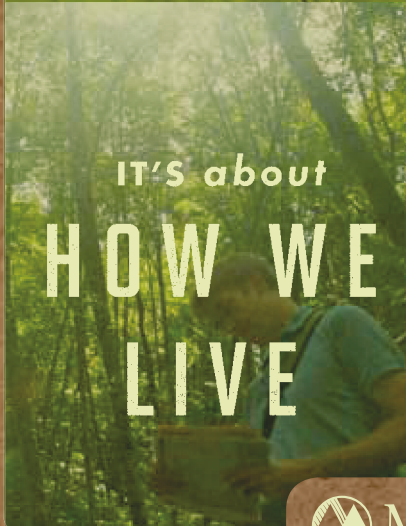
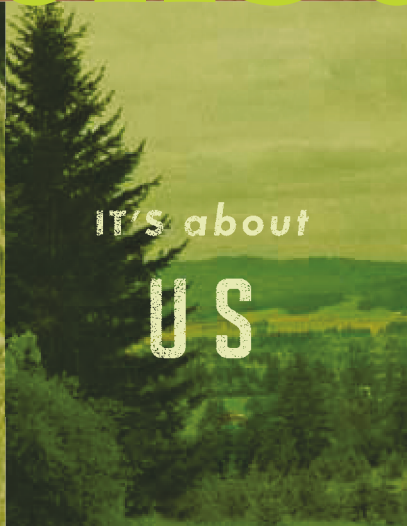


GreenScene



Thanks to voters, Metro has preserved 11,000 acres of natural areas, protected 90 miles of rivers and streams, supported hundreds of community projects and opened three large nature parks. This special edition of GreenScene brings you up to date on the latest news, views and summer events.





River Island, Clackamas County

C. Bruce Forster photo

BY THE NUMBERS

90 miles of river and stream banks

Rivers and streams aren't just pretty places to fish or float; they also nurture native fish, keep our drinking water clean and support the local economy. That's why Metro preserves land along the region's waterways, from the banks of the Clackamas River to the headwaters of the Tualatin.



Jim Cruce photo

Thanks to voters, 'It's Our Nature' – 11,000 acres of it

Across the Portland metropolitan area, salmon are returning to streams where they haven't been seen in decades. Oak trees are getting the sunlight they need to survive into old age, helping reverse their dramatic decline in the Willamette Valley. Families are hiking and bird-watching at new nature parks near Beaverton, Wilsonville and Happy Valley.

It's our nature – 11,000 acres and counting – thanks to voters who approved natural areas bond measures in 1995 and 2006. And it's our nature, as Oregonians, to protect and restore the landscape as a legacy for future generations. "Some of this is because of luck. We happen to live in a very beautiful place," Metro Council President Tom Hughes said this January at his inaugural address. "Some of it is because we have appreciated that and recognized that and planned to preserve that to the greatest degree possible."

Voters have asked Metro's Natural Areas Program to invest a total of \$360 million in protecting water quality, wildlife habitat and outdoor recreation for future generations. The land preserved so far equals two Forest Parks, or one Beaverton. And these special places – acquired in less than two decades – account for nearly one-third of the region's natural areas and parkland.

Like any good hike, this journey warrants a stop along the way to reflect on where we've come from and where we're going. That's why Metro is engaging the community this summer with the "It's Our Nature" outreach initiative. You might catch a short film during movie previews, hear a message on the radio or chat with the natural areas team at your local farmers market. You can explore with Metro's naturalists or ponder the meaning of place at an outdoor event series co-hosted by Oregon Humanities. And you'll find lots of new pictures and videos on the natural areas web pages.

Much like the outreach blitz, the Natural Areas Program fans out across the region. About one-quarter of the most recent bond measure goes toward neighborhood nature grants and a "local share" program that allows cities, counties and park providers to invest in projects close to home.

Natural areas are being preserved; new trails and playgrounds are opening; stream banks are being restored. One partnership is even "greening" the Interstate 205 pedestrian and bicycle path with native trees and shrubs.

At a regional scale, Metro buys land from willing sellers at market value. New natural areas must be located in one of 27 "target areas" selected for their high-quality habitat and ability to make a

A natural history

1992 The region comes together around a vision for a network of natural areas, parks and trails, approving the Metropolitan Greenspaces Master Plan. It provides a blueprint for future investments in nature.



1995 Voters in Clackamas, Multnomah and Washington counties overwhelmingly approve a \$136 million bond measure to protect natural areas and complete missing sections of trails. Metro mobilizes to protect land in 21 target areas across the region.



difference, from Wapato Lake on the west to the Sandy River Gorge on the east. Several of these areas focus on closing gaps in trails, and many have the potential to improve water quality for fish, other wildlife and the humans who rely on clean drinking water.

Metro doesn't buy property to ignore it. A science and stewardship team crafts a restoration strategy for every new natural area. In the short term, that can mean fighting illegal dumping and invasive plants – and replacing them with native alternatives. Long-term partnerships have included building a side channel to the Clackamas River to help threatened salmon survive and installing water control structures to restore historical flooding patterns to the Multnomah Channel.

“We apply the collective knowledge of the world’s biologists and managers to improve the land entrusted to Metro,” says Jonathan Soll, who leads the science and stewardship team. “When we do our job right, the results are better quality wildlife habitat, cleaner water and air and a richer personal experience for the humans who visit these places.”

Some natural areas are intended to stay wild, because public access would damage the very qualities that made them worth saving. But the bond measures have allowed Metro to buy, restore and open three large-scale nature parks: Cooper

Mountain near Beaverton, Graham Oaks in Wilsonville and Mount Talbert near Happy Valley. And other properties are likely to open in the future, when Metro has the resources to plan and build parks that balance people and wildlife.

One such place is Chehalem Ridge Natural Area, which made history last year as the largest-ever purchase by Metro’s Natural Areas Program. The 1,100-acre forest features beaver ponds, valuable oak trees, streams that flow to the Tualatin River and views of five Cascade peaks. Metro is working to transform the young Douglas fir trees – a former commercial timber operation – into an old-growth forest that supports diverse wildlife.

When Lisa Sardinia heard the news, she recounts half-jokingly, she planned a party. Sardinia had two reasons to celebrate: She lives along one of the drainages from Chehalem Ridge, in a home she bought in part to nurture wildlife habitat. And she teaches biology classes at nearby Pacific University.

“As a neighbor, I am thrilled with the focus on maintaining water quality and wildlife habitat,” Sardinia says. “As a biologist and a teacher, I am looking forward to engaging students in projects at the site. Students will be able to conduct plant and animal surveys, test various waterways for chemicals and bacteria, and monitor the changes that occur as the site is restored. The property is one big learning laboratory!”

One third of the region’s natural areas and parkland

In a region known for its signature parks (the name Forest comes to mind) and outdoorsy people, how much difference can today’s voters make? A lot. Nearly one-third of all natural areas and parkland has been protected by two Metro bond measures – in just 16 years.



Chehalem Ridge Natural Area

C. Bruce Forster photo

1996 Metro begins protecting land near Clear Creek, which will grow into a 500-acre natural area beyond Carver. It provides a haven for wildlife, from endangered Coho and Chinook salmon to deer, coyote, beaver and river otter.



1998 An agreement is reached to complete a missing three-mile section of the Springwater Corridor, from just south of the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry to the Sellwood Bridge. Since opening in 2005, it has become one of the most popular trails in the region.



11,000 acres

Thanks to voters, Metro has protected enough regional natural areas to cover the entire city of Beaverton – or, put another way, the equivalent of two Forest Parks. Natural areas range from small, hidden gems to large public parks, from Forest Grove to Troutdale, from forests to wetlands.



Jim Cruce photo

Metro's voter-approved Natural Areas Program reports a steady stream of property purchases, park openings and community success stories – and an occasional brush with pop culture. Catch up on the latest news.



The Trolley Trail, as envisioned here, will connect Milwaukie and Gladstone.

Choo-choo! Trolley Trail is coming through Milwaukie and Gladstone

When the Portland to Oregon City railroad opened in 1893, Milwaukie and Gladstone were not even towns. They developed along the new line, which helped communities grow into prosperous cities.

Now, 43 years after the last freight train arrived in Portland and more than half a century after the last passengers stepped off the streetcar, the tracks between Milwaukie and Gladstone are being transformed

into a six-mile bike and pedestrian path.

When the trail opens late this fall, it will connect local neighborhoods, schools, parks, retirement communities and business districts. It also connects a lot of supporters, including Metro's voter-approved Natural Areas Program.

"The Trolley Trail is probably one of the best examples of projects that take long-term devotion and regional cooperation," Metro Councilor Carlotta Collette told nearly 100 people at a groundbreaking celebration this spring, hosted by North Clackamas Parks and Recreation District. Collette recalled being implored by community advocates, shortly after joining the Metro Council in 2007, to "get this thing built."

The trail has been a long time in the making. After the Portland

to Oregon City streetcar closed in 1958, freight trains used the tracks for another decade. By 1968, most of the rails were removed as the route fell out of use and into disarray.

Since the early 1970s, there has been consistent interest in turning the right of way into a walking and cycling path. Over the years, says Metro trails planner Mel Huie, the Trolley Trail has been added to "nearly every plan we have" – blueprints for trails, transportation and regional growth.

Supporters got their wish in 2001, when funds from Metro's first natural areas bond measure footed the bill for the historic right of way.

Metro also worked with the community to plan the trail and supported construction with federal transportation funds. The "flexible funds," which are distributed at a regional level and may be used to support alternative transportation projects, account for more than half the Portland metropolitan area's trails investments during the past decade.

Most recently, Metro awarded a Nature in Neighborhoods grant for a "green" park-and-ride station where the future Portland-Milwaukie light rail line meets up with the trail. The station will complement the trail's natural setting and provide another transportation link.

Other partners include Clackamas County, the City of Milwaukie, the Oregon Department of Transportation, the Oak Lodge Water District, Congressman Earl Blumenauer and the citizen group Friends of the Trolley Trail.

"Trails like this help connect the whole region," Clackamas County



2001 Metro and its partners install a water control structure at the Multnomah Channel natural area, restoring historic flooding patterns that support red-legged frogs – a great example of large-scale restoration made possible by voters.



2005 Metro celebrates the 10-year anniversary of the bond measure, which is winding down. The bond preserved more than 8,000 acres of natural areas, protected 74 miles of river and stream banks and supported more than 100 local park projects.



Chair Charlotte Lehan said at the groundbreaking, calling the Trolley Trail “a great milestone for Clackamas County.”

Huie should know, as he has worked on the route for more than 23 years – and his family’s connection goes back even further. His parents first rode the streetcar from their home in Gladstone to downtown Portland to celebrate their honeymoon and later used it for their daily commute to work.

“It’s funny,” Huie says, “because now I’ll be using it as a trail after my parents used it as transit.”

He plans to bring his 91-year-old mother, who lives near the historic rail line, to see its reinvention this fall.

“I know I’ll be excited to welcome her back,” Collette told the crowd at the groundbreaking. “And I know all of you will, too.”

At new Scouter Mountain Natural Area, region earns a badge in habitat protection

One minute you’re cruising past Happy Valley subdivisions, with basketball hoops in driveways and shrubs lining front yards. The next, you’re climbing a steep, narrow road with fir trees swaying overhead and birds chirping about your arrival.

Thousands of Boy Scouts have made this journey over the years – and, soon, so can everybody

else. Metro purchased part of a beloved scouting camp overlooking Happy Valley this spring, along with a smaller property next door. At nearly 100 acres, the new Scouter Mountain Natural Area will feature hiking trails, parking, restrooms and a picnic shelter.

“We don’t have many chances to protect nature on this scale in fast-growing communities,” says Metro Council President Tom Hughes. “Fortunately, in our region, we’re positioned to take advantage of these opportunities when they come along.”

Metro’s voter-approved Natural Areas Program purchased the land for a total of \$2.1 million: \$1.36 million for the 69-acre Scouts property and \$750,000 for the adjacent 30-acre parcel. The City of Happy Valley will make upgrades with its allocation from Metro’s 2006 natural areas bond measure, which set aside money for local communities to invest in nature close to home. The North Clackamas Parks and Recreation District will manage the future natural area, which could open as early as summer 2012.

Rising more than 700 feet above the valley floor, Scouter Mountain is part of a string of ancient lava domes that provide panoramic vistas across the east side of the Portland metropolitan area. The former scouting camp features a small wet meadow and a large Douglas fir forest with Western red cedar and hemlock trees.

“When you hike through the forest, you’d never guess you’re so close to streets, homes and schools,” says Metro Councilor Shirley Craddick, who represents the eastern part of the region. “We’re lucky that we don’t have

to leave town to connect with nature.”

Most of the new natural area was purchased from the Boy Scouts of America’s Cascade Pacific Council, which still owns another 110 acres next door. The 2,000 campers who visit every summer will now share Scouter Mountain with fellow hikers and bird watchers.

The Scouts plan to invest proceeds from the sale at their 17 camping properties in Northwest Oregon and Southwest Washington. More than 15,000 youth and volunteers attend overnight or day-camping programs every summer, and another 30,000 Scouts camp independently throughout the year.

Before selling part of their land at Scouter Mountain, the Scouts removed the 22,000-square-foot Chief Obie Lodge. An independent study determined that it would cost more than \$8 million to restore the deteriorating building, which had been closed since 2004 due to fire safety issues. The Scouts’ legacy will be honored, however, by incorporating salvaged pieces of the lodge in a new picnic shelter.

“Like so many others, I have very fond memories of camping and other activities on Scouter Mountain,” said the Scouts’ council president, Gene Grant, who visited as a dad and a young Scoutmaster. “I am truly excited to help create the new Scouter Mountain Natural Area.”

Three major nature parks

Mount Talbert hovers above busy shopping centers and neighborhoods in Clackamas County, offering a forested oasis. At Graham Oaks, the new Tonquin Trail meanders through a restored oak woodland in Wilsonville. And, nestled between the neighborhoods and farm fields of Washington County, Cooper Mountain provides a haven for wildlife. All three were protected, restored and opened by voters.



Mount Talbert Nature Park

C. Bruce Forster photo



• **2006** Nearly 60 percent of voters support a \$227 million bond measure to continue protecting water quality, wildlife habitat and outdoor recreation opportunities. This time, 27 target areas are selected for their high-quality habitat and ability to make a difference.



• **2007** Mount Talbert Nature Park opens in Clackamas County, providing a forested oasis for people and wildlife in a busy suburban area. It is the first of three major nature parks protected, restored and publicly opened by the two bond measures.



1.7 million native trees and shrubs

Metro doesn't ignore its natural areas. At each property, the science team develops a plan to oust invasive plants and replace them with native species that support water quality and wildlife. Some of the new additions are grown at Metro's own Native Plant Center.



Wealth Underground farmers Eric Campbell, Nolan Calisch and Chris Seigel

Fictional hippie farm on 'Portlandia' was actually a Metro natural area – and organic farm

If you watched the hit "Portlandia" this winter on the Independent Film Channel, you know that a locally grown, organic chicken named Collin ended his life as a trendy restaurant entrée.

But you probably didn't realize that Collin's buddies are alive and well – at a Metro natural area. They're actually egg-laying hens at Wealth Underground Farm, which leases Metro land near Forest Park and doubled as a filming location for the show's first episode.

As a community-supported agriculture farm, this one-acre vegetable and flower patch sells

"shares" to members who pick up a weekly haul of produce. Many make the steep, twisty trip to the farm, where boat horns rise from the Multnomah Channel below and bird calls echo from the fir trees above. Wealth Underground fulfills the college dream of three 20-something buddies, who literally wear their passion on their jackets, with matching antler-tip symbols of unity. Reflecting on the unapologetically over-the-top "Portlandia," farm co-founder Nolan Calisch jokes, "This is exactly what they wanted to make fun of."

Wealth Underground also shows exactly why Metro leases 580 acres of natural areas to farmers, bringing in nearly \$60,000 a year and supporting local agriculture.

Two voter-approved bond measures have allowed Metro to protect water quality, wildlife habitat and outdoor recreation opportunities by purchasing 11,000 acres across the Portland metropolitan area. Large properties with rich wildlife habitat sometimes include a farm field.

Without money to publicly open or restore these natural areas right away, Metro rents them. Part of Graham Oaks Nature Park in Wilsonville, for example, was leased to a wheat farmer until Metro had the resources to transform it into valuable oak habitat with hiking trails, picnic tables and other amenities.

"We're trying to use land that isn't being converted right away or restored for habitat," says Metro Councilor Carlotta Collette, who has toured some of Metro's leased farms. "It's just part of being a sustainable region. We have great soil, we have productivity. Let's use it."

Leasing property also reduces the cost of fighting invasive plants and protecting natural resources, because farmers actively care for their land. Laurie Wulf, who manages Metro's agricultural leases, works with farmers to navigate the challenges of growing crops in a natural area.

"We're keeping the land weed-free, for the most part," Wulf says. "And the farmer can make a living."

Farms on Metro's natural areas span the region, from Forest Grove to Corbett and Sauvie Island to Canby. They also span the agricultural spectrum, from permaculture to potatoes and clover to community-supported agriculture.

Calisch, the Wealth Underground co-founder, trained at another Metro-leased farm: Sauvie Island Organics. That's how he learned about a rental house and small field near Forest Park, part of a 58-acre property that might someday allow Metro to extend the Wildwood Trail.

2008 An independent citizen oversight committee releases its first report on the 2006 bond measure, praising the core work and making suggestions to improve outreach, attract a diverse mix of grant applicants and better measure progress.



2009 Cooper Mountain Nature Park opens near Beaverton, featuring high-quality wildlife habitat, vistas of the Tualatin River Valley and more than three miles of trails. The park is managed by the Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District.



Timing was right. Calisch recruited two classmates from Denison University in Ohio, bringing Chris Seigel from the San Francisco Bay area and Eric Campbell from Washington's Olympic Peninsula to launch an organic farm. The Wealth Underground team didn't specifically look for publicly protected land, but the connection felt natural.

"It appeals to our sensibilities, putting land into conservation," Calisch says. "We're also interested in how a farm can operate in a low-impact and ecological way. You can have growing spaces in wild spaces."

They're learning to work alongside wildlife that relies on the wooded corridor in and around Forest Park. Wealth Underground planted a garden for a herd of elk, for example. And when chickens got killed, the farmers did a better job of protecting them instead of targeting the predators. As Campbell puts it, "We don't try to chase things off. It's not set up to push the animals back."

Wealth Underground was more focused on kale and rutabaga than publicity last year, when a talent scout inquired about using the farm as a filming location. It was deemed perfect for "Portlandia," the sketch comedy show created by "Saturday Night Live" star Fred Armisen and Sleater-Kinney rocker Carrie Brownstein. The storyline, the farmers were warned, would poke fun at Oregonians' obsession with living off the land.

As it turns out, a couple played by Armisen and Brownstein consider ordering chicken at

a restaurant. But they want to make sure it's local. And organic. And what about the sheep's milk, soy and hazelnuts the chicken ate? Are those local, too? Unsatisfied with details of Collin the chicken's chick-hood, Peter and Nance ask their waitress to hold the table while they visit the farm.

A true local might recognize the wooded backdrop as Peter and Nance pull up to the farm. And frequent visitors might spot their favorite rabbits and chickens, who make cameos. But that's where the similarities end. Wealth Underground is recast as Aliko Farms, named for a spiritual guru who runs the operation – and, apparently, is married to everybody else who works there. It's a sunbathed scene straight out of 1970.

"I'm just falling in love with this place. It's just beautiful," Nance gushes.

The Wealth Underground trio watched filming up-close, when they weren't busy tending crops. And they reveled in the fame just a little, naming one of the rabbits Aliko and proudly showing off the star chickens. Although "Portlandia" makes a satire of the farmers' profession and adopted city, they don't take offense. "It's not making fun of this at all in a malicious way," Seigel says. "To be able to laugh at yourself is very important."

Wealth Underground spent the off-season building a greenhouse and expanding memberships for this year. But Calisch took a break to attend the "Portlandia" premiere at the Hollywood Theatre, where he got VIP treatment.

"It's the only time in my life I can drop a farm name," he says, "and be ushered in on the red carpet."

Hundreds of community projects

Every neighborhood, city, county and park district plays a role in protecting the landscape. That's why Metro awards neighborhood nature grants and distributes money to local communities to invest in projects close to home. Some buy new natural areas, some restore them, some add trails or play areas. Without voters' investment, some of these neighborhood parks could be subdivisions or shopping centers today.



The Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District recently improved Jackie Husen Park with support from Metro's Natural Areas Program.

Greening Interstate 205

Marcus Camby of the Portland Trail Blazers pitches in at a volunteer planting along the Interstate 205 cycling and pedestrian path. Friends of Trees, the Oregon Department of Transportation and other partners are teaming up to green the 16.5-mile path, with support from a Metro Nature in Neighborhoods grant. The project provides job training and environmental education opportunities to diverse communities and serves as a statewide model for roadside landscaping projects.



Photo by Tom Atiyeh, Friends of Trees

2010 Metro makes its largest single purchase to date, protecting a 1,143-acre forest now known as Chehalem Ridge Natural Area. Nestled in the Chehalem Mountains near Forest Grove, it features valuable oak habitat, beaver ponds and views of five Cascade peaks.



2010 Graham Oaks Nature Park in Wilsonville becomes the third major nature park, with trails traversing restored oak woodland, wetlands and a conifer forest. It also serves as an outdoor classroom for two schools with an environmental education center next door.



Naturalists, teachers, volunteers and community leaders experience the region's natural areas firsthand. Here, several nature lovers share their reflections on the places voters are protecting.

Looking for beavers and turtles? You might spot a special person, too

By James Davis, Metro naturalist

During 30 years as a naturalist, I've led hundreds of programs and helped thousands of people connect with nature. Every once in a while, I'm lucky enough to develop a longtime relationship with somebody who lives near one of "my" parks – somebody like Doolin O'Connor.

The first time I met Doolin, he was 4 years old and came with his mom for a turtle walk at Smith and Bybee Wetlands in North Portland. He carried a first aid kit in a small bucket and wore a helmet and red wool gloves. He was prepared for anything. Fortunately, Doolin took my suggestion that he could lighten his load since I already had an official first aid kit and the helmet would be way too hot in the sun. But he kept his gloves on – hardly ever a bad choice when working outdoors.

We had a great walk that day, and I got to know Doolin pretty well. I think there were a few other people along, but I was so busy keeping up with Doolin's curiosity that I can't remember. When we headed back, Doolin asked if he could hold my hand, and I said, "Sure." His mom, Sherry, says she will never forget seeing that little red-gloved hand in mine as we walked out. We were buds, that was clear.

Doolin and his family, who live in the St. Johns neighborhood, became regulars at Smith and Bybee. When his school came on field trips, he helped a younger grade because he's so familiar with the wetlands. Doolin has always liked uniforms, and I gave him one of my patches for his ranger shirt. He got some other great ones at summer nature camps, so he looks pretty official now. Doolin has volunteered at Bug Fest, an annual celebration that Metro co-hosts. His family comes to events along the Columbia Slough, too, and Doolin slips right in to take my place at the mammal pelts display if I step away for a moment. I know he wants my job, but I'm happy to make way for the next generation of naturalists – when they're ready.

It will be fun to watch how Doolin, who's 9 now, grows up. Will he stay in the naturalist groove? I know I'll stay in touch with Doolin and his



Metro naturalist James Davis and his protégé Doolin O'Connor

family, because they are my special friends from Smith and Bybee. Getting to know them is as important a part of my experience as the park naturalist as paddling among the painted turtles or seeing the beaver swimming at dusk.

The other day I ran into Doolin's mom and his younger brother, Keegan. I hadn't seen any of the family in a while. "Wow," I said, "Keegan sure looks older."

"Jamesdavis, Jamesdavis!" Keegan said, using the boys' one-word name for me. "Look at the bird we saw in our yard!" He pointed to a drawing of a varied thrush in his bird guide. Sherry let me know that Keegan, who's 6, is quite the bird watcher. Another naturalist in the making in St. Johns.

Making Tigard a 'place to call home' – and a green one at that

By Tigard Mayor Craig Dirksen

During the 1980s and 1990s, Tigard saw a period of explosive growth. It was changing from an outlying suburb, still surrounded by the remnant open fields of its agricultural past, to an integral part of the Portland metroplex with subdivision after subdivision crowding its original center on Pacific Highway. Tigard had only about eight acres of parks and open space per

Lifecycle of a natural area



- 1 Voters approve natural areas bond measure.
- 2 Natural resource and land use experts, scientists, land managers and residents help craft detailed goals for the 27 areas where Metro will protect land.
- 3 Metro's real estate team identifies property that meets Metro's goals for water quality, wildlife habitat and outdoor recreation opportunities. Working with the science and legal teams, they evaluate potential natural areas.
- 4 Metro buys land at market value from people who want to sell.
- 5 The science team crafts a short-term "stabilization" plan to control invasive plants, replace them with native plants, tear down or rent houses and deal with problems such as illegal dumping. Natural

thousand residents – far short of the 11 acres recognized as the national standard – and its population was growing. With the coming of the millennium, preserving our remaining open space and protecting the Fanno Creek Greenway had to become a priority if we were to maintain our quality of life and leave ourselves with a lasting legacy to pass on to future generations.

Over the past decade, we've managed to increase our park and open space from less than 300 acres to more than 500, but available funds kept us from making any significant purchases. One parcel we had our eye on was the Summer Creek property adjacent to Fowler Middle School, a 43-acre gem at the confluence of Fanno and Summer creeks with meadow, creek bottom and amazing mature forest. The school district had recently decided it didn't need the land, which was in danger of being lost to development.

Tigard assembled a group of local partners including Metro, Washington County and The Trust for Public Land in an attempt to buy the property. Despite negotiations, the money available wasn't enough. In 2010, after one failed attempt, Tigard voters approved a parks and open space bond measure to invest as much as \$17 million in park acquisition and development. This allowed us to finalize the purchase of the Summer Creek property and will also allow us to acquire up to 100 additional acres around

the city – including an amazing 20 acres at the crest of Bull Mountain with bluff and forested canyon and views all the way to the Coast Range. Combined with the previously purchased Cache Creek Nature Park, our residents will have a major asset in the western part of Tigard, the area that was most park-deficient. We will also make significant progress completing our segment of the Fanno Creek Trail, which eventually will reach from Willamette Park in Portland's Johns Landing all the way to the Tualatin River and beyond, linking Portland, Beaverton, Tigard and Tualatin.

With this vision, and with these resources, we will reach our goal of creating a park and trail system that will be one of Tigard's defining features and help keep the city, as we say, "a place to call home."

The City of Tigard, Metro and other partners gathered on a blustery winter day to celebrate the acquisition of Summer Creek natural area. The forested wetland, which is now Tigard's second largest park, is home to turtles, frogs, salamanders, red-tailed hawks, owls and herons. More than 40 percent of the money to buy the land came from Metro's voter-approved natural areas bond measure, through a Nature in Neighborhoods grant and "local share" funds distributed to Washington County and Tigard to invest in community projects.



C. Bruce Forster photo

Cooper Mountain Nature Park: Listen to a legacy

By Karen Mathieson, Metro volunteer

Each time I introduce friends to Cooper Mountain Nature Park, I point out the metal ear trumpets facing like fluted, otherworldly flowers toward the gentle hills and green fields of the Tualatin Valley. Bend to place an ear against the aperture at the narrow end, and you will catch the conversation of birds, and perhaps an amplified patter of rain or a swoosh of wind through dry grasses. What I hear when I stoop to listen or walk the looping, graveled paths of the 230-acre park is the past, the present and the future of humans connecting with a landscape.

Over thousands of years, native peoples established a complex relationship with the earth, plants and animals of this place and the fertile lands in the distance. Through practices such as controlled burns to halt encroaching conifers and preserve oak trees with their nourishing acorns, tribes thrived to the seventh generation and beyond. The ecosystem was affected by the human presence, but it was also held in balance.

A decade and a half ago, that ecosystem lay in shreds on Cooper Mountain. Vast mounds of Himalayan blackberries shrouded the logged-off terrain. What trees remained struggled in a stranglehold of English ivy. Small rodents sought in vain the seeds of native shrubs to keep them through the winter, and raptors circled fruitlessly above the impenetrable foliage. It seemed logical to assume that giant machinery would soon arrive to level the site for another suburban subdivision, harvesting all that remained of value: the view.

resource staff carry out much of this day-to-day work, teaming up with contract crews as necessary.

6 Metro's volunteer restoration program provides opportunities to help care for the land voters have protected.

7 After two years or so, the property graduates to a long-term restoration strategy.

8 On sites suited to public access, Metro plans amenities such as parking, trails and signage – balancing people with the natural resources that made the land worth protecting. Finding funding is a big part of

the puzzle; the bond measure paid for three major nature parks, but otherwise goes toward protecting land.



Then in November 1995, voters in Clackamas, Multnomah and Washington counties changed the future of Cooper Mountain. The passage of a visionary bond measure to preserve significant green space in the region allowed Metro to purchase the site, and an army of staff and volunteers began years of hand-to-hand combat with invasive vegetation.

My association with Cooper Mountain dates to blistering summer days in 2008, as I gingerly crouched amid poison oak to seek sparse clumps of native perennial flowers such as the rare pale larkspur. From beneath the broad brim of my straw hat, I saw fellow volunteers from Metro's Native Plant Center inch across the prairie of the past and future. The seeds we gathered have been nurtured to vigorous life, and amplified for restorative planting in areas deliberately scorched by fire as in millennia past.

In June 2009, Cooper Mountain Nature Park opened to the public, managed through a cooperative partnership between Metro and the Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District. The Nature House – a charming red barn with firehouse doors that open to the fresh air in good weather – is a hub of activity and education throughout much of the year. Along hillside trails that pass between thousands of tiny trees and shrubs clad in protective netting, one finds coyote scat, deer tracks and reflective peace.

When I listen to Cooper Mountain Nature Park, I sense a legacy echoing across centuries to come. I can see things too, scenes that stretch from this very summer into the future: A small boy watches a red-legged frog emerge from life among the polliwogs, in a pond dug as the quarry for a logging road. The boy smiles, and a wildlife biologist is born. As night approaches on Cooper Mountain, a young girl learns from a Metro naturalist about constellations familiar to Northwest people of long ago. The girl studies the sky, and begins to dream of reaching for the stars.



Boones Ferry Primary School student artwork

As Graham Oaks grows up, so do the students next door

By April Brenden-Locke, Boones Ferry Primary School teacher

I noticed the old oak tree when I started teaching at Boones Ferry Primary School in Wilsonville. Its lone shape seemed out of place in the middle of the rolling farm field that bordered our playground. Rumor had it Metro was going to build a park there, where the Lone Oak stood. Little did I realize that this tree would capture the imaginations of my future third graders and connect them with their community's natural environment and history.

The construction of Graham Oaks Nature Park provided a unique opportunity for my students to create something authentic and important for the community. Few people, especially newcomers and younger people, knew why this land in the school's back yard was becoming a park. For several months last year, my students explored the question "What story would the

Lone Oak tell?" and researched how different cultures have used and cared for the land that is now the park. We then wrote and published the Lone Oak's story in book form with students' art and made it available to the community.

Students developed important research skills, asking and working to answer authentic questions. At first their questions were thoughtful, but surface-level, such as "Who lived on this land?" and "Why are they making a park here?" We interviewed a local historian, read local historical accounts and visited the park with Metro staff while it was under construction. We learned that the Lone Oak is an Oregon white oak, an increasingly uncommon tree in the Willamette Valley. It is some 200 years old, which means it likely "saw" the Kalapuya, the Native Americans who summered along this part of the Willamette River and maintained the land as an oak savanna through controlled burning. My class had recently completed a study of the time of the pioneers – a period that seems so far away for 9-year-olds. I was delighted when one student burst out with an important, sudden connection: "Wait! You mean the Lone Oak was here when the pioneers came?!"

As the project went on, their questions became deeper: "Why would the Kalapuya agree to work on the Boones Ferry?"

"How did people keep the land from becoming a landfill?" "Will Metro burn the savanna to preserve it even though there are houses nearby?" Students began to realize that, over time, cultural values have changed and different groups of people have had different ideas about how to use land. We wrote the story from the point of view from the tree; we had to infer how the tree might have felt about the changes it has seen, from the time of the Kalapuya to that of the trappers and traders, the pioneers, the farmers, industry and, now, restoration.

Today the Lone Oak is no longer alone. It is becoming an integral part of a slow-growing savanna ecosystem, along with thousands of young oaks and native plants that have been planted around it. Through this park and our project, my students have become more connected, too, by providing an important book for the community and becoming part of a new chapter in the story of this place.

"What's important is that children have an opportunity to bond with the natural world, to learn to love it, before being asked to heal its wounds."

David Sobel, *Beyond Ecophobia: Reclaiming the Heart in Nature Education*

Summer at Graham Oaks

Get to know the region's newest nature park through a summer of special activities, from bug hunting to papermaking. Graham Oaks Nature Park in Wilsonville was protected, restored and opened by Metro's voter-approved Natural Areas Program.

IT'S OUR NATURE EVENTS

Know your place

Exploring Metro's natural areas through language, movement and observation

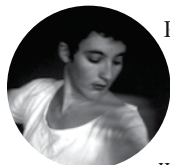
Without the magic of nature, Henry David Thoreau never would have written "Walden" and Ansel Adams would have been another struggling photographer. Nature sparks new ways of looking at the world. That's why Oregon Humanities and the Metro Natural Areas Program are bringing provocative people and ideas together on a few of the 11,000 acres that voters have protected across the Portland metropolitan area. On the last Saturdays in July, August and September, explore the forests and trails, clearings and creeks that make Oregon Oregon – with people who do the same. Wear sturdy shoes. Bring water and a picnic, if you'd like. Free. Advance registration required; visit www.oregonmetro.gov/calendar, find your event and follow the instructions. If you have questions or prefer to register by phone, call 503-797-1650 option 2.

**Saturday, July 30,
3 to 5 p.m.**
Graham Oaks Nature Park,
Wilsonville

Delta, desire path, dune: The names of landscape features intimately tie us to the places we travel to, happen upon and seek out for respite, shelter and inspiration. Barry Lopez and Debra Gwartney, editors of "Home Ground: Language for an American Landscape," explore the way that names of landscape features – their histories, stories and meanings – help you connect

with and understand the places that matter to you. Bring a notebook and pen. Meet at Graham Oaks Nature Park. (Debra Gwartney will host a small-group writing workshop at Graham Oaks on Friday, July 29, to generate material for the main event. To learn more and sign up, visit www.oregonhumanities.org.)

**Saturday, Aug. 27,
3 to 5 p.m.**
Scouter Mountain,
Happy Valley



Performance artist Linda K. Johnson leads participants in engaging with the natural environment through walking, stillness, writing and observation. Working both individually and in small groups, participants bring their deep attention to various elements of Scouter Mountain, with the intention of coming to know it kinesthetically, intellectually and aesthetically. Location provided with registration.

**Saturday, Sept. 24,
3 to 5 p.m.**
Cooper Mountain Nature
Park, Beaverton

Filmmaker Matt McCormick guides participants through discussions and exercises focusing on astute observation. Drawing on his background in making visually striking documentaries about Portland and the Pacific Northwest, McCormick describes his creative process and how thinking cinematically can yield deeper experiences with place. Bring a notebook, pen and camera. Meet at Cooper Mountain Nature Park.



See you at the market

Metro's natural areas team will rove the region's farmers markets this June, July and August. Stop by to meet the team, ask questions and pick up a free reusable shopping bag for your haul.

- June 2** Thursday Market at the Ville, Wilsonville, 4 to 8 p.m.
- June 8** Forest Grove Farmers Market, 4 to 8 p.m. Wednesday
- June 11** Portland Farmers Market at Portland State University, 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday
- June 12** Tigard Farmers Market, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday
- June 18** Beaverton Farmers Market, 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Saturday
- June 22** Moreland Farmers Market, 3:30 to 7:30 p.m. Wednesday
- June 25** Hillsboro Saturday Farmers Market, 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
- June 30** Fairview Open Air Market, 4 to 8 p.m. Thursday
- July 9** Gresham Farmers Market, 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday
- July 10** Sunnyside Grange Open Air Farmers Market, 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday
- July 16** Oregon City Farmers Market, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday
- July 17** Milwaukie Farmers Market, 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday
- July 23** St. Johns Farmers Market, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday
- July 31** Lents Farmers Market, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday
- Aug. 6** Parkrose Farmers Market, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday

www.oregonmetro.gov/naturalareas

Metro's natural areas website got a makeover! Find the latest news, watch a short film that brings the landscape to life, and explore natural areas and trails on an interactive storytelling map. Don't forget to check out summer events so you can explore the old-fashioned way, too – in person.

Stay in touch

Sign up for It's Our Nature, a monthly e-newsletter that keeps you up to date on new natural areas, restoration projects, events, media coverage and volunteer opportunities. Just check the "It's Our Nature" box under email newsletters at www.oregonmetro.gov/connect.



Summer calendar

Durham City Park tree care

9 a.m. to noon Saturday, June 4

Help newly planted trees and shrubs get a jump on the invasive plant competition and ensure the success of this important planting site. Learn how to remove invasive plant species by hand as well as native plant identification skills and care techniques. Gloves, tools, breakfast treats and coffee provided. Meet at Durham City Park. For more information, call 503-282-8846, ext. 18. *Friends of Trees, Clean Water Services, City of Durham and Metro*

Gardens of eatin': edible landscaping

Get the skinny on blending edibles and ornamentals for a delicious low-maintenance landscape. Discover salad-boosting herbs and flowers, fruit trees for small spaces and native plants that hide "berried" treasures. Learn easy organic care methods. *Metro, Oregon State University Extension Service, Hughes Water Gardens and Tony's Garden Center*

10 to 11 a.m. Saturday, June 4

Led by regional gardening expert Glen Andresen. Meet at Tony's Garden Center. Free. Advance registration required; call 503-481-7710.

10 to 11 a.m. Saturday, July 30

Led by garden expert Jen Aron. Meet at Hughes Water Gardens. Free. Advance registration required; call 503-638-1709.



Activity at new Graham Oaks Nature Park



Acorn sculpture at Graham Oaks Nature Park

Michael D. Barton photo

Mount Talbert kids' nature walk

10 a.m. to noon Sunday, June 5

Naturalist Elaine Murphy introduces kids to plants and animals that live in the Pacific Northwest on a nature walk at Mount Talbert. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Location provided with registration. Free. Advance registration required; call 503-496-0908. *Backyard Bird Shop*

Home composting essentials

10 to 11:30 a.m. Saturday, June 11

Confused by composting? Get the real dirt on how simple it is to turn garbage into gardener's gold. Learn the dos and don'ts of composting yard waste and kitchen scraps. Discover the merits of basic, worm, hot and cold composting, and ways to master each method. Get tips on using compost as a soil amendment, mulch or tea. Plus learn where to find bins, tools and more information. Led by garden expert Lora Price. Meet at Clackamas Community College, Claimont Hall, room 117. Free event includes complimentary coupons

and publications. Advance registration required; call 503-234-3000. *Metro, Oregon State University Extension Service and Clackamas Community College*


Morning bird walk at Cooper Mountain

8:30 to 11:30 a.m. Saturday, June 11

Spring is the easiest time to see and identify birds of Cooper Mountain since they are in their best breeding plumage and singing up a storm. At this time, nesting will be in full swing, with some baby birds already out of the nest and on their own. This can be a good time to watch family activities, such as adults feeding their begging young. Learn to identify birds by sight and by sound. Join Metro naturalist and expert birder James Davis for this bird walk for beginners and intermediate birdwatchers. Bring binoculars or borrow a pair onsite; dress for standing outside on an open hilltop. Suitable for ages 10 and up. Meet at the Nature House. Registration and payment of \$10 per person required in advance; call 503-629-6350. *Metro and Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District*

Native Plant Center volunteer ventures

9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays, June 11 and 25, July 9 and 23, and Aug. 6 and 20

Enjoy summer at Metro's Native Plant Center in Tualatin and learn to propagate native plant species used in regional restoration projects. Volunteers join together to harvest and clean seed, maintain native grow-out beds, learn propagation techniques, and work with herbaceous species from the region's prairie, oak, riparian and forested habitats. Family-friendly. No experience necessary. Gloves, tools, water and snack provided. Advance registration required; call 503-797-1653. *Metro*  by arrangement

The oaks, floods and fires of Canemah Bluff

10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, June 11

With sweeping views of the Willamette River, rare white oak woodlands and the historic Canemah Pioneer Cemetery nearby, Canemah Bluff brings a bit of the wild close-in for residents of surrounding neighborhoods. Join Metro naturalist Dan Daly to explore how floods, fires and world-class geologic events have created the woodlands, prairies and ephemeral wetlands of Canemah Bluff today. A Metro scientist is onsite to share how maintaining and enhancing the oak woodland and native prairie have been a priority for Metro's science team, as well as future plans for the site. Bring binoculars or borrow a pair onsite. Directions provided with registration. Free for children under 18. Registration and payment of \$6 per adult or \$11 per family required in advance; see page 19 for instructions. *Metro* 



wildlife watching



volunteering



nature discoveries



paddling




natural gardening



wheelchair accessible

Twilight Tuesdays at Smith and Bybee

7 to 9:30 p.m. Tuesdays, June 14, July 26 and Aug. 9

This relaxing walk takes advantage of long summer days and provides a chance to unwind after work. Dusk is one of the best times to view wildlife, especially during summer. It's about the only time most mammals such as beaver, muskrat, otter, raccoon, deer and bats can be seen. Metro naturalist James Davis teaches basic techniques of wildlife watching and identification. Bring binoculars or borrow a pair onsite. Suitable for ages 10 and up; all participants must be able to be quiet, sneaky and patient. Meet in the parking area on North Marine Drive. Free for children under 18. Registration and payment of \$6 per adult or \$11 per family required in advance; see page 19 for instructions. *Metro* 

Father's Day walk on Mount Talbert

10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, June 18

Surprise Dad this Father's Day by exploring a cinder cone volcano on a guided nature walk. The rare oak woodlands of Mount Talbert offer welcome refuge for migrating songbirds such as warblers, tanagers, orioles and cedar waxwings. Move quietly through shaded groves in search of the elusive Western gray squirrel and learn to identify poison oak. Binoculars provided. Trails are on the rough side and steep in places. Suitable for ages 8 and up. Directions provided with registration. Free for children under 18. Registration and payment of \$5 per adult required in advance; call 503-794-8092. *North Clackamas Parks & Recreation District and Metro*

Gardens of eatin': advanced vegetable gardening

Ready to take your veggie gardening to the next level? Learn how to plan for year-round harvests with careful crop choices, vertical gardening and techniques to stretch the growing season. Plus, explore the principles of nontoxic weed and

pest management to boost your harvests and reduce the amount of time and money needed for a healthy productive garden. Free event includes complimentary coupons and publications. *Metro, Oregon State University Extension Service and Portland Nursery*

10 to 11 a.m. Saturday, June 18

Led by regional gardening expert Glen Andresen. Meet at Portland Nursery on Stark. To register, call 503-231-5050.

10 to 11:30 a.m. Saturday, June 18

Led by Oregon State University horticulturist Weston Miller. Meet at Washington County Fair Complex Demonstration Garden, Cloverleaf entrance. To register, call Metro at 503-234-3000.

10 to 11:30 a.m. Saturday, June 25

Led by garden expert Jen Aron. Meet at Metro's Natural Techniques Garden. To register, call Metro at 503-234-3000.

Lone Fir Cemetery headstone cleaning workshops

1 to 3 p.m. Saturdays, June 18, July 16 and Aug. 20

Hold history in your hands and learn techniques to properly care for headstones. Grave markers in Portland's oldest cemetery can become damaged, darkened and difficult to read. Learn safe cleaning methodology and good ethics involved in caring for these chunks of history. You may want to bring a stool. Cleaning supplies and materials provided. Family friendly. Enter on Southeast 26th Avenue between Stark and Morrison streets. Meet at the Soldiers' Monument. Free. For more information, call 503-224-9200. *Friends of Lone Fir*

Native plants for birds, bees and butterflies

Eager to see beneficial birds, butterflies and gentle native bees? Discover how beautiful native plants can bring these allies to your yard, helping fight pests and improving garden productivity.

Learn which natives might be right for your yard and how to plant and care for them without harmful chemicals. Led by garden writer Lisa Albert. Free event includes complimentary coupons and publications. *Metro, Oregon State University Extension Service, Echo Valley Natives and Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District*

10 to 11 a.m. Saturday, June 18

Meet at Echo Valley Natives. Advance registration required; call 503-631-2451.

1 to 2:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 20

Meet at Cooper Mountain Nature Park. Advance registration required; call THPRD at 503-629-6350.

Family habitat hike

9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Saturday, June 25

Join a naturalist on a guided hike through the tall meadow grass of Cooper Mountain in search of butterflies, dragonflies and other insects. Meet at Cooper

Mountain Nature Park. \$9. Ages 11 and up must register; up to two children under 10 may accompany a registered adult. For more information, call 503-629-6350. *Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District*

Lone Fir Cemetery clean-up day

10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, June 25

Help clean up Lone Fir. This event takes place rain or shine. Wear closed-toe shoes. Bring your own rake and gloves or borrow them onsite. Water and light snacks provided. Meet at the Soldiers' Monument. For more information, call 503-224-9200. *Friends of Lone Fir*

Stayin' Alive: Fire by friction for families

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

Saturday, June 25

Nature provides for those with know-how. The darkness of night and deep-woods cold seem worlds away in the warm glow of a crackling campfire. In this family-oriented class at Graham

Continued

Compost tips


- For the freshest, fastest, most fertile compost, never dump and run. Instead, take a moment to thoroughly mix any new material – moist, rich food scraps or grass clippings, for example – into the compost pile. This simple step helps keep wet material from clumping, which can bring odors, slow the composting process and attract flies.
- Make sure the compost pile includes plenty of "brown" material such as straw, woody prunings or dead leaves to balance the "greens," which can include food scraps, grass clippings, coffee grounds and other nitrogen-rich waste. Keeping the ratio one or two parts brown to one part green helps microbes break down the pile faster.



Did you know?

Metro now makes it even easier to turn food scraps and yard debris into organic gardener's gold with a new selection of value-priced compost bins. They're made from recycled plastic, available in different sizes and styles and a cinch to set up. Get the right bin for your garden or urban farm at the MetroPaint Swan Island store in North Portland. Open 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday.

Metro Recycling Information
503-234-3000

www.oregonmetro.gov/compost 

Sunday Parkways 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Experience Portland from a new perspective – meet your neighbors and enjoy all kinds of entertainment along the way. The car-free routes along city streets focus on one area of the city at a time, connecting parks that host music, food and fun activities like yoga, juggling, stilt walking, hula hooping or disc golf. Sunday Parkways offer a chance to get out and enjoy walking, biking, rolling, running and skating. The events are suitable for mobility device users, seniors, adults and children. Portlanders enjoy a day of healthy physical activities right in their own neighborhoods.

Intersections are staffed by volunteers, allowing residents to get to and from their driveways, with larger streets supervised by police and

certified flaggers. For details or to volunteer, visit www.portlandsundayparkways.org or call 503-823-5358. *City of Portland Bureau of Transportation, Kaiser Permanente and Metro*

June 26 | North Portland
A 7.5-mile route connecting Peninsula Park and Rose Garden, and Trenton, Kenton and Arbor Lodge parks.

July 24 | Northwest and downtown
A 6.4-mile route along the Willamette River connecting through the city to Wallace Park in Northwest Portland.

Aug. 28 | Southeast Portland
A 6-mile route connecting Laurelhurst and Colonel Summers parks with the Hawthorne Street Fair.



Jerome Hart photo

12th annual Fourth of July fireworks and festivities

Celebrate Independence Day with music, fun and east county's largest fireworks display at Metro's Blue Lake Regional Park in Fairview. Pack a picnic, load up your loved ones and enjoy fireworks and live music alongside beautiful Blue Lake. Kids can cool off in the water spray ground and discover the new natural playground. For groups of more than 25 people, call 503-665-4995 to reserve a site. Gates open at 8 a.m.

Spray ground 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Live music The Stingrays will play from 4 p.m. until the fireworks begin.

Fireworks 10 p.m.

Admission \$10 per car, \$15 per bus, RV or 12-passenger van. No pets, alcohol or personal fireworks allowed.

Sponsored by
Metro
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Special thanks to
Gresham Fire Department
Fairview Police Department
Multnomah County Sheriff River Patrol
Troutdale Police Department
Gresham Lions Group
Urgent Care NW

Oaks Nature Park, learn how to make fire without matches by carving your own "bow drill" friction fire kits to keep and learn how to use them. Topics covered include fire safety, construction and fuel selection. Participants use knives during the class and the safe conduct of young children is the responsibility of their guardians. This class is led by Metro naturalist Dan Daly. Bring a sack lunch. No pets allowed. Meet rain or shine at the Elder Oak Plaza at Graham Oaks Nature Park. Free for children under 18. Registration and payment of \$6 per adult or \$11 per family required in advance; see page 19 for instructions. *Metro*

Paddle Smith and Bybee Wetlands

It's a great time to get out your boat and do some paddling. Bring your own boat and gear and a 2011 boat registration from the Oregon Marine Board. Trips are water dependent; call ahead to confirm. Free. Advance registration required. *Friends of Smith and Bybee Lakes*

10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday, June 26

To register, call Troy Clark at 503-249-0482.

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

To register, call Troy Clark at 503-249-0482.

noon to 3 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 6


To register, call Dale Svart at 503-285-3084.

Bird walk at Smith and Bybee Wetlands **9 to 11:30 a.m. Saturday, July 2**


By the Fourth of July, a lot of the Northwest's breeding birds are finishing their nesting cycle, unless they are going to do a second nest. This is a common time to see bird families flocking and young birds getting fed by parents. Identifying the young birds can be challenging since they may not look like their parents yet. Bring binoculars or borrow a pair onsite. Suitable for ages 10 and up. Meet in the parking area on North Marine Drive. Free. Advance registration

required; see page 19 for instructions. *Metro* 

Painted turtle walk at Smith and Bybee **1 to 2:30 p.m. Saturday, July 2**

Oregon's turtles are rare, shy and hard to find. Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area is home to one of the largest populations of Western painted turtles in the Northwest. See these beautiful reptiles with the help of Metro naturalist James Davis, who will have small telescopes for a close look. Learn about the natural history of painted turtles and why they are so rare. Meet in the parking area on North Marine Drive. Free. Advance registration required; see page 19 for instructions. *Metro* 

Pioneer candles at Graham Oaks **1 to 3 p.m. Sunday, July 10**


Learn to make candles from scratch using an old-fashioned method at Graham Oaks Nature Park. Learn the technique to make yours unique. No pets allowed. Suitable for ages 5 and up. Meet under the picnic shelter at the Gateway Plaza Trailhead. Children under 16 must be registered and accompanied by an adult. Free for adults. Registration and payment of \$3 per child required in advance; see page 19 for instructions. *Metro* 

Twilight Tuesday at Cooper Mountain **7 to 9:30 p.m. Tuesdays, July 12 and Aug. 2**

What is the wildlife doing at sunset in this new park? Dusk is one of the best times to see wildlife. On this relaxing walk, Metro naturalist James Davis teaches basic techniques of wildlife watching and identification. Some mammals to watch for include deer, coyote, raccoon and bats. Bring binoculars or borrow a pair onsite. Suitable for ages 10 and up; all participants must be able to be quiet, sneaky and patient. Meet at Cooper Mountain Nature Park. Registration and payment of \$10 per person required in advance; call 503-629-6350. *Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District and Metro*

Papermaking at Graham Oaks

10 to 11 a.m. or 1 to 2 p.m.
Thursday, July 14

Bees do it, so can you! Find out who invented the art of papermaking and participate in a skit on how paper is made. Learn how to make decorative paper from recycled materials, then dip in and get creative! Suitable for ages 5 and up. No pets allowed. Meet under the picnic shelter at the Gateway Plaza Trailhead at Graham Oaks Nature Park. Children under 16 must be registered and accompanied by an adult. Free for adults. Registration and payment of \$3 per child required in advance; see page 19 for instructions. *Metro* 

Gardens of eatin': basic vegetable gardening

Want to grow organic food but not sure how? Boost your garden IQ with simple steps to success. From picking edibles for the right spot and season to prepping the soil and watering waste-free, get the skinny on weeding, managing pests and growing a bountiful garden without toxic chemicals. Plus, learn where to find seeds and tips for easy organic gardening. Led by regional gardening expert Glen Andresen. Free event includes complimentary coupons and publications. Advance registration required. *Metro, Oregon State University Extension Service, Flat Creek Garden Center and Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District*

1 to 2:30 p.m. Saturday,
July 16

Meet at Cooper Mountain Nature Park. To register, call THPRD at 503-629-6350.

1 to 2 p.m. Sunday, July 31

Meet at Flat Creek Garden Center. To register, call 503-663-4101.

Mount Talbert's hidden beauty

10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sunday,
July 17

The rare oak woodlands of Mount Talbert Nature Park offer welcome refuge for migrating songbirds such as warblers, tanagers, orioles and cedar waxwings.

Move quietly through shaded groves in search of the elusive Western gray squirrel and learn to identify poison oak. Binoculars provided. Trails are on the rough side and steep in places. Suitable for ages 10 and up. Free for children under 18. Registration and payment of \$5 per adult required in advance; call 503-794-8092. *North Clackamas Parks & Recreation District and Metro*


Stories in the forest mini camp

1 to 4 p.m. Monday, July 18 through Friday, July 22

This mini nature camp is a half-day filled with fun and adventure. Create crafts, play games, learn about Oregon's best forest legends, make new friends and explore the trails and habitats of Cooper Mountain Nature Park. Suitable for ages 6 to 9. \$86 for five days of camp. For more information, call 503-629-6350. *Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District*

Origami wildlife at Graham Oaks

11 a.m. to noon Tuesday,
July 19

Examine animal tracks and pelts, and talk with a naturalist about the wildlife of Graham Oaks, then use Origami paper to fold a paper hawk to take home. Suitable for ages 10 and up. No pets allowed. Meet under the picnic shelter at the Gateway Plaza Trailhead. Children under 16 must be registered and accompanied by an adult. Free for adults. Registration and payment of \$3 per child required in advance; see page 19 for instructions. *Metro* 

Grow a greener green lawn

Looking for easy, sustainable ways to keep your lawn looking great? Learn the latest on establishing, renovating and maintaining turf that meets your needs. Get time-tested tips practiced by golf course superintendents for mowing, mulching, watering and managing weeds without toxic chemicals. Discover eco-lawns and learn where to get more information on low-input lawn care. Led by Oregon State University horticulturist

Weston Miller. Free event includes complimentary coupons and publications. Advance registration required; call 503-234-3000. *Metro and Oregon State University Extension Service and Washington County Master Gardeners*

10 to 11:30 a.m. Saturday,
July 30

Meet at Metro's Natural Techniques Garden.

10 to 11:30 a.m. Saturday,
Aug. 13

Meet at Washington County Fair Complex Demonstration Garden, Cloverleaf entrance.

Family bug class and hunt at Graham Oaks

10 a.m. to noon Saturday,
Aug. 6

Summer time is bug time. Insects and other arthropods are busy everywhere, which is why Bug Fest is every August. This program for all "bugsters" ages 6 and up introduces ways to make sense out of the vast diversity of arthropods – insects, spiders, crustaceans, millipedes and centipedes. Then it's time to go hunt for them. Carefully and humanely catch live bugs at Graham Oaks, and then bring them to Arthropod Headquarters and try to figure out what they all are. Can you do it? Metro naturalist and Bug Fest creator James Davis heads up Metro's volunteer bugster team. All specimens returned to their habitat. Meet under the picnic shelter at the Gateway Plaza Trailhead. Free for children under 18. Registration and payment of \$6 per adult or \$11 per family required in advance; see page 19 for instructions. *Metro*

Water less, save more and keep your garden green

10 to 11:30 a.m. Saturday,
Aug. 6

Want to save on your water bill? Discover the secrets of low-maintenance plantscaping with beautiful water-wise plants. Learn how soil amendments, mulch and proper planting save water and prevent pest problems without toxic chemicals. Plus, get the basics of efficient irrigation

using sprinklers, soaker hoses or a drip system. Led by regional gardening expert Glen Andresen. Meet at Clackamas Community College, Clairmont Hall, room 117. Free event includes complimentary coupons and publications. Advance registration required; call 503-234-3000. *Metro, Oregon State University Extension Service and Clackamas Community College*

Native bees to the rescue

1 to 3 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 7

Concerned about honeybees? No need for pollinator pandemonium – bees just need a little help from their friends. There is a hidden world awaiting you, full of dozens of species native to the Willamette Valley, from carpenter bees to leafcutters. These gentle bees almost never sting and they provide critical pollination. At this class, identify bees and the plants they eat, and learn how to install a bee nursery. Suitable for ages 11 and up. Meet at Cooper Mountain Nature House. \$8. Children must be registered and accompanied by a registered adult. For more information or to register, call 503-645-6433. *Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District and Metro*

Simple, safe, clean and green

11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday,
Aug. 14

Learn how to save money, protect your family and the environment, and clean your home! Discuss the hazards or dangers of standard store brands, critical information that you can find on the label and recipes you can make yourself using safer, cheaper ingredients such as vinegar, baking soda and more. Participants mix two cleaners to take home at a workshop from 1 to 2 p.m. under the picnic shelter at the Gateway Plaza Trailhead. This class is led by Metro toxics reduction educator Caran Goodall. Meet at Graham Oaks Nature Park. Children under 16 must be registered and accompanied by a registered adult. Free for children under 18. Registration and payment of \$6 per adult or \$11 per family required in advance; see page 19 for instructions. *Metro*

Sunset sit at Graham Oaks

8:30 to 9:30 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 18

Immerse yourself in the experience known as twilight, a time when wildlife is active. Learn to use simple but profound techniques to get the most out of a short time spent in nature. Special technique used in the program allows participants to gain a “bird’s eye” perspective of the landscape, seeing more animals and their interactions than any one person can normally see. No pets allowed. Suitable for ages 11 and up. Meet under the picnic shelter at the Gateway Plaza Trailhead at Graham Oaks Nature Park. Registration and payment of \$6 per adult or \$11 per family required in advance; see page 19 for instructions. *Metro*

Meet Scouter Mountain

10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 20

Rising 700 feet above the valley floor, the new Scouter Mountain Natural Area provides a forested oasis and an interesting

vantage point on the surrounding community of Happy Valley. Someday soon, the property will feature new trails, restrooms and a picnic shelter. For now, a sneak preview gives you insight into the birds, blooms and volcanic inspiration that made the mountain what it is today. Bring binoculars or borrow a pair onsite. Suitable for ages 8 and up. Directions provided with registration. Free. Advance registration required; see page 19 for instructions. *Metro*

Myths and legends of the stars

8:30 to 9:30 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 20

All cultures find stories in the stars. Join Metro naturalist Deb Scrivens for tales from the Northwest and other regions. This program is weather-dependent – if it is raining or more than a quarter of the sky is covered, the program is canceled. Suitable for ages 11 and up. Meet at the Cooper Mountain Nature House. \$8. Advance registration required; call 503-645-6433. *Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District and Metro*

Bug Fest

11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Saturday, Aug. 27

Buzz on into Bug Fest to learn about bugs of all shapes and sizes. The event combines interactive discovery stations, crafts, games and family entertainment with a range of activities that help attendees experience the boneless/spineless creatures that keep the environment healthy. All those tiny critters – such as beetles, butterflies, bees, slugs, spiders, true bugs and ants that help recycle fallen trees, pollinate flowers and get eaten by other animals – are the real heroes of our planet. Meet at the Tualatin Hills Nature Park Interpretive Center. \$2. For more information, call 503-629-6350. *Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District and Metro*

Lend a hand at Bug Fest

9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Volunteers take part in activities from interpretive education to assisting with crafts and games. For more information, call 503-629-6450.

Healthy soil for healthy plants

10 to 11:30 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 27

Got a lackluster landscape or veggie garden? Learn how to turn any soil into a fertile bed for roots using all-organic methods that help plants thrive without costly chemicals or harmful runoff. Plus, learn how to “read” your soil, prep it for planting, and use slow-release fertilizers, compost and other soil amendments. Led by garden expert Jen Aron. Meet at Metro’s Natural Techniques Garden. Free event includes complimentary coupons and publications. Advance registration required; call 503-234-3000. *Metro and Oregon State University Extension Service*



Oregon Shadow Theatre

Around the campfire at Oxbow

Meet around the campfire for stories and old-fashioned entertainment when you are camping at Oxbow Regional Park this summer. Enjoy live music on Friday nights and captivating nature presentations and storytellers on Saturday nights. Campfire shows are only open to overnight campers because day use ends at legal sunset when the park gates are locked. Programs are held in the outdoor forest amphitheater across from the campground, starting at 8:30 p.m. in July and 8 p.m. in August. Free. For more information, call 503-797-1650 option 2. *Metro*

Camping at Oxbow

Oxbow’s 67 campsites each include a picnic table, fire pit/ cooking grill and lantern pole. Camping fee is \$20 per night and all sites are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Two restroom/shower buildings offer hot and cold running water, coin-operated showers, heated-air hand dryers, radiant floor heating and flush toilets. The restroom facilities and two campsites are accessible by wheelchair. Twelve pull-through sites are available for RVs. Pets are not allowed in Metro parks and natural areas.

www.oregonmetro.gov/oxbow

BIKE! THERE!

This summer get outside and enjoy the many biking trails and routes in the Portland metropolitan area with the eighth edition of Metro’s Bike There! map. The waterproof, tear-resistant map features:

- detailed commuter maps of central Portland and 21 area cities
- an expanded regional view showing recreational cycling destinations
- more detailed street ratings
- elevation points and identification of steep slopes
- light rail, commuter train, streetcar lines and transit stations to extend your ride with transit.

Purchase Bike There! for \$9 at many local retailers, book stores and bike shops. Find a list of retailers and more information on Metro’s website.

www.oregonmetro.gov/bikethere



Fellow Travelers

8:30 to 9:30 p.m. Friday,
July 1

Join the Fellow Travelers for harmonies that bring you back to the forgotten songs of the Oregon Trail, the Civil War and even '70s sitcoms. Consisting of a former concert violinist, a Rose Festival Queen and a card carrying ne'r-do-well, this band leaves you with a smile on your face and a spring in your step.

Salmon stories, bear tales and the legend of the swallowing monster

8:30 to 9:30 p.m. Saturday,
July 2

Join master storyteller Will Hornyak for an evening of Northwest myths, legends and tall tales. Will's storytelling never fails to please the crowd.

Old-time bluegrass tunes

8:30 to 9:30 p.m. Friday,
July 8

Come join the GTE String Band with Greg Stone on guitar, Tony Rocci on mandolin and guitar, and Eileen Rocci on upright bass for this year's bluegrass hoote-nanny around the campfire with some fun sing-along songs for the kid in everyone.

Slithering tales: Snakes and their kin

8:30 to 9:30 p.m. Saturday,
July 9

Discover the fascinating world of snakes, lizards and turtles. Metro naturalist James Davis reveals the truth behind the many myths about reptiles. Some live reptiles join this super scaly program.

Yodel away the blues with Steve Cheseborough

8:30 to 9:30 p.m. Friday,
July 15

Join a special performance with Steve Cheseborough, the blues authority, singer, guitarist – and yodeler! Steve sings and plays great old-style blues, including some yodeling numbers, and teaches the audience to yodel along on a few. With a little luck, the owls and bullfrogs might even yodel back!

The Dr. Wilderness Show

8:30 to 9:30 p.m. Saturday,
July 16

Dr. Wilderness explores the mysteries of nature in his amazing traveling magic shows. Hiking across the globe for 30 years, he returns to Oregon tonight to celebrate "Earth, the water planet."

Old-time music with Dave and Will Elliott

8:30 to 9:30 p.m. Friday,
July 22

This local father and son duo from just up the hill returns to Oxbow with great bluegrass tunes. Enjoy some old-style duets and perhaps sing along with some favorites.

Jack Tales: What's wrong with that boy?

8:30 to 9:30 p.m. Saturday,
July 23

Join storyteller Ned Leager for traditional tales of Jack, the boy hero who never looked like he'd amount to much of anything. And every time he proved them wrong! Except when he didn't.

Kate Power and Steve Einhorn

8:30 to 9:30 p.m. Friday,
July 29

Sing, listen and enjoy songs around the campfire with Kate Power and Steve Einhorn. Double guitars, banjos and ukuleles sweeten the harmonies in uplifting songs of life in the American landscape from award-winning songwriters and longtime mentors of the traditional sing-along.

How Butterflies Came to Be

8:30 to 9:30 p.m. Saturday,
July 30

Enjoy the richness of Northwest Native American culture around the campfire this summer. Listen and learn with storyteller Ed Edmo as he shares the legend of "Why Columbia River Sparkles," "How Butterflies Came to Be" and more.

Songs with Dave Orleans the Earthsinger

8 to 9 p.m. Friday, Aug. 5

Note the time change from July. Dave Orleans brings energetic and folksy songs for all ages to the campfire. Sing along with songs about trees, watersheds, toads and more.

Birds of prey of the Pacific Northwest

8 to 9 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 6

Live birds of prey visit the campfire circle from the Audubon Society of Portland's Wildlife Care Center. Find out cool raptor facts and see these beautiful birds up close.

Fiddlin' in the park with Greg Clarke

8 to 9 p.m. Friday, Aug. 12

Musician Greg Clarke brings old-time tunes around the campfire. Enjoy the sounds of banjo, fiddle and mandolin among the trees. It's a contagious performance sure to get your toes tapping.

Around the campfire with Margaret Eng

8 to 9 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 13

Did you grow up with songs and stories around the campfire? Here's a chance to relive those memories and make some new ones too! Margaret Eng, Outdoor School staff member and storyteller, shares Native American legends, songs and stories.

The Folk City duo

8 to 9 p.m. Friday, Aug. 19

Enjoy sparkling instrumentals on hammered dulcimer and guitar as Mick Doherty and Kevin Shay Johnson play great traditional songs from the last few centuries. Sing along with original songs penned here in Oregon along with favorites from the likes of Woody Guthrie and John Prine.

The waters of life with Susan Strauss

8 to 9 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 20

Join renowned story teller Susan Strauss for stories from the water: this extraordinary substance, upon which all life depends. Susan's animated tales bring the audience closer to the source with native legends from

the Pacific Northwest, along with narrative from her own exploration of this dark and shimmering elemental force of nature.

Stillway and Bonham

8 to 9 p.m. Friday,
Aug. 26

This lively duo mixes up a delightful blend of vintage musical styles, including ragtime, swing and traditional Hawaiian tunes. With wood-bodied and resonator guitars, and possibly even a ukulele in tow, they'll get your feet tapping and hands clapping in no time!

Bears!

8 to 9 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 27

No camping trip is complete without a good bear story. Join author, artist and tracker Linda Jo Hunter for lively bear tales collected from years of tracking and guiding people to see bears in the wild. Join in the rhythm of the story and practice some bear body language for a better understanding of how to live and camp with these amazing animals.

Rick Meyers' Old Time Music Show

8 to 9 p.m. Friday, Sept. 2

This lively show immerses the audience in the musical heritage of American pioneers along the Oregon Trail. Instruments and household items such as the musical saw, Jew's-harp, spoons, banjo, ukulele and washtub bass are included as part of this informative, fun-filled presentation.

Shadow puppets: Anansi the Spider

8 to 9 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 3

As the sunset fades over the campground, Oregon Shadow Theatre's magical screen is illuminated. Colorful shadow puppets come to life accompanied by live music and audience participation. In West African folk tales, Anansi the spider is clever but greedy. In this story, Anansi tracks in the forest, fishes in the river, picks a fight with a chimpanzee and plays a trick on the whole village.

Even more summer events

There are so many great nature events taking place this summer they couldn't all fit in this issue! Visit these organizations' websites or Metro's online calendar for information on work parties, bike rides, summer camps, gardening classes and more.

www.oregonmetro.gov/calendar

WEEKLY

Thursdays

Volunteer work party in Forest Park, Forest Park Conservancy

Fridays

Ladybug nature walks, various locations, Portland Parks & Recreation

Sundays

Guided tour of Magness Tree Farm in Sherwood, World Forestry Center

JUNE

- 2 Rain water harvesting and rain gardens, Tryon Creek State Natural Area**
Clackamas County Soil and Water Conservation District
- 2 Women on Bikes clinic, Historic Kenton Firehouse**
Portland Bureau of Transportation
- 4 Nature awareness and stealth**
TrackersNW
- 5 Cycle the well field in Northeast Portland**
Portland Water Bureau, Columbia Slough Watershed Council and Aloft Portland Airport at Cascade Station
- 5 Wildlife tracking taster**
TrackersNW
- 6 Birds of Portland area at Luscher Farm**
Lake Oswego Parks & Recreation
- 8 Neighborhood coordinator training**
Friends of Trees
- 9 Wise watering: Irrigation made easier, Luscher Farm**
Oregon Tilth
- 9 Women on Bikes ride from Peninsula Park Community Center**
Portland Bureau of Transportation
- 11 Nature awareness walk at Luscher Farm**
Lake Oswego Parks & Recreation
- 11 Outdoor education training**
TrackersNW
- 11 Protect Terwilliger Parkway**
Friends of Terwilliger
- 11 Sandy River Delta bird walk**
Backyard Bird Shop
- 11 Sandy River Gorge work party**
The Nature Conservancy

- 14 Healthy soil for healthy plants**
Growing Gardens
- 16 Women on Bikes ride from Grant Park**
Portland Bureau of Transportation
- 18 Explorando el Columbia Slough**
Columbia Slough Watershed Council
- 18 Survival series: Making shelter, North Clackamas Nature Park**
Cascadia Wild
- 18 Volunteer work party in Forest Park**
Forest Park Conservancy
- 18 What's blooming on the refuge? Wetland plants, at Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge**
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- 20 Tualatin River nature day camp**
Tualatin Riverkeepers
- 21 Summer solstice celebration at Tryon Creek State Natural Area**
Friends of Tryon Creek
- 23 Women on Bikes ride from Fernhill Park**
Portland Bureau of Transportation
- 25 Camassia Natural Area volunteer work party**
The Nature Conservancy
- 25 Mount Tabor Weed Warriors**
Friends of Mount Tabor Park
- 26 Portland Sunday Parkways and Women on Bikes, Peninsula Park Community Center**
Portland Bureau of Transportation

JULY

- 3 Family fun with worm bins at Tryon Creek State Natural Area**
Friends of Tryon Creek
- 8 Bat class**
Backyard Bird Shop
- 9 Survival series: Fire without matches, North Clackamas Nature Park**
Cascadia Wild
- 14 Women on Bikes ride from Peninsula Park Community Center**
Portland Bureau of Transportation
- 15 Family bat outing at the Nature Park Interpretive Center**
Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District
- 16 Bull Run watershed tour**
City of Portland Water Bureau

- 16 Volunteer work party in Forest Park**
Forest Park Conservancy
- 21 Women on Bikes ride from Grant Park**
Portland Bureau of Transportation
- 23 Trapping and finding food, North Clackamas Nature Park**
Cascadia Wild
- 24 Ethnobotany Club: Cattails on Sauvie Island**
Cascadia Wild
- 25 Tualatin River nature day camp**
Tualatin Riverkeepers
- 27 Willamette River big canoe paddle**
Lower Columbia River Estuary Partnership
- 28 Chickens in the garden, Luscher Farm**
Oregon Tilth
- 28 Women on Bikes ride from Fernhill Park**
Portland Bureau of Transportation
- 29 Bull Run watershed tour**
City of Portland Water Bureau
- 29 Family bat outing at the Nature Park Interpretive Center**
Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District
- 30 Mount Tabor Weed Warriors**
Friends of Mount Tabor Park
- 30 Summer barn dance and fundraiser**
Sauvie Island Center
- 31 Columbia Slough Regatta, Multnomah County Drainage District office**
Columbia Slough Watershed Council

AUGUST

- 1 Tualatin River nature day camp**
Tualatin Riverkeepers
- 11 Edible flower workshop at Luscher Farm**
Lake Oswego Parks & Recreation
- 11 Growing a fall salad, Luscher Farm**
Oregon Tilth
- 11 Women on Bikes ride from Peninsula Park Community Center**
Portland Bureau of Transportation
- 13 Bull Run watershed tour**
City of Portland Water Bureau
- 17 Willamette River big canoe paddle**
Lower Columbia River Estuary Partnership
- 18 Women on Bikes ride from Grant Park**
Portland Bureau of Transportation
- 19 Bull Run watershed tour**
City of Portland Water Bureau
- 19 Subs on the slough, Portland Water Bureau canoe launch**
City of Portland Water Bureau and Columbia Slough Watershed Council
- 20 Volunteer work party in Forest Park**
Forest Park Conservancy
- 21 Oak Island trail bird walk**
Backyard Bird Shop
- 25 Women on Bikes ride from Fernhill Park**
Portland Bureau of Transportation
- 27 Mount Tabor Weed Warriors**
Friends of Mount Tabor Park

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ONLINE PANEL

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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 Road, Wilsonville
503-797-1545

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

How to register for Metro nature activities

You can now register online for Metro activities and pay online for activities with a fee. Go to Metro's online calendar, find your event by searching or browsing, and follow the instructions.

www.oregonmetro.gov/calendar

If you have any questions or prefer to register by phone, call 503-797-1650 option 2.

Metro's family pricing is for two or more adults from the same household. Free for children under 18.

Cancellation policy

Metro's program fees are nonrefundable. If you must cancel a registration, you may transfer credit to another class upon request.

About Metro

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 providing services, operating venues and 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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 Metro | *Making a great place*

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

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Oxbow Adventures

10:30 a.m. to noon,
Tuesdays in July
and August

The edge of an ancient forest at Oxbow Regional Park is the setting for this series of nature programs led by Metro naturalists. Suitable for ages

5 to 10. Meet at the Alder Shelter (group picnic area A); arrive at the park entrance by 10:15 a.m. to get to the area on time. \$2 per participating child payable at event. (Bring small bills.) No charge for adults and infant siblings. For childcare centers and other organized groups, payment is required in advance. \$5 park entry fee per car, or \$7 per bus or 15-passenger vehicle. Advance registration required; call 503-797-1650 option 2. *Metro*

 by arrangement except for "River birds and river bugs" program.



Forest games

July 12
Begin the summer with a laugh in an exciting day of nature games. Search for hidden objects on an "un-nature trail," build a mini nature park and play blindfold games in the shaded woods.

Animal detectives

July 19
Explore the forest like an animal detective in search of clues left behind by mysterious wild animals. Handle plaster casts of real footprints and examine bones, bird nests and other items up close.

River birds and river bugs

July 26
Enjoy the day watching creatures in the Sandy River and those that soar above. Look for big birds like osprey and turkey vultures. Discover firsthand the many creatures

that live in and near the river by catching and releasing water bugs, crayfish and more.

Junior Ranger Day

Aug. 9
Become a Junior Ranger by learning how to protect and preserve Oxbow Regional Park. Learn to share important information about wildlife, plants and the river with friends and family. Earn your Junior Ranger badge and take part in a project working to help real park rangers.

Ancient forest adventure

Aug. 23
Naturalists lead small teams through the deep shady forest on a fun adventure and scavenger hunt. But beware – the others might be sneaking up on you!

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ONLINE PANEL

Join Metro's online opinion panel today.

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