at the MetroPaint Swan Island store, 4825 N. Basin Ave. in Portland.

Looking for natural gardening resources close to home?

A list of products, workshops and information in your neighborhood is available at Metro's web site.

www.oregonmetro.gov/garden



VOLUNTEERING

Sharing a lifelong passion for birds

By Metro volunteer Anastacia Libokmeto



Patty Newland fell in love with birds at 12 years old. She remembers the moment vividly. There in front of her, in the ordinary backyard of her suburban family home near Detroit, Michigan, perched one of the most beautiful birds she had ever seen – a cedar waxwing.

She can still recall every detail of the bird. "Its feathers looked more like fur than feathers, and its peaked head, black mask and dotted wings made it look so exotic," she says. "I thought that it must be someone's escaped pet bird, so I tried to get it to land on my outstretched finger. It didn't, but I loved it anyway."

Not long afterward, she stumbled upon another remarkable bird. As she truded through the underbrush in a small wood near her home, she suddenly saw it "huddled on the ground" near her foot. Patty and the bird looked at each other for what seemed to her a long time, though it may only have been seconds. In that brief moment, she memorized as many of the bird's features as she could. Slowly and carefully, not wanting to scare the animal away, she retreated. Then she rushed all the way home and hurried down to the basement where she knew her grandmother's bird guide would be. It was a bit overwhelming, she says, poring through that book and trying to find her bird without knowing its name. But her hard work paid off. Suddenly, there they were – all of the features she had memorized and still remembers to this day. "Implausibly large eyes," she recalls. "A very long bill, strange dark markings on its head, and perfect protective coloration in shades of tan to dark brown." In other words, an American woodcock.

Even these days, though she is busy with a career as a social worker, Patty still finds time to get out and experience the natural world. The difference is she now finds that the best way to fuel her passion for birds and animals is by sharing her knowledge with others. After seeing an advertisement seeking new volunteers, Patty jumped at the chance to help with Metro's environmental education programs. She completed Metro's Nature University training classes and soon began leading groups of adults and children along nature trails and on bird walks. For the next four years, she helped fellow bird-watchers identify raptors during the winter birding season on Sauvie Island and led visitors on walks through Oxbow Regional Park's ancient forest. But some of her most rewarding experiences have occurred while showing groups of elementary school children how to identify and track animals on the trail.

One time Patty was working with a group of second-graders when a deer came zipping by. "They were so excited," she recalls. "We had been looking at tracks down on the sand by the Sandy River ... and I said, 'Well, we can either play the game or we could actually try to follow the deer.' Their unanimous answer, of course: 'Follow the deer!'"

Patty and the kids ended up tracking the deer for over a half mile. "We'd get to an intersection in the path and they'd all look at it and I'd say, 'Which way did it go?' and they'd go, 'That way!' They'll remember that for all of their lives."

Often, Patty says, the adults on her bird-watching tours get just as excited as those second-graders. "Watching them light up seeing a deer for the first time or (seeing) an osprey get a fish or the salmon running ... their eyes just light up and they're all excited. That's what I do it for. Plus it just gets me outside and I love being out in nature – and when you're in nature, good things happen."


Join Patty and other expert birders and learn to interpret the language of the birds. See calendar listings for April 18.

Learn about volunteer opportunities at Metro.

www.oregonmetro.gov/volunteer

Spring calendar

Lunch with the birds at Jackson Bottom

noon to 1 p.m. every Wednesday through June 24
Spend the lunch hour learning to identify the waterfowl and other birds that show up at the preserve. 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 503-681-6278. *Jackson Bottom Wetlands Preserve* 


Forest Park invasive plant removal

8:45 a.m. to noon every first and third Saturday
Join the No Ivy League for ivy and invasive plant removal. Meet at field headquarters near the Lower Macleay trailhead, 2960 NW Upshur in Portland before 8:45 a.m. Gloves and tools provided. For more information, call 503-823-9423. *Portland Parks and Recreation*

Keller Woodlands restoration

9 a.m. to noon every first Saturday
Join the West Willamette Restoration Partnership for a morning of urban forest restoration. The Marquam Trail runs through this natural area that is part of the 40-Mile Loop Trail. Meet at the pull-out on Terwilliger Boulevard south of Southwest Bancroft Terrace and north of Southwest Westwood Drive. Snacks, gloves and tools provided. To register, call 503-699-9825. *Three Rivers Land Conservancy*

Sunday with the birds at Jackson Bottom

noon to 1 p.m. first and third Sundays
Spend a Sunday afternoon learning to identify the waterfowl and other birds that show up at the preserve. 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 503-681-6278. *Jackson Bottom Wetlands Preserve* 

Terwilliger wildlands restoration

9 a.m. to noon every second Saturday
Join Portland Parks and Recreation, the Friends of Terwilliger, and the West Willamette Restoration Partnership in removing invasive non-native species. Meet at the restrooms on Southwest Terwilliger and Hamilton. For more info, call 503-823-9423. *Portland Parks and Recreation* by arrangement 

Friends of Trees planting days

9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays, March 14 and 21
Join members of your community to help plant street and yard trees. No experience necessary; gloves, tools and guidance provided. For locations and directions, call 503-284-8733. Advanced registration not required for groups fewer than 10 people. For groups of 10 or more, call 503-282-8846 ext. 12. *Friends of Trees*




Red-winged blackbird Jim Cruce photo

Friends of Trees natural area

restoration
9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays, March 14 and 21
Join Friends of Trees and others in your community to help with vital restoration work at urban natural areas. No experience necessary; gloves, tools and guidance provided. For planting day locations and directions, call 503-284-8733. Advanced registration not required for groups fewer than 10 people. For groups of 10 or more, call 503-282-8846 ext. 12. *Friends of Trees*


Naturescaping: Site planning 1

1 to 5 p.m. Sunday, March 15
An extension of naturescaping basics, this workshop gives participants experience with the steps involved in planning a landscape or project. Learn how to map your property, assess your garden style and needs and work on a group design scenario. Participants must have attended Naturescaping basics. Meet at the Historic Kenton Firehouse, 2209 N. Schofield in Portland. Advance registration required; visit www.emswcd.org. *East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District*  by arrangement

Sauvie Island invasive weed workshop

7 to 9 p.m. Wednesday, March 18
Learn about the new Early Detection/Rapid Response invasive weed program offered by West Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District. You'll learn how to identify the worst invasive plants, how to control them and how to access the technical/financial assistance offered through the district. Meet at the Sauvie Island Grange. *West Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District*

Bird watching basics for beginners

7 to 9:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 18
Metro naturalist James Davis has been getting beginning bird watchers off to a good start for 25 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 required in advance; call 503-797-1850 option 4. *Metro* 

Let's get growing 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday, March 19

Healthy, living soil is the foundation of a productive garden. Learn how to build your soil and get your garden growing this spring. Tips for maximizing your bounty, garden planning and season extension methods also presented. Meet at the Oregon Tilth demonstration garden at Luscher



wildlife watching



bicycling



volunteering



nature discoveries




paddling



natural gardening



wheelchair accessible

Farm. Registration and payment of \$28 per person or \$25 for Lake Oswego residents and Oregon Tilth members required in advance; call 503-675-2549. *Oregon Tilth*  by arrangement


George Himes Park restoration

9 a.m. to noon every third Saturday

Join Portland Parks and Recreation, the West Willamette Restoration Partnership, and neighbors for invasive plant removal and other restoration tasks. Meet at Southwest Terwilliger and Nebraska. Bring drinking water and gloves. For more information, call 503-823-9423. *Portland Parks and Recreation*

Spring bird walk at Smith and Bybee Wetlands


9 to 11:30 a.m. Saturdays, March 21, April 11 and May 30

Spring brings more than 25 different songbirds to join the resident birds at Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area. April and May are the peak of migration with nesting in high gear during May and June. The birding action will be lively and noisy with singing birds everywhere. Learn to identify birds by sight and song. Meet Metro naturalist and expert birder James Davis in the parking lot on North Marine Drive. Bring binoculars or borrow a pair of ours. Suitable for adults and children 10 and older. Free. Advance registration required; call 503-797-1850 option 4. *Metro* 

Native Plant Center volunteer ventures

9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays, March 21, April 4 and 18, May 2 and 16

Celebrate spring at Metro's Native Plant Center in Tualatin and discover the propagation of sensitive native species to support regional restoration projects. Volunteers will help plant native seeds and bulbs into pots and field beds, replant seedlings grown from seed collected at Metro's natural areas, maintain native seed grow-out beds, learn

propagation and composting skills, and work with local native herbaceous species from wetland, forest and prairie habitats. This venture is family-friendly; prior gardening experience not required. Gloves, tools, water and a snack provided. Advanced registration required; call 503-701-7554 or send e-mail to npcvol@oregonmetro.gov. *Metro* 

Forest Park Day of Stewardship

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

This community-wide volunteer event is held twice a year with the spring event focused on ecological restoration projects, removing non-native invasive species and planting native trees and shrubs. All are welcome; no previous experience required. Advance registration required; send e-mail to stewardship@forestparkconservancy.org. *Forest Park Conservancy*

StreamTeam bird and wildlife monitoring

9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, March 21

Do you like to be where the wild things are? Can you identify birds by sight and sound? Join the StreamTeam's wildlife monitoring program to collect data on avian populations in Clark County. For more information, call 360-992-8585. *Clark Public Utilities*

Exploring urban green by bike

9:30 a.m. to noon Saturday, March 21

Jim Labbe with Audubon Society of Portland and Steve Fancher with the Gresham Environmental Services lead this morning bike tour of green streets, rain gardens and recently enhanced natural areas in Troutdale, North Gresham and Fairview. Visit sites that exemplify efforts to improve water quality, enhance wildlife habitat, and create space for nature. Tour the completed section of the Gresham-Fairview Trail. Helmets required. Advanced registration required; visit www.audubonportland.org or call 503-292-6855 x122. *Audubon Society of Portland*

Columbia Slough discovery paddle trip

10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, March 21

Pack a lunch and meet at Kelley Point Park for an adventure down the Columbia Slough to Smith and Bybee Wetlands. A limited number of Willamette Riverkeeper canoes are available for use. Prior paddling experience is encouraged but not required. Expect a short portage. Advance registration required; call 503-223-6418. *Willamette Riverkeeper*

Smith and Bybee spring equinox paddle

noon to 4 p.m. Saturday, March 21

Traveling by canoe or kayak is the best way to explore Smith and Bybee Wetlands in North Portland. Watch for bald eagles, great blue herons and beaver lodges. Bring your own canoe or kayak, binoculars, water and snacks. Personal flotation devices required. Meet at the canoe/kayak launch at the natural area off North Marine Drive. Free. Advanced registration required; call Dale Svart at 503-285-3084. *Friends of Smith and Bybee Lakes*


Midland pesticide-free park work parties

10 a.m. to noon Sundays, March 22, April 26 and May 24

Midland is one of Portland's newest pesticide-free parks. Help replace the use of pesticides with people power by weeding and mulching. Snacks, gloves and tools provided. Meet at Midland Park, Southeast 122nd and Morrison in Portland. For more information, call 503-423-7549. *Northwest Coalition for Alternatives to Pesticides*


World Water Day

11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Sunday, March 22
Celebrate the Tryon Creek watershed and observe World Water Day. From 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. embark on a 4.5-mile Hydro Hike to explore Tryon Creek. From 1 to 2 p.m. enjoy kid-friendly water activities in the classroom. Stay for the 2 p.m. talk led by a representative of the Portland Water Bureau about the state of water around the world and in your backyard. Free. Registration not required. For more information or to volunteer, call 503-636-9886. *Tryon Creek State Natural Area* 

Certified Interpretive Guide training


8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, March 24-27

As an interpreter, you connect the minds and hearts of guests to the beauty of nature and the mysteries of history. The National Association for Interpretation offers a professional certification program. Oregon State Parks offers an opportunity to learn the basics of interpretation in exchange for preparing and leading 20 annual hours of interpretive and educational programs within the park. Certification is \$80 for members of NAI, \$130 for non-members or free without certification in exchange for your volunteer hours. For more information, call 503-636-9886 ext. 225 or 222. *Tryon Creek State Natural Area* 

Marquam Nature Park restoration

9 a.m. to noon Saturday, March 28 and every last Saturday

Join the West Willamette Restoration Partnership at the highest point in Portland and enjoy your Saturday morning working outside while meeting others in your community. Meet at Council Crest Park's circle drive near the dog park. Snacks, gloves, and tools provided. To register, call 503-699-9825. *Three Rivers Land Conservancy*


 **Hillside pesticide-free park work parties**

10 a.m. to noon Saturdays, March 28, April 25 and May 23

Hillside is one of Portland's newest pesticide-free parks. Help replace the use of pesticides with people power by weeding and mulching. Snacks, gloves and tools provided. Meet at Hillside Park, 653 NW Culpepper Terrace in Portland. For more information, call 503-423-7549. *Northwest Coalition for Alternatives to Pesticides*


 **Bear Creek native planting day**

10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, March 28

Help plant along Bear Creek, an important tributary of Johnson Creek. Install native plants along the creek as part of a larger effort to make the Johnson Creek watershed a healthier place for native fish and wildlife. For more information, call 503-618-2740. *City of Gresham*  by arrangement

 **Spring birds identification class**

7 to 9:30 p.m. Thursday, April 2

Spring brings thousands of migrating birds to our region; some stay to nest and others pass through. No April foolin' here. 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 may seem like a confusing variety of birds to 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 required in advance; call 503-797-1850 option 4. *Metro* 

Experience wildlife from the water – boats provided



Ready to explore the natural wonders of the Smith and Bybee Wetlands but don't have a boat? We've got you covered!

Let NW Discoveries provide the boat, paddle and personal flotation device while Metro naturalist James Davis provides a guided tour highlighting the local wildlife and natural history of the wetlands. Choose from three paddle options – canoe, canoe and kayak, or bimiran (two canoes lashed together with 2 x 6 boards) – and tour lengths from 1 to 3 hours. Ideal for families, couples or the solo paddler. For more information, see calendar listings for April 4 and May 16. New to paddling? Start out right with "Kayaking basics for first timers and beginners" offered at Smith and Bybee Wetlands by NW Discoveries. See calendar listings for April 4.

 **Smith and Bybee Wetlands kayak tour**

8:30 to 11:30 a.m. Saturday, April 4

Have you always wanted to go paddling on Smith and Bybee wetlands but don't have a boat? Let NW Discoveries provide the boat, paddle and personal flotation device for this three-hour kayak adventure. Learn about local wildlife and the natural history of the wetlands from Metro naturalist James Davis. Some kayaking experience recommended. Suitable for adults and youth age 14 and up. Participants age 14-17 must be accompanied by an adult. All participants will have a solo kayak. A couple of tandem kayaks are available if requested by a pair of paddlers. Meet at the Smith and Bybee canoe launch. Registration and payment of \$25 per person required two weeks in advance; call 503-797-1850 option 4. *Metro*

 **Kayaking basics for beginners**

noon to 2:30 p.m. Saturday, April 4

New to kayaking? Let NW Discoveries prepare you in kayaking basics at beautiful Smith and Bybee Wetlands. Boat, paddle and personal flotation device provided. Suitable for adults and youth age 14 and up. Participants age 14-17 must be accompanied by an adult. Meet at the Smith and Bybee canoe launch. Registration and payment of \$25 per person required two weeks in advance; call 503-797-1850 option 4. *Metro*

 **Emerging wild greens of spring**

9 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 4

Join wild food expert John Kallas and traverse a diversity of habitats exploring the bounty of

spring plants created by the winter rains around Hoyt Arboretum. Visit forest, wetlands and open fields brimming with the tender fresh new plants of spring. Meet at the Hoyt Visitor Center. \$22. Advanced registration required; call 503-775-3828. *Wild Food Adventures*

 **Lower Johnson Creek bike ride**

9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday, April 4

Join Jim Labbe from the Audubon Society of Portland and Matt Clark from the Johnson Creek Watershed Council for a 21-mile bike ride out the Springwater Corridor Trail to Gresham's Linneman Station and back. Pedal your way through the lower watershed, stop at several urban natural areas along the way, and learn about future opportunities to protect and enhance the Johnson Creek watershed. Bring your own bicycle; pumps and patch kits recommended. Helmets required. Advanced registration required; call 503-292-6855 x122. *Audubon Society of Portland*

 **Clackamas watershed restoration**

9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, April 4 and May 2

Want to help the Clackamas watershed but don't know how? Come to a work party to remove invasive species and plant native trees. Meet at the Clackamas River Basin Council office, 19750 SE Damascus Lane in Damascus at 8:45 a.m. to carpool to various restoration sites throughout the Damascus, Boring and Happy Valley area. Advanced registration required; call 503-558-0550. *Clackamas River Basin Council*

 **River Island – Nesting herons and water loving mammals**

9:30 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 4

During the flood of 1996, the Clackamas River shifted from its established course and reclaimed an abandoned river channel in this natural area. Metro biologists have been working here to restore wildlife habitat, especially for migrating salmon and

steelhead. Today, osprey, bank swallows, spotted sandpipers and bald eagles are often seen here. With some luck, we may even see western painted turtles basking in the sunshine. Join Metro naturalist Dan Daly in a hunt for signs of beaver, otter and a terrific view of the colony of nesting great blue herons. The walk covers 2-3 miles of old roads, trails and uneven river banks with a few inclines. Suitable for adults and children 8 years and older. Registration and payment of \$5 per person required in advance; call 503-797-1850 option 4. Site directions sent upon registration. *Metro*

Warblers of Oregon

7 to 9:30 p.m.
Wednesday, April 8
One of the most colorful and musical group 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 required in advance; call 503-797-1850 option 4. *Metro*

Native trees of Forest Park

9:30 a.m. to noon Thursday, April 9
Celebrate Oregon's Arbor Week with a closer look at the native trees of Forest Park on a guided

hike with Stephen Hatfield. Suitable for ages 10 and up. Advance registration required; send e-mail to hikes@forestpark-conservancy.org. *Forest Park Conservancy*

Painted turtle walk

1 to 2:30 p.m.
Saturdays, April 11 and May 30
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 Oregon. 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 503-797-1850 option 4. *Metro*

Intensive vegetable gardening

6 to 8 p.m. Thursday, April 16
Spring is here and it's time to start planting all your favorite veggies. Learn how to grow more in a small space through intensive growing techniques. Topics include seed sowing and spacing, transplanting, season extension and vertical gardening. Meet at the Oregon Tilth demonstration garden at Luscher Farm. Registration and payment of \$28 per person or \$25 for Lake Oswego residents and Oregon Tilth members required in advance; call 503-675-2549. *Oregon Tilth*

Wild foods of a Forest Park spring

9 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 18
Wildflowers are blooming and wild greens are ripe for picking. Join wild food expert John Kallas and learn about plants like wild violet, Solomon's seal, fairly bells, nettles, wild ginger and other plants populating this old growth forest. Meet at the entrance to the Wildwood Trail off Northwest Germantown Road. \$22. Advanced registration required; call 503-775-3828. *Wild Food Adventures*

SOLV IT for Earth Day

9 a.m. to 1p.m.
Saturday, April 18
SOLV IT, one of the largest Earth Day volunteer events in the nation, focuses on illegal dumpsites and neighborhood cleanup, trail maintenance, watershed restoration, and parks and school ground improvements. Volunteers converge at approximately 100 volunteer project sites throughout the Portland metropolitan area including Metro natural areas. To register, call 503-844-9571. *SOLV*

StreamTeam Earth Day celebration

9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, April 18
Join the StreamTeam and celebrate Earth Day by planting trees to save salmon. Enjoy a great day of community-led activities including native tree planting, interactive wildlife shows and more. For more information, call 360-992-8585. *Clark Public Utilities*

Introduction to the language of birds

9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, April 18
Would you like to understand what the birds are saying? Join naturalists Elisabeth Neely and Dan Daly along with volunteer naturalist Patty Newland 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 park gate. Registration and program fee of \$10 per person required in advance. There is a \$4 per vehicle entrance fee to the park. To register, call 503-797-1850 option 4. *Metro*

Elk Rock Island paddle and hike

10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, April 18
Paddle a short distance from the Jefferson Street boat ramp in Milwaukie to Elk Rock Island. Get out and walk the island's 15 acres of unique habitat communities and catch a glimpse of the waterfall cascading over Elk Rock. A limited number of Willamette Riverkeeper canoes are available for use. Bring a lunch. Prior paddling experience is encouraged but not required. Advance registration required; call 503-223-6418. *Willamette Riverkeeper*

Earth Day celebration and native plant sale

10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, April 18
The forests and meadows of Oregon are full of plants providing food for wildlife. Some of these edible delights can also provide a wonderful bounty to humans, when we know how to confidently identify, sustainably collect, and safely prepare wild berries, roots and greens. This year's Earth Day celebration at the Tualatin Hills Nature Park runs in conjunction with the spring native plant sale. Learn about these plants then purchase a few to grow in your garden. For every \$35 purchase, you will receive one free bag of potting soil. Free admission. For more information, call 503-629-6350. *Tualatin Hills Park and Recreation District*

Blue Lake Bunny Bonanza Egg Hunt

10 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 11

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

Birdsongs at Whitaker Ponds

7 to 9 a.m. Fridays, April 24 and May 1

Join David Helzer for an early-morning birding hike around Whitaker Ponds. Learn about the birds that utilize the slough and work on your birdsong identification skills. Bring your binoculars. Hike lasts 1-2 hours. Free; donations are welcome. Advanced registration required; call 503-281-1132. *Columbia Slough Watershed Council*

In search of the wild Mount Talbert

9 to 11:30 a.m. Saturday, April 25

Explore the springtime beauty of this unique lava dome as you wander through a white oak woodland in search of wildlife, spring blooms and geologic stories in the stones of Mount Talbert. One of the newest nature parks in our region, Mount Talbert is home to an incredible patchwork of habitats that provide welcome refuge for migrating songbirds such as warblers, tanagers, orioles and others. Learn new awareness skills and put them to the test on a search for the elusive Western gray squirrel, bird of prey nests and the beginnings of the spring wildflower emergence. Bring your own binoculars or borrow some of ours. The hike is geared toward participants 10 years old to adults. Trails are on the rough side and steep in places. Cost is \$5 for adults, free for under 18. Registration and payment required in advance; call North Clackamas Parks and Recreation District at 503-794-8092 at least two weeks before the program date. *Metro*

Naturescaping basics

9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, April 25 and May 2
Naturescaping is the practice of designing a landscape so that it reduces water use, stormwater runoff and pollution, and provides a beautiful habitat for birds, wildlife and you. Naturescaping basics introduces participants to their connection with the watershed and native plants of the Pacific Northwest.

For the April 25 class, meet at the Waverley Heights Church in Portland. For the May 2 class, meet at the Lake Oswego City Hall. Advanced registration required; visit www.emswcd.org. *East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District*

Birding Killin Wetlands

10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday, April 25

Killin Wetlands in Banks, known to local birders 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 at this special place that is protected by Metro's Natural Areas Program. Suitable for adults and children 10 and older. You will receive directions and other information after you register. Registration and payment of \$5 per person required in advance; call 503-797-1850 option 4. *Metro*

Smith and Bybee mid-spring paddle

noon to 3 p.m. Sunday, April 26
Traveling by canoe or kayak is the best way to explore the Smith and Bybee Wetlands. Watch for bald eagles, great blue herons and beaver lodges. Bring your own canoe or kayak, binoculars, water and snacks. Personal flotation devices required. Meet at the canoe/kayak launch at the natural area off North Marine Drive. Free. Advanced registration required; call Emily Roth at 503-235-6272. *Friends of Smith and Bybee Lakes*


Ethnobotany at Oxbow

12:30 to 4 p.m. Sunday, April 26
Ethnobotany is the study of how humans use plants. Learn the ethics and safety protocols of plant harvest and take a walk in the springtime woods of Oxbow Regional Park to get to know plants traditionally used for food, medicine, baskets, etc. Take home a resource list for further study and create cordage and tea from

stinging nettles. Meet at the naturalist office. Registration and payment of \$10 per person required in advance. There is a \$4 per vehicle entrance fee to the park. To register, call 503-797-1850 option 4. *Metro*


Take Care of Oregon days

May 2009

This is Oregon's 150th year of statehood. To help celebrate, Oregon 150 has commissioned SOLV, Oregon Volunteers and Rural Development Initiatives to put on Take Care of Oregon days. Be one of the 20,000 volunteers expected to take part in this historic event. For more information and to register, call 503-844-9571. SOLV  by arrangement

No Ivy Day

9 a.m. to noon

Saturday, May 2
Join the No Ivy League and other community partners and work to rid our ecosystem of invasive English ivy. Help out at sites established across the region or set up a satellite No Ivy Day event on your own site. For more information or to register, call 503-823-9423. *Portland Parks and Recreation*  by arrangement

Volunteer bird monitor orientation

10 a.m. to noon Saturday, May 2 and May 9

Discover the birds of Gresham and help with the city's bird survey. Adopt an urban route along the Springwater Trail, a wetlands site or one of Gresham's forested buttes. Attend one of two orientations to learn more and register. Meet at Gresham City Hall, 1333 NW Eastman Parkway. Refreshments provided. For more information, call 503-618-2608. *City of Gresham*

Wildflower identification at Oxbow

noon to 3 p.m. Sunday, May 3

Have you ever wondered about trailside wildflowers and wished you knew their names? This class is for you. 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 payment of a \$10 program fee required in advance. There is a \$4 per vehicle entrance fee to the park. To register, call 503-797-1850 option 4. *Metro*

Wild foods of an old growth forest

1 to 5 p.m. Sunday, May 3

Join wild food expert John Kallas and learn the wild foods of trees, shrubs and herbs of Oxbow. Find edible wild plants including fiddlehead fern, elderberries, Solomon's seal, fairy bells, nettles, red huckleberries and salmonberry. Explore one of the more beautiful habitats just east of Gresham. Carpool from Portland. \$25 plus carpooling. Advanced registration required; call 503-775-3828. *Wild Food Adventures*

Brunch with the birds at Columbia Slough

11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday, May 8

Enjoy brunch and a birding tour of Whitaker Ponds, the junkyard-turned-environmental education center. Meet slough neighbors and local business people and learn about watershed activities and events sponsored by the council and its partners. Bring your binoculars. Free; donations welcome. Advanced registration required; call 503-281-1132. *Columbia Slough Watershed Council*  by arrangement

Westside Regional Trail bicycle ride

9 a.m. to noon Saturday, May 9

May is National Bike Month. Come and join Ranger Scott on a leisurely bike ride along the recently completed portion of the Westside Regional Trail. Participants must have their own bike and helmet to participate. Meet at the Tualatin Hills Nature Park. The bike rides are free and registration is not required. For more information call 503-629-6350. *Tualatin Hills Park and Recreation District* 

 **River Mill Lake discovery paddle trip**


10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, May 9

Explore this secluded, scenic reservoir along the Clackamas River. Located near Estacada, this paddle will take you through a beautiful gorge. Great for birding enthusiasts! A limited number of canoes are available for use. Bring a lunch. Prior paddling experience is encouraged but not required. Advance registration required; call 503-223-6418. *Willamette Riverkeeper*

 **Mother's Day birds and blooms of Canemah Bluff**

1 to 3 p.m. Sunday, May 10
This year, instead of taking flowers to Mom for Mother's day, why not take her to the wildflowers? Join Metro naturalist Dan Daly for a leisurely stroll on Canemah Bluff Natural Area near Oregon City to see and learn about common wildflowers. Enjoy the serenade of nesting song birds and views of the Willamette River and the historic Canemah cemetery. Bring your binoculars or borrow a pair of ours. This walk will cover 2 miles over uneven trails – mostly flat with a few inclines. Suitable for adults and children 6 years and older. Registration and payment of \$5 per adult required in advance; call 503-797-1850 option 4. Site directions sent upon registration. *Metro*

 **Walking with Mom at Tryon Creek**

2 to 3 p.m. Sunday, May 10
What better way to celebrate Mother's Day than to hear a lecture from Portland's beloved walking author followed by a beautiful walk in the park? Join Laura O. Foster, author of Portland Hill Walks, Portland City Walks and Walk There! Each book leads readers and walkers on urban excursions from 2-6 miles, telling the stories of neighborhoods, geology, human history and architecture. Talk followed by optional guided hike from 2 to 2:45 p.m. For more information, call 503-636-9886 extension 225. *Tryon Creek State Natural Area* 



Ken Anderson photo


Sandy River Spey Clave

8 a.m. to 5 p.m. May 15, 16 and 17

Come to Oxbow Regional Park for the largest gathering of anglers devoted to two-hand fly rod fishing in the Western Hemisphere. Visit booths displaying the latest tackle or sign up for free casting lessons. View on-the-water casting demonstrations throughout the weekend. Attend Friday's "women's day" presentations by female instructors followed by a "Pot Luck and PowerPoint" dinner Friday night. Breakfast and lunch provided Saturday and Sunday. Overnight camping is available in the park on a first-come, first-served basis for \$15 per night (up to 6 people per site). Gates lock at official sunset. Pets are not allowed. Free with a \$4 entrance fee to the park. For more information, call the Fly Fishing Shop at 503-622-4607. *Fly Fishing Shop* and *Metro*

 **Garlic mustard monster mash**

9 a.m. to noon Saturday, May 16

Learn about the evils of garlic mustard, an invasive plant found along roadways, trails and in natural areas and yards. Learn how to identify it, safely remove it and even make garlic mustard pesto. A public collection site for garlic mustard plants in Northwest Portland will be available. For more information, call 503-823-9423. *Portland Parks and Recreation*  by arrangement

 **Smith and Bybee Wetlands canoe and kayak tour**

9 a.m. to noon Saturday, May 16


Join Metro naturalist James Davis and learn about local wildlife and the natural history of the area on a three-hour canoe and kayak tour of the wetlands.

Boat, paddle and personal flotation device provided by NW Discoveries. Participants can select solo kayaks, a tandem kayak with a partner or a canoe with a partner. Two adults in a canoe can add one or two children to ride in the middle at reduced cost. Meet at the Smith and Bybee canoe launch. Registration and payment of \$25 per adult (age 14 and up) and \$5 per child (age 5-13) accompanied by one paid adult required two weeks in advance; call 503-797-1850 option 4. *Metro*

 **SOLV's Down by the Riverside**

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


Join volunteers across Oregon and help maintain the watersheds where we all live. Rivers, streams and lakes help make Oregon the envy of the nation. But our waterways need your help to remain

beautiful. Volunteer to remove invasive plants and garbage, plant trees and shrubs, and much more. To register, call 503-844-9571. SOLV  by arrangement


 **Multnomah Channel tour**

10 a.m. to noon Saturday, May 16

Explore the Multnomah Channel with Metro naturalist Dan Daly and scientist Curt Zonick. This natural area is a rare remnant of a once widespread system of braided channels, wetlands and riparian areas along the Willamette and Columbia rivers. Biologically diverse, it is an important habitat for juvenile salmon, native amphibians such as frogs and salamanders, and birds. Wapato and tule (soft stemmed bulrush) were historically harvested here and can still be found. Bring your binoculars or borrow a pair of ours. This walk will cover 2 miles over roads and uneven trails – mostly flat. Suitable for adults and children 8 years and older. Registration and payment of \$5 per person required in advance; call 503-797-1850 option 4. Site directions sent upon registration. *Metro*

 **Songbird Festival**

10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Saturday, May 16
All ages are invited, rain or shine, for a day of outdoor activities, guided nature walks, hands-on crafts for kids, exhibits, presentations, entertainment, food and fun. Meet at the Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge in Sherwood. Free. For more information, visit www.fws.gov/tualatinriver. *Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge* 

 **Smith and Bybee Wetlands canoe bimiran tour**

1 to 2 p.m. or 2:30 to 3:30 pm Saturday, May 16

Try out a canoe bimiran (two canoes lashed together with 2 x 6 boards) with your child for either of these one-hour paddles on the wetlands with Metro naturalist James Davis. Very stable and ideal for first timers. Suitable for adults and children age 5 and up. Meet at the Smith and Bybee

canoe launch. Registration and payment of \$10 per adult (age 14 and up) and \$5 per child (age 5-13) accompanied by one paid adult required two weeks in advance; call 503-797-1850 option 4. *Metro*

Straw bale gardening

6 to 8 p.m. Thursday, May 21
Straw bale gardening is referred to as “inspired laziness” and creates an instant garden that can be planted in just a few weeks. Join us for this fun, hands-on class to learn about this innovative growing technique. Meet at the Oregon Tilth demonstration garden at Luscher Farm. Registration and payment of \$28 per person or \$25 for Lake Oswego residents and Oregon Tilth members required in advance; call 503-675-2549. *Oregon Tilth*  by arrangement

Evening Canoe the Slough

6 or 7 p.m. Wednesday, May 27
Join the Columbia Slough Watershed Council and NW Discoveries for a guided paddling tour to explore the tree-lined Whitaker Slough. During this special evening trip, guides will travel with participants in stable canoe bimarans (two canoes lashed together). Choose from a 6 or 7 p.m. start time. Free; donations are welcome. Space limited. Advanced registration required; call 503-281-1132. *Columbia Slough Watershed Council*

Morning bird walk at Nadaka Nature Park

7:30 to 8:30 a.m. Thursday, May 28
In celebration of Great Blue Heron Week, join Jim Labbe with Audubon Society of Portland and Lee Dayfield with Wilkes East Neighborhood Association for a morning stroll through Nakada Nature Park in West Gresham. Explore the natural and human history of the park, learn about expansion and improvement efforts, and help document

the park’s avian inhabitants. Advanced registration required; call 503-292-6855 x122. *Audubon Society of Portland*

Connecting our children to the wild

at Oxbow
10 a.m. to noon Saturday, May 30

If you are a parent, mentor or teacher who understands how important a vibrant connection to the natural world is for the healthy development of our youth, join Metro naturalist Dan Daly for this important and lively conversation. As school, work, sports, consumer culture and the disappearance of wild areas continue to draw our time and attention away from the natural world, now is a great time to learn and remember how we can bring nature alive in our families, neighborhoods and schools once again. This program will share both resources and techniques that outdoor-oriented adults can use in order to support the young people they care about by unfolding the adventure of a lifetime. Childcare is available during this program for children 5 and up, free of charge. Registration and payment of \$10 per person required in advance. There is a \$4 per vehicle entrance fee to the park. Call 503-797-1850 option 4 to register. *Metro*

Smith and Bybee late spring paddle

noon to 4 p.m. Sunday, May 31

Traveling by canoe or kayak is the best way to explore Smith and Bybee Wetlands. Watch for bald eagles, great blue herons and beaver lodges. Bring your own canoe or kayak, binoculars, water and snacks. Personal flotation devices required. Meet at the canoe/kayak launch at the natural area off North Marine Drive. Free. Advanced registration required; call Troy Clark at 503-249-0482. *Friends of Smith and Bybee Lakes*

Spring calendar at a glance

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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.



Natural techniques demonstration garden, Southeast Portland

See natural gardening techniques at work in Metro's chemical-free demonstration garden. Featured are seasonal floral displays, chemical free lawns, native plants, edible landscaping, a rain garden and children's activity areas.

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

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

Wild iris at Cooper Mountain natural area (photo by C. Bruce Forster) and child at the Blue Lake Natural Discovery Garden (photo by Kent Derek)

Illustrations by

Eben Dickinson

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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