

FALL 2009

GreenScene



Your fall guide to
great places and
green living

www.oregonmetro.gov



find
connect
savor
harvest
give
restore
tell

New! Salmon homecoming at Oxbow

October 10, 11, 17 and 18



Spicy scents of autumn trees, giant golden leaves on maples, silvery chatter of water ouzels in the river and kinglets in the conifers. These are the smells, sights and sounds of Oxbow Regional Park in the autumn. Come witness the return of wild salmon to one of the Pacific Northwest's premier rivers – the glacier-fed Sandy – just 45 minutes from downtown Portland.

Saturdays and Sundays

Salmon viewing station

11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Guided salmon walk with Metro naturalist

1 to 2:30 p.m.

Naturalists are on hand at the river's edge to help spot spawning salmon and interpret their behavior and life cycle. Special salmon-viewing glasses are available on loan. Walks proceed rain or shine; dress for the weather. The trail is unpaved and fairly level; wear good walking shoes. Inquire at the entry booth for starting location of the walks and location of the salmon-viewing station then follow the signs to the salmon! Suitable for all ages.

Saturdays only

Mushroom walks

2:30 to 4 p.m.

Join naturalist James Davis for an exploration of the abundant fungi in Oxbow's ancient forest. On this beginner's mushroom walk, learn the basics of mushrooms and other fungi and how to go about identifying this complicated group of strange and fascinating life forms. While not all specimens are identified, this introduction will deepen your appreciation of the amazing variety of shapes, colors, textures and smells that make these life forms so intriguing. Suitable for adults and children 12 and older. Meet at group picnic area A (Alder) at 2:15 p.m.

Programs are free with a \$5 per vehicle entry fee to the park.

Registration not required. Leave pets at home. For more information, call 503-797-1850.

Salmon and the Sandy River through time

There is a special connection between people and wild salmon stretching back before recorded history. Native American elders state that they have fished for salmon "since time immemorial." This timeline of salmon and the Sandy River highlights the geologic activity, early exploration and ensuing growth that have shaped the culture, economy and ecology of the Pacific Northwest. For generations the epic journey of wild salmon has inspired people to value clean water and healthy watersheds, preserving the unique character of this place they call home.

THE ORIGINS OF SALMON

As dinosaurs roamed, salmon's ancestors thrived.

400 million years ago

The first salmon ancestor appears in the fossil record.

30 million years ago

Salmon ancestors swim to the ocean to take advantage of food-filled seas.

Over 6 million years ago

The modern Pacific salmon is born.

A RIVER OF CHANGE, A RESILIENT FISH

Salmon survive millions of years of explosive geology that shapes the Sandy River basin.

2 million years ago

The modern-day Sandy River cuts its present course.

700,000 years ago

Mount Hood is born.

9,000 years ago

The archeological record first shows Native peoples using the Sandy for seasonal hunting, gathering and fishing.

1805

Lewis and Clark first see the Sandy River. They name it the Quicksand because of extensive sand flows from a recent Mount Hood eruption.

SETTLERS COME TO THE SANDY

Logging, fishing, dams and failed hatcheries cause salmon decline in the Sandy.

1858

The first sawmill on the Sandy is built.

1896

To increase dwindling salmon runs, the first hatchery opens on the Sandy.

1912-1913

Portland General Electric builds the Marmot and Little Sandy dams.

INITIAL STEPS TOWARD RECOVERY

Efforts are made to save salmon but problems abound.

1964

Floods ravage the Sandy. Flood control efforts destroy salmon habitat.

1988

58.4 miles of the Sandy are designated as a federal Wild and Scenic River.

NEW FOCUS ON RECOVERY

As wild Sandy River salmon numbers drop further, action to save them accelerates.

1999

Sandy River fall Chinook are listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act.

2007-2008

The Marmot and Little Sandy dams are breached. Salmon move freely from the Pacific Ocean to Mount Hood for the first time in almost 100 years.

What the rain promises

Excerpt from "Northwest Nature Guide: Where to Go and What to See Month by Month in Oregon, Washington, and British Columbia" by James Luther Davis, Metro naturalist

Mushrooms grow just about everywhere but the wet coniferous forests of the Pacific Northwest are some of the best mushroom habitats in the world. The fall rains mark the beginning of a magnificent mushroom season that goes from September to December and spring brings specialties like morels. Millions of dollars worth of wild mushrooms are harvested here and shipped all over the world. There are a dozen mushroom shows or festivals in the Northwest, including the Oregon Mycological Society's big event in Portland in mid-October (www.wildmushrooms.org).

By far the biggest interest in mushrooms is in finding the choice edibles that the Northwest is famous for: chanterelle, white matsutake, morel, porcini, Oregon truffle, lobster, oyster and others. There are also people who just want to know what all these weird, mysterious, sometimes abundant organisms are and what they do. For years I had been trying to get a handle on identifying mushrooms with continuing frustration until I found "All That the Rain Promises and More: A Hip Pocket Guide to Western Mushrooms" by David Arora. At last I had the book that made it possible and fun to start learning about the complex world of fungus. That book got me started and I have had many laughs



Angel wings are a delicate relative of the oyster mushroom, one of the world's most popular edible mushrooms.

thanks to David's great sense of humor. He really is a fun guy. (Fungi – Get it?)

The big problem with trying to identify mushrooms is that it is hard. Sorry, but there's no way around the fact that there are thousands of different kinds of mushrooms and most of them are very hard to tell apart. It's not hopeless, however. There are some mushrooms that are quite distinctive and easy for most people to identify. These are like identifying a skunk. It's wonderful when a mushroom is easy to identify and happens to be delicious, like morels and lobsters. It is also very helpful when a poisonous one is obvious like the fly amanita. If your true desire is to just find tasty mushrooms to eat, you can learn to identify some of the world's choicest edibles growing here in the Northwest and forget about the rest. But once your appetite is satisfied, you may not be able to ignore the thrill of the hunt.

More common than the interest in edible mushrooms is the fear of poisonous mushrooms. Unfortunately, the most poisonous mushrooms in the world grow here and people have died eating them. But many people think if they just touch a poisonous mushroom they'll drop dead on the spot. The toxins in mushrooms cannot go through your skin, even if you crushed the 'shroom in your hand. Keep

them out of your mouth and no mushroom can hurt you. It's that simple.

If you are afraid that if you pick wild mushrooms to eat you might eat the wrong kind and poison yourself – good, that's entirely possible and a healthy fear. Much to everyone's disappointment, there is no simple or easy way to tell an edible mushroom from a poisonous one. If you have heard any general rules like "if it grows in wood you can eat it" or "if it's red it's poisonous," forget it. There are no such simple rules. None. Period. The only way to know if a mushroom is edible, poisonous or harmless but yucky is to identify exactly what kind of mushroom it is. You'll often find "mushrooms" and "toadstools" used interchangeably but in fact, there are no fungi named toadstools.

For those that want to dive into the world of fungi, I recommend starting like I did with Arora's guide. I have talked to many people who were able to get their start with this book. Mushroom walks and classes at parks, nature centers and the like can be very helpful, especially if a program is billed for beginners. Mushroom shows are a good introduction but don't think you can go and come away knowing how to identify many mushrooms. You will be absolutely astounded at the number and variety of

different fungi at your first mushroom show. Just get the big picture and enjoy the diversity.

The culinary reputation of some mushrooms fuels many people's desire to find "the big strike," the mushroom gold mine. Finding both gold and edible mushrooms, however, requires some knowledge, work, experience and good luck. But like so many things, it's easier than you think once you take the plunge. It just requires a lot of patience. But slow down, look carefully, take your time and enjoy the wonderful places where you find mushrooms. The rain will fulfill its promise and the fungi will be there for a lifelong adventure.

Watch online



Metro nature minutes

Check out these short, fun videos featuring Metro naturalist James Davis exploring Metro parks in search of dragonflies, beavers, mushrooms, animal tracks and more.

www.oregonmetro.gov/natureguides



Brian Libby photo

METRO RECYCLING INFORMATION

More than just recycling!



natural
gardening



green
cleaning



waste
prevention



garbage and
toxic trash
disposal



recycling

Hike. Bike. Fly a Kite.



**THE
INTER
TWINE**

You've been reading about it for years. You've used the network of parks, trails and natural areas in the Portland-Vancouver area to recreate, explore and commute for decades. It's enhanced the quality of life for those who live here and helped attract new businesses, jobs and residents to the region.

Now it has a name – The Intertwine.

Nature is always nearby. Clean air to breathe and clean water to enjoy. A network of trails to explore and parks to play in. The wealth of nature that exists at the heart of The Intertwine reflects the promise of one of the greatest park, trail and natural area networks in the world.

Walk, hike, bike, bird, paddle, play – whatever you love to do and wherever you love to do it. If you're doing it in the Portland-Vancouver area, you're using The Intertwine. For some, The Intertwine is time spent with the family dog on the neighborhood greenway trail. For others, it's a quiet walk in the woods.

Every morning thousands of folks get on their bikes and use The Intertwine to get to work. Others use it for Sunday runs or to simply sit under the trees in their neighborhood.

Some of your favorite places are on The Intertwine. Tryon Creek State Park, the Tualatin, Clackamas and Willamette rivers, Cook Park in Tigard and the Springwater Corridor in Gresham and Southeast Portland.

Stories from the weekend just past, the morning commute or an entire summer of exploration shared at the water cooler, over coffee or with family and friends reveal the extent to which The Intertwine is woven into the lives of people who live, work and play in the Portland metropolitan area.

Have a favorite story of how you or your family uses The Intertwine that you'd like to share? Submit a brief account online for a chance to have your story featured on The Intertwine web site.

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How do *you* use The Intertwine?

**Visit www.TheIntertwine.org
after Sept. 18 and let us know.**



Mike Houck photo

Park(ing) Day Bringing The Intertwine to a parking space near you

Friday, Sept. 18

Park(ing) Day is an annual, one-day global event where artists, activists and citizens collaborate to transform the metered parking spot into a temporary public park or "park(ing)" space. Created to re-imagine the potential of our public places, Park(ing) Day demonstrates the value of and need for parks and natural areas, rethinks the way greenspace can happen, and helps improve the quality of urban human habitat.

This year, Park(ing) Day spotlights and celebrates the mission of The Intertwine by bringing a small piece of the region's parks, trails and natural areas system to a parking space nearby. Portland's Pioneer Square, the Pearl District, a small suburban community or any area with heavy foot traffic that is short on parks and high on visibility is a likely target for the transformative power of a small greenspace in an urban setting. This Sept. 18, look for a bit of your favorite park identified by The Intertwine logo and experience the pleasure of finding the perfect parking spot – without a car.

For more information about Park(ing) Day and how you can help support The Intertwine, contact Bob Gandolfi, 503-295-6500 or bobevents@comcast.net.



Discover the naturalist in you!

Every year thousands of children and adults visit Metro's parks and natural areas for summer programs and school field trips. Volunteer naturalists make these wonderful experiences possible by helping Metro staff naturalists lead these activities and programs.

If you love nature, enjoy working with children and have access to personal transportation, consider becoming a volunteer naturalist by attending Nature University. No special experience is required but a background in natural history and biology and working with groups is helpful. At Nature University, you receive the training needed to become a qualified and confident Metro volunteer naturalist.

Nature University is a 12-week training course that starts people along the path of becoming naturalists and teachers. Nature University students are introduced to time-honored techniques of nature observation and principles of discovery learning. Students learn about common wildlife and plants, the ecology of wetlands and ancient forests, and effective teaching techniques. Student naturalists go into the field with experienced naturalists to learn how to recognize animal tracks and signs, bird sounds and much more. Learn the importance of careful observation and the use of field guides, skills that can be applied in a lifelong process of learning and sharing with others.

Nature University classes meet from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Tuesdays, Jan. 26 through April 13 at different locations. There is some homework between class meetings. In exchange for this unique training, graduates are expected to provide a minimum of 40 hours of service within the first year, which is about 10 school field trip programs. Expectations include availability to help with class field trips during school hours in the fall and spring and on some weekdays or weekends in the summer. There are also opportunities to expand volunteer service to other public outreach programs, such as special events and natural area tours, and to help develop educational materials.



A volunteer naturalist helps students and visitors connect with nature at Oxbow Regional Park.

Enrolling in the class of 2010

Brochure and application materials are available at www.oregonmetro.gov/volunteer. You may also send e-mail to parkvol@

oregonmetro.gov or call 503-813-7565. Completed applications must be received by Thursday, Nov. 5, 2009.

Why I volunteer

By Metro volunteer naturalist Tom Oxely



Earlier this spring, I had the pleasure of leading a dozen or so kindergarten children on the ancient forest hike at Oxbow Regional Park. This walk is my absolute favorite volunteer activity and I especially like working with the kindergarten-age children because they are so innocent and so easily amazed at all the neat things we encounter on the walk. Moments with these children are precious and remind me of why I volunteer. It's a very good time in the life of this old man.

For Tom's complete account of volunteering with Metro, visit www.oregonmetro.gov/volunteer.





Nelson's checkermallow (*Sidalcea nelsoniana*) was thought to have disappeared from the area until botanists discovered it at one of Metro's natural areas.

Rare *Sidalcea* flourishes at Gotter Prairie

To visit Gotter Prairie is to travel back in time to a landscape that once flourished throughout the Northern Willamette Valley. To discover a wildflower thought to have disappeared entirely from the area thriving in this unique prairie habitat is to witness nature reclaiming the former farmland and returning it to its native state.

The rare Nelson's checkermallow (*Sidalcea nelsoniana*), discovered by botanists almost two years ago at Gotter Prairie Natural Area, is currently listed as threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act and is protected under a recovery plan.

Following the discovery, Metro's Native Plant Center volunteers and staff collected seeds produced from the botanists' find and from others discovered later at the site to grow more than 500 plants from seed. This spring, approximately 200 checkermallow were planted at Gotter Prairie's native plant habitat, now restored to the historical conditions in which the wildflower once thrived.

A June survey of the plants revealed that all but 10 were doing well and three were already blooming in their first growing season. Metro's science staff use monitoring plots to track how burning, haying and flooding affect the establishment, growth and seed production of these rare wildflowers. Metro plans to share its findings with other land managers who have similar plant species under their care.

Gotter Prairie Natural Area is protected and restored through Metro's voter-approved bond measures.

www.oregonmetro.gov/nativeplantcenter



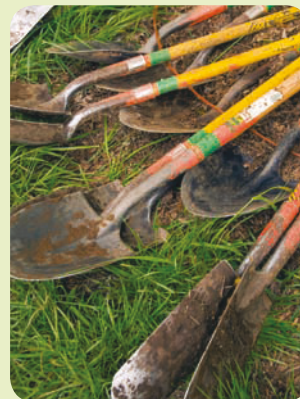
Native Plant Center volunteer Saturdays

9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays, Sept. 12 and 26, Oct. 10 and 24, Nov. 7 and 21, and Dec. 12

Volunteer at Metro's Native Plant Center in Tualatin and help care for the rare native seeds and plant stock that support Metro's restoration projects. Activities vary and include transplanting seedlings, collecting and cleaning native seeds, planting native plugs for prairie and wetland seed production, and caring for young plants and seed grow-out beds. Work gloves, tools, water and a snack provided; prior gardening experience not required. For more information, call 503-797-1653 or send e-mail to bonnie.shoffner@oregonmetro.gov. Metro  by arrangement



Adopt a Metro natural area, park or pioneer cemetery



Get outdoors, get active and develop a sense of stewardship by helping restore and maintain a beautiful Metro property. Adopting a site is a great way for a Scout troop, faith-based organization, workplace, neighborhood association, school or service group to enhance the community while getting out in nature. Get to know a unique landscape through the changing

seasons and choose from a variety of projects that develop a powerful sense of connection and community.

Groups work closely with Metro staff to identify projects that enhance and protect important natural and cultural resources. Volunteers work at their site a maximum of once a month and a minimum of four times a year. For more information, call 503-797-1653 or send e-mail to bonnie.shoffner@oregonmetro.gov.

Fall calendar

Forest Park volunteer field crew

9 a.m. to noon every Thursday
Join the Forest Park Conservancy's volunteer field crew for trail maintenance and habitat restoration projects. No experience required. Wear long pants and bring work gloves and a full water bottle. Tools provided. Meeting location varies. For more information, call 503-223-5449. *Forest Park Conservancy*

Ancient forest ecology

9 to 11:30 a.m. Thursdays, Sept. 3 and 17, Oct. 1, 15 and 29 and Nov. 12
Join naturalist Stephen Hatfield for a tour of the ancient forest preserve. Learn about the natural history of the area and discuss the old growth ecosystem along the way. The 3-mile walk is led at a relaxed pace with minimal elevation gain. Appropriate for ages 10 and older. Meet at 1505 NW 23rd Ave. Advance registration required; call 503-223-5449. *Forest Park Conservancy*


Tideman Johnson Park restoration

9 a.m. to noon Saturdays, Sept. 5, Oct. 3 and Nov. 7
Join the Friends of Tideman Johnson natural area to remove invasive species including ivy, blackberries and clematis and help prepare the ground for winter planting. Bring work gloves. Meet at Southeast 37th Avenue located south of Southeast Crystal Springs Boulevard and walk down the hill to the boardwalk. For more information, call 503-823-6131. *Portland Parks City Nature*

Organic gardening: fall 2009 series


10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturdays, Sept. 5, 12 and 19
Learn practical gardening skills through hands-on activities and small group instruction at Zenger Farm's six-acre field and garden sites. Topics include cultivating vegetables, hot composting, cover crops, planning the winter garden, fruit trees and seed saving. Registration and payment of \$20 per class required in advance; call 786-972-1333. *Zenger Farm*

Natural lawn care

10 to 11 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 12
Visit Metro's natural techniques demonstration garden and discover secrets to growing a great lawn without harmful herbicides or polluting fertilizers. Get tips for grasscycling, watering, controlling weeds and more. Learn hands on by helping renovate the lawns at the garden. Presentation 10 to 11 a.m.; activity time 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Meet at 6800 SE 57th Ave. Free. Registration not required. *Metro* 

Aquifer Adventure

noon to 4 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 12
Big and little pirates alike are welcome to Aquifer Adventure, a family festival all about groundwater. Play fun games and go on a canoe ride in search of hidden treasure – not gold but groundwater, a precious resource that flows beneath your feet. Hands-on activities teach kids and adults how to protect this important resource that serves as a supplemental and emergency drinking water supply to 700,000 people in the Portland Metropolitan area. Come dressed in yer finest pirate togs or else

the cap'n might make ye walk the plank! Meet at the Portland Water Bureau canoe launch at 16650 NE Airport Way. *Portland Water Bureau* 

TogetherGreen Volunteer Day

10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 12
Help spruce up Audubon's 150-acre nature sanctuary on the first of six volunteer days. Begin with a continental breakfast and short program followed by trail maintenance projects including invasive plant removal, trail clearing and fence building. Lunch and tools provided. Bring work gloves. Minimum age 15 with a volunteering adult. For more information, call 503-292-6855 ext. 108 *Audubon Society of Portland*

Powell Butte Nature Park restoration

9 a.m. to noon Saturdays, Sept. 12, Oct. 10 and Nov. 14
Join Portland Parks City Nature and Northwest Trail Alliance and help repair and rebuild the trails at Powell Butte. Meet at the parking lot at the top of the hill on Southeast 162nd Avenue, south of Powell Boulevard. Bring work gloves and personal drinking water. For more information, call 503-823-6131. *Portland Parks City Nature*

Autumn wonders preschool class

1 to 2 p.m. Tuesdays, Sept. 15, 22 and 29 and Oct. 6
Learn about changing leaves and how animals prepare for winter at Tryon Creek State Natural Area. Explore the natural world with your child through art, stories, science activities and nature

walks. Appropriate for ages 3-6 with parent or guardian. Fee covers one adult and one child. Registration and payment of \$26 for members and \$30 for non-members required in advance. To register, call 503-636-4398. *Friends of Tryon Creek*

Beginning bird watching class at Cooper Mountain

7 to 9:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 15
If you are curious about the birds around you but don't know where to begin, this program is for you. Naturalist James Davis has been getting birdwatchers started in Portland for 25 years. Discuss the basics of bird identification, talk about field guides and binoculars, and see slides of the top 20 birds of the Cooper Mountain area. After this introduction, you'll be prepared for field trips and other classes that follow or to head out on your own. Suitable for adults and teens. Join one of the first classes in the new Nature House at Cooper Mountain Nature Park. Registration and payment of \$8 per adult required in advance; call 503-629-6350. *Metro and Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District*

Nature guide training

6 to 9 p.m. Wednesdays, Sept. 16, 23 and 30
9 a.m. to noon Thursdays, Sept. 17 and 24 and Oct. 1
Do you like working with children and want to learn more about the plants and animals at Tryon Creek State Natural Area? Are you interested in how Native Americans use local plants for food, medicine, tools and shelter? Combine teaching children with learning more about the



wildlife watching



sustainable living



volunteering



nature discoveries



paddling




natural gardening




wheelchair accessible

park as a trained nature guide. Training offered free in exchange for guiding small groups of students and adults during morning school field trips at least 10 times throughout the school year. Volunteers can choose between morning or evening training sessions. For more information, call 503-636-4398. *Friends of Tryon Creek*

 **Fall soil building**
6 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 17


A productive spring garden begins in the fall with proper soil building techniques. Learn how to build good soil tilth using inexpensive or free local materials. Explore various mulching methods for different applications including rejuvenating depleted soils, winter weed control and starting a garden from scratch. Learn how to grow and use winter cover crops to build healthy soil, conserve nutrients and suppress winter weeds. Meet at the demonstration garden at Luscher Farm. Registration and payment of \$28 per person or \$25 for members and Lake Oswego residents required in advance; call 503-675-2549. *Oregon Tilth*

 **Beginning bird watching class in Portland**
7 to 9:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 17

If you are curious about the birds around you but don't know where to begin, this program is for you. Naturalist James Davis has been getting birdwatchers started in Portland for 25 years. After this introduction to the basics of birdwatching, you'll be prepared for field trips and other classes that follow or to head out on your own. 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 503-797-1650 option 2. *Metro*



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 help you discover the region's rich history and varied landscapes while you enjoy the benefits of walking. This popular guidebook can be purchased for \$9.95. Visit Metro's web site to find retail locations, buy online or download free route maps. *Metro and Kaiser Permanente*

 **Bull Run watershed tour**
8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 18

Don't miss this opportunity to see Portland's tap water at its source. Learn about the protected resources that provide Portland with uniquely high quality drinking water. Location provided upon registration. Registration and payment of \$10 required in advance; call 503-823-7437. *City of Portland Water Bureau* by arrangement



Powell's to Pearl District ramble

2 to 3 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 13

Inspired by Walk There! this special walking tour led by author Laura Foster explores notable sights in the Pearl District's ever-changing panorama. Meet at 1:45 p.m. at the Northwest 11th Avenue and Couch Street entrance of Powell's City of Books.



Salmon Creek walking tour

9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Sept. 19

Join Metro Council President David Bragdon on this 2.6-mile walk led by Lisa Goorjian, trails program coordinator of the Vancouver-Clark Parks and Recreation Department. The one-way paved trail winds along the banks of Salmon Creek through a greenway that includes forest, creeks, meadows and ponds. If you enjoy birding, bring binoculars. Meet at the Salmon Creek Sports Association Complex at 8:45 a.m.



Fanno Creek Greenway Trail walking tour

9 to 11 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 26

Join walking guru Laura Foster on the Oregon Electric Railroad section of the Fanno Creek Greenway Trail. The paved multi-use trail passes peaceful Garden Home streets and the Portland Golf Club which occupies lowlands of marshes and ponds adjacent to the creek. Meet at 8:45 a.m. at the Garden Home Recreation Center's main entrance.

Mount Talbert Nature Park hike


10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 27

Explore the beauty of an extinct lava dome with Metro volunteer restoration coordinator Bonnie Shoffner on this special Walk There! tour. Wander through white oak woodland in search of wildlife, signs of fall and geologic stories in the stones. One of the newest nature parks in our region, Mount Talbert is home to a patchwork of habitats providing refuge for migrating warblers, tanagers, orioles and more. Bring binoculars or borrow a pair on site. Trails are on the rough side and steep in places. Meet at 10695 SE Mather Road at 9:45 a.m.


Walks are free; registration not required. For more information, call 503-813-7574.

www.oregonmetro.gov/walkthere



 **Reading the woods**
9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Sept. 19

Trees tell many stories. Come take a walk through the woods and learn why trees are found where they are, how to read the history of the area, what preys on trees and more. Carpools leave from 3945 SE Hawthorne. Appropriate for ages 16 and older. Registration and payment of \$40 required in advance. To register, call 503-235-9533. *Cascadia Wild*

 **September birds at Smith and Bybee Wetlands**

9:30 a.m. to noon Saturdays, Sept. 19 and 26

The water control structure at Smith and Bybee Wetlands has restored the annual drop in the lake water level each fall. This results in hundreds of shorebirds and waders such as sandpipers and herons descending on the wetlands to feed in the mud

Continued

and shallow water. This is also the time when the first migrating waterfowl arrive, making for some great birding. Meet naturalists James Davis or Patty Newland in the natural area parking lot on North Marine Drive. Bring binoculars or borrow a pair on site. Spotting scopes provided. Suitable for adults and children 10 and older. Free. Advance registration required; call 503-797-1650 option 2. *Metro*

Forest Park Day of Stewardship

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

Join in a community-wide volunteer stewardship event in Forest Park. Trail maintenance and habitat restoration projects available at four sites. No experience required. Wear long pants and bring work gloves and a full water bottle. Tools provided. Meet at 1505 NW 23rd Ave. For more information, call 503-223-5449. *Forest Park Conservancy*

Errol Heights Wetlands restoration

9 a.m. to noon Saturdays, Sept. 19, Oct. 17 and Nov. 21

Help remove invasive plants including English ivy, Himalayan blackberries and clematis in Portland's newest wetlands. Bring work gloves and personal drinking water. Meet at the field at the corner of Southeast 52nd Avenue and Southeast Tenino Street. For more information, call 503-823-6131. *Portland Parks City Nature*

Stream Stewards

8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Saturdays, Sept. 19 through Nov. 7

Do you have a genuine interest in the environment? Become a Stream Steward through a free learn-n-serve program. Commit to 45 hours of hands-on professional level workshops on hydrology, geology, birds, mammals, water quality, native plants,

macro invertebrates, naturescaping, riparian habitats, salmon, reptiles and amphibians. Then pay back your tuition through 45 hours of volunteer time. No prior skills or knowledge required. Free. Location provided upon registration. For more information, call 360-992-8585. *Clark Public Utilities*

Tryon Creek restoration

10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 19

Join the Tryon Creek Watershed Council in restoring its adopt-a-plot site in Tryon Creek State Natural Area. Gloves and snacks provided. All ages welcome. Meet at the nature center. Advance registration required; call 503-636-4398 ext. 121. *Tryon Creek Watershed Council*

Tryon Creek watershed tour

1 to 4 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 20

Come see the best of what the Tryon Creek watershed has to offer and all the great work happening to make it a healthier place for fish, wildlife and people. Advance registration required; call 503-636-4398 ext. 121. *Tryon Creek Watershed Council*

Cooper Mountain animal tracking workshop and practice


7 to 9 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 23 and 2 to 4:30 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 27

Have you ever wondered who or what made those footprints on the side of the trail? With practice you can learn to read the ground like a book. Join Metro naturalist and animal tracker Deb Scrivens at Cooper Mountain Nature Park for an indoor evening class to help you get started. Then practice your skills the following Sunday during a special tour of the park. The class includes the basics of animal signs, track identification and interpreting animal move-

ment. Learn the stealth skills needed to watch wildlife at close range then make plaster casts of tracks to bring home. Meet at the Nature House. Suitable for ages 10 and older. Registration and payment of \$16 required in advance; call 503-629-6350. *Metro and Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District*

Moonshadow Park restoration

9 a.m. to noon Saturdays, Sept. 26 and Oct. 10

Help remove invasive plants throughout the natural areas of Moonshadow Park. Bring work gloves, a set of loppers or hand pruners, and a re-usable water bottle. Refreshments and water cooler provided. Meet at the Alden Street entrance between Southwest 66th Place and Southwest 67th Place. *Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District* 

Rosemont Bluff Natural Area restoration

9 a.m. to noon Saturdays, Sept. 26, Oct. 24 and Nov. 21

Join the Friends of Rosemont Bluff Natural Area to remove ivy and clematis from the only natural area in the neighborhood. Bring work gloves and personal drinking water. Meet at Northeast 68th Avenue off of Northeast Glisan Street. For more information, call 503-823-6131. *Portland Parks City Nature*

Kids in nature – spiders program

10 to 11:30 a.m. Sunday, Sept. 27

Join us for a fun morning discovering the many different ways spiders live at Tryon Creek State Natural Area. Explore the park looking for spider houses, learn about the spiders living in those homes, make webs and even shake hands with a tarantula. Appropriate for children ages 4-7 accompanied by an adult. Registration and payment of

\$8.50 for members and \$10 for non-members required in advance. To register, call 503-636-4398. *Friends of Tryon Creek*

Landscaping for conservation

1 to 4 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 27

Learn how to make your yard more at one with nature. Local experts share ideas on controlling weeds, incorporating edibles into landscaping and protecting the watershed. Participants are eligible for one-on-one help from our Tryon Creek outreach and mentoring team. Free. Advanced registration not required. For more information, call 503-636-4398. *Friends of Tryon Creek*

Mammals of Cooper Mountain

7 to 9:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 29

What types of squirrels live on Cooper Mountain and what's so special about them? Are there bears in the neighborhood? How can you tell a coyote from a dog when you see one? What's the difference between the moles and the gophers living in this new nature park? Metro naturalist James Davis shows you how to identify the mammals that live on Cooper Mountain and in the neighborhoods nearby. Using pelts, skulls, slides, stuffed specimens and even scat, you'll become familiar with the local furry critters that populate Cooper Mountain. You may be surprised at who some of the wilder residents are. Suitable for adults and teens. Class held in the new Nature House. Registration and payment of \$8 per adult required in advance; call 503-629-6350. *Metro and Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District*

Fall native plant sale

10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 3

Fall is the best time to plant natives. The Tualatin Hills Nature Park Interpretive Center offers a large selection of native plants with a wide variety of trees,

To register for Metro nature activities online, visit www.oregonmetro.gov/calendar

Dreams On Wheels

Oct. 2 to Nov. 8

This fall's Oregon Manifest bike festival brings the acclaimed Danish exhibit *Dreams On Wheels* to Portland. Developed by Danish designer/architect Jan Gehl, *Dreams On Wheels* showcases Danish cycling culture and Denmark's commitment to sustainability via urban design that promotes active transportation. A traveling exhibit, *Dreams On Wheels* features case stories on Danish cycling culture that analyze the history and social development of biking as a viable transportation alternative. For more information and exhibit location, visit www.oregonmanifest.com.



Danes from all walks of life embrace cycling as a primary means of transportation. The *Dreams On Wheels* exhibit showcases Denmark's commitment to cycling culture, urban design and environmental consciousness.

Mikael Colville-Andersen photo

Constructor's Design Challenge

Friday and Saturday, Oct. 2 and 3

Oregon Manifest's Constructor's Design Challenge showcases the efforts of bicycle builders to design the ultimate transportation bike – a technical challenge that combines engineering dexterity with fabrication mettle. Among the more than 35 bike builders who have already taken up the challenge are Vanilla from Portland, Igleheart and Independent Fabrication from Massachusetts and Richard Sachs Cycles from Connecticut. On Saturday, Oct. 3, a constructor's race puts the bikes through a real-world test. Join spectators at the finish line. Riders and bicycle entries begin rolling in at 3 p.m. Witness lively bicycle entertainment, constructor challenge entries with their makers and an awards ceremony. For more information and event location, visit www.oregonmanifest.com.

shrubs and flowering plants. Prices for every spot in your garden. *Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District*

Mount Talbert Nature Park tour

10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 3

Explore the trails at 144-acre Mount Talbert Nature Park with Metro naturalist James Davis. Discover the variety of plants and animals that live on the largest undeveloped lava butte in northern Clackamas County. If weather conditions have been favorable expect to see a variety of colorful fungi along the trail. Bring binoculars or borrow a pair on site for birdwatching. The trail is steep and uneven

in places. Suitable for adults and children 10 and older. Free. Advance registration required; call 503-794-8084. *North Clackamas Parks and Recreation and Metro*

Native plant sale to benefit Tryon Creek restoration

9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 3

Come to the Southwest Community Center at Gabriel Park for the Tryon Creek Watershed Council's seventh annual native plant sale to benefit ongoing restoration projects in the Tryon Creek watershed. Find beautiful and healthy plants for your garden or containers while supporting restoration

throughout the watershed. Knowledgeable volunteers available to assist in making the best choices for your location. *Tryon Creek Watershed Council*

Clackamas River Island nature walk

1 to 4 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 4

During the 1996 flood the Clackamas River cut a new channel and abandoned 3/4 mile of the old channel. The change in the river offered biologists an opportunity to restore habitat, especially for spawning salmon and steelhead. Today wildlife abounds on and near the site including osprey, bald eagles, beaver, otter and a heron colony. Visit this 239-acre natural area with Metro naturalist Deb

Scrivens. Prepare to cover 2-3 miles of old roads, trails and uneven river banks with a few inclines. Suitable for adults and children 8 and older. Site directions sent upon registration.

Registration and payment of \$5 per adult required in advance; call 503-797-1650 option 2.

Metro

Evening canoe the slough

6 to 8:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 7

Join the Columbia Slough Watershed Council for an evening paddle on the Columbia Slough and enjoy a guided tour of the slough's quiet waters and surrounding wetlands. Borrow one of the council's boats or bring your own kayak or canoe. Advance registration required; call 503-281-1132. *Columbia Slough Watershed Council*

Native plants for less work and more wildlife

10 to 11 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 10

Eager for a beautiful wildlife habitat in your own yard? Learn how to get it the low-maintenance way at Metro's natural techniques demonstration garden. Hands-on activities include planting native plants. Free. Includes a complimentary native plant while supplies last. Meet at 6800 SE 57th Ave. Registration not required. Presentation 10 to 11 a.m.; activity time 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. *Metro*

October birds at Smith and Bybee Wetlands

9:30 a.m. to noon Saturdays, Oct. 10 and 24

By October the wintering waterfowl and raptors have arrived in large numbers to join the year-round residents at Smith and Bybee Wetlands. The falling cottonwood leaves turn the trail into a beautiful yellow brick road. Flocks of noisy geese descend through the golden light. Suitable for adults and children 10 and older. Bring binoculars or borrow a pair on site; spotting scopes

Continued

provided. Meet Metro naturalist James Davis or volunteer naturalist Patty Newland in the natural area parking lot at 5300 N. Marine Drive. Free. Advance registration required; call 503-797-1650 option 2. *Metro*

SOLV Clean and Green Project

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

Volunteer with SOLV at one of roughly 20 sites in Washington and Multnomah counties. Projects include litter and debris cleanup, invasive species removal and native plantings. To register, call 503-844-9571 ext. 322. *SOLV*

Birds of autumn class

7 to 9:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 15

Join Metro naturalist James Davis for an overview of the birds most commonly seen in the metropolitan area from September into the winter including Vaux's swifts, sandhill cranes and shorebirds. The major groups of wintering birds, waterfowl and birds of prey are covered in separate classes. Suitable for adults and teens. Meet in room 370 at Metro Regional Center. Registration and payment of \$10

per person required in advance; call 503-797-1650 option 2.

Metro 

Ducks 101: waterfowl identification class

7 to 9:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 22

Every 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. Registration and payment of \$10 per person required in advance; call 503-797-1650 option 2.

Metro 

Mushrooms for beginners at Smith and Bybee Wetlands

1:30 to 4 p.m. Saturdays, Oct. 24 and Nov. 14

Join naturalist James Davis for an exploration of the fungi at Metro's Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area. In this beginner's mushroom field class,

the basics about mushrooms and other fungi are discussed along with how to identify this complicated group of strange and fascinating life forms that grow in an amazing variety of shapes, colors, textures and smells. Suitable for adults and children 12 and older. Meet in the natural area parking lot on North Marine Drive. Registration and payment of \$10 per adult required in advance; call 503-797-1650 option 2.

Metro

Animal tracking workshop at Oxbow

10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 24

Oxbow Regional Park is rich in tracks at this time of year when beaver, otter, fox, mink, mouse and deer often leave clear footprints in the sand. With practice you can learn to read the ground like a book. Local tracker Terry Kem introduces you to the basics of track identification and interpretation and the awareness and stealth skills needed to watch wildlife at close range. Learn how to make plaster casts of animal tracks. Suitable for adults and families. Bring a snack and meet at the floodplain parking area. Registration and payment of \$10 required in advance. There is a \$5 per vehicle entry


fee payable at the gate. To register, call 503-797-1650 option 2.

Metro

Cooper Mountain ethnobotany

12:30 to 4 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 25

Ethnobotany is the study of how humans use plants. This entertaining workshop includes the discussion of the ethics and safety protocol involved in plant harvest followed by an informative walk in the oak and fir woodlands of the nature park to learn how to identify plants traditionally used for food medicine and baskets. Learn how to create cordage and tea from stinging nettles. A resource list for further study is provided. Meet at the Nature House. Suitable for ages 12 and older. Registration and payment of \$8 per person required in advance; call 503-629-6350. *Metro and Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District*



Ancient forest mushroom class

2 to 4 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 25

Join mycologist Gary Slone for a two hour class that ends with a walk on an easy trail in the old growth forest at Oxbow Regional Park. Participants learn about mushroom classification and edibility then gather, identify and compare specimens. Beginning and experienced 'shroomers age 12 and older are welcome. Bring your own mushroom specimens for identification. Meet at group picnic area A (Alder). Registration and payment of \$10 per person required in advance. There is a \$5 per vehicle entry fee payable at the park. To register call 503-797-1650 option 2. *Metro*

Whooo goes there? Owls of Oregon

7 to 9:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 28


Owls have always fascinated people because of their unique appearance and nocturnal life-style. These nighttime hunters have amazing adaptations for finding and catching prey. Despite their popularity, owls are hard to see in the wild and remain a



Kent Derek photo

Tour of untimely departures at Lone Fir Cemetery

6 to 9 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 31

Enjoy a unique way of celebrating Halloween by meeting some of the residents of Lone Fir at their gravesites. Hear about the unusual circumstances surrounding their untimely departures. Follow ghostly guides down candle-lit paths while listening to bits of Lone Fir history. Tours are 45 minutes. Bring a flashlight and prepare for cold, wet or slippery conditions. Suitable for middle school age students and older but all ages welcome. Enter at Southeast 26th Avenue and Stark Street. A suggested donation of \$5 per individual and \$10 per family goes to support education, preservation and restoration efforts coordinated by Friends of Lone Fir Cemetery. Registration not required. For more information, call 503-224-9200. *Friends of Lone Fir Cemetery*  by arrangement

mysterious and confusing group of birds. With Halloween coming, what better time to learn how to identify Oregon's owls with Metro naturalist James Davis? Suitable for adults and teens. Meet in room 370 at Metro Regional Center. Registration and payment of \$10 per person required in advance; call 503-797-1650 option 2. *Metro* ♿

Animal tracking workshop

7 to 9 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 4 and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 7

Learn the ancient art and science of animal tracking in this two-part workshop. The hands-on classroom presentation teaches tracks and gaits. The field trip to Oxbow Regional Park on Nov. 7 gives participants the opportunity to apply new tracking skills. Meet at 3945 SE Hawthorne Blvd. for both classes. Registration and payment of \$40 for class and field trip or \$15 for class only required in advance. To register, call 503-255-9533. *Cascadia Wild*

Clear Creek natural area tour

12:30 to 3:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 7

Join Metro naturalist James Davis for a natural history tour of one of the most beautiful properties protected by Metro's Natural Areas Program. This forested tributary of the Clackamas River has excellent water quality and significant wild fish runs. Signs of deer, coyote, beaver and river otter are common and there is a good variety of other wildlife and plants along with plenty of fungi in the fall. Mushroom identification is beginner's level. Bring your binoculars or borrow a pair on site. Expect a leisurely walk for 2-3 miles over uneven terrain on old dirt roads. Suitable for adults and children 10 and older. Location provided upon registration. Registration and payment of \$5 per adult required in advance; call 503-797-1650 option 2. *Metro*

Newt Day **1 to 4 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 7**

Celebrate autumn at Newt Day in November, a family-friendly event that provides educational and experiential opportunities for participants to learn about the autumnal changes in nature. Discover some of the amazing natural events that happen in the forest during the fall months. Activities and other offerings provide motivation for participants of all ages to explore nature and to discover the wonders of the great outdoors. For more information, call 503-629-6350. *Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District* ♿

Newt Day volunteers needed

11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 7
Volunteers are needed to run Newt Day at the Tualatin Hills Nature Park. A variety of positions are available including crafts, admissions, educational activities and more. Refreshments provided. Meet inside the Nature Park Interpretive Center for a brief orientation before the event. For more information, call 503-629-6350. *Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District*

Raptor identification class

7 to 9:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 12
Hawks, eagles and falcons have always fascinated people. Metro naturalist James Davis discusses 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 the Sauvie Island Raptor Road Trip in February. 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. Registration and payment of \$10



Barn owl
Jim Cruce photo

per person required in advance; call 503-797-1650 option 2. *Metro* ♿

Invasive plant removal at Autumn Ridge Park

9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Nov. 14
Help remove English holly, Himalayan blackberry and English ivy from the natural areas of Autumn Ridge Park. Bring work gloves, a set of loppers or hand pruners, and a re-usable water bottle. Refreshments provided. Meet at the basketball courts. *Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District*

November birds at Smith and Bybee Wetlands

9:30 a.m. to noon Saturday, Nov. 14
The year-round birds and some interesting wintering songbirds are easy to see with the leaves gone. The most obvious birds however are the numerous waterfowl and raptors that hang out at the lakes until spring. Meet naturalist James Davis in the natural area parking lot on North Marine Drive. Bring binoculars or borrow a pair on site; spotting scopes provided. Suitable for adults and children 10 and older. Free. Advance registration required; call 503-797-1650 option 2. *Metro*

Native planting and mulching at Rosa Park

9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Nov. 21
Help plant and mulch native trees and shrubs throughout the remaining restoration areas on the east side of Celebrity Creek. Bring a shovel, work gloves and re-usable water bottle. Refreshments provided. Meet at the picnic tables near the entrance just east of 196th Avenue. *Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District*

Thanksgiving walk at Oxbow

10 a.m. to noon Sunday, Nov. 22
Take time to enjoy and celebrate the simple gifts of nature at Oxbow Regional Park with Metro naturalist Dan Daly, Terry Kem from Deerdance School, Elisabeth Neely and others. Open your senses while walking along the Sandy River and notice how wildlife respond to the changing season. Then gather around the campfire as naturalists share the Thanksgiving address passed down by the Iroquois Nation. This is a simple and moving way to express appreciation for our connections to nature. Hot drinks provided. Suitable for adults and families. Meet at the boat ramp. Free with park entry fee of \$5 per vehicle. Advance registration required; call 503-797-1650 option 2. *Metro*

To register for Metro nature activities online, visit www.oregonmetro.gov/calendar

Coming soon



NarrativeLab, Inc. photo

Preparing for Graham Oaks Nature Park

The third new regional park developed with voter-approved 2006 natural areas bond funds is scheduled to open in Wilsonville in September 2010. At Graham Oaks Nature Park, visitors can look forward to miles of trails, wetlands rich with wildlife viewing opportunities, hands-on nature activities for the kids, and an oak woodland habitat re-created – literally – from the ground up.

Construction of visitor facilities begins this fall. Visit www.oregonmetro.gov/grahamoaks for more details and to sign up to receive project updates.

New nature and golf learning center at Blue Lake Regional Park

On June 25, the Metro Council approved a \$10.6 million budget to complete design and engineering of an environmentally friendly nature and golf learning center at Blue Lake Regional Park. The project includes a nine-hole family golf course, a six-hole pitch and putt course, a pre-engineered golf and operations building, and a covered driving range. Plans also include replacement of The Lake House event center and restoration of an existing wetland. The nature and golf learning center will be built in a sustainable manner and designed to protect and improve water quality, wildlife and native habitat.

The project will provide increased revenue for the park and offer visitors new and improved amenities including a fitness trail, wildlife watching opportunities and connections to the nearby 40-Mile Loop Trail. Work is anticipated to be completed by summer 2012. Visit www.oregonmetro.gov/bluelakegolf for more information and project updates.

Fall calendar at a glance

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Overlooking the Tualatin River Valley, the new Cooper Mountain Nature Park sits on the southern edge of Beaverton, shouldered by dense urban development to the north and open agricultural lands to the south.

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

Cooper Mountain Nature Park
18892 SW Kemmer Road, Beaverton
503-629-6350

Metro's natural techniques garden
6800 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

The bright red cap with white spots that instantly identifies the poisonous fly amanita (*Amanita muscaria*) mushroom is believed by some to have inspired Santa Claus's red and white suit. Volunteers at the Native Plant Center harvest Camas bulbs from propagation flats and pot *Spirea douglassi* seedlings.

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)

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Since 2006, Metro's voter-approved Natural Areas Program has funded land acquisitions and capital improvements that protect water quality, preserve fish and wildlife habitat, enhance trails and wildlife corridors and provide greater connections to nature throughout the Portland metropolitan area. Since the addition in June of three new properties, the total acreage of protected natural areas has reached the 1,000 acre mark, moving the program closer to the goal of protecting up to 4,000 acres in urban areas and areas where development is likely to occur. With nearly nine miles of stream and river frontage included in the new total, habitat quality for



Clackamas River flood plain

C. Bruce Forster photo

fish and wildlife can be preserved and improved, contributing to the overall health of the region's soil, air and water and helping to ensure the quality of life for the region's 1.5 million people.

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[www.oregonmetro.gov/
naturalareas](http://www.oregonmetro.gov/naturalareas)



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