

WINTER 2011

GreenScene



Your winter guide
to great places and
green living

www.oregonmetro.gov



begin
design
reflect
whisper
visualize
volunteer
observe



Raptor Road Trip

Annual event celebrates birds of prey

9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 5

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

How does the road trip work?

Begin at Kruger's Farm Market and pick up your event map and raptor identification guide. The event fee is \$10 per vehicle, cash only, and includes a Sauvie Island Wildlife Area parking permit. To

reach Kruger's, take Highway 30 to the Sauvie Island Bridge and continue straight 1.5 miles (past Howell Territorial Park) to the farm entrance on your right. Carpooling is encouraged.

Spotting scopes help with raptor identification and are provided with naturalists on hand to point out the birds. Bring binoculars and field guides if you have them and dress for the weather. This event takes place rain or shine. The road trip is suitable for birders of all skill levels and families are welcome. While you don't have to be an "early bird" and get up at the crack of dawn to see these birds of prey, you should allow approximately three hours to visit all four locations.

What will you see?

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



Get ready for the day with a raptor identification class, 7 to 9:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 27. Refer to calendar listing on page 12.

For more information about the Raptor Road Trip, call 503-797-1650 option 2. Three of the four event locations offer wheelchair access. ♿

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

Fantastic four

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

Arranged from the largest to the smallest

Bald eagle

Long, broad wings look plank-like

Big head and beak

Adults have white head and tail

Biggest raptor in Oregon

Red-tailed hawk

Broad, fairly long wings

Short, broad tail; red on adults

Underside has "dark head, white breast, dark belly" pattern

Most common raptor in the Portland area

Northern harrier

Has a bright, white rump patch

Long wings and long tail

Flies low over fields with wings held up in a shallow "V"

American kestrel (falcon)

Streamlined shape

Narrow, pointed wings

Long, narrow tail

Perches on wires and hovers over fields

Smallest hawk-like bird in the Portland area

Join the Metro Council to go even greener in the new year

The new year is the perfect time to turn over a greener leaf at home, on the road and in your community. Join Metro Councilors Carlotta Collette, Rex Burkholder, Kathryn Harrington and Shirley Craddick and resolve to reduce your carbon footprint and protect the nature of the region.

You'll come across tips and tools throughout this edition of GreenScene to help you reach your goals. Find a volunteer opportunity at one of your favorite places. Get inspired to keep biking, walking and enjoying nature throughout the winter.

Get more ideas, inspiration and know-how on Metro's website.

www.oregonmetro.gov/sustainability

Councilors Collette and Craddick will be driving less

"This year, my green resolution is to ride the bus more often. I'm tired of sitting in traffic and looking for parking. Plus, with a smartphone, I can accomplish a lot of work on a bus that I sometimes can't even accomplish in my office." – *Councilor Carlotta Collette*

"Getting to Metro is a long drive for just one person to make. Since the MAX runs through Gresham and drops me off at Metro's door, I'm going to take the MAX instead of driving myself when I go to work." – *Councilor Shirley Craddick*

Councilors Craddick and Burkholder will help restore wildlife habitat

"As Metro's newest councilor, I'm excited to quickly get involved in Metro's mission to restore native habitats. This is a project I can start, literally, in my own backyard!" – *Councilor Shirley Craddick*

"I've always enjoyed getting out of the city and appreciating the natural beauty our region has to offer. With awesome rivers, green forests and miles of trails, what's not to love? Keeping that in mind, my green resolution is to volunteer with habitat restoration projects and pulling ivy." – *Councilor Rex Burkholder*

Councilor Harrington will continue gardening naturally

"My family has been going green and greener for years. We moved to a neighborhood with better transit options. We compost our kitchen waste. We've planted our yard with some native plants. Landscaping with well-placed native plants requires fewer fertilizers and pesticides, and less water. It also attracts helpful bugs and beautiful birds. I love doing it and would like to encourage others to give it a try." – *Councilor Kathryn Harrington*

More green resolution ideas

Buy all of your gifts for friends and families for one year from local vendors and decrease the amount of packaging you consume.

Start a compost bin or worm bin to lighten your impact on landfills.

Use reusable cloth sacks instead of plastic grocery bags at the store.

Plan your errands so they can be done in a single trip instead of taking individual car trips throughout the day.

Plant your spring garden with native plants and do not use toxic pesticides.

Make your own green cleaners instead of using harmful chemicals to clean your house.

Use eco-friendly practices when you host parties throughout the year, such as cooking with local food, using cloth napkins and reusable plates, and encouraging carpools.



Councilor Carlotta Collette



Councilor Shirley Craddick



Councilor Rex Burkholder



Councilor Kathryn Harrington

Use Facebook and Twitter to track the councilors' progress throughout the year, hear about their triumphs and tribulations and share your stories.

Tweet your green New Year's resolutions @metrogreenscene or post them on Metro's Facebook page, and you'll be entered to win a sustainable living prize package featuring a Walk There! book, Bike There! map, Drive Less/Save More T-shirt and more.

www.facebook.com/metrogreenscene

www.twitter.com/metrogreenscene



C. Bruce Forster photos



Make this the year to volunteer

Whether you are facing an uncertain future or have resources you can offer for the common good, connecting to your community during tough times can make a world of difference. Make a connection by pitching in. Help transform your neighborhood and protect the nature of the region. There is an opportunity for you to get involved whether you have an hour per week or an hour per month. Join Metro's stewardship efforts or volunteer with an organization in your community.

www.oregonmetro.gov/volunteer



Wildlife monitoring interns

Each year Metro recruits volunteer interns to help coordinate the wildlife monitoring program. Interns assist with field season planning, site visits, volunteer coordination, surveys and data management. Commitment is five to 10 hours per week during field season. Preference is given to college and graduate students, but school affiliation is not mandatory. For more information, call Katy Weil at 503-797-1688 or e-mail katy.weil@oregonmetro.gov.

Amphibian monitors

Metro's science and stewardship team is looking to expand its survey crew of amphibian egg mass monitors. Monitoring season is February through April.

Commitment is a minimum of three surveys, at least every other week, at one site February through April. Orientation consists of classroom training in January and field training in February. Prior experience not required, though an interest in science is appreciated. Waders and necessary equipment provided. For more information, call Katy Weil at 503-797-1688 or e-mail katy.weil@oregonmetro.gov.

Pioneer cemetery site stewards

Friends and neighbors of Metro's pioneer cemeteries are invited to help preserve one of these special places by providing firsthand knowledge of the site to its visitors through consistent interaction. Help coordinate volunteer projects and work

days. Site stewards are needed year-round, typically for four-hour shifts, including weekends. Commitment is supervising at least six restoration workdays in a calendar year and/or visiting the cemetery at least once a month. For more information, call 503-797-1688.

Pioneer cemeteries genealogy and office assistants

Volunteer office assistants are needed year-round to conduct research assignments, collect records and evaluate information for special studies, and assist cemetery staff. Must be able to conduct general office work, records management, filing and database management. Shifts are typically four hours. For more information, call 503-797-1688.

Native Plant Center conservation educators

The Native Plant Center serves as an outdoor classroom giving students hands-on, place-based experiences while encouraging their understanding of land stewardship and conservation. Enthusiastic volunteers who have an interest in native plants and/or gardening and are comfortable working with youth are needed. Expertise not required, but must be willing to get your hands dirty! For more information or to sign up, e-mail nativeplantcenter.volunteers@oregonmetro.gov.

Native Plant Center assistants

Volunteers assist in all aspects of propagating native herbaceous species – harvesting and cleaning seeds, planting native seeds, transplanting and potting seedlings, and setting out young plants into beds. Help with nursery operations: watering, weeding, seed bed preparation, general maintenance, data collection and filing. Learn about native plant conservation and local ecosystems while developing skills to work in Metro's natural areas. This is a year-round position; duties and tasks change with the seasons. New recruits are asked to first attend an orientation at a Saturday volunteer venture to get firsthand experience and a tour of the center (see page 10). For more information or to sign up, e-mail nativeplantcenter.volunteers@oregonmetro.gov.

ZooGuides

Want to lend a hand at the Oregon Zoo? ZooGuides receive 40 hours of training and then choose from a variety of volunteer opportunities. Help deliver animal talks at the zoo or in schools or work with special program animals. Dig in to gardening projects or construction activities. Help out at events or behind the scenes in the office. Commitment is 88 hours of service per year. Informational orientations in January; training in February. For more information, call 503-220-2783.



Drive less, see more this winter



Winter is a great time to walk

Don't let the winter weather prevent you from getting outside to stay healthy and explore your community. Just grab an umbrella and your copy of Metro's Walk There! This easy-to-use guidebook leads you on 50 winter-friendly explorations of natural areas, scenic parks, historic neighborhoods and vibrant main streets. Full-color maps help you discover the region's rich history and varied landscapes while you enjoy the benefits of walking.

Walk There! is available for \$9.95 in bookstores and other retail locations around the region. Learn more about Walk There! or download free maps and audio tours on Metro's website.



Got a resolution to get fit?

Stay active and get fit during the winter months by biking or walking. No gym membership needed, just head out the door. Leaving your car behind to walk and bike for trips is great for the planet, your health and your wallet. People who choose to walk or cycle as their primary mode of travel save their households an average of \$694 per month. Here are some tips to help you get moving during the new year:

- Check out Metro's Walk There! guidebook for ideas on where to walk. You could even set a goal to complete all 50 treks in the book this year.

- Shop close to your home so you can walk or bike. This is a great way to get exercise and see your neighborhood without a windshield in your way.
- Be seen. Be safe. While you're out and about during the winter months, remember to wear light-colored jackets and reflective clothing to help you stay safe.
- Take public transportation. Studies have shown people who use public transportation walk more each day. Hop off a stop or two earlier than your destination to up the fitness level even more.

Don't let rain ruin your ride

Is the forecast calling for rain? Don't let that dampen your biking spirit. Follow the easy tips below to stay comfortable, safe and dry while biking for work or play.

- Wear rain gear and clothing that fits loosely, has air vents and is water repellant. Rain capes or ponchos are inexpensive options that keep your top dry while providing plenty of ventilation. If you're commuting by bicycle every day, a Gore-Tex suit or other suit that sheds water and is breathable may be a good option.
- Bring a small towel with you. Keep it in an accessible pocket to wipe away any water or splashes during your ride.
- Remember that Metro's Bike There! map is printed on durable, waterproof paper, making

it the perfect planning tool for finding your way in rainy weather.

- Clean off your bike after rainy rides. Wash or wipe down your bike, paying special attention to the chain, headsets, bottom brackets and brakes. Accumulated dirt can interfere with your bike's performance.
- Be visible. Wear bright reflective clothing and make sure all your bike lights are bright and blinking so cars can see you in poor conditions.
- Invest in fenders for your bike. They will help keep rain and dirt off of your body and the more vulnerable parts of your bicycle.
- Avoid puddles. Not only will riding through puddles soak you and your bike, but there may also be bumps or potholes that you can't see.

Remember biking is just one car-free way to get where you need to go. If you're not in the mood to ride in the rain, consider taking transit or sharing a ride with a co-worker or someone else in your neighborhood.

Savvy transit tools

Visit www.trimet.org to plan your trip. Download an app for your smart phone that tells you when your bus is coming. Call 503-238-RIDE (7433) from any phone, smart or otherwise, for a real-time transit tracker.

There are lots of great resources to help you get organized, plan your trips and stay safe while walking or biking. Get tips and tools and watch how-to videos online.

www.oregonmetro.gov/walkthere

www.oregonmetro.gov/bikethere

www.DriveLessSaveMore.com

Sellwood Gap shrinks with help from voter-approved Natural Areas Program



The Springwater Corridor takes bicyclists, walkers and joggers from central Portland to Sellwood – then forces them onto public streets for a mile before rejoining the trail for the trip through Milwaukie and Gresham to Boring. Metro recently acquired the rights to fill more than half of the so-called Sellwood Gap.

Runners, walkers and cyclists needn't scrutinize trail plans to name the region's most notorious missing piece: the Sellwood Gap, which forces people off the Springwater Corridor for a mile in its namesake neighborhood in Southeast Portland.

The gap will shrink dramatically, thanks to a recent agreement between Metro and the Oregon Pacific Railroad Co. that will allow more than half a mile of trail to be built alongside the train tracks the company operates. Someday, commuters and outdoor enthusiasts will be able to take the trail between Southeast Umatilla Street and 13th Avenue.

As the regional government, Metro works with cities, counties and park providers to plan trails that link our communities. The Springwater, one of the region's signature trails, spans 20 miles from central Portland through Southeast Portland, Milwaukie and Gresham to Boring.

"By definition, trails connect places," said District 2 Metro Councilor Carlotta Collette, who served as the council's president last fall. "But they also connect many of the issues that Metro tackles, from health and safety to land use and transportation. Closing more than half the Sellwood Gap is a prime example, improving public safety and inspiring people to get out and exercise."

Metro will collaborate with the City of Portland to secure funding for trail construction. The city may begin extending the Springwater as early as 2012, once sewer work and intersection improvements are complete.

The Springwater is one of 27 focal points of Metro's voter-approved 2006 natural areas bond measure, which is designed to protect water quality, wildlife habitat and recreation opportunities for future generations. Metro's previous natural areas bond measure secured rights to build a three-mile stretch of the Springwater, from just north of the Ross Island Bridge to the Sellwood Bridge.

Generally, Metro doesn't want to purchase land for trails – just the ability to build on it.

"Closing trail gaps typically involves small pieces of property, but it makes a huge impact on neighborhoods across the region," said Metro Councilor Robert Liberty, who represents portions of Southeast, Southwest and Northeast Portland in District 6. "The extension of the Springwater Corridor will be felt right away by residents of the Sellwood neighborhood and the thousands of people who use the Springwater Corridor."

The agreement with Oregon Pacific, which was finalized in September for about \$618,000, also included the sale of a 5,000-square-foot property in

the Sellwood area. The land did not further Metro's natural area goals, and its sale to Oregon Pacific helped secure the rights to extend the Springwater.

Metro's natural areas team spread the word in October by staffing a booth at the last Moreland Farmers Market of the season. Nearly 200 neighbors stopped to enjoy a cookie and chat about the Springwater Corridor.

Mel Huie, Metro's regional trails coordinator, said it was exciting to meet trail-lovers from all walks of life. Visitors included parents who bike with their children, a woman exploring the entire 40-Mile Loop and commuters who rely on the Springwater to get to work.

"I was very impressed by the level of knowledge and enthusiasm about the trail," said Huie, who has worked at Metro since 1977. "I have worked on planning for the Springwater Corridor and Sellwood Gap for almost 20 years – and talking with nearly 200 citizens, neighbors and trail users was a 'planning moment' for me. I learned so much from the public."



Trails planner Mel Huie chats with neighbors at the Moreland Farmers Market, where the Metro natural areas team spread the word about progress in closing the Sellwood Gap.



Marine Drive Trail

Metro makes tracks, filling trail gaps across the region



Fanno Creek Greenway Trail

Metro logged its first trails success story of the 2006 bond measure by securing rights to extend the Fanno Creek Greenway Trail in central Tigard. Two side-by-side easements will allow more than half of a one-third mile gap to be filled between downtown Tigard and the city's Woodard Park. The regional trail, which is about half complete, will traverse 15 miles and five cities,

beginning at the shores of the Willamette River in Southwest Portland and weaving through Beaverton, Tigard and Durham to Tualatin, where Fanno Creek joins the Tualatin River. Metro's previous bond measure protected about 40 acres for this commuting and recreational trail, which connects dozens of neighborhoods, parks, schools and businesses.

Marine Drive Trail

While walkers, runners and cyclists explored the Marine Drive Trail last summer, Metro paved the way for an expansion of the popular pathway on four properties near the Portland-Gresham border. Metro secured rights to build more than 1,000

feet of trail – equal to nearly one lap around a track – on an expanse of land flanking Northeast 185th Avenue. These new trail easements will help close a one-mile gap, one of several in the paved pathway that traces Marine Drive and the Columbia River. Eventually, the Marine Drive Trail will stretch 20 miles from the St. Johns neighborhood in North Portland eastward through Gresham and Troutdale, offering spectacular views of water, wildlife and mountain peaks and serving as part of the region's 40-Mile Loop trail system.

Willamette River Greenway

The walking, jogging and cycling path that links communities along the Willamette River will expand in North Portland, onto property Metro collaborated to purchase with Portland Parks & Recreation and Bureau of Environmental Services. A 6-acre addition to the Willamette River Greenway will allow the city to build more than one-third mile of trail north of the St. Johns Bridge, at North Catlin Avenue and Decatur Street. City plans call for "re-greening" the land in conjunction with trail development – potentially restoring rare and valuable white oak habitat similar to that found elsewhere in the

Baltimore Woods corridor. This habitat could support diverse wildlife such as the slender-billed nuthatch, Western wood-pewee and Western gray squirrel. The Willamette River Greenway is part of the 40-Mile Loop.

Cazadero Trail

A trailhead will welcome visitors to the new Cazadero Trail where it meets Barton Park, thanks to the natural areas bond measure. Metro acquired 25 acres as the gateway to a four-mile section of the Cazadero Trail, which will extend the Springwater Corridor from Boring to Barton – and, eventually, up the Clackamas River through the Eagle Creek, Estacada, Faraday, Cazadero and Promontory Park areas. The forested trail, which is owned by the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, traces a historic rail line used to ship timber from Cascade forests to the Portland riverfront. Clackamas County, Metro and the state are coordinating to plan and develop the future trailhead.



The Intertwine is the new name for the region's ever-growing network of integrated parks, trails and natural areas. Visit www.TheIntertwine.org to view a regional map of The Intertwine's best-loved outdoor recreation options including hiking, biking, paddling, birding, picnicking and other adventures.

11,000 acres and counting

Metro's voter-approved Natural Areas Program has protected more than 11,000 acres to improve water quality, wildlife habitat and recreation opportunities for future generations. Learn about success stories near you, find volunteer opportunities or apply for a Nature in Neighborhoods grant on Metro's website.



C. Bruce Forster photo

www.oregonmetro.gov/naturalareas



Enjoy the winter wonderland

A naturalist's guide to winter in the region

By Metro naturalist James Davis



Waterfowl and raptors

Winter turns the region into a waterfowl wonderland. Tens of thousands of ducks, geese and swans spend the winter in the northern Willamette Valley and lower Columbia River basin. Places like Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area, Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge, Sauvie Island and Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge offer spectacular viewing of large flocks of many different species. All hunting is finished by the end of January, so February provides the most hassle-free viewing.

By December, all the leaves are gone from the deciduous trees. That means it's a great time to see wintering raptors. Not only are the birds of prey easier to see in the bare trees, there are actually more of them here in the wintertime. Red-tailed hawks and bald eagles arrive in the Portland

area in large numbers for the winter, joining the year-round residents. Expect to find eagles hanging out in areas with lots of wintering waterfowl, feeding on the ducks and geese that don't make it through the winter. Two other raptors seen here in winter are the rough-legged hawk and the merlin. Raptor Road Trip, the first Saturday in February, has become the premier raptor-viewing event of the season for our region.

Night crawlers and moles

Winter rains bring a big increase in the activity of two underground animals – earthworms and the moles that prey on them. You will see more of the fresh piles of dirt that moles push out of their tunnels and up to the surface. We have the smallest and the largest moles in the world right here. Harder to see are “worm piles”

made by night crawlers as they drag food into their burrows. Look for little clumps of tiny twigs and leaves about the size of half a ping-pong ball. They are especially common in thin parts of lawns under trees.

Crows nests and dreys

Look up in the big, bare deciduous trees in old neighborhoods and parks and you are likely to see two different kinds of clumps of plant debris. These are crows' nests and dreys. Think of a pirate ship and you'll know where to look for the crows' nests – they are near the top of the tallest trunk in a small group of trees (small wonder how the ship's lookout got the name). Crows' nests are made of little sticks and are basically cone-shaped. A drey is the nest of a tree squirrel, but the term is not commonly used in the United States. The

dreys seen most frequently in Portland are the balls of leaves made by the introduced Eastern fox squirrel and the Eastern gray squirrel. Their nests are about the size of a soccer ball, made almost entirely of dried leaves with a few sticks, and are usually placed close to the trunk and lower in trees than crows' nests. Each winter, you will see a new batch of these structures since they rarely survive winter weather.

Feeding birds in your backyard

Winter is the time of the most activity at bird feeders. Birds need more calories at the same time that food is getting scarce, so they come to your feeder for those tasty and energy-rich sunflower and other seeds. Some common “feeder birds” are not seen much at other times of the year. Dark-eyed juncos are even called “snowbirds” by some folks since this little sparrow is usually at feeders only during winter. Other winter visitors are the plain pine siskin, often mistaken for a female house finch, and the varied thrush. These winter visitors join the regulars seen at feeders any time of year such as song sparrows, house sparrows, house finches, spotted towhees, chickadees, scrub jays and Steller's jays. If you are lucky, you might also get white-crowned and golden-crowned sparrows and American goldfinches. If you put out suet, expect to see downy woodpeckers, red-breasted nuthatches, bushtits and more chickadees.



Scrub jay



Downy woodpecker

Nature writes the book on attracting birds to your backyard

Want to help the region's native birds survive the winter? Take a lesson from healthy forests. A little less yard cleanup and a layered landscape – with a mix of ground covers, shrubs, and trees large and small – make finding food and refuge a whole lot easier for birds.

The payoff? A continual parade of winged visitors, providing visual delight throughout the season. And with appetite in tow, they'll help keep insect pests at bay.

Lend birds a hand this winter with nature-inspired tips from Metro:

Don't be tidy. Create a brush pile, where birds can get out of the wind and rain and forage for bugs and worms. Rake leaves into garden beds – where birds will hunt for food – and leave edible fruits, berries or nuts on trees and bushes.

Maintain diversity. A mix of plants will attract and harbor a variety of birds. Consider evergreen and deciduous trees, bushes, and smaller plants, which together provide food for birds.

Plant natives. Native plants typically require less care and fewer chemicals, which can harm birds. A mix of natives easily meets the birds' food and shelter needs.

Keep cats indoors. The impact of cats is devastating all year, but it's worse in winter when birds, stressed by colder temperatures and low on calories, are more vulnerable.

Supply fresh, clean water. Keep a shallow birdbath off the ground and in the open, so birds can see approaching cats. Birds need the water to drink but also to keep feathers clean and insulating.

Metro and the Audubon Society of Portland offer resources to help create bird-friendly yards.

To learn about natural gardening, including composting, choosing native plants and working without harmful pesticides, call Metro's recycling hotline at 503-234-3000 or visit www.oregonmetro.gov/garden.

To learn about the Audubon Society's backyard habitat certification program, visit www.audubonportland.org/backyardwildlife.

Annual passes for Metro parks available now



Jerome Hart photo

Purchase your 2011 annual park pass for admission and parking at Oxbow and Blue Lake regional parks, Chinook Landing Marine Park and the M. James Gleason Boat Ramp. Passes are valid Jan. 1 through Dec. 31. Passes are not accepted for special events such as the Fourth of July fireworks at Blue Lake. A regular pass is \$40, a senior pass is \$30, and a low-income/disability pass is \$10 (documentation required). MasterCard, Visa and American Express are accepted.

Pick up a pass at the Blue Lake or Oxbow park office or the Metro Store at 600 NE Grand Ave. in Portland. You can also order your pass online at www.oregonmetro.gov/parks or call 503-665-4995 to order by phone. Metro honors Oregon State Parks passes for disabled veterans; call 503-665-4995 for more information.

Winter calendar

Forest story and stroll


1 to 2 p.m. Fridays, Jan. 7, 14, 21 and 28, and Feb. 4, 11, 18 and 25

Join a park naturalist for nature story time and a brief stroll through the park. This program is geared toward families with preschool children, but all are welcome. Meet at Tryon Creek Nature Center. Free. Advance registration required; visit www.tryonfriends.org. For more information, call 503-636-9886, ext. 225. *Friends of Tryon Creek*

Native Plant Center volunteer Saturdays

9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays, Jan. 8 and 22, Feb. 12 and 26, and March 12 and 26

Volunteers help out at Metro's Native Plant Center in Tualatin to provide an essential supply of uncommon native seeds and plant stock to support Metro's restoration projects. Activities vary throughout the winter and include harvesting and planting native lily and Delphinium bulbs, replanting seedlings grown from seed collected at Metro's natural areas, planting seeds, maintaining seedbeds and planting native plugs into field beds to produce seed for prairie and understory enhancement projects. Prior gardening experience not required. Family-friendly.

Gloves, tools, water and a snack provided. For more information or to register, call 503-797-1653 or e-mail nativeplantcenter.volunteers@oregonmetro.gov. Metro  by arrangement

Guided nature hikes

10 to 11:30 a.m. Saturdays, Jan. 8, 15, 22 and 29, and Feb. 5, 12, 19 and 26

Join a park naturalist for a free, guided nature hike to explore the forest and stream ecosystems and natural history at Tryon Creek State Natural Area. Topics vary from week to week, but are appropriate for all ages. Parents must accompany children. Free. Meet at Tryon Creek Nature Center. For more information, call 503-636-9886, ext. 225. *Friends of Tryon Creek*

Lone Fir Pioneer Cemetery historic tour

10 a.m. to noon Saturdays, Jan. 8 and Feb. 12

Embark on a unique history lesson while enjoying the beauty and tranquility of Metro's Lone Fir Pioneer Cemetery. The tour highlights Portland's founders, early pioneers and nationally recognized figures as well as interesting headstones and monuments. Explore 30 acres of mature trees and a very special rose garden. Suitable for all ages. Meet at the soldiers' monument. Suggested donation of \$10 goes to headstone restoration and educational programs. For more information, call 503-224-9200. *Friends of Lone Fir Cemetery*

Protect Terwilliger Parkway

9 a.m. to noon Saturdays, Jan. 8 and Feb. 12

Help protect and enhance the forest corridor of Terwilliger Parkway by removing invasive plant species. Tools, gloves, water and instruction provided. Wear long sleeves, long pants and sturdy shoes. Suitable for adults and children age 10 and older. Meet at the public restrooms

at Southwest Terwilliger and Hamilton streets. For more information, call 503-293-1069. *Friends of Terwilliger*

Prowling for owls

7 to 9 p.m. Fridays, Jan. 14 and 28, and Feb. 4 and 18

Whooooo goes there? Come to the Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge to find out about the owls that make the refuge their home. During a night hike, learn about the mysterious lives of our nocturnal neighbors, discover their habitat and learn about their amazing adaptations for life at night. Wear sturdy shoes and bring a flashlight. Free. Advance registration required; e-mail your name, phone number and number of participants to sarah_gray@fws.gov. *U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service*

Invasive plant removal at Hazeldale Park

9 a.m. to noon Saturdays, Jan. 15, and Feb. 5 and 26

Help remove Himalayan blackberry from the riparian corridor of Celebrity Creek in Hazeldale Park. Bring a shovel, heavy-duty work gloves, loppers and a reusable water bottle. Refreshments provided. Meet at the picnic tables near the parking lot for Hazeldale Park, located at the end of Prospect Place, just off of Southwest 192nd Avenue. For more information, call 503-629-6350. *Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District*

Volunteer work party in Forest Park

9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturdays, Jan. 15 and Feb. 19

Come to Forest Park for a volunteer work party focused on habitat restoration. No experience required. Tools,

materials and training provided. Bring work gloves and wear sturdy footwear. Locations vary. Advance registration required at www.forestparkconservancy.org. For more information, e-mail volunteer@friendsofforestpark.org. *Forest Park Conservancy*

Landscaping for conservation

1 to 4 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 16 and Saturday, Feb. 19

Save time, save money and help out the environment by letting nature do your gardening. Join Stephanie Wagner for a landscaping for conservation workshop at Tryon Creek Nature Center. Discover how your garden can function more like the natural system. Learn about your garden from the ground up – starting with the soil and its complex role supporting plants. Find out how gardening with native plants uses less water and doesn't require expensive fertilizers and pesticides. Receive a free plant and the opportunity for a garden consultation. Free. For more information, call 503-636-4398. *Friends of Tryon Creek*

Interstate 205 volunteer tree planting

9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday, Jan. 17

Metro Councilor Rex Burkholder is getting a jump on his New Year's resolution to volunteer with habitat restoration projects (see page 3). Join him to help green the Interstate 205 bicycle and pedestrian path – and see a Metro Nature in Neighborhoods grant project in action. Friends of Trees and the Oregon Department of Transportation have teamed up on a three-year initiative to plant thousands of native trees



wildlife watching



sustainable living



volunteering



nature discoveries



natural gardening



wheelchair accessible


and shrubs along the 16.5-mile pathway. In the process, they're creating a statewide model for roadside landscaping and providing environmental education and job training to underserved communities of color. Morning refreshments, gloves, tools and guidance provided; wear sturdy shoes and dress for the weather. Meet at Southeast Mill Street and Southeast 95th Avenue in Portland. For more information, call 503-282-8846, ext. 24 or e-mail andym@friendsoftrees.org. *Friends of Trees and ODOT*

Puddle stompers 10 to 11:30 a.m.

Wednesdays, Jan. 19, and Feb. 2 and 16

Do you have a little one who enjoys being outdoors? Wondering what you can do outside for some rainy day fun? Bring your pre-kindergarten naturalists to the Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge to stomp in puddles and appreciate the wet weather that makes western Oregon so green! Bring your rain gear, rubber boots and be prepared to get wet and wild. Free. Advance registration required; call 503-625-5944, ext. 239. *U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service*


Environmental talk 6 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 20

Take part in a fun evening learning about the environment. Pat Barry, supervisory park ranger at Bonneville Lock and Dam Visitor Center, uncovers the mystery behind turning water into electricity. Free. Meet at Tryon Creek Nature Center. For more information, call 503-636-9886 ext. 225. *Friends of Tryon Creek* 

Ducks 101: Waterfowl identification class

7 to 9:30 p.m. Thursday,
Jan. 20

Half a million ducks, geese and swans spend the winter in the northern Willamette Valley. Many visit or pass through Smith and Bybee Wetlands. Waterfowl are some of the easiest birds to identify and great for learning the basics of bird identification. Join

Metro naturalist James Davis to find out who's who in this large group of beautiful birds. Suitable for adults and teens. Meet in room 370 at Metro Regional Center in Portland. Registration and payment of \$10 per person required in advance; call 503-797-1650 option 2. *Metro* 

Stories in the stones on Mount Talbert 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 22

Join Metro naturalist Dan Daly and explore the rugged beauty of this unique lava dome as you wander through a white oak woodland in winter. Mount Talbert is part of a series of cinder cones and small shield volcanoes that began bubbling up almost 3 million years ago, leaving Mount Tabor, Rocky Butte and Mount Talbert in its wake. Participants gain a basic understanding of geology in the region from the stories in the stones and land formations along the way. Appropriate for ages 10 years to adult. Trails are rough and steep in places. \$5 adult; under 18 free. Advance registration required; call 503-794-8092. *Metro and North Clackamas Parks and Recreation*

The curriculum of shadows

1 to 4 p.m. Saturdays, Jan. 22 and Feb. 19

Understanding the shadows of the forest not only helps you better see the secrets of the wild, but also takes you into an entirely new world of observation and awareness. Join the Trackers Rangers Guild to delve into invisibility and stealth as both a philosophy and a functional skill. Learn how the principle of camouflage applies to both primitive and modern living. \$25. For more information, call 1-866-400-3652. *TrackersNW*

Wilderness survival and primitive skills taster

9 a.m. to noon Saturdays,
Jan. 22 and Feb. 19

Learn to meet your basic needs and become self-sufficient through traditional skills. Feel safe and at home in the

Stayin' Alive: Winter survival shelters for families


11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 23

Take shelter! Nature provides for those with know-how. The driving wind and rain can be held at bay with simple skills that every squirrel depends on. In this family-oriented class, learn the basics of building a winter survival shelter that can keep you safe and warm without the aid of a sleeping bag or a fire. After this introduction, younger participants will have free time by the river (supervised by a parent/guardian) where they can build forts for fun. This class takes place outdoors at Oxbow Regional Park and is led by Metro naturalist Dan Daly. Bring a sack lunch. \$5 adults; under 18 free. Oxbow has a \$5 per vehicle gate fee. Advance registration required; call 503-797-1650 option 2. This class goes rain or shine but snow will cancel – come dressed for the weather. *Metro*

Portland Fix-It Fairs

8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Saturdays, Jan. 22 and Feb. 26

It's Fix-It Fair season! For 24 years, free Fix-It Fairs have helped area residents save money, live healthier and connect to valuable resources for sustainable living. Fix-It Fairs offer day-long exhibits, hourly how-to classes and free giveaways. 

Hosted by the Portland Bureau of Planning and Sustainability, this year's Fix-It Fairs feature a workshop led by Metro staff offering participants free tips on green cleaning.

Join your neighbors at the Healthy Homes booth and talk to Metro's experts about how to spend less, stay healthy and avoid toxic chemicals.

11 a.m. Green cleaners workshop

Save money and protect your family and the environment by using safe, simple ingredients to clean your home. Led by Caran Goodall, Metro toxics reduction educator.

Fair locations

Jan. 22 | Parkrose High School, 12003 NE Shaver St., Portland

Feb. 26 | Jefferson High School, 5210 N. Kerby Ave., Portland




Kent Derek photo

wilderness while gaining confidence in your relationship with the land. It's time to remember how humans have always met the needs of shelter, water, fire and food. \$25. For more information, call 1-866-400-3652. *TrackersNW*

Winter birds at Smith and Bybee Wetlands

9:30 a.m. to noon Saturdays, Jan. 22 and Feb. 26

The winter birds are really settled in at Smith and Bybee. The most obvious winter visitors are the numerous waterfowl and raptors that hang out at the lakes until spring. The year-round residents as well as a few winter songbirds are easier to see because all the leaves are gone. Suitable for adults and children age 10 and older. Bring binoculars or borrow a pair on site; spotting scopes provided. Meet Metro naturalist James Davis in the natural area parking lot at 5300 North Marine Drive. Free. Advance registration required; call 503-797-1650 option 2. *Metro* 

Homesteading crafts taster

1 to 4 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 23
Learn how to live off the grid and on the land. Join the Trackers Wilders Guild and learn self-sufficiency, applicable to both the rural and urban village. Find out how to work with local resources and your own two hands to provide for you and your family. \$25. For more information, call 1-866-400-3652. *TrackersNW*

Wildlife tracking taster

9 a.m. to noon Sunday, Jan. 23
Connect to nature through an ancient way of seeing and experiencing the mysteries of the natural world. Learn to see animals such as bear, elk and cougar as though they are part of an extended family. Explore tracking as an effective tool for expanding awareness and developing naturalist skills. \$25. For more information, call 1-866-400-3652. *TrackersNW*

Friends of Trees winter crew leader training

6:30 to 9 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 27
Crew leaders are essential to the success of restoration programs and must be able to help plant trees at least three times during the planting season. The training consists of two sessions: a classroom-style session from 6:30 to 9 p.m. on Thursday Jan. 27, and participation in a regular planting on Saturday Jan. 29 from 8:15 a.m. to 1 p.m. Attendance at both sessions is required in order to become an assistant crew leader. For more information, call 503-282-8846, ext. 24 or visit www.friendsoftrees.org/volunteer. *Friends of Trees*

Nature Kids preschool program open house

4 to 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 27
Come to the Tualatin Hills Nature Park Interpretive Center for an open house about Nature Kids and other preschool programs offered throughout the year. Stop in to meet teachers, experience the programs, ask questions and register. Free. For more information, call 503-629-6350. *Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District*

Raptor identification class

7 to 9:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 27
Hawks, eagles and falcons have always fascinated people. Metro naturalist James Davis will discuss how to tell these groups of raptors apart and the key points for identifying the most common species in Oregon. You will also learn about the natural history of raptors and the amazing adaptations of these birds for catching and killing their prey. In addition to slides, there will be study skins of the most common species for up-close looks. 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*

Windowsill herb gardening

2 to 4 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 29
Start your own indoor herb garden for use in cooking homemade teas, fragrances and more. Techniques for drying herbs will also be discussed. Seeds, soil and reclaimed materials for pots provided. \$18. Meet at Cooper Mountain Nature Park. For more information, call 503-629-6350. *Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District*

Plan your garden

6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 2
Spring is right around the corner and it's time to start planning your vegetable garden. Attend this class to learn practical planning techniques for selecting seeds, optimizing space, increasing harvests and rotating crops. Maximize your bounty by applying new space-saving strategies in your home garden. Free seeds and a garden planning packet full of useful tools and worksheets provided. Meet at Faubion School. Classes may be taken individually or as a series; three and four class discounts available. \$35. Advance registration required; call 503-638-0735. *Oregon Tilth*

Volunteer naturalist training at Tualatin River refuge

9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Thursdays, Feb. 3, 10, 17 and 24
Do you enjoy being outdoors? Meeting new people? Learning and having fun? Are you looking for a rewarding way to share your love of nature? If you answered yes to any of these questions, consider becoming a volunteer naturalist for the Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge. Visit www.fws.gov/tualatinriver or call 503-625-5944 for an application and more information. *U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service*

Carter Creek tree planting

9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Feb. 5
Join SOLV and its partners for this tree planting at Carter Creek in Lake Oswego. Tools and gloves provided; bring boots and dress for the weather. For more information or to register, visit www.solv.org or call 503-844-9571 ext. 332. *SOLV*

Family owl night

6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 5
Come learn about what makes owls such successful nocturnal predators. Dissect an owl pellet and learn what it had for dinner, and join one of the nature guides on an evening hike to listen for owls. \$6 per person; \$5 for members. Meet at Tryon Creek Nature Center. Advance registration required; call 503-636-4398. *Friends of Tryon Creek*

Place-based education

1 to 4 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 6
In the traditional village, storytellers were among the first teachers. They passed the knowledge and wisdom of a culture down through generations to come. In the modern world, experiential and outdoor educators seek ways to help create a new culture connected to nature. Join the Trackers Artisans Guild for training in the educational processes of Trackers Earth. \$25. For more information, call 1-866-400-3652. *TrackersNW*

A Valentine for the Clackamas

9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Feb. 12
Come get dirty while cleaning up the watershed. Show some love for the Clackamas River basin by planting trees at the Boring Station Trailhead. All tools and know-how provided – just bring your enthusiasm and a dish to share for a potluck lunch afterward. Advance registration required; call 503-558-0550. *Clackamas River Basin Council*

Native planting at Summercrest Park

9 a.m. to noon Saturdays, Feb. 12 and 19

Help plant native trees and shrubs throughout the riparian corridor of a portion of Beaverton's South Johnson Creek in Summercrest Park. Bring a shovel, leather work gloves and a reusable water bottle. Refreshments provided. Summercrest Park is located adjacent to Hart Meadows Park which runs along the powerline corridor just south of Hart Road. Meet on the south side of Bridle Hills Drive southeast of Southwest Coe Way. For more information, call 503-629-6350. *Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District*

Birding on Sauvie Island

9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 16

Do you love the Raptor Road Trip? Do it again with your own naturalist! Pack a lunch and grab your binoculars or borrow a pair on site. Drive to Sauvie Island to watch raptors and waterfowl and learn why these birds abound in the winter in the Willamette Valley. \$23 fee includes transportation and guide. Advance registration required; call 503-823-2525 or visit www.portlandparks.org (refer to course #336860). The first three registrants who get a friend to

register receive 20 percent off of the event fee. *Portland Parks & Recreation*

Plan your garden 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 16

Spring is right around the corner and it's time to start planning your vegetable garden. Attend this class to learn practical planning techniques for selecting seeds, optimizing space, increasing harvests and rotating crops. Maximize your bounty by applying new space-saving strategies in your home garden. Free seeds and a garden planning packet full of useful tools and worksheets provided. Classes may be taken individually or as a series; three and four class discounts available. \$31 for Lake Oswego residents and Oregon Tilth members; \$36 for non-residents. Meet at Luscher Farm. Advance registration required; visit www.tilth.org or call 503-638-0735. *Oregon Tilth*

Growing tomatoes and other summer fruits from seed

6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 23
Learn practical techniques for indoor seed propagation so you can grow all your favorite summer fruits from seed to harvest. Pruning and vertical gardening for vine crops are covered to help you grow more in limited space. Discover methods for extending your

growing season and encouraging an earlier and more productive harvest for heat-loving crops. Participants take home newly sown tomatoes and peppers! Classes may be taken individually for \$35 or as a series; three and four class discounts available. Meet at Faubion School. Advance registration required; call 503-638-0735. *Oregon Tilth*

Learn the way of the wilder

7 to 10 p.m. Friday, Feb. 25
Hunter-gatherers thrive, they don't simply survive. Remediate, restore and intensify long-established native landscapes. Join the Trackers Wilders Guild for this lecture going beyond permaculture, while removing humans from the center of how we see the world. Embark on a journey where caring for the land means caring for your family and an old and ancient relationship to the Earth. For more information, call 1-866-400-3652. *TrackersNW*

Family fun with worm bins

2 to 4 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 26
Enjoy an afternoon of creepy-crawly fun at Tryon Creek State Natural Area. Discover worms in their natural habitat and see first-hand how truly invaluable these invertebrates are to the park's ecosystem. Then warm up inside as you get to work making your own worm bins for all your household composting

needs. This is a family-friendly program that focuses on engaging children throughout the process while providing parents with all the worm bin information they'll ever need! \$15 includes materials. Meet at Tryon Creek Nature Center. For more information, call 503-636-4398. *Friends of Tryon Creek*

Goat Island tree planting

9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Feb. 26

Join SOLV and its partners for a tree planting at Goat Island in Gladstone. Tools and gloves provided; bring boots and dress for the weather. Visit www.solv.org for more information and to register, or contact Brett Lyon at 503-844-9571, ext. 332. *SOLV*

Native planting at Brookview Park

9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Feb. 26

Help plant native trees and shrubs throughout the riparian corridor of a tributary of Beaverton's South Johnson Creek in Brookview Park. Bring a shovel, work gloves and a reusable water bottle. Refreshments provided. Meet at the park entrance on Southwest 152nd Avenue just north of Village Lane. For more information, call 503-629-6350. *Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District*



Register online for Metro activities

Visit Metro's online calendar to register for Metro nature activities and gardening workshops.

www.oregonmetro.gov/calendar

Refund policy

Metro's \$5 programs are nonrefundable. Requests for all other refunds must be received 48 hours in advance of event. Cancellations exempt.

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
503-797-1650

Mount Talbert Nature Park

10695 SE Mather Road, Clackamas
503-742-4353

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

Graham Oaks Nature Park

11825 SW Wilsonville Rd., Wilsonville
503-797-1650

Oregon Zoo

4001 SW Canyon Road, Portland
www.oregonzoo.org
503-226-1561

Winter calendar at a glance

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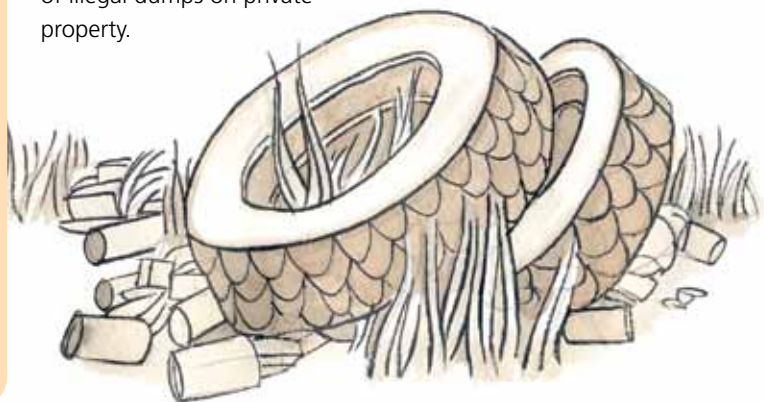
Illegal dumping a problem in your neighborhood? Be part of the solution!

It's unsightly, dirty and dangerous. It can harm waterways and wildlife when improperly disposed. It's the used tires, mattresses, old furniture, TVs and various other junk illegally dumped at street corners, vacant lots and back alleys. Metro's Regional Illegal Dumping Patrol invites you to be part of the solution. Here's what you can do:

- Do not place unwanted furniture, TVs or other items on street corners with "free" signs.
- If you can't do it yourself, use only licensed or permitted haulers for your waste disposal needs.
- Do not hire strangers to haul away your trash, yard debris or other unwanted items.
- Call Metro Recycling Information at 503-234-3000 to find out the best way to donate, recycle or dispose of such items.

RID Patrol and local governments quickly respond to reports of illegal dumping in the Portland metropolitan area. Metro provides cleanup services on publicly owned land and can assist with investigation of illegal dumps on private property.

Each year RID Patrol cleans up more than 2,000 illegal dump sites. Report illegal dumpsites before they grow. Call RID Patrol at 503-234-3000 or report online at www.oregonmetro.gov/ridpatrol.



Eben Dickinson illustration

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Find out what's happening

Discover nature activities, community events, volunteer opportunities, sustainable living workshops and public meetings on Metro's online calendar. Download and share calendar items or subscribe to topics of interest.

Share your views

Help shape the future of the region by contributing your ideas on land, transportation, recycling, parks, trails and how we grow. Join Opt In, Metro's new online participation tool.



Metro | Making a great place

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

A regional approach simply makes sense when it comes to making decisions about how the region grows. Metro works with communities to support a resilient economy, keep nature close by and respond to a changing climate. Together we're making a great place, now and for generations to come.

Stay in touch with news, stories and things to do.
www.oregonmetro.gov/connect


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Kathryn Harrington, District 4
Rex Burkholder, District 5
Robert Liberty, District 6

Auditor
Suzanne Flynn

On the cover

Dark-eyed junco, also called a "snowbird"; visitors learning about different types of raptors at Raptor Road Trip 2010.

If you have a disability and need accommodations, call 503-813-7565, 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 to your mailing information, call 503-797-1650 option 2.



Metro

600 NE Grand Ave.
Portland, OR 97232-2736

A new year, a new way to connect

You don't just read GreenScene – you live it. You get involved in activities that make our lives and communities more sustainable. You care about what happens here, and you want to be involved in the decisions that shape this great place we share.

But with so much going on, it's hard to find the hours to attend an open house about government policy or craft a letter about public investments.



Now there's an easier way.

Opt In is a new online participation tool that lets you connect with the agency and the region on your terms and in your time.

- Participate in regular surveys about issues in the Portland metropolitan area.
- Add your voice to decisions that affect you and your community.
- Tell regional leaders what's important to you.

Making a great place takes the involvement of lots of different people with a variety of viewpoints. Metro needs to hear from you.

Opt in now. Weigh in for the future.

optin

PORTLAND-VANCOUVER AREA
ONLINE PANEL

Join Opt In by Feb. 15 and be entered into a quarterly drawing to win one of five \$100 Powell's gift cards.

Find out more, sign up and discover more ways to connect with Metro.

**[www.oregonmetro.gov/
connect](http://www.oregonmetro.gov/connect)**

