

WINTER 2012

GreenScene



Your winter guide
to great places and
green living

www.oregonmetro.gov



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envision
experiment
learn
incubate
welcome



Metro | *Making a great place*



Raptor Road Trip

Annual event celebrates birds of prey

9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 4

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 questions at four locations around the island. Enjoy guided bird viewing, meet live raptors up close and sharpen hawk identification skills. Hot drinks and doughnuts are available in the morning. Have breakfast with the birds!

How does the road trip work?

Begin at Kruger's Farm Market and pick up an event map and raptor identification guide. The event fee is \$10 per vehicle, cash only, and includes a Sauvie Island Wildlife Area parking permit, which is needed to park at the sites. To reach Kruger's, take Highway 30 to the Sauvie Island Bridge and go straight on Sauvie Island Road 1.5 miles (past Howell Territorial Park). Kruger's Farm Market is located on the right. Carpooling is encouraged.

Spotting scopes help with raptor identification and are provided, with naturalists on hand to point out the birds. Field guides are available. Bring binoculars and dress for the weather. This event takes place rain or shine. The road trip is suitable for birders of all ages and 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, allow approximately three hours to visit all four locations.

What will you see?

It all depends on what nature has in store. Regularly 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, as well as abundant waterfowl.

Get ready for the day with a raptor identification class, 7 to 9:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 26. See page 12 for details.

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 HawkWatch 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

The view from the parking lot

By Karen Mathieson, volunteer

Recent Raptor Road Trips on Sauvie Island have found me serving doughnuts and mopping hot chocolate spills at a table beside a parking lot, or out on the wing with a bright flag and a reflective vest waving vehicles into place. I'll be volunteering this year, too, because even if I never make it out of the parking lot, it's so much fun to watch flocks of folks sharing nature and community on a chilly February day.



Raptor Road Trip brings out the well-weathered birder and the barely fledged. It attracts people carrying camera lenses as long as a heron's leg, as well as those who take snapshots with their phones. Some vehicles carry rambunctious children, others sidle gently into slots for the disabled. Picking their way through the parking lot, perfect strangers seem eager to exchange reports on what they've seen, like users of that antiquated telephone service called the party line.

Spotting scopes, binoculars and field guides abound at each formal viewing area. Tour participants also find expert naturalists from the Audubon Society of Portland and from Metro ready to add context and understanding to the vistas of birds on the ground and water or forming avian calligraphy in the air. As they migrate from one viewing site to the next, I know each person who splashes through my parking lot carries a warmth derived from watching abundant, beautiful wild creatures in the presence of convivial human company. Perhaps the hot chocolate helps, too.



Wild in the City

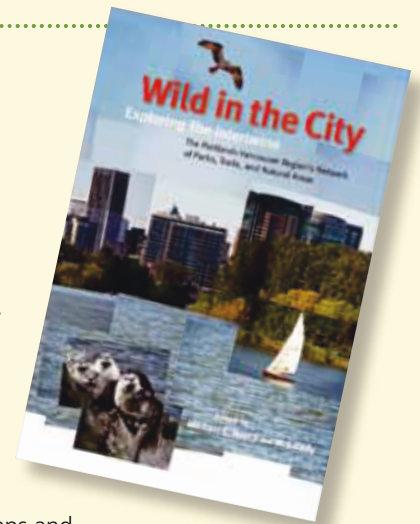
Exploring the Intertwine: The Portland-Vancouver Region's Network of Parks, Trails, and Natural Areas –

Edited by Michael C. Houck and M. J. Cody

This comprehensive "must-have" reference will be the go-to field guide for hikers, cyclists, paddlers, bird watchers and nature enthusiasts. The second edition of the popular Wild in the City book contains new maps and 28 unique rambles that explore multiple sites for recreation, wildlife viewing or simply contemplating the joys of nature.

Natural history essays by Ursula K. Le Guin, Kim Stafford, Robin Cody, Judy BlueHorse Skelton, Robert Michael Pyle, Jonathan Nicholas and Richard Louv, author of Last Child in the Woods, offer fresh perspectives on the region's wild environs. The book describes innovative strategies for creating an ecologically sustainable region.

\$24.95, available at the Audubon Society of Portland's Nature Store and in bookstores throughout the region.



The Intertwine is all around you

If you've ever biked along a local trail, played with children in the neighborhood park, gone for a hike in Forest Park or relaxed on a bench beside a nearby river or lake, then you've experienced The Intertwine. It's the region's amazing network of parks, trails and natural areas.

Now it is even easier to explore! For the first time, tour The Intertwine online and find information on all the region's parks, trails and natural areas in one interactive map. The new Intertwine website offers a wealth of opportunities to discover great places, find new adventures, learn about habitats and wildlife, and enjoy outdoor activities all around the Portland metropolitan area.

Get started and stay connected with this new online resource. There are so many ways to find yourself in The Intertwine!

www.theintertwine.org





Who's the boss? Stop stuff from taking over

A rgh! Doesn't it always come to this? What started out great turns into a tug of war. First, it seems like the perfect roommate. Then it spreads, brings more friends, claims nearly every room in the house and won't take "no" for an answer. It lurks behind each closet door and gets dibs on the attic, basement and garage, too. The sheer size is scaring the cat, and you don't know what to do. It's your stuff, and you've had enough.

Is your stuff running your life? Read on for signs that it's taking over, and get tips for reducing, reusing and recycling in the new year.



Five signs that your stuff is in charge

- Unused rooms are heated and cooled just to store stuff.
- Home exercise equipment doubles as shelving for knickknacks and what-nots.
- You're holding on to those piles of old clothes in case the poodle skirt makes a comeback.
- Your stuff kicked the car, bike and skateboard out of the garage.
- You can't find your stuff ... because of your stuff.

Simple ways to reclaim your space – and your life – in 2012

- Weigh the potential impact before buying something new. Nearly half the United States' greenhouse gas emissions come from making and distributing goods and food.
- Share or exchange items with family, friends and neighbors to avoid unnecessary buys.
- Start composting yard debris and kitchen scraps, turning leftover trimmings into organic gardeners' gold and reducing your carbon footprint.
- Set aside unwanted, still-good items such as clothes, furniture and supplies for

schools, shelters and other organizations that accept them.

- Freebies are tempting, but avoid accepting gifts you really won't use.
- From paints and pesticides to solvents and spa chemicals, take household toxic trash to one of Metro's two transfer stations year-round for proper recycling or disposal, or participate in one of Metro's household hazardous waste collection events available March through November.

Get more tips on reducing waste, reusing materials and stopping stuff in its tracks at www.oregonmetro.gov/sustainableliving



Did you know?

Revamped recycler tool

Metro's online Find a Recycler tool, offering sustainable solutions for unwanted materials from packing peanuts to propane tanks, has gotten a makeover. The searchable online directory of more than 400 local recycling and reuse sites is now mobile-friendly and even easier to use. Check it out today for newly-added reuse options, easier keyword search, convenient driving directions and interactive maps to quickly find a match for your items.

www.oregonmetro.gov/findrecycler



Linda Beutler shares natural garden wisdom

Planning for pretty plantings starts in winter



The yard around Linda Beutler's Sellwood cottage is packed with plants, from fruit trees to orange rose hips to bright berries that last through winter. Her yard provides food and habitat for birds and other wildlife in her neighborhood.

"You can't have an effective organic garden without having birds in your yard," she says. "They're such good little pest-getters."

Her plants supply a great view from the cozy indoors through the rainy months. She's planned it that way, and you can, too. Winter is the perfect time to plan, and it starts, Beutler says, with looking out the window right now. Look for gaps in foliage that can be filled for better views. Then you can develop a garden design that's pretty and nurtures nature year round – one plant at a time.

That's what Beutler did. She and her husband Larry moved to Sellwood 20 years ago, and they have planted nearly every plant in their yard, which they share with their 2-year-old black lab Tessie, and cats Coco and Rufus.

Beutler offers expertise at free Metro workshops

Beutler teaches free workshops that are part of the natural gardening program Metro offers in partnership with the Oregon State University Extension Service. She also teaches horticulture at Clackamas Community College and has written two books, *Gardening with Clematis* and *Garden to Vase*, both published by Timber Press.

Her expertise spans decades. She has had gardens everywhere she's lived, "even if it was just pots on a fire escape." Sure, she has a special love for plants. But, she says, it's the gardening community that's kept her at it. She and dear friend Lucy Hardiman, along with other regional gardening experts like Mike Darcy, worked to find a permanent home for the Rogerson Clematis Collection, which now lives at Luscher Farm in Lake Oswego. Beutler curates the collection.

Berries and rose hips: Winter color isn't just for the birds

At home, Beutler and her husband started with the vegetable garden. Last October, giant Roma tomatoes were still ripening on the vine amid purple leeks, herbs and flowers, including a 5-foot tall fuchsia and dahlias just starting to bloom. She attributes the size of the Romas to the neighboring flowers, which help attract pollinators.

Such symbiosis is apparent all over Beutler's yard. A towering pear tree creates a natural trellis for the Purpleleaf grape (*Vitis vinifera* "Purpurea") with its giant clusters of seedy grapes, which emerge in early fall and feed the birds in winter. Beutler loves its fall foliage – some leaves speckled, some splashed with color, and intensifying over weeks before dropping.

Nearby, the bright berries of a European cranberry bush (*Viburnum opulus* "compacta") are spectacular. They start yellow after summer flowers, then go orange, then turn red and stay that way. The birds like

them when they're more shriveled and raisiny, Beutler says, which happens in December and January.

Beutler also grows snowberry. Native to Oregon, this deciduous shrub sets its berries in the fall. The bright white orbs linger on elegant leafless stems, providing a starchy snack for resident thrushes, robins and cedar waxwings in late winter after they've finished off the rose hips. Two giant rose bushes in the south-facing parking strip fill with bright orange fruits in early fall, providing sweet nutritious snacks for the birds (and color to Beutler's holiday wreaths). Her disease-resistant pink Meidiland rose, unsprayed, unpruned and unwatered, is more than 10 feet tall.

"If you're growing the right roses, you don't have to prune them and you don't have to water them," Beutler says.

It started in East Multnomah County

Beutler traces her gardening roots back to East Multnomah County, to the 3-foot by 3-foot garden plot her mother gave her when she was 5 years old.

"My first crop was radishes," she says. "But the slugs got most of 'em."

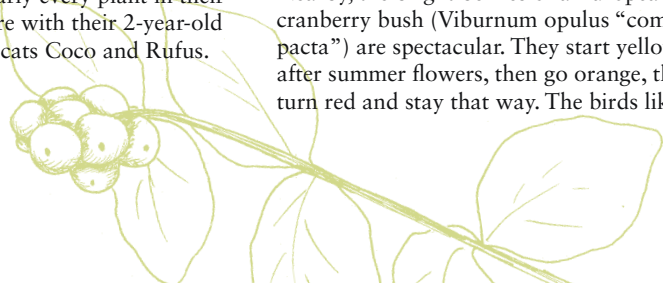
Maybe that's when it dawned on her that she might need some help. And that doesn't mean using chemicals. Beutler does it naturally, attracting feathered pest control with a garden that is vibrant and colorful year round and offers great views from every window in the house.

Meet Metro's natural gardening instructors, learn about free workshops and tours, get tips on gardening year-round, watch videos, download a coupon and more.

www.oregonmetro.gov/garden

Turn your backyard into a certified wildlife habitat.

www.audubonportland.org



WALK THERE!

Sherwood Old Town walk

Sherwood was platted out in 1889 around the rail depot. This walk explores Old Town Sherwood's historic buildings and loops through the woods and wetlands of Stella Olsen Memorial Park before returning to Old Town with its many shops, restaurants and antique stores.

Begin at Southwest Pine and Second streets. In the northwest corner is one of the state's largest Atlas cedars. Walk south on Pine. At the southwest corner of Pine and First is the site of the livery

stable, origin of the great fire of 1911 that destroyed much of downtown.

From Pine, turn right onto Railroad Street. A visitor information center is at Pine and Railroad. The Old Sherwood Hotel, from the 1890s, sits at the northeast corner of Washington and Railroad. A vital element to any railroad town, the hotel also doubled as the town bank for a time. Across Railroad is the Graves Cannery, from 1918. It processed fruits picked by child laborers from nearby farms. It closed in 1971.

Where Washington crosses Railroad is the site of a civic protest. In the 1910s, homes had been built on the south side of Railroad. Residents needed to safely cross the tracks, but the Southern Pacific refused a request for a signaled crossing. Citizens then built a crossing during the middle of the night and spent

the next 24 hours in a constant parade across it. The necessary signal was soon installed.

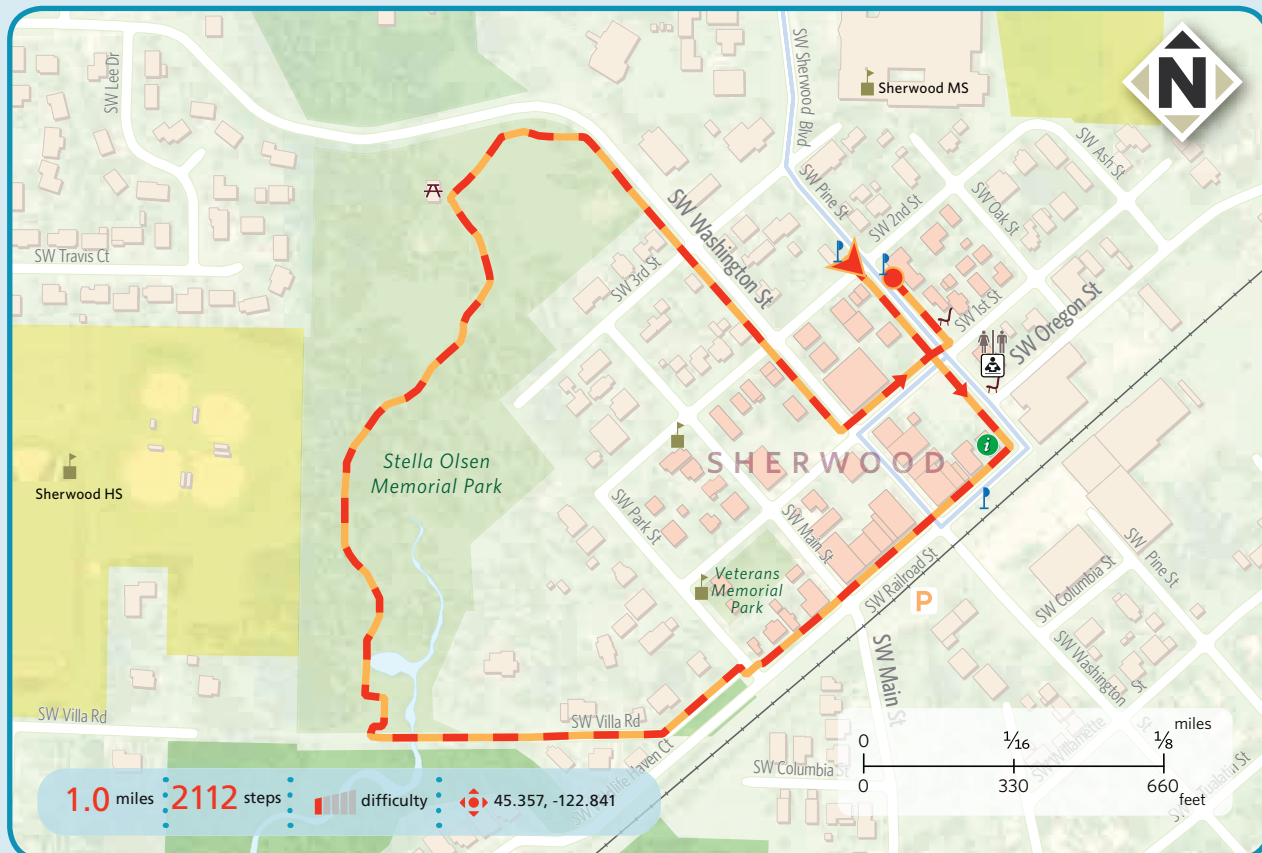
On the left between Washington and Main is the site of the town's train depot. After Park Street, the road jogs right and becomes Southwest Villa Road. Take Villa into Stella Olsen Memorial Park, centered on two islands created by the meandering Cedar Creek as it flows north to the Tualatin River. Turn right to walk along a boardwalk over wetlands. At the end, cross the creek. A covered picnic area is to the left. Continue through the park to the sidewalk on Washington Street.

Turn right on Washington past historic homes. At Second is the charming 150-square-foot Rudy Olsen Gas Pump Park. Turn left on First. At the corner is the 1911 Colfelt building, where a saloon has operated since 1896. At Pine, turn left and walk one block to the start.



Rudy Olsen Gas Pump Park

Get tips and tools at www.oregonmetro.gov/walkthere





C. Bruce Forster photo

Drive Less Connect helps save money, time and fuel

Introducing Drive Less Connect, the secure, simple tool that matches you with others who are going your way for work and play.

- Match up to carpool through work and community networks.
- Connect using Facebook and Twitter accounts.
- Track trips – and savings.
- Earn rewards.

There are many ways to connect with Drive Less Connect. Register today.



Matching people with places.

www.drivelessconnect.com



Benefits of starting or joining a carpool

Driving alone can put a strain on your budget, so share the ride with others to cut costs. The benefits go beyond keeping cash in your pocket. Carpooling can improve your mood, lead to friendships and reduce the wear and tear on your car.

Check out these other carpool benefits. You can:

- save hundreds, even thousands of dollars each year
- reduce your stress and read, relax or even work while commuting

- reduce your family's need for more cars
- carpool even if you don't drive, allowing you to consider jobs throughout the area
- make new friendships and enjoy the company during your commute
- reduce air pollution and traffic congestion, which benefits everyone.

Let the savings begin! Register with Drive Less Connect today.

Live or work in Clark County, Washington? Check out www.clarkcommute.org for online ride matching services.

Tales from the road

Ali Brown makes her commute work with carpool options



Ali Brown juggles a home in Portland, a job in Forest Grove and graduate school that takes her to Bainbridge Island, near Seattle, once a month.

When Brown bought a house in Northeast Portland last year, many people thought she was crazy because her job is in Forest Grove at Adelante Mujeres, a nonprofit that helps empower Latino women and families. No sweat. She makes it work, thanks to carpooling.

Brown has carpoled since she started at Adelante Mujeres four years ago. In that time, she's had eight different carpool-mates, as she calls them. Sometimes they are coworkers. Other times, people from Pacific University, Montinore Vineyards and Via Systems joined the ride through Drive Less Connect (formerly Carpool Match NW).

At its height, Brown's carpool had six people on a given day. At its lowest, it's just her and one other person. It's still worth it for her because she gets to avoid the stress of being the driver every day.

Brown's route from Portland to Forest Grove takes her along Highway 26. The drive to work normally takes about 45 minutes, but the drive home is a different story. On a crowded Highway 26, it takes between an hour and 15 minutes to an hour and 45 minutes to get home.

So what do they do during that carpooling time? They talk, listen to a book on tape or just enjoy each other's company.

Besides escaping the stress of always being the driver, Brown also enjoys the savings. When she drives, she pays for the gas, but on the days other carpool-mates are behind the wheel, they pick up the tab. If someone doesn't have a car, he or she chips in for the gas or brings tasty treats for the carpool.

Her secret to ridesharing success? Don't do it every day. Whether you are new in town and considering carpooling to get around or you're tired of paying so much for gas, Brown believes a daily commitment can be a deterrent to keep you from trying carpooling at all.

"Don't stress about it," she says. If she felt compelled to carpool each and every day, Brown would have stopped years ago.

Brown telecommutes on Friday and goes it alone on days when she needs a little more sleep. With all that she is juggling right now, she's down to carpooling about a third of the time. When life calms down, she expects to carpool more because ridesharing lets her sit back, relax and enjoy the ride.



Bright ideas can help you be seen, be safe this winter

Although daylight saving time ended in November, don't let that darken your spirits ... or your clothing. People biking and walking in the evening are likely to find themselves in the dark earlier during winter months. There are many easy, inexpensive ways to be seen – and safe – this winter.

Bike lights (front and rear), reflectors and reflective tape make it easier for others to see you. Use them at dawn, dusk or night. Use white lights in front and red lights in the rear. High-quality halogen lights help you see and be seen when riding a long distance or on roads where the lighting is poor.

Increase the chance of drivers seeing you by putting reflective tape or bands on the front and

back of your jacket, your helmet, wheel spokes and even your pant legs. Side reflectors and a flashing light on your jacket or pack also increase visibility.

A rearview mirror lets you monitor what is happening behind you without turning your head. You can get rearview mirrors that attach to your bicycle, helmet or glasses.

Staying active by biking or walking for short trips is great for the planet, your health and your wallet. Households who walk and cycle as the primary modes of travel save an average of \$694 per month.

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

www.oregonmetro.gov/bikethere

www.oregonmetro.gov/walkthere



Get moving with the free Walk There! app

Treks from the popular Walk There! guidebook jump from their pages and onto your iPhone screen.

Metro and Kaiser Permanente teamed up to develop an app featuring 10 walks that take you throughout the region, from Fort Vancouver to Wilsonville's Graham Oaks Nature Park and from the Pacific University campus in Forest Grove to the Gresham stretch of the Springwater Trail. Download the free app and other walks by visiting www.oregonmetro.gov/walkthere.

Metro offers electric vehicle charging stations for visitors at three of its buildings

Visitors to the Oregon Convention Center, Portland Expo Center and Metro Regional Center can now charge their electric cars at new onsite charging stations.

The new charging stations are part of ECOtality's Willamette Valley E/V charging station network. Metro added the stations in order to support the use of electric vehicles and reduce transportation-related greenhouse gas emissions. Use of the charging stations requires a Blink Card (similar to a credit, debit or fuel card), which can be obtained free of charge.

Order a Blink card or find a local charging station at www.blinknetwork.com or by calling 888-998-2546.



In downtown Cornelius, Metro grant helps transform concrete alley into a ribbon of green

Methodically piled heaps of steel and cement mark a block in downtown Cornelius under development. In the coming months, an informal parking lot and alley will be transformed into a full-service medical campus, complemented with a green ribbon of natural walkway funded by a Metro Nature in Neighborhoods capital grant.

The salvaged building materials will go back into a modernized Virginia Garcia Wellness Center on the lot, replacing the converted house and garage in which the center was housed. Along with allowing more patients to be seen throughout the year, the new campus is designed to more efficiently achieve the center's longstanding goal: providing health care and wellness education to uninsured and low-income families in the area.

Running east to west through the lot is a crumbling alleyway. Devoid of much green aside from a pair of unhealthy trees, the blacktop path has been an eyesore and walking hazard for years. But plans to reinvigorate the walkway that served the center needed a concept and capital.

The Scott Edwards Architecture firm provided the vision, and the Metro grant provided part of the funding.

"It's going to be incredible," said Michele Horn, foundation relations officer for Virginia Garcia Memorial Health Center. "We envision the space as a gathering place, not just for patients but for the community.

"We really see this as a community enhancement."

Metro has awarded \$4.7 million to 18 projects using funds from the voter-approved 2006 natural areas bond measure. Across the region, grant recipients are restoring salmon habitat, planting trees and creating great places in their communities. Successful projects have fallen in four major categories: land acquisition, restoration, neighborhood projects and urban redevelopment efforts such as the alley at Virginia Garcia.

The block-long path will soon be outfitted with permeable pavers, a dozen benches, 16 native trees and as many as 2,500 new plants and shrubs. The architects will also work with Jackson Bottom Wetlands Preserve to create new interpretive signs that give passersby more information about the bioswales and water-saving features of the campus.

"We wanted to look at the bigger picture of how a building contributes to the water environment in the area and how it can have a positive impact," Horn explained.

The Virginia Garcia Foundation worked with Richard Meyer, development and operations director with the City of Cornelius, on the application that secured the \$322,234 Nature in Neighborhoods capital grant. He praised the greenway project as a model for how the city hopes to revitalize three adjacent blocks of alleyway on both sides of the property.

"It's what the community has wanted for some time," he said. "We're really happy to get the resources to expand the great services of Virginia Garcia and at the same time build a green walkway in the Main Street area of Cornelius."

The space, frequently used for parking, will soon be a car-free oasis for neighbors and patients at the center. Meyer said the city plans to create parking on the street fronts as each piece of the walkway is completed.

He pointed to the development's well-rounded emphasis on health care, active transportation, education and environmentalism as an asset to the City of Cornelius.

"All of these causes are overlapping and addressed nicely in this project," he said.

Learn more about grants

Metro is proud to inspire real change by awarding grants to support hundreds of improvement projects around the region – large and small – to help make great places.

Nature in Neighborhoods capital grants, like the one awarded to Virginia Garcia, are distributed through the region's natural areas bond measure. Communities across the region are finding innovative ways to enhance neighborhoods and restore nature in the urban area. Letters of interest are accepted anytime. To discuss your project idea, contact Mary Rose Navarro at 503-797-1781 or maryrose.navarro@oregonmetro.gov.

Find information about all Metro grant opportunities online.

www.oregonmetro.gov/grants




Winter calendar

Garden reading groups

11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. every Thursday

Join group readings that range from “how-to” manuals to garden-based fiction. Each session begins with an overview by the facilitator of the main points of the featured selection. Participants are encouraged to share reactions and responses. Meet at Rain City Coffee. \$5. Advance registration required; call 503-929-7170.

Independence Gardens 

Preschool story and stroll

1 to 2 p.m. every Friday

Join a park naturalist for nature story time and a brief stroll through Tryon Creek State Natural Area. This program is geared toward families with children ages 3 to 6, but all are welcome. Meet at the nature center. Free. Call a week in advance to make arrangements for large groups. Advance registration required; call 503-636-9886, ext. 225. *Friends of Tryon Creek*

Saturday guided nature hikes

10 to 11:30 a.m. every Saturday

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


Volunteer work party in Forest Park

9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 15

Help restore habitat in Forest Park. No experience required. Tools, materials and training provided. Bring work gloves and wear sturdy footwear. Locations vary. To register, call 503-223-5449, ext. 104. *Forest Park Conservancy*

Native Plant Center volunteer ventures

9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays, Dec. 17, Jan. 7 and 21, and Feb. 11 and 25

Volunteer at Metro’s Native Plant Center in Tualatin and help care for the rare native seeds, bulbs and plant materials that support regional restoration projects. Winter activities include harvesting and planting native bulbs, planting seeds, and transplanting seedlings and nursery maintenance tasks. No experience necessary. Gloves, tools, water and snack provided. Advance registration required; call 503-797-1653. *Metro*  by arrangement

Winter solstice walk

6 to 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 21

Join a naturalist on a stroll at Whitaker Ponds Natural Area during the longest night of the year. Listen for animals settling in for the night as well as those that are coming out to hunt. View beavers, owls, otters and other creatures. Suitable for families but an adult must accompany all children under 12. Babies must be in slings or packs. \$2 per person or \$5 per family. Advance registration required; call 503-823-3601. *Portland Parks & Recreation*

Winter break nature camps for children and teens

Holiday school breaks offer a great opportunity to get outdoors and learn about nature. Here are several programs that may intrigue your junior ranger:

Day off nature camp

Monday, Dec. 19, through Friday, Dec. 23, and Wednesday, Dec. 28, through Friday, Dec. 30, offers hiking adventures, crafts, games and fun with friends for children ages 7 to 11. \$49 to \$65 per day. Advance registration required; call 503-629-6350. *Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District*

Wild Things: Winter wildlife wonders

Monday, Dec. 19, through Friday, Dec. 23, offers children ages 4 to 6 a chance to build a sense of wonder about nature, learn about wildlife and make holiday gifts. \$86 for the week. Advance registration required; call 503-629-6350. *Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District*

Winter adventure days for teens

Monday, Dec. 19, through Thursday, Dec. 22, offer four days of outdoor hikes, snow days, city exploration and even a cave crawl. No outdoor experience necessary. Meet at Mt. Scott Community Center. \$50 per day or \$180 for all four events. Refund deadline is 10 business days prior to trip. \$20 discount is applied to the last day when registering for all four days. For more information or to register, call 503-823-8840. *Portland Parks & Recreation*

Puddle stompers

10 to 11:30 a.m. Tuesdays and Wednesdays, Jan. 10 and 25, and Feb. 7 and 22

Know a little one who enjoys being outdoors? Wondering what to do during the rainy season? Bring that littlest naturalist to the refuge to stomp in puddles and learn to appreciate the wet weather that makes Oregon so green! Be prepared to get wet and wild. The refuge supplies rain gear for kids, but adults should bring their own. Free. Meet at Tualatin River National Wildlife

Refuge. Advance registration required; call 503-625-5944. *U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service*

Get digging at Fairview Creek

9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Jan. 14

Like to dig? Enjoy a little mud? Plant native trees and shrubs at Fairview Creek, one of the few surface streams within the watershed. Explore and restore this cool creek in East Portland. Meet at Conifer Park. Free. For more information, call 503-281-1132. *Columbia Slough Watershed Council*



wildlife watching



sustainable living



volunteering



nature discoveries



natural gardening



wheelchair accessible

Hand **MLK Weekend of Service planting**
8:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 14

Plant trees in the Lents and Powellhurst-Gilbert neighborhoods as part of the MLK Weekend of Service. Volunteers planted more than 100 trees in this area last January. Help reach a goal of planting more than 5,000 street and yard trees in Portland this season. Meet at 8:45 a.m. to register and get a planting crew assignment. Gloves, tools, training, coffee and breakfast treats provided. Wear sturdy shoes. For more information, call 503-282-8846, ext. 24. *Friends of Trees*

Hand **Restoration work parties**

9 a.m. to noon Saturdays, Jan. 14 and Feb. 11
Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge offers monthly restoration work parties. Volunteers assist with conservation activities such as habitat restoration, trail maintenance, invasive species treatment and biological monitoring. Volunteers also receive free admission to a nature education class the prior Thursday. For more information or to register, call 503-625-5944, ext. 227. *Friends of the Tualatin Refuge*

Hand **Shade our Streams work party**

9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Jan. 14
Join event organizers to plant trees and remove blackberry in order to improve local stream-side habitat. Tools, gloves and training provided. Free. Unaccompanied minors will need to provide a signed parental permission form. For more information or to receive the permission form, call 503-558-0550. *Clackamas River Basin Council*

Glasses **Wapato winter birding walk**

9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Jan. 14
Start the morning with a quick introduction to birding at the picnic shelter, then walk the loop around Virginia Lake. Bring a sack lunch and stay to eat with

the birds and rangers, or take an optional caravan to Coon Point to try to double your bird count for the day. Free. Advance registration required; call 503-636-9886, ext. 225. *Friends of Tryon Creek*

Hand **Green the I-205 multi-use path**

8:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday, Jan. 16
Celebrate the life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Help plant trees along the I-205 multi-use path in Northeast Portland with Friends of Trees as part of the MLK Weekend of Service. Volunteers have planted thousands of trees over the past two years along the 15-mile stretch between the Columbia River and Clackamas. Help add to the numbers! Meet at a location to be determined at 8:45 a.m. to register, be assigned to a planting crew, and enjoy hot coffee and breakfast treats. Gloves, tools and guidance provided. Wear sturdy shoes. For more information, call 503-282-8846, ext. 24. *Friends of Trees*

Hand **Volunteers needed for habitat restoration**

9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 16, and Saturdays, Jan. 21 and Feb. 4
Join staff for a volunteer work day planting trees at the Carty Unit of Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge. Wear waterproof footwear and bring gloves. For more information or to register, call 360-887-3883. *U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service*

Globe **Rosa Parks Elementary School**

Fix-It Fair
8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 21
For 25 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. Join your neighbors and talk to the experts about how to spend less and stay healthy. Visit Metro's booth to pick up great free natural gardening publications and talk to an expert about nontoxic

gardening. Meet at Rosa Parks Elementary School. For more information, call 503-823-4309. *Portland Bureau of Planning and Sustainability*

Hand **Stories in the stones on Mount Talbert**

10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 21
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. Suitable for ages 10 and up. Trails are rough and steep in places. \$5 for adults; under 18 free. Advance registration required; call 503-794-8092. *Metro and North Clackamas Parks & Recreation District*

Hand **Tree planting at Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge**

9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Jan. 21
Help protect and restore habitats of the lower Columbia River. Tree plantings are fun family activities and suitable for all ages. Learn about and explore the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge. Gloves and tools provided. Wear old tennis shoes or boots and bring water and enthusiasm. Advance registration required; call 503-226-1565, ext. 225. *Lower Columbia River Estuary Partnership*

Globe **The Magic School Bus at Newmark Theatre**

2 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays, 5 p.m. Saturdays, Jan. 22 to Feb. 19
After 25 years of scientific adventures, the Magic School Bus makes its first-ever landing in Portland. Oregon Children's Theatre has co-commissioned this play with Bay Area Children's Theatre and will be the only company to produce it outside of the national tour. Don't miss your chance to ride the Magic School Bus with Ms. Frizzle and the gang, who are learning about climate change. It's not all bad news – Ms. Frizzle and kids explore countless easy ways to combat climate change. Meet at the Newmark Theater in the Portland Center for Performing Arts. Admission ranges from \$13 to \$30. For ticket information, visit www.pcpa.com or call 503-248-4335. For season subscriptions and more information, call Oregon Children's Theatre at 503-228-9571. *Metro* ♿

Hand **Volunteers needed for habitat restoration**

9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 25
Help refuge staff at River 'S' Unit of the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge restore habitat for native species by removing invasive ones. Wear waterproof footwear and bring gloves. Location to be announced. For more information or to register, call 360-887-3883. *U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service*



Killdeer
Jim Cruce photo


Luscher Farm history through time

7 to 8:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 26

Learn about the Hazelia area and Lake Oswego history from pre-settlement to present day. Explore the world famous Willamette Meteorite, read from a century-old diary, and hear early settler stories of everyday life and the area's changes through time. Taught by Luscher Farm coordinator Karen Davis. Suitable for ages 18 and up. \$10 for Lake Oswego residents; others \$11. For more information, call 503-638-0376. *Lake Oswego Parks & Recreation*

Raptor identification class

7 to 9:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 26

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. 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. This class will get you primed for Raptor Road Trip, Feb. 4. Suitable for adults and teens. Meet in room 370 at Metro Regional Center. Registration and payment of \$11 required in advance; see page 15 for instructions. *Metro* 

Early childhood teacher workshop

8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday, Jan. 27

Learn how to incorporate natural sciences and multi-sensory activities into early learner curriculum. Activities focus on how to use multiple learning styles and the seasons to guide the way through forest discovery. Enjoy classroom activities and field experiences alike. This all-day workshop will use activities from Project Learning Tree's award winning Environmental Experiences for Early Childhood and Project WILD's Growing Up WILD program guide. The class focuses on the pre-kindergarten to second

grade educator. Dress to engage in discovery outside. Bring lunch a notebook and your favorite children's book. Free. Meet at Tryon Creek nature center. For more information or to register, call 503-636-9886, ext. 225. *Friends of Tryon Creek*

Burnt Bridge Creek bird walk


8 to 10 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 28
Follow the Burnt Bridge Creek Trail through field and forest on an expert-guided bird walk with naturalist Elaine Murphy. Meet at the Fisher's Landing Backyard Bird Shop to carpool. Free. Advance registration required; call 503-620-7454. *Backyard Bird Shop*

Tree plantings at Meldrum Bar Park

9 a.m. to noon Saturdays, Jan. 28 and Feb. 25
Help protect and restore a natural area near the Willamette River. Tree plantings are fun for the family and suitable for all ages. Learn about and explore the forest at Meldrum Bar Park. Gloves and tools provided. Come prepared with old tennis shoes or boots, water and enthusiasm. Free. Advance registration required; call 503-226-1565, ext. 225. *Lower Columbia River Estuary Partnership*

Winter birds at Smith and Bybee Wetlands

9:30 a.m. to noon Saturdays, Jan. 28 and Feb. 18

The winter birds are really settled in at Smith and Bybee in January and February. 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 from the trees. Suitable for adults and children ages 10 and up. Bring binoculars or borrow a pair on site; spotting scopes provided. Meet Metro naturalist James Davis in the natural area parking lot at 5300 N. Marine Drive. Free. Advance registration required; see page 15 for instructions. *Metro* 

Ladybug walks 10 to 11 a.m., Tuesdays, Feb. 10, 17 and 24

Explore nature in Portland's parks with trained naturalists. Touch leaves, look for worms and hope to see ladybugs. Adults learn how to help their child explore nature. Walks suitable for ages 2 to 5. Children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Locations vary. \$3 per preschooler; adults free. For more information, call 503-823-3601. *Portland Parks & Recreation*

Mount Talbert bird walk

8 to 10 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 11
The forested butte of Mount Talbert Nature Park provides important wildlife habitat and panoramic views. Join naturalist Elaine Murphy on an expert-guided bird walk and explore this extinct volcano. Meet at the Clackamas Backyard Bird Shop to carpool. Free. Advance registration required; call 503-496-0908. *Backyard Bird Shop*

Stewardship Saturday at Osborne Creek

9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Feb. 11

Make a difference by planting native plants, removing invasive weeds and cleaning up litter in the Columbia Slough watershed. Meet at Jackson Food Store. Free. For more information, call 503-281-1132. *Columbia Slough Watershed Council*

StreamTeam tree planting

8:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays, Feb. 11 and 25

Flex those muscles with the Clark Public Utilities StreamTeam. Volunteers are needed to clear ground and plant more than 30 varieties of trees to help restore the watershed. Equipment and light refreshments provided. Bring work and weather appropriate attire, gloves and a reusable mug. Advance registration required; call 360-992-8585. *Clark County Public Utilities District*

Tree planting at Steigerwald National Wildlife Refuge

9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Feb. 11

Help protect and restore habitats of the lower Columbia River. Learn about and explore the Steigerwald National Wildlife Refuge. Gloves and tools provided. Come prepared with old tennis shoes or boots, water and enthusiasm. Suitable for all ages. Advance registration required; call 503-226-1565, ext. 225. *Lower Columbia River Estuary Partnership*

A Valentine for the Clackamas

9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Feb. 11

Plant trees and remove blackberry to improve local streamside habitat. Tools, plants, gloves and training provided. Meet at Boring Station Trailhead. Free. Unaccompanied minors must present a signed parental consent form. For more information or to receive the permission form, call 503-558-0550. *Clackamas River Basin Council*

Owl prowls

Learn about owls – the magnificent hunters of the night – in a combination class and walk led by naturalist Elaine Murphy. Suitable for older children and adults. A \$5 registration fee will be refunded with a \$5 gift certificate the night of the class. Advance registration required; call 503-626-0949. *Backyard Bird Shop*

6 to 8 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 12

Meet at the Northeast Portland Backyard Bird Shop to carpool to Whitaker Ponds Natural Area.

6 to 8 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 19

Meet at the Beaverton Backyard Bird Shop to carpool to Tualatin Hills Nature Park.

Stayin' alive: Winter survival shelters for families

11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 12

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. \$6 per adult or \$11 for two or more adults from the same household; under 18 free. Oxbow has a \$5 per vehicle gate fee. Children 16 and under must be accompanied by an adult. This class goes rain or shine but snow will cancel. Advance registration required; see page 15 for instructions. *Metro*

After school nature club

3:30 to 5:30 p.m. Thursdays, Feb. 16 and 23

Get outside after school and explore the natural world. Join friends to enjoy a new nature topic each week through hikes, games and crafts. Class titles include Howling Coyotes, Hot Rocks, Animal Tracking and Creatures of the Deep. Snacks provided. Suitable for ages 7 to 10. \$13 per session or all four for \$45. Advance registration required; call 503-629-6350. *Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District*

Ducks 101: Waterfowl identification class

7 to 9:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 16

Half a million ducks, geese and swans spend the winter in the northern Willamette Valley. Hundreds can easily be seen on a winter trip to Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area, Sauvie Island and other local 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

Smith and Bybee Wetlands




In winter, not only are birds of prey easier to see in the bare trees, there are actually more of them here. Winter

turns the region into a waterfowl wonderland with tens of thousands of ducks, geese and swans.

Wander through Smith and Bybee Wetlands on the paved, accessible Interlakes Trail, which includes two wildlife viewing platforms. Recent improvements include a new canoe launch area and improved access for paddlers, as well as restrooms, interpretive displays, environmental art, a covered shelter, and more parking.

Pied-billed grebe photo by Jim Cruce

payment of \$11 required in advance; see page 15 for instructions. *Metro* 

Yard, Garden & Patio Show

Friday through Sunday, Feb. 17, 18 and 19

Discover outdoor cooking classes, showcase gardens, free seminars and demonstrations, a green market and backyard fun for all ages. Visit Metro's booth to pick up free natural gardening publications and talk to an expert about nontoxic gardening. Come for the fun and prepare to be inspired. Located at the Oregon Convention Center. \$12 for adults; free for children under 12. For more information, call 503-682-5089. *Oregon Association of Nurseries*

Sauvie Island bird walk


8 to 10 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 18

The wetlands and oak savanna on Sauvie Island host wintering waterfowl and songbirds. Join naturalist Elaine Murphy to visit several birding hotspots on the island. Meet at the Northeast Portland Backyard Bird Shop to carpool. Free. Advance registration required; call 503-496-0908. *Backyard Bird Shop*

Home & Garden Show

Wednesday, Feb. 22 through Sunday, Feb. 26

Get your projects started at the Portland Home and Garden Show. Finish an existing project or start a new one! Explore

exhibits for the do-it-yourselfer and the professional contractor alike. Shop, compare and save on a total selection of home-related products and services for building, remodeling, gardening and decorating. Meet the top kitchen and bath remodelers; heating and air conditioning specialists; window, roofing and siding remodelers; flooring, water conditioning and home security experts; and real estate agents. Browse, bring a notebook for jotting ideas, and take in the seminars at this year's show. For more information, call 503-246-8291. *Portland Expo Center* 

Creating beneficial urban landscapes

9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Feb. 25

Learn how to create and maintain an aesthetically refined healthy living landscape. Instructor Suzie Spencer of NW Landscapes LLC will teach participants how to transform a site into a vibrant garden using less water, fertilizer and money. Meet at Luscher Farm. \$22 for Oregon Tilth members and Lake Oswego residents; \$25 for others. Advance registration required; call 503-675-2546 and refer to class No. 1326340. *Oregon Tilth*

Jefferson High School Fix-It Fair

8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 25

Join neighbors and talk to the experts about how to spend less and stay healthy. Visit Metro's booth to pick up great free natural gardening publications and talk to an expert about nontoxic gardening. For 25 years, free Fix-It Fairs have helped area residents save money, live healthier and connect to valuable resources for sustainable living. Discover day-long exhibits, hourly how-to classes and free giveaways. Meet at Jefferson High School. For more information, call 503-823-4309. *Portland Bureau of Planning and Sustainability*

Continued

Winter trees of Graham Oaks Nature Park

1 to 3:30 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 26

Have you ever wished you could tell one evergreen from another or identify a tree in winter by looking at the bark or buds? Can you read the history of a piece of land by looking at its forest? Join Metro naturalist Deb Scrivens for a walk at Graham Oaks

Nature Park to unravel these mysteries and more. The forest at this natural area is a living laboratory of Northwest trees. Suitable for ages 12 and up. \$6 per adult or \$11 for two or more adults from the same household; under 18 free. Advance registration required; see page 15 for instructions. *Metro*



Jerome Hart photo

Annual passes for Metro parks available now

Purchase or renew your annual parks 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.

Regular passes are \$40, senior citizen passes are \$30. They are not transferrable to other vehicles.

Here are the ways you can obtain this year's pass:

- visit www.oregonmetro.gov/parkspass
- pick up a pass at Blue Lake or Oxbow regional park offices or the Metro Store located at 600 NE Grand Ave., Portland
- call 503-665-4995.

For future updates and to find out what's going on in the region, visit www.oregonmetro.gov/parks



Winter calendar at a glance

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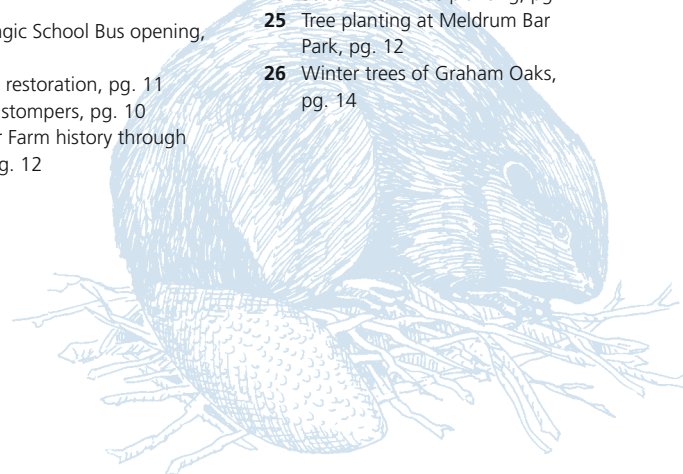
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Together, we're making a great place



Metro works with communities in the Portland metropolitan area to create a vibrant, sustainable region for all.

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www.oregonmetro.gov/connect



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 and pay online for Metro activities. Go to Metro's online calendar, find your event by searching or browsing, and follow the instructions.

www.oregonmetro.gov/calendar

For questions or 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.

No dogs policy

Due to a conflict with wildlife, dogs are not allowed at Metro parks or natural areas.

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.

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 **Metro** | *Making a great place*

On the cover

Douglas fir at Cooper Mountain; photo by C. Bruce Forster. A child explores at Graham Oaks Nature Park; photo by M. Barton.

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.



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