

SPRING 2013

# GreenScene



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to great places and  
green living

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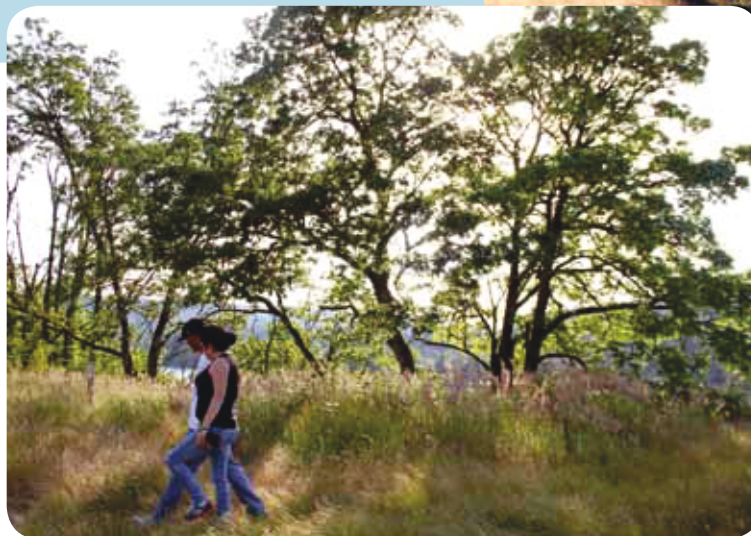
# Metro purchases 22 acres at Canemah Bluff, creating a 330-acre natural area above the Willamette River

When out hiking or bird-watching, you might never guess that putting a natural area together can be a bit like assembling a jigsaw puzzle. It is. Land gets purchased and protected piece by piece, sometimes over many years, ultimately creating one cohesive, scenic picture.

And there's no better example than at Oregon City's Canemah Bluff Natural Area, where Metro filled a "hole" this winter, purchasing 22 acres that had split two large areas of voter-protected land into unconnected sections. With the new addition, Metro now owns a continuous expanse of 330 acres overlooking the Willamette River.

"There are very few places where you can get up on a cliff and see upstream and downstream, and in the spring, very few places that have so much camas lily that the place just turns blue," said Metro Councilor Carlotta Collette, who represents that part of the region.

Visitors can already explore more than 100 acres of the natural area, accessing it at Oregon City's Canemah Neighborhood



The view upriver, atop Canemah Bluff

Walkers at Canemah Bluff's oak prairie in early summer

Children's Park. Now, with the connecting purchase, Metro can plan for public access on an additional 200 acres.

Metro purchased the missing parcel at a foreclosure auction in January for \$124,000, capping 17 years of work to protect Canemah Bluff. Land was acquired in 10 separate transactions as opportunities arose. The total investment, using funds from two natural areas bond measures, was just under \$7 million. Purchases made with bond measure funds protect water quality, wildlife habitat and opportunities to enjoy nature. As with

all purchases made with these funds, Metro bought land from willing sellers, at market value.

As Canemah Bluff Natural Area has grown, Metro has worked to welcome visitors. New signs at the park explain Canemah Bluff's history and habitats. A site plan developed with community input calls for more

"I don't think there's any place in the Willamette River basin – and I'm thinking of the whole river basin – that is more spectacular."

Metro Councilor Carlotta Collette

signage and trails, some trail closures, and a safety railing at the steep bluffs above the river.

Last fall, Metro restored Oregon white oak habitat at the bluff by strategically removing trees that competed with the oaks for sunlight and food. The work was part of a statewide effort to reverse the decline of oak woodlands and savannas, which now occupy less than 10 percent of their historic range in the Willamette Valley.

With this gap now filled at Canemah Bluff, Collette said, "This creates a huge, connected piece of habitat."







Metro Councilor Carlotta Collette on a tour at Canemah Bluff Natural Area

## Explore historic Canemah from river to bluff

The Canemah Bluff Natural Area, along with the streets of the Canemah Historic District below, make for an “oh-wow!” half day of exploration in one of Oregon’s most intriguing locales.

Begin exploring Canemah Bluff at the Canemah Neighborhood Children’s Park, 815 Fourth Ave., Oregon City. Here, children once attended Canemah School. It closed in 1928 when the town of Canemah was annexed by Oregon City.

Signs around the park tell of the Clackamas people who once lived here, and of their fishing traditions at Willamette Falls. Beyond the park, trails continue along the bluff into the natural area. This prairie habitat was once

the Rakel property, a farm with two springs that were Canemah’s drinking water source until 1928. From March to July, the native wildflower show is at its peak.

The land on the bluff was logged long ago, primarily for steamboat fuel but also for construction of homes and boats, many built in Canemah. On the prairie are spirea and sedges – evidence of vernal pools, water that perches on the impermeable basalt, forming shallow winter pools that persist into early summer.

After traveling along the bluff top with views over the Willamette and across to West Linn, the trail heads away from the river. From here you can explore Cemetery Road, which leads to the private Canemah Cemetery; its graves date to 1864. More trails lead into the natural area’s diverse habitats, including a mixed conifer-hardwood forest, ash forested woodlands and Oregon white oak woodlands.

### Good to know

As with any oak habitat, poison oak is present at Canemah Bluff. Even when leaves are absent, its oils can irritate the skin. Avoid walking off-trail and wear long pants. Except for Cemetery Road, which is on private property, dogs are not allowed at Canemah Bluff Natural Area.



### Mother’s Day at Canemah

Explore the views and wildflowers of Canemah Bluff this Mother’s Day, May 12 with Metro naturalist Dan Daly. See page 6 for details.

Camas (Camassia). Camas bulbs were an important food of local Native Americans. Many traditional camas gathering sites have been converted to agriculture.

To learn more about Canemah Bluff Natural Area, visit [www.oregonmetro.gov/canemah](http://www.oregonmetro.gov/canemah).

To learn more about the Canemah Historic District, visit [www.orcity.org/planning/canemah-national-register-district](http://www.orcity.org/planning/canemah-national-register-district).



Willamette Falls, looking toward Canemah. These falls were a major trade site for Native Americans throughout the Northwest.

## Canemah: the backstory

Canemah comes from “canim” or “canoe” in Chinook jargon. Situated just upstream of massive Willamette Falls, the riverside area of Canemah is where hundreds of generations of Native Americans beached their canoes to portage around the falls.

Settlers in Canemah, beginning in 1844 with Absalom Hedges, built warehouses and offered stevedoring and other services to move freight and steamboat passengers around the falls. The area along the river below Canemah Bluff soon became a ship-building and transportation center, with steamboats running between Canemah and upstream farming communities. Names of the earliest settlers, including Absalom Hedges, live on in Canemah street names.

The boom ended in 1873 when the Willamette Falls Locks were built across the river; no longer did freight have to be unloaded upstream and reloaded downstream of the falls. Canemah’s heyday was past. What’s left today is a gorgeous slice of river, old streets, blufftop views and rare habitats.



## Metro grant helps launch Adelante Conservación

Habitat restoration, stream and floodplain improvements, and conservation education opportunities are taking shape across the region with support from Metro's Nature in Neighborhoods restoration and enhancement grants. Metro is especially interested in projects like Adelante Conservación that foster innovative partnerships and serve low-income communities and communities of color.

Here, Tualatin Riverkeepers executive director Monica Smiley reflects on planting the seeds of Adelante Conservación – a new collaboration between Adelante Mujeres and Tualatin Riverkeepers that grew from a Metro grant.

Four women gathered around a table in autumn 2012, two Spanish speakers and two English speakers trying to say “Conservación” like it’s a tongue twister. They were meeting for the first time to create Adelante Conservación, a program to blend nature awareness skills with education opportunities for Latinas and migrant youth.

For 10 years, Adelante Mujeres, a Forest Grove nonprofit, has offered education and empowerment programs for Latinas and their children, including English language, kindergarten readiness and leadership programs for middle-school girls.

When Adelante Mujeres wanted to add a conservation component to its education programs, they called their longtime partners at Tualatin Riverkeepers. While Adelante Mujeres has participated in Tualatin Riverkeepers’ environmental education and outdoor recreation programs for 10 years, last autumn’s meeting marked the first time the two

organizations collaborated to build a program to meet their common goals.

Each organization can be classified differently – Tualatin Riverkeepers as environmental, Adelante Mujeres as human services. But both need each other to accomplish their shared values and missions: healthy water and healthy people. In addition to the Metro grant to help launch Adelante Conservación, this partnership has also been fostered by the Center for Diversity and the Environment, a national organization to mentor racially and ethnically diverse leaders in the U.S. environmental movement.

Learn more:

[www.adelantemujeres.org](http://www.adelantemujeres.org)

[www.tualatinriverkeepers.org](http://www.tualatinriverkeepers.org)

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

## Clear Creek Canyon natural area gets a boost from neighboring school kids



In the city, good neighbors invite you to their holiday party, lend you a tool or bring in the mail while you’re on vacation. At Metro’s Clear Creek Canyon natural area near Carver, neighborly kindness

recently took a different form. In February, students from Springwater Environmental Sciences School helped restore the 580-acre natural area next door. They planted 1,140 Douglas fir trees and 1,000 Oregon grape shrubs – a big boost for Clear Creek. In exchange for their frequent volunteer work, the students benefit from an outdoor learning laboratory that has been protected by two voter-approved natural areas bond measures. Clear Creek is home to Coho and Chinook salmon, deer, coyote, beavers, otters and more.



Learn about Clear Creek Canyon and other Metro natural areas:

<http://ournature.oregonmetro.gov/>



# Spring calendar of Metro events



## Family Nature Explorers: See what's out there!

**F**amily Nature Explorers is a series of spring-through-fall field trips in Metro's regional parks and natural areas. It is designed for families with children ages 4 and older.

The outings are all about nature, learning and community. Kids meet other kids who like to get down to an eye-level, hands-on relationship with bugs, plants, birds, animal tracks or mushrooms.

Outings are about three hours, one Saturday or Sunday per month. Each covers one or two topics, plus any nature experience that presents itself that day. Many trips are to areas that are not yet open to the public. Some walking is off-trail. Metro supplies equipment and first aid supplies. See the calendar for details on upcoming outings.



### Wetlands bird walks

9 to 11:30 a.m. Saturdays, April 13 and June 22  
During spring about 30 bird species migrate through Smith and Bybee Wetlands or join year-round residents for nesting. From April through June, migration and nesting peak. Learn to identify birds by sight and song with Metro naturalist James Davis. Bring binoculars or borrow a pair on site. Suitable for ages 10 and older. Registration and payment of \$6 per adult or \$11 per household required in advance; see page 7.

### Wetlands painted turtle walks

1 to 2:30 p.m. Saturdays, April 13 and June 22  
Smith and Bybee Wetlands is home to one of the state's largest Western painted turtle populations. See these beautiful reptiles with the help of Metro naturalist James Davis. Take a close look with a telescope, learn about the turtles' natural history and examine turtle shells found in the wetlands. Suitable for ages 5 and older. Registration and payment of \$6 per adult or \$11 per household required in advance; see page 7.

### Family Nature Explorers – Mount Talbert Nature Park

10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, April 20  
Travel to a lava butte near, of all things, Clackamas Town Center! Mount Talbert's forest habitats are spectacular with wildflowers like fawn lily and blue iris. Join Metro naturalist James Davis at this beautiful island of nature at a time when bird activity hits a peak. Mount Talbert also offers good animal tracking. Suitable for ages 4 and older. Registration and payment of \$11 per family required in advance; see page 7.

### Polar bear talk

7 to 8 p.m., Thursday, April 25  
In this after-hours talk at the Oregon Zoo, learn about maternal den studies from world-renowned polar bear researcher Dr. Tom Smith of Brigham Young University and Polar Bears International. Suitable for all ages. \$10 or \$8 for zoo members and students with valid ID. Optional drop-off class for ages 6 to 12 for additional fee. Register at [oregonzoo.org](http://oregonzoo.org).

### Spring bird walks on Cooper Mountain

8:30 to 11:30 a.m. Saturdays, April 27 and June 1  
Spring is the easiest time to see and identify birds of Cooper Mountain Nature Park: they are in their best breeding plumage and singing up a storm. Beginning and intermediate birders, join Metro naturalist and expert birder James Davis. Bring binoculars or borrow a pair on site. Dress for standing on an open hilltop (think: cold wind). Suitable for ages 10 and older. Registration and payment of \$10 required in advance; call 503-629-6350. *Metro with Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District*

### Looking for lazulis and lilies

10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Sunday, April 28  
At Cooper Mountain Nature Park, controlled burns mean a proliferation of native wildflowers. Explore the mountain's flowers with Metro naturalist and animal tracker Deb Scrivens. Search for the elusive lazuli bunting or Western bluebird. Suitable for all ages. Terrain is somewhat steep in places. Children must be accompanied by a registered adult. Registration and payment of \$10 required in advance; call 503-629-6350. *Metro with Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District*

### Family Nature Explorers – Clear Creek Canyon

10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, May 4  
Explore this 580-acre jewel "behind the scenes" with a Metro naturalist. Search its prairies for interesting plants and bugs and look for river otter or wild salmon in Clear Creek. Some off-trail walking. Suitable for ages 4 and older. Registration and payment of \$11 per family required in advance; see page 7.

### Blooms for beginners

5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Monday, May 6  
Would you like to be able to identify common trees and shrubs? Join Metro naturalist Deb Scrivens to tour the Oregon Zoo after hours and get hands-on with native plants. Ride MAX to the Washington Park station, or park at the zoo for \$4. Suitable for all ages. Registration and payment of \$6 per person or \$11 per household required in advance; see page 7. ♿

### Mother's Day birds and blooms – Oxbow Regional Park

1 to 3 p.m. Sunday, May 12  
Instead of taking flowers to your mom, why not take her to the wildflowers? Hike with Metro naturalist Deb Scrivens through Oxbow's forests to see and learn about common woodland wildflowers. Terrain is steep in places. Suitable for all ages. Children must be accompanied by a registered adult. \$5 per vehicle (\$7 per bus) fee. Registration and payment of \$6 per person or \$11 per household required in advance; see page 7.

## Mother's Day birds and blooms – Canemah Bluff Natural Area

1 to 3 p.m. Sunday, May 12  
Walk with Metro naturalist Dan Daly and learn about common wildflowers. Enjoy the serenade of nesting songbirds and views of the Willamette River and historic Canemah Cemetery. Bring binoculars or borrow a pair on site. The walk covers 2 miles over uneven trails, mostly flat with some inclines. Suitable for ages 6 and older. Children must be accompanied by a registered adult. Registration and payment of \$6 per person or \$11 per household required in advance; see page 7.

## Sandy River Spey Clave

All day Friday to Sunday, May 17, 18 and 19

Come to Oxbow Regional Park for the largest gathering of anglers devoted to two-hand fly rod fishing in the western hemisphere. Enroll in the free Spey casting college. View on-the-water demonstrations. Meet Northwest fly fishing legends. Free with a \$5 per vehicle (\$7 per bus) fee. Want to camp at Oxbow? Visit [www.oregonmetro.com/oxbow](http://www.oregonmetro.com/oxbow) for details about online reservations. Pets and alcohol are not allowed in Metro parks or natural areas. For information, visit [www.flyfishusa.com/spey-clave](http://www.flyfishusa.com/spey-clave). *Fly Fishing Shop with Metro*

## Animal tracking workshop

10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.  
Saturday, May 25

Oxbow Regional Park is a tracker's paradise in spring, when beavers, otters, fox, mink, mice and deer leave their stories in the sand. With practice, beginners can learn to read the ground like an open book. Seasoned tracker Terry Kem covers basics of track identification and awareness skills needed to watch wildlife at close range. Suitable for all ages. \$5 per vehicle (\$7 per bus) fee. Registration and payment of \$11 per adult required in advance; see page 7.

## Drop-in family fun at Blue Lake Natural Discovery Garden

1 to 5 p.m. Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, May 31 through Sept. 1

Gather ideas to make your yard pesticide-free, safe and fun for kids, songbirds, lakes and streams. All ages can explore an active worm bin, dig for "fossils," discover, rub and sniff plants, find the softest leaves, and see what wildlife have to say about natural gardening. Come for the garden and stay to enjoy the park's many recreational activities. Free with \$5 per vehicle (\$7 per bus) fee, free for bicycles and pedestrians.



## Backyard Makeover exhibit at the Oregon Zoo

10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Fridays through Mondays, May 31 through Sept. 30

Enjoy family activities in a wildlife-friendly garden tucked between the Insect Zoo and Lorikeet Landing, and learn how to cultivate native habitat in your own backyard with guidance from Oregon State University Extension Service Master Gardeners. Kids can dig in a worm bin and play games. Activity books and crayons are available when the exhibit is staffed, along with free publications that help you protect kids, pets, water and wildlife while growing a healthy and abundant yard. Free with zoo admission. Ride MAX to the Washington Park station, or park at the zoo for \$4.



## Family Nature Explorers – Oxbow Regional Park

10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sunday, June 23

Bring your family into the woods for nature games with Metro staff and volunteer naturalists. Kick off your shoes, run in the grass, use your "owl eyes," stalk like a fox and play "nutty squirrels." Suitable for ages 4 and older. \$5 per vehicle (\$7 per bus) fee. Registration and payment of \$11 per family required in advance; see page 7.

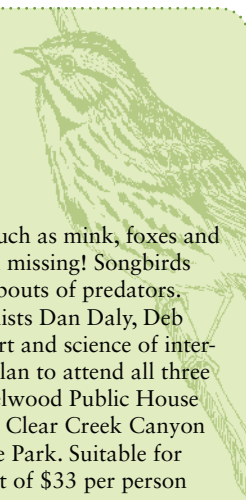
## Bird language series

7 to 9 p.m. Thursday, April 18

8:30 a.m. to noon, Saturday, April 20

8:30 a.m. to noon, Sunday, May 5

Would you like to see more wildlife, such as mink, foxes and owls? Start seeing what you've been missing! Songbirds are in constant dialogue about the whereabouts of predators. You can learn their language. With naturalists Dan Daly, Deb Scrivens and Patty Newland, explore the art and science of interpreting bird movements, songs and calls. Plan to attend all three sessions. The introductory class is at Laurelwood Public House and Brewery. The last two are field trips at Clear Creek Canyon natural area and Cooper Mountain Nature Park. Suitable for teens and adults. Registration and payment of \$33 per person required in advance; see page 7.



## Wetlands wildlife explorations

Want to explore the natural wonders of Smith and Bybee Wetlands but don't have a boat? We've got you covered! NW Discoveries provides boats, paddles and personal flotation devices while Metro naturalist James Davis offers tours featuring the wetlands' wildlife and natural history. Expect to see big birds like bald eagles, osprey and great blue herons.

### Kayak tour

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

Some kayaking experience recommended. Suitable for ages 14 and older; paddlers under 17 must be accompanied by an adult. All kayaks are solo except for a few tandem kayaks available upon request. Registration and payment of \$25 per person required two weeks in advance; see page 7.

### Canoe and kayak tour

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

Select a solo or tandem kayak or two-person canoe. Two adult canoers can add up to two children to ride in the middle. Registration and payment of \$25 per adult (ages 14 and older) and \$5 per child (ages 5 to 13) accompanied by paid adult required two weeks in advance; see page 7.

### Canoe bimiran tour

12:45 to 3:15 p.m. Saturday, June 8

A bimiran – two canoes lashed together with 2 x 6 boards – creates a stable pontoon boat, perfect for young children and inexperienced or nervous paddlers. Registration and payment of \$10 per adult (ages 14 and older) and \$5 per child (ages 5 to 13) accompanied by paid adult required two weeks in advance; see page 7.

## How to register for Metro nature activities

For all events (except those listed with a phone number), register and pay online by visiting [www.oregonmetro.gov/calendar](http://www.oregonmetro.gov/calendar). Find your event by searching or browsing and then follow the instructions.

### Questions?

Call 503-220-2781.

## Get out there!

### Blue Lake Regional Park

20500 NE Marine Drive, Fairview  
503-665-4995 option 0

### Cooper Mountain Nature Park

18892 SW Kemmer Road, Beaverton  
503-629-6350

### Graham Oaks Nature Park

11825 SW Wilsonville Road, Wilsonville  
503-665-4995 option 0

### Howell Territorial Park

13901 NW Howell Park Road, Sauvie Island  
503-665-4995 option 0

### Metro's Natural Techniques Garden

6800 SE 57th Ave., Portland  
503-234-3000

### Mount Talbert Nature Park

10695 SE Mather Road, Clackamas  
503-742-4353



Cooper Mountain Nature Park

C. Bruce Forster photo

### Oregon Zoo

4001 SW Canyon Road, Portland  
[www.oregonzoo.org](http://www.oregonzoo.org)  
503-226-1561

### Oxbow Regional Park

3010 SE Oxbow Parkway, east of Gresham  
503-663-4708

### Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area

5300 N. Marine Drive, Portland  
503-665-4995 option 0



Jerome Hart photo

## Ready, set, reserve

Oxbow Regional Park is now offering online camping reservations through Metro's new partnership with the State of Oregon Parks and Recreation Department. Reserve your spot at scenic Oxbow Regional Park with one mouse click. Campsites can be reserved up to nine months in advance. Visit the new online reservation system at [www.oregonmetro.gov/oxbow](http://www.oregonmetro.gov/oxbow) or call Reservations NW at 1-800-452-5687.

## Find your next adventure

Discover the adventures outside your door, and check out upcoming classes, walks, tours and events on The Intertwine's searchable, interactive map and easy-to-use calendar.

Enter the portal to nature in the city:  
[www.theintertwine.org](http://www.theintertwine.org)



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# MAKING A GREAT PLACE



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

A regional approach simply makes sense when it comes to 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.

### Metro Council President

Tom Hughes

### Metro Council

Shirley Craddick, District 1

Carlotta Collette, District 2

Craig Dirksen, District 3

Kathryn Harrington, District 4

Sam Chase, District 5

Bob Stacey, District 6

### Auditor

Suzanne Flynn

### On the cover

Camas bloom. Girls plant a Douglas fir at Clear Creek Canyon natural area.

If you have a disability and need accommodations, call 503-972-8543, or call Metro's TDD line at 503-797-1804. If you require a sign language interpreter, call at least 48 hours in advance. Activities marked with this symbol are wheelchair accessible:

### Bus and MAX information

503-238-RIDE (7433) or [www.trimet.org](http://www.trimet.org)

To be added to the GreenScene mailing list or to change your mailing information, call 503-797-1650 option 2.

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# Metro

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Clackamas County	503-655-8631
Multnomah County	503-445-4608
Washington County	503-821-1150

See this issue's calendar for places to enjoy drop-in hands-on gardening fun for the whole family.

Ask Metro about family programs, learning gardens, presentations, e-news, coupons for free pesticide disposal and more. Call **503-234-3000** or visit **[www.oregonmetro.gov/garden](http://www.oregonmetro.gov/garden)**.

Kent Derek photo

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