

 **Metro | Agenda**

Meeting: Metro Policy Advisory Committee (MPAC)
Date: Wednesday, January 13, 2016
Time: 5 to 7 p.m.
Place: Metro Regional Center, Council Chamber

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|----------------|------------|--|--|
| 5:00 PM | 1. | CALL TO ORDER, SELF INTRODUCTIONS, CHAIR COMMUNICATIONS | Peter Truax, Chair |
| 5:10 PM | 2. | CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS | |
| 5:15 PM | 3. | COUNCIL UPDATE | Metro Council |
| 5:25 PM | 4. | MPAC MEMBER COMMUNICATIONS | |
| 5:30 PM | 5. | CONSENT AGENDA: | |
| | * | • Consideration of December 9, 2015 Minutes | |
| | * | • Appointment of 2016 MTAC Members | |
| | 6. | ACTION ITEMS | |
| 5:35 PM | 6.1 | Election of 2016 MPAC Officers | |
| | 7. | INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS | |
| 5:40 PM | 7.1 | * Equitable Housing Summit Update –
<u>INFORMATION/DISCUSSION</u> | Elissa Gertler, Metro
Emily Lieb, Metro |
| 6:40 PM | 7.2 | * Metro Parks & Nature System Plan –
<u>DISCUSSION</u> | Kathleen Brennan-Hunter,
Metro |
| 7:00 PM | 8. | ADJOURN | |

* Material included in the packet

Material will be provided at the meeting

Upcoming MPAC Meetings:

- Wednesday, January 27, 2016
- Wednesday, February 10, 2016
- Wednesday, February 24, 2016

For agenda and schedule information, please contact Alexandra Eldridge: 503-797-1916 or
Alexandra.Eldridge@oregonmetro.gov.

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ការគោរពសិទ្ធិពលរដ្ឋរបស់ ។ សំរាប់ព័ត៌មានអំពីកម្មវិធីសិទ្ធិពលរដ្ឋរបស់ Metro ឬដើម្បីទទួលបានក្បួនលក្ខណ៍រើសអើងសម្រាប់សេវាសេវា www.oregonmetro.gov/civilrights។
បើលោកអ្នកត្រូវការការបកប្រែភាសានៅពេលអង្គប្រជុំសាធារណៈ សូមទូរស័ព្ទលេខ 503-797-1890 (ម៉ោង 8 ព្រឹកដល់ម៉ោង 5 ល្ងាច ថ្ងៃធ្វើការ) ប្រាំពីរថ្ងៃ ថ្ងៃធ្វើការ មុនថ្ងៃប្រជុំដើម្បីអាចឲ្យគេសម្រួលតាមសំណើរបស់លោកអ្នក ។

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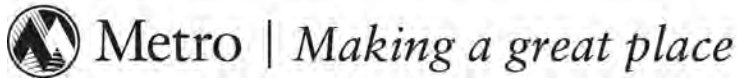
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2016 MPAC Work Program

As of 01/06/16

*Items in italics are tentative; **bold** denotes required items*

<p><u>Wednesday, January 13, 2016</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Metro Parks & Nature System Plan Continued Discussion (K.Brennan-Hunter, Metro; 20-30 min) • Equitable Housing Summit Update (Elissa Gertler, Emily Lieb, Metro; 60 min) 	<p><u>Wednesday, January 27, 2016</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Regional Snapshots Speaker Series: Jobs, Economy (2 hours)</i>
<p><u>Wednesday, February 10, 2016</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Regional Solutions Team Update (Bobby Lee, State of Oregon; 45 min)</i> • <i>Metro's Strategic Plan to Advance Equity – <u>Information/discussion</u> (Patty Unfred & staff TBD, Metro; 45 min)</i> 	<p><u>Wednesday, February 24, 2016</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>2016 Activities and Milestones (Kim Ellis, Metro)</i> • <i>Regional Transit Strategy Update: Draft Regional Transit Vision, Goals, & Objectives – <u>Information/discussion</u> (Jamie Snook; 45 min)</i> • <i>Transit Oriented Development Program Update (Megan Gibb, Metro; 15 min)</i>
<p><u>Wednesday, March 9, 2016</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Enterprising Places Program Update (Lisa Miles, Metro; 35 min)</i> • <i>2018 RTP Update: Background for Regional Leadership Forum #1 (Kim Ellis, Metro)</i> 	<p><u>Wednesday, March 23, 2016</u></p>
<p><u>Wednesday, April 13, 2016</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>West Sherwood Update (Brad Kilby, City of Sherwood)</i> <p><u>April 2016: RTP Regional Leadership Forum #1 (Trends, Challenges, and Vision for the Future)</u></p>	<p><u>Wednesday, April 27, 2016</u></p>

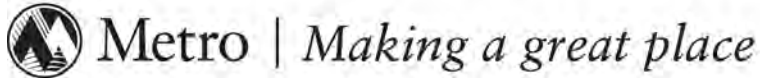
Upcoming events:

- May 11: 2018 RTP Update: Report back on Regional Leadership Forum #1 (Kim Ellis, Metro)
- June 22: 2018 RTP Update: Background for Regional Leadership Forum #2 (Kim Ellis, Metro)
- *July 2016: RTP Regional Leadership Forum #2 (Finance)*
- August 10: 2018 RTP Update: Report back on Regional Leadership Forum #2 (Kim Ellis, Metro)
- September 14: 2018 RTP Update: Background for RTP Regional Leadership Forum #3 (Kim Ellis, Metro)
- *October 2016: RTP Regional Leadership Forum #3 (Designing for Safe, Healthy, and Equitable Communities)*

- November 9: 2018 RTP Update: Report Back on Regional Leadership Forum #3 (Kim Ellis, Metro)
- *February 2017: RTP Regional Leadership Forum #4 (Measuring What We Value)*
- *September/October 2017: RTP Regional Leadership Forum #5 (Shaping Regional Priorities)*
- *June/July 2018: RTP Regional Leadership Forum #6 (Adopting a Plan of Shared Actions and Investment Priorities)*

Parking Lot:

- Presentation on health & land use featuring local projects from around the region
- Greater Portland, Inc. update
- “Unsettling Profiles” presentation by Coalition of Communities of Color
- Washington County Transportation Futures Study (*Feb/Mar*)



METRO POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (MPAC)

Meeting Minutes
December 9, 2015

Metro Regional Center, Council Chamber

MEMBERS PRESENT

Sam Chase
Tim Clark, *1st Vice Chair*
Carlotta Collette
Betty Dominguez
Mark Gamba, *2nd Vice Chair*
Jeff Gudman
John Hayes
Maxine Fitzpatrick
Dick Jones
Shelley Martin
Anne McEnerny-Ogle
Marilyn McWilliams
Renate Mengelberg
Loretta Smith
Tootie Smith
Bob Stacey
Jeff Swanson
Peter Truax, *Chair*

AFFILIATION

Metro Council
City of Wood Village, Multnomah Co. Other Cities
Metro Council
Clackamas County Citizen
City of Milwaukie, Clackamas Co. Other Cities
City of Lake Oswego, Clackamas Co. Largest City
Forest Grove School District
Multnomah County Citizen
Oak Lodge Water District, Clackamas Co. Special Districts
TriMet
City of Vancouver
Tualatin Valley Water District, Washington Co. Special Districts
City of Oregon City, Clackamas Co. 2nd Largest City
Multnomah County
Clackamas County
Metro Council
Clark County
City of Forest Grove, Washington Co. Other Cities

MEMBERS EXCUSED

Jerry Hinton
Jerry Willey

AFFILIATION

City of Gresham, Multnomah Co. 2nd Largest City
City of Hillsboro, Washington Co. Largest City

ALTERNATES PRESENT

Jennifer Donnelly
Brenda Perry
Jeff Swanson

AFFILIATION

Department of Land Conservation and Development
City of West Linn, Clackamas Co. Other Cities
Clark County

OTHERS PRESENT: Erin Wardell, Jamie Johnk, Zoe Monahan, Bob Martin

STAFF: Nellie Papsdorf, Shaina Hobbs, Alexandra Eldridge

1. CALL TO ORDER, SELF INTRODUCTIONS, CHAIR COMMUNICATIONS

MPAC Chair Peter Truax called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m. and declared a quorum. All attendees introduced themselves.

2. CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS

There were none.

3. COUNCIL UPDATE

Councilor Sam Chase notified MPAC members of the following items:

- The regional dialogue concerning the Stafford urban reserves is continuing. The Metro Council supported an amendment to the decision that will require the Council to review the Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) every 3 years rather than every 6 years. By December 2018 at the latest, the Council will make a decision on the UGB regardless of whether or not a decision on the reserves is made.
- The new Elephant Lands exhibit at the Oregon Zoo is opening on December 15 on time and on budget. It was a \$57 million project. Councilor Chase encouraged committee members to attend.
- The Oregon Convention Center (OCC) announced a new project which added solar panels to the OCC's roof. Councilor Chase highlighted that Metro's budget for the project was zero dollars; it was completed through grants and private partnership. Electricity costs at the OCC will be reduced due to the new solar panel project.
- Oregon Convention Center Hotel Project: Litigation surrounding the proposed hotel project at the OCC has been taken up by the Oregon Supreme Court and a hearing will take place in March 2016.
- Metro will host an Equitable Housing Summit in an effort to address the lack of affordable housing in the region by bringing jurisdictions together to develop collaborative strategies. It will be held on February 1; from 8 to noon. More details to come on January 13.
- Councilor Chase acknowledged Chair Pete Truax's last meeting as MPAC Chair and applauded him as an incredible leader.

4. MPAC MEMBER COMMUNICATION

Councilor Carlotta Collette explained that Rediscover the Falls, a friends group to support the River Walk project at Willamette Falls, was recruiting additional board members. She then encouraged people to consider applying in order to be part of the legacy of the project, and noted that applications were available online.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

5.1 Consideration of October 28, 2015 Minutes

MOTION: Councilor Jeff Gudman moved, and Mr. Dick Jones seconded, to adopt the October 28, 2015 minutes.

ACTION: With all in favor, the motion passed.

6. INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

6.1 Clackamas County and Washington County Industrial Lands Readiness Projects

Chair Truax introduced the item by noting it related to regional industrial site readiness and explained that no action would be taken at the meeting. He emphasized that the projects about to be presented required inter-jurisdictional cooperation and introduced Ms. Erin Wardell from Washington County.

Key elements of the presentation included:

- Ms. Erin Wardell noted that the Land Readiness Project lasted approximately for one year and was finished in June. The project identified policy actions to maintain or improve market inventory.
- Ms. Wardell explained that the project was funded by a community development and planning grant, amongst a number of other grants and support from several cities. Staff time was contributed by multiple sources including the State of Oregon and the Port of Portland. The project also received a brownfields assessments grant in order to provide brownfield information for each site.
- Ms. Wardell commented that 15 sites in Washington County were selected for study under a regional framework to follow seamlessly with Metro's previous work. Assessments included in the study included target industries, development constraints, and market opportunities. Wardell noted that a major consideration in this project was determining the time-to-market window for potentially developable sites. She also added that the project's focus was to analyze sites 25 acres and larger, and it led to more sites in outer areas of the county rather than closer-in sites.
- Ms. Wardell stated that all 15 sites studied were within the urban growth boundary yet none were determined to be ready for development within one year. 11 of the 15 sites ready between 7 and 30 months. 4 sites were slated to be ready in 30+ months. A primary challenge to site readiness was off-site infrastructure such as transportation utilities, which made up 65% of the projected cost to develop.
- Ms. Wardell explained that using conceptual trades and site users for analysis, the project's findings were that 14,000 direct jobs, as well as 12,000 indirect jobs, could be created with development on the sites in the study. Ms. Wardell stated that the average income of the jobs created by the site development would be \$87,089.
- Ms. Wardell noted that all 15 sites analyzed had major transportation constraints. She highlighted that funding for external infrastructure was critical to making the studied sites more marketable and explained that 50% of the projected transportation infrastructure costs would originate from the need to build new public roads.

Member discussion included:

Councilor Carlotta Collette asked if the 124th Avenue Project was included in the costs projected for transportation in the Washington County project, to which Ms. Wardell responded that it was not. Ms. Wardell noted that the northern portion of the 124th Avenue Project was already funded and would begin in 2016.

Mr. Jeff Swanson asked whether sites were measured in gross acres or net developable acres. Ms. Wardell clarified that after considering development constraints on the sites, several of them fell under the 25 acre threshold originally used to filter the sites but they were still included in the study. Mr. Swanson inquired about the length of time that developers are generally willing to wait

for a site, to which Ms. Jamie Johnk replied that developers generally want site readiness to be under 180 days. He then asked if the state was willing to support the development of these sites by negotiating income and property taxes to assist with the finance of these sites. Ms. Wardell answered that those negotiations would vary project by project.

Councilor Bob Stacey expressed that he was pleased with Metro's partnership in the study, and highlighted Washington County's economic role within the region. Councilor Stacey asked if there was something more that the region could do to preserve the size of parcels after acknowledging a supply of 10 acre sites in Hillsboro. Ms. Wardell noted that parcel preservation across the region could be a policy outcome of properly assessing the sites available.

Commissioner Renate Mengelberg asked about the probability of the sites leading to the \$87,000 estimate for average salary. Ms. Wardell noted that the most desirable user was the high-tech single user, although several potential site users were evaluated and each site had a different projected user type. Ms. Wardell added that the estimated figure was an average of all of the sites. Commissioner Mengelberg expressed concern that property owners may decide to hold on to parcels for speculative reasons rather than selling to developers when public funds support infrastructure.

Mayor Mark Gamba highlighted the presentation's findings that estimated a potential property tax return over \$200 million in the span of 20 years and inquired about which types of buildings would yield this return. Ms. Wardell said it would be different based on each project and there would be a variety of buildings based on user type. She noted that the project's analysis included the creation of digital building models on each site based on each site's development constraints and added that more information was available in the full report.

Chair Truax introduced Ms. Jamie Johnk from Clackamas County.

Key elements of the presentation included:

- Ms. Johnk stated that Clackamas County created an internal economic development team and inventoried all of the county's employment land – inside and outside of the UGB. The team determined that there were 668 parcels available for development.
- Ms. Johnk explained that the project team created an interactive online mapping tool for easier land parcel searching in Clackamas County in order to facilitate searches for business prospects and site selectors. The tool also included commercial properties and buildings within Clackamas County, and allows for searches by characteristics such as neighborhood and lease status.
- Ms. Johnk noted that the project identified development sites 15 acres and larger and subsequently reached out to the property owners. 21 sites were identified; the sizes ranged from 15 acres to 130 acres. The study included 3D modeling and industrial conceptual planning in order to project job creation and revenues.
- Ms. Johnk added that the project also included a market implementation study. Ms. Johnk added that analysis information was useful to have but it was also very important to have a strategy to market to business and inform the jurisdictions of ways to overcome limitations such as transportation infrastructure.
- Ms. Johnk explained that the second phase of the project included securing a Metro community planning and development grant (CPDG). The grant was used to hire a consultant team to conduct an in-depth analysis of each site, similarly to what was done in Washington County.

- Ms. Johnk stated that the project identified a parcel in Clackamas for in-depth analysis and assigned it as a Clackamas Industrial Area Opportunity Site, or a CIAO site. With a Business Oregon brownfields grant, the project team was able to analyze remediation cost estimates and schedules, existing services for the site, and necessary improvements. The analysis examined at a number of different types of business types for the CIAO site and projected that 14.4 jobs per acre could be created through site development.
- Ms. Johnk noted that The Clackamas County study examined key industry clusters in the Clackamas economic landscape and found 11 industries which contribute the most to the county's gross domestic product (GDP). The study found that professional & business services make up 30% of the Clackamas GDP, a majority of which comes from the Kruse Way area.
- Ms. Johnk informed members that Clackamas County was currently updating its website to make this information available to investors, site selectors, and developers. She added that the City of Oregon City just received funding to do a Beaver Creek analysis, and the resulting information would be added to the updated Clackamas site.
- She identified next steps as creating an ongoing employment lands inventory fund that will contain rezoned or recently annexed lands to allow more lands to undergo the same evaluations as the other parcels in the study.

Member discussion included:

Councilor Stacey asked for an update on the North Milwaukee industrial area. Ms. Johnk explained that Clackamas County was working with the City of Milwaukee and had discussed an opportunity to re-envision North Milwaukee. Councilor Collette added that she hoped Clackamas County would include local property and business owners in the decision-making process so that they could take advantage of the new TriMet Orange Line. Ms. Johnk said Clackamas County was distributing a finalized fact sheet about the project to local private property owners and local businesses.

Commissioner Tootie Smith thanked Metro for the \$250,000 grant for a North Milwaukie study.

Mr. Jeff Swanson noted that Clark County was trying to build support for similar studies. He expressed his appreciation for studies such the two presented and identified these studies as key sources of information for policymakers. He then noted that large employers have come to Clark County looking for large parcels with access to transit, and large employment opportunities were lost because the state did not have what was needed. He added that sales-tax based revenues tended to encourage the development of retail sites with minimum wage jobs rather than family-wage jobs in industrial sites.

Mayor Mark Gamba thanked Metro for financial help in exploring Metro land opportunities. He expressed his excitement about the opportunity to use information from the study to create higher density use, especially in the City of Milwaukie.

6.2 Metro Parks and Nature System Plan

Chair Truax introduced the item by plan by affirming that MPAC would not be taking formal action on the Nature System Plan during the December 9 meeting. He introduced Kathleen Brennan-Hunter, Director of Metro's Parks and Nature Department and thanked her for being at the MPAC meeting.

Key elements of the presentation included:

- Ms. Brennan-Hunter noted that Parks and Nature had forged many connections to increase participation within the community. She highlighted that 2015 was Metro's 25th year as a park provider and informed committee members that a draft of the Metro Parks and Nature System Plan recently went up onto Metro's website. Ms. Brennan-Hunter acknowledged Metro's role in Parks and Nature in the region which includes filling a role between urban providers and larger providers such as federal and state parks. Ms. Brennan-Hunter distinguished Metro from such providers by highlighting that the organization does not provide sports facilities or indoor recreation facilities, and instead focuses on natural areas and land conservation.
- Ms. Brennan-Hunter discussed how the System Plan continues the trajectory that the region has been on by improving water quality and sites across the region, even as new sites open. She noted that the Parks and Nature Department was working to develop plans for Newell Creek Canyon in the City of Oregon City and addressing the future of Gabbert Hill. Additionally, western Washington County will move forward with discussing the future of Chehalem Ridge with the City of Forest Grove along with several other stakeholders.
- The Parks and Nature Department plans to continue to provide Nature in Neighborhood grants, as it has for two decades. Over 70 new parks exist in the region because of Metro's investments.
- Ms. Brennan-Hunter described smaller projects included in the System Plan, such as Oakquest, which uses activities to incorporate previously marginalized communities; she added that the System Plan includes in-depth detail about each of Parks and Nature's initiatives.
- She closed her presentation by expressing her interest in MPAC's discussion about the plan and asked how MPAC would look to stay involved in Metro's Parks and Nature work.

Member discussion included:

Councilor Collette stated that the Metro Council expected to adopt the plan in January 2016. She requested input from MPAC members after acknowledging how the plan affects businesses and community health throughout the region. She emphasized that regional governments are given large quantities of funds to purchase land for parks and natural areas and that it is their responsibility to make sure the lands are accessible and maintained.

Chair Truax asked when the Council planned to move forward with voting on the plan. Chair Truax encouraged MPAC members to look into the System Plan to see how it affects each respective member's region before the next MPAC meeting on January 13, 2016.

Councilor Collette added that the plan takes an interesting look at the Portland metropolitan region through the lens of "naturehoods" rather than neighborhoods.

Chair Truax noted that many of the projects in the plan were being addressed through the City of Forest Grove's Master Park Plan.

Ms. Shelley Martin inquired about the access plan for accessing the new park developments. Councilor Collette responded that some areas are very remote and will have very limited regional transit access whereas other areas have more concentrated access, so each site will require a different approach.

Mayor Mark Gamba thanked Metro for its work supporting the new bridge in downtown Milwaukie. He discussed the occurrence of sewage spills into the river because of more frequent storm systems and expressed concern over needs to increase efforts to incorporate nature into helping alleviate storm waters. He emphasized the critical importance of wetland restoration to the region's infrastructure.

Commissioner Renate Mengelberg expressed that works in the plan, such as making certain sites more accessible, would encourage future support for conservation efforts.

Councilor Stacey noted that he would be preparing for the January 13 MPAC meeting by reading the System Plan. He recommended that Ms. Brennan-Hunter be available for the January 13 meeting. Chair Truax recommended that 10-15 minutes be set aside during the January MPAC meeting to revisit the plan. Ms. Brennan-Hunter reiterated that she would be happy to brief staff members on the new plan if they did not have enough time to read through the document.

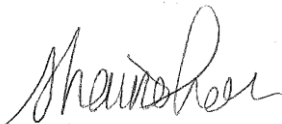
Chair Truax highlighted the parking lot items on the MPAC Work Program. He welcomed new MPAC members, and brought notice to various MPAC vacancies, which included positions for cities in Washington and Multnomah Counties. He then acknowledged that Mayor Jerry Willey appointed his Council President to be an alternate.

Chair Truax noted that Marilyn McWilliams's position may become vacant soon to which Ms. McWilliams added she was leaving in January.

7. **ADJOURN**

MPAC Chair Truax adjourned the meeting at 6:37 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Shaina Hobbs
Recording Secretary

ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF DECEMBER 9, 2015

ITEM	DOCUMENT TYPE	DOC DATE	DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION	DOCUMENT No.
1.0	Handout	12/09/15	Washington County Industrial Site Plan	120915m-01
2.0	Handout	12/09/15	Clackamas County Industrial Site Plan	120915m-02

 Metro | Memo

Date: Tuesday, January 5, 2016
To: Metro Policy Advisory Committee
From: John Williams, MTAC Chair
Subject: 2016 MTAC Nominations for MPAC Approval

Please find the 2016 nominations for the Metro Technical Advisory Committee in the attached table. Per MPAC's bylaws, MPAC may approve or reject any nomination.

Vacant positions are still pending and will be submitted to MPAC for consideration and approval as soon as they are received.

If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you.

Attachment

**2016 Metro Technical Advisory Committee
Membership for MPAC Consideration January 13, 2016**

	Position	Member	Alternate(s)
1.	Clackamas County Citizen	Jerry Andersen	Susan Nielsen
2.	Multnomah County Citizen	Kay Durtschi	Carol Chesarek
3.	Washington County Citizen	Bruce Bartlett	Dresden Skees-Gregory
4.	Largest City in the Region: Portland	Susan Anderson	Joe Zehnder Tom Armstrong
5.	Largest City in Clackamas County: Lake Oswego	Scot Siegel	Debra Andreades Sara Selden
6.	Largest City in Multnomah County: Gresham	Stacy Humphrey	Ann Pytynia
7.	Largest City in Washington County: Hillsboro	Colin Cooper	Laura Weigel
8.	2 nd Largest City in Clackamas County: Oregon City	Tony Konkol	Pete Walter
9.	2 nd Largest City in Washington County: Beaverton	Todd Juhasz	Steve Sparks
10.	Clackamas County: Other Cities	Denny Egner, Milwaukie	Steve Koper, Happy Valley
11.	Multnomah County: Other Cities	Bill Peterson, Wood Village	Vacant
12.	Washington County: Other Cities	Jon Holan, Forest Grove	Julia Hajduk, Sherwood Chris Neamtzu, Wilsonville Aquila Hurd-Ravich, Tualatin
13.	City of Vancouver, WA	Sandra Towne	Chad Eiken
14.	Clackamas County	Dan Chandler	Martha Fritzie
15.	Multnomah County	Vacant	Adam Barber
16.	Washington County	Chris Deffebach	Theresa Cherniak Erin Wardell
17.	Clark County	Matt Hermen	Oliver Orijako
18.	ODOT	Jon Makler	Lidwien Rahman Lainie Smith
19.	DLCD	Jennifer Donnelly	Anne Debbaut
20.	Service Providers: Water & Sewer	Kevin Hanway, Hillsboro Water Dept.	Vacant
21.	Service Providers: Parks	Jeannine Rustad, THPRD	Aisha Panas, THPRD
22.	Service Providers: School Districts	Tony Magliano, PPS	Vacant
23.	Service Providers: Private Utilities	Annette Mattson, PGE	Shanna Brownstein, NW Natural
24.	Service Providers: Port of Portland	Susie Lahsene	Tom Bouillion
25.	Service Providers: TriMet	Eric Hesse	Alan Lehto Steve Kautz
26.	Private Economic Development Associations	Darci Rudzinski – EMEA, CCBA, WEA, & CCBA	Vacant
27.	Public Economic Development Associations	Jeff King, Forest Grove	Vacant
28.	Land Use Advocacy Organization	Mary Kyle McCurdy, 1000 Friends	Vacant

29.	Environmental Advocacy Organization	Vacant	Vacant
30.	Housing Affordability Organization	Ramsay Weit, Community Housing Fund	Vacant
31.	Residential Development	Jon Kloor, HBA	Dave Nielsen, HBA
32.	Redevelopment/Urban Design	Joseph Readdy	Vacant
33.	Commercial/Industrial	Vacant	Vacant
34.	Green Infrastructure, Design & Sustainability	Mike O'Brien, AAI Engineering	Vacant
35.	Public Health & Urban Form	Jae P. Douglas, Multnomah County	Elizabeth Clapp, Multnomah County
36.	Non-Voting Chair, Metro	John Williams, Planning & Development	

1/5/16

MPAC Worksheet

Agenda Item Title: Equitable Housing Initiative Update

Presenter: Emily Lieb, Metro Planning & Development; Elissa Gertler, Metro Planning & Development

Contact for this worksheet/presentation: Emily Lieb, Emily.Lieb@oregonmetro.gov, 503-797-1921

Purpose/Objective

- **Purpose:** To provide an update on the Equitable Housing Initiative, including research and engagement completed, recommendations regarding a regional framework for equitable housing, and plans for the Feb. 1, 2016, Equitable Housing Leadership Summit
- **Outcome:** MPAC members have a shared understanding of the proposed regional framework and next steps for the Equitable Housing Initiative

Action Requested/Outcome

There are no policy actions requested. Staff seek feedback regarding specific technical assistance needs in MPAC members' jurisdictions, as well as feedback on the strategic framework presented in the Draft Summary (included in the packet).

What has changed since MPAC last considered this issue/item?

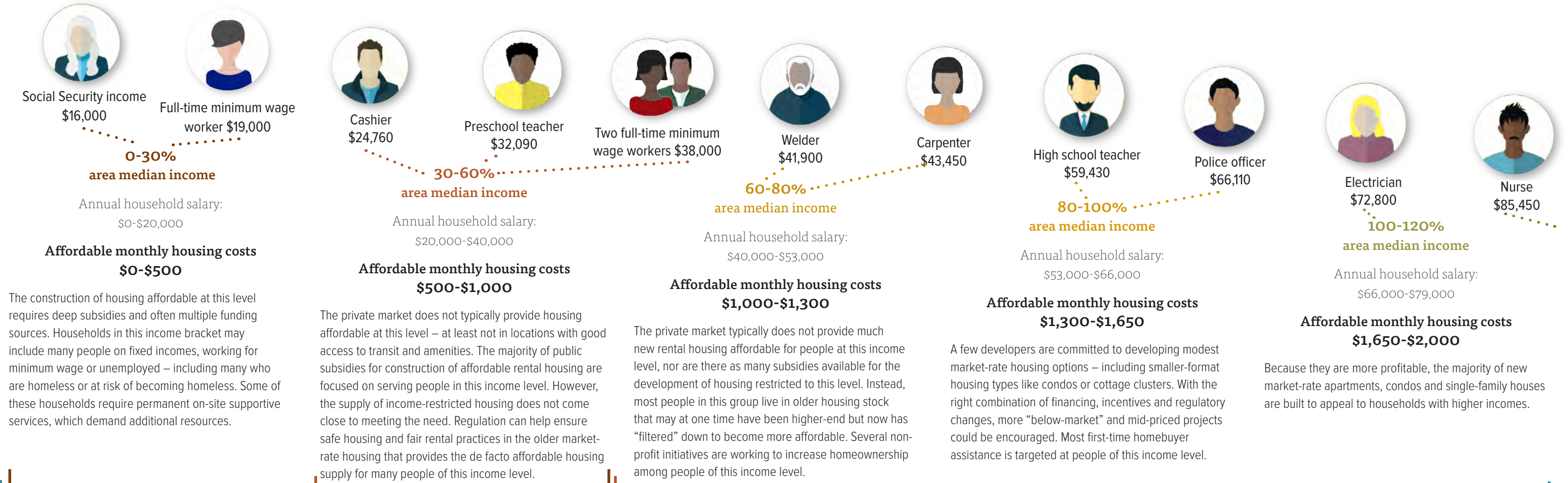
Since an update was provided to MPAC in May 2015, the Equitable Housing Initiative team has researched strategies from our region and around the country; engaged experts and stakeholders in discussions of barriers and solutions; and developed a strategic framework for creating and preserving housing affordability and housing choice. This work was conducted in partnership with Oregon Opportunity Network and with guidance from a technical work group including two Metro councilors and ten working professionals with diverse expertise on housing issues.

Findings from this process have informed the creation of a strategic framework that offers guidance for how the region can move forward together to address the housing needs and income levels of current and future residents. This framework is summarized in the Draft Summary included in the meeting packet, and will be supplemented with a longer background report, to be published in January.

What packet material do you plan to include?

Equitable Housing Draft Summary

CONNECTING STRATEGY TO THE NEEDS OF RESIDENTS



Maximize and optimize resources

Increase adaptable funding and pursue coordinated investment strategies to expand the region’s supply of regulated affordable housing with tools such as:

- tax increment financing
- revolving loan funds
- acquisition/rehabilitation
- donation of public surplus land
- housing trust funds
- real estate investment trusts.

Leverage growth for affordability

Offer incentives to encourage private developers to include some income-restricted units in market-rate projects, or to pay into a fund for affordable housing with tools such as:

- tax exemptions
- density bonuses
- fast-tracked permitting
- linkage fees.

Mitigate displacement and stabilize communities

Pursue community-informed strategies to mitigate displacement, ensure safe and healthy rental housing, and bridge the homeownership gap for lower-income groups with tools such as:

- anti-displacement and safety for renters:
 - landlord licensing and code enforcement
 - rental rehabilitation grants
 - tenant protections (e.g., notifications for no-cause evictions or rent increases)
 - short-term rent or utility assistance
- anti-displacement for owners:
 - foreclosure prevention
 - weatherization assistance
- tools for increasing homeownership:
 - limited equity cooperatives
 - community land trusts
 - shared appreciation mortgages.

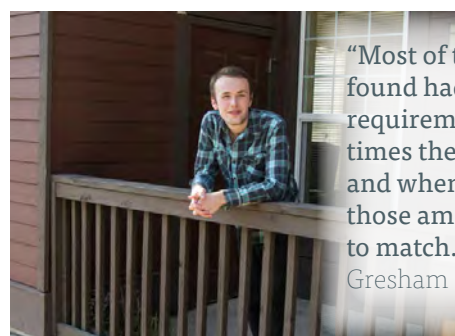
Increase and diversify market-rate housing

Eliminate regulatory barriers and create incentives for diverse market-rate housing with tools such as:

- zoning/building code changes
- fast-tracked permitting
- innovative financing
- fee waivers
- reduced parking requirements
- vertical housing tax credits
- transit-oriented development grants.

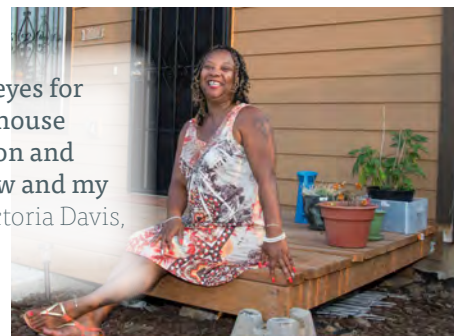
Target housing types include:

- transit-oriented development
- “missing middle” housing (townhomes, duplexes, fourplexes)
- accessory dwelling units
- cottage clusters.



“Most of the places we found had tenant income requirements of 3.5 to four times the amount of the rent, and when you’re a student those amounts are impossible to match.” – Jacob Mosiman, Gresham

“When I close my eyes for the last time, that house will be left to my son and my daughter-in-law and my grandbabies.” –Victoria Davis, Southeast Portland



“I thought about [moving] a little while ago but the rents are getting too high.” –Silvia Rodrigues, downtown Beaverton



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
Brian Evans

Metro Regional Center
600 NE Grand Ave.
Portland, OR 97232-2736

Metro's role and next steps for 2016

Metro is uniquely positioned to support the strategies and tools outlined in the full report by providing technical assistance, bringing partners together to build innovative solutions, and developing research and data to support informed policy and investment decisions. In addition, Metro can continue to participate in state and federal policy discussions to ensure that local jurisdictions have access to a range of tools and resources to meet their housing needs.

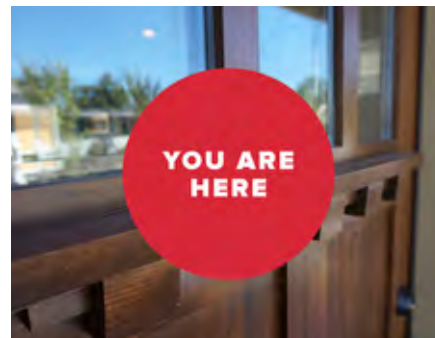
Proposed next steps for Metro's Equitable Housing Initiative to support the strategies and tools to improve housing affordability and choice include:

- Develop and launch a technical assistance program to support local implementation of tools identified in this report.
- Convene a leadership summit on Feb. 1, 2016, to build a shared understanding of challenges and opportunities, and to discuss next steps and actions for moving the four strategies forward
- Advocate for state legislative changes to ensure that local jurisdictions have access to a range of tools to address equitable housing needs in their communities.
- Develop a research agenda to support regional equitable housing efforts, including exploring potential for a housing + transportation cost calculator tool.
- Conduct feasibility analysis, explore partnerships, and identify resources for collaborative, innovative tools and regional-scale approaches.

Contact

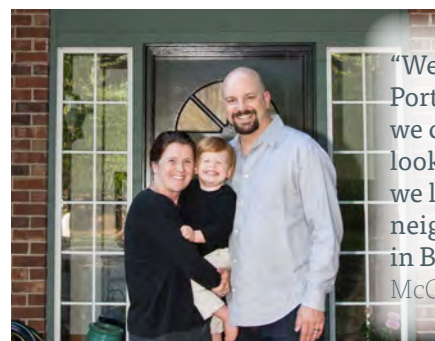
Emily Lieb, project manager | 503-797-1921 | emily.lieb@oregonmetro.gov

For more information on the Equitable Housing Initiative, visit oregonmetro.gov/equitablehousing.



Regional Snapshots

Stories and stats of a changing region.
oregonmetro.gov/snapshot



"We loved our old neighborhood [in Southwest Portland] so we started looking there. Then we realized we couldn't afford anything we wanted, so we started looking at Tigard. But we didn't really like the houses we looked at because they were either tiny lots or in neighborhoods we weren't excited about. So we looked in Beaverton and the Bull Mountain area, too." – Brian McCauley, Tualatin



Living there
with equitable
housing choices

Equitable Housing Initiative 2015-16

Promoting equitable housing means ensuring **diverse, quality, physically accessible affordable housing choices with access to opportunities, services and amenities.**

Housing affordability and housing choice

Residents from Portland to Wilsonville and Oregon City to Forest Grove are faced with the challenges of housing affordability and choice. Both nationally and in our region, rents and house prices are rising faster than incomes, increasingly limiting lower-income households – disproportionately people of color – to housing in areas with lower access to opportunities and higher concentrations of poverty. Even households with moderate incomes are finding themselves priced out of neighborhoods where they work or go to school.

Metro's Equitable Housing Initiative has developed a framework – summarized on the next pages – for how the region can move forward together to ensure housing options that meet the needs and income levels of our current and future residents.

Building a framework

For the purpose of the initiative, Metro is using the following working definition of equitable housing: diverse, quality, physically accessible, affordable housing choices with access to opportunities, services and amenities. This broad definition encompasses a range of homeownership and rental choices, including options for people with low and moderate incomes, accessible across all ages and abilities, and convenient to everyday needs like transit, schools, childcare, healthy food and parks.

Through 2015, Metro researched strategies from our region and around the country, engaging experts and stakeholders to develop the framework. This work was conducted in partnership with Oregon Opportunity Network, with guidance from a technical work group that includes two Metro councilors and 10 working professionals with diverse expertise on housing issues.

The resulting framework offers four prongs of a balanced approach to improve housing affordability and choice.

Regional cooperation

Challenges in the environment, transportation system and job and housing markets do not stop at city limits or county lines. To create true housing affordability and choice as we continue to grow and add residents, we need to work together to share knowledge, commit to shared solutions and take advantage of efficiencies that come with shared action. Private lenders, foundations, developers, non-profits and governments all need to come to the table.

There is no silver bullet solution to meeting our region's housing affordability challenge. A range of innovative approaches and broad collaboration across public, private and nonprofit sectors are needed to ensure that people and families of many incomes can afford to live in places and homes that fit their needs and budgets.

MPAC Worksheet

Agenda Item Title: Metro Parks and Nature System Plan

Presenter: Kathleen Brennan-Hunter

Contact for this worksheet/presentation: Laura Oppenheimer Odom: 503-797-1879

Purpose/Objective

Fulfill MPAC members' request to provide feedback on Metro's draft Parks and Nature System Plan and discuss how MPAC would like to be involved in this topic going forward.

Action Requested/Outcome

- Feedback on the system plan from individual MPAC members, focusing on how well it clarifies Metro's role in parks and nature for local partners
- Group conversation about MPAC should be involved in Metro's Parks and Nature work in the future

What has changed since MPAC last considered this issue/item?

Kathleen Brennan-Hunter presented an overview of the system plan in December 2015. MPAC members wanted to have a follow-up discussion after they'd had an opportunity to review the plan.

What packet material do you plan to include?

MPAC members are encouraged to review Metro's Parks and Nature System Plan at oregonmetro.gov/nature. No additional materials will be included.

Materials following this page were distributed at the meeting.



Metro | Memo

Date: January 1, 2016
To: Metro Council, MPAC
From: Martha Bennett, Chief Operating Officer
Subject: 2015 annual report on amendments to the Employment and Industrial Areas Map

Background

Title 4 (Industrial and Other Employment Areas) of the Urban Growth Management Functional Plan seeks to improve the region's economy by protecting a supply of sites for employment by limiting the types and scale of non-industrial uses in Regionally Significant Industrial Areas, Industrial Areas, and Employment Areas. Those areas are depicted on the Employment and Industrial Areas Map.

Title 4 sets forth several avenues for amending the map, either through a Metro Council ordinance or through an executive order, depending on the circumstances. Title 4 requires that, by January 31 of each year, Metro's Chief Operating Officer submit a written report to the Council and MPAC on the cumulative effects on employment land in the region of amendments to the Employment and Industrial Areas Map during the preceding year. This memo constitutes the report for 2015.

Title 4 map amendments in 2015

One amendment was made to the Title 4 Map in 2015. This amendment was made by executive order per Metro Code section 3.07.450E to make the Title 4 Map consistent with zone changes made by the City of Tualatin. Those city zone changes were found by Metro staff to meet criteria in Metro Code section 3.07.450C. The Title 4 Employment designation was removed from approximately 20 acres of land.

Chief Operating Officer recommendations

I do not, at this time, recommend changes to Title 4 policies.

OUR BIG BACKYARD

Explore great places and more with Metro

CHEHALEM RIDGE

At more than 1,400 acres, the natural area south of Forest Grove offers expansive forests, sweeping vistas and – soon – opportunities for visitors. Help shape what the next regional destination will look like.

pg. 8

ANNUAL REPORT

Learn how voter investments are improving parks and nature across the region

pg. 9

EXPLORE NATURE

Sign up for a year-long outdoor immersion series

pg. 15

TRASH TRIP

Where does garbage go? Discover the journey of trash

pg. 18

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If you picnic at Blue Lake or take your kids to the Oregon Zoo, enjoy symphonies at the Schnitz or auto shows at the convention center, put out your trash or drive your car – we've already crossed paths.

So, hello. We're Metro – nice to meet you.

In a metropolitan area as big as Portland, we can do a lot of things better together. Join us to help the region prepare for a happy, healthy future.

Metro Council President

Tom Hughes


Metro Councilors

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

Brian Evans



If you have a disability and need accommodations, call 503-220-2781, 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 trimet.org

Stay in touch with news, stories and things to do.

oregonmetro.gov/parksandnaturenews
facebook.com/oregonmetro
twitter.com/oregonmetro

No-dogs policy

To protect plants, wildlife and people, Metro does not allow pets at regional parks and natural areas. Pets can damage sensitive habitat and threaten wildlife the region has worked to protect. In natural areas where dogs are not allowed, people see more wildlife and get closer to it. Seeing-eye dogs or other service animals are allowed. Please bring cleanup materials.

It used to be that nature wasn't a place we went to. It was already all around us. At some point we forgot how much nature matters – but nature never forgot about us. And that's pretty inspiring. So let's get out there. Let's get back into balance with the nature around us and within us. Together, let's rediscover our big backyard.

Like what you see?

Sign up for the print edition of the quarterly magazine, change your address or save paper by switching to a digital subscription. Email ourbigbackyard@oregonmetro.gov or call 503-797-1545.

Chehalem Ridge



On the cover: Lisa Sardinia, a neighbor and associate professor of biology at Pacific University in Forest Grove, leads students conducting research on streams at Chehalem Ridge. Above, from top: Native beavers play a critical role in the ecosystems at Chehalem Ridge. Oregon iris bloom in the spring. Puffball mushrooms release a puff of spores when tapped, such as by wildlife or raindrops. Right: Viewpoints offer visitors grand views of the Coast Range and surrounding valleys.



STORY BY Yuxing Zheng / PHOTOGRAPHY BY Joshua Manus, C. Bruce Forster and Yuxing Zheng

Is Chehalem Ridge the future Oxbow Regional Park of the west side?



It's a crisp autumn day,
and the air is filled
with the sweet smell of
evergreens and fresh rain.

Chirps come from all
directions, vocal teases
from the Pacific wrens
hidden among the
Douglas fir forest.

Underfoot, deer scat hint
at the wildlife that call
Chehalem Ridge home.

At more than 1,400 acres, Metro's Chehalem Ridge is one of the largest publicly owned natural areas in Washington County. Although it's approximately the same size as beloved Oxbow Regional Park in east Multnomah County, Chehalem Ridge isn't yet open for official public access and is largely unknown beyond its rural neighbors 15 minutes south of Forest Grove and Cornelius.

But Chehalem Ridge is on the cusp of a new chapter. Over the next year, the community is invited to help guide Chehalem Ridge from a hidden jewel to Metro's next regional destination. What that nature park looks like will be up to community members to shape.

"Chehalem is a treasure on the west side that not many people know about," said Justin Patterson, visitor services director for Metro Parks and Nature. "This project represents a great opportunity to continue to preserve and protect wildlife habitat and water quality while at the same time providing people access to nature in that part of the region."

POSSIBILITIES ABOUND

Before the housing market crashed, Chehalem Ridge had been proposed for development into large-lot homes, worrying neighbors.

Things took a turn in 2010, when Metro purchased the main 1,143-acre parcel for \$6.1 million from Stimson Lumber, in a transaction facilitated through the Trust for Public Land. It remains Metro's largest and most expensive acquisition. Over the years, Metro added smaller adjacent properties.

"People appreciate it so much that it's not developed," said Peggy Harris, a neighbor and chairwoman of Citizen Participation Organization 15. "It's going to be a natural place to get people

out in the country and to show them what restoration of native habitat is like, with the white oaks especially. It's going to be a great walking, hiking area."

The acquisitions, as well as initial restoration work, were possible thanks to voter investments in Metro's 2006 natural areas bond measure. A 2013 parks and natural areas levy makes it possible to provide formal public access.

The opportunities ahead excite Forest Grove City Councilor Malynda Wenzl, who first visited Chehalem Ridge with her 5-year-old son as part of a Metro tour last summer.

"We like to go out and do outdoor activities, so having access to someplace close, either hiking trails or recreation activities, is definitely really appealing to me," said Wenzl, whose family also includes her husband and a 14-year-old daughter. "It's really great that the citizens get to use their voice because they're going to be the ones utilizing it."

There's a need for family-friendly opportunities in the area, Wenzl said. At Chehalem Ridge, "all these families can hopefully go and create all these memories with their families and friends," she said.

HEALTHIER HABITATS

Centuries ago, open forests with Douglas firs, maples, madrones and oaks would have shared the space with native shrubs and grasses. Later, about 500 acres of the forest was cleared for agricultural use.

When Metro purchased the site, a commercial tree farm on those old farm fields grew so dense that light didn't reach the forest floor. This summer will mark the fourth year in a five-year plan to strategically thin Douglas firs to promote forest health and create gaps for meadows and



Clockwise from top left: Forest Grove City Councilor Malynda Wenzl and her son, Cullen Morelli, 5, take in the sweeping views at Chehalem Ridge during a tour last summer. Lisa Sardinia's biology students from Pacific University use Chehalem Ridge as a living laboratory to study streams. Many logs strategically thinned from the dense forest remain on site to create wildlife habitat. Kate Holleran, senior natural resources scientist at Metro, has led restoration efforts at Chehalem Ridge. Native false Solomon's seal and a beehive peek out from the landscape.

native plants. Other firs have been strategically removed to give native Oregon white oaks and madrones the sunlight they need to thrive.

Last winter, crews planted native shrubs, such as snowberry and thimbleberry, setting the stage for a diverse layer of native shrubs that previously didn't exist.

The habitat is crucial to native wildlife, such as bobcats, deer and beavers. Chehalem Ridge and nearby Wapato Lake provide critical habitat connections for wildlife as they move between the Coast Range and the Willamette Valley.

"We want to maintain that large, core habitat," said Kate Holleran, a senior natural resources scientist at Metro Parks and Nature who has led restoration efforts at the site.

Chehalem Ridge's five permanent and 26 seasonal streams all eventually empty into the Tualatin River.

On a recent visit, Holleran looked over a stream restoration project where branches and small trees were placed into channels – eroded seven feet deep in some spots – that formed when the site had previously been cleared.

"This is so cool to see this filled up with wood," Holleran said. "The idea is to slow the water down and to let it soak in the ground, so it doesn't send sediment into the Tualatin River."

A LIVING LABORATORY

Lisa Sardinia recalls going to a neighborhood meeting shortly after Metro purchased the property. As an associate professor of biology at Pacific University in Forest Grove, Sardinia realized immediately that Chehalem Ridge would be the perfect laboratory for her students.

"It would be interesting and accessible, it was research they could perform and understand what they were doing, and it had a civic

engagement aspect to it," she said. "Here is a very intentional process on a large scale that is impacting waterways that drain into the only river in Washington County that provides drinking water for a couple hundred thousand people. That's a huge impact – and it's within 20 minutes of campus. It's just kind of stunning that this has fallen into our laps."

For several years now, Sardinia's students have visited Chehalem Ridge to conduct water microbe surveys, bacterial counts and other research. Last spring, 32 students in her microbiology class analyzed the water quality in two different streams – one that ran through an area that had been previously clear cut and sprayed with pesticides, another that ran through a native riparian zone.

Chehalem is a treasure on the west side that not many people know about. This project represents a great opportunity to continue to preserve and protect wildlife habitat and water quality while at the same time providing people access to nature in that part of the region.

–Justin Patterson,
Metro Parks and Nature visitor services director

"What they found was two pretty healthy streams, which I'm thrilled," she said. Her students will expand their research visits this spring.

Sardinia lives down the road from Chehalem Ridge and, like other neighbors, has concerns about the potential impact of visitors and traffic.

She looks forward to the community conversation about the site's long-term vision, though she already knows that she would like to see an education center, interpretive signage on the trails or something similar to educate future visitors.

Chehalem Ridge will provide the perfect setting for local students to learn about nature, said Cecilia Girón, the Chicas youth development director at Adelante Mujeres, a nonprofit based in Forest Grove that serves low-income Latina women and their families. Chicas provides educational programming to Latina girls from third grade through high school and helps them explore careers in science, technology, engineering and math.

"It'd be awesome to have an environmental education center for tours, where children can see, touch, smell and feel the richness of Chehalem and what is out there, what animals migrate there, what plants, all of that," Girón said. "It'll be a great opportunity for them to learn about natural resources and habitat and to get them exposed at an early age about the importance of taking care of our environment."

To learn about upcoming community events, get involved and to watch a video about the project, visit
oregonmetro.gov/chehalemridge

Parks and Nature News



4 QUESTIONS WITH DANIEL CARTER

STORY BY Ellen Wyoming / PHOTOGRAPHY BY Joshua Manus and Laura Oppenheimer Odom

Daniel Carter is a troop leader with Cub Scout Pack 740 in Gresham. He is also a graphic designer and woodworker. Last July, Carter volunteered with Metro for Graham Oaks Park Day in Wilsonville. He and his Cub Scouts assembled and built 100 mason bee boxes to hang at Metro destinations and local parks. Scouts and other volunteers put roofs on the boxes and inserted rolls of parchment paper into the tubes for easy maintenance.

Q: Can you tell us a little about the mason bee?

A: They are great native pollinators. The mason bees dive into flowers and get coated in pollen. In contrast, honeybees don't get as much pollen as they travel from flower to flower. They don't look like bees people are used to; people might expect they are flies until they recognize them. They are solitary bees and make homes in hollow reeds or tubes. They need habitat that provides a hole about 3/8-inch in diameter and 3 to 8 inches deep in size to lay their eggs. The deeper the space for the bee, the more female eggs that will be laid. Male eggs are laid nearer the entrance to the hole. They don't sting, so you really want to bring them into your garden at home to pollinate.

Q: How did you decide to provide habitat for bees?

A: I noticed mason bees making a home in the tubes of my metal wind chimes on my front porch. I couldn't imagine how nice that could be for habitat, so I decided to make homes for the bee. I'm a woodworker, and it was something I could do with our scout troop, and then I got a call from Metro for an event to make 100 and it just kept going.

Q: How do you build your bee boxes?

A: You can use any type of material. I have used recycled wood so the boxes I've made are 3/8-inch holes drilled 3 inches deep into pine wood blocks. The "roof" on top of the box is aesthetic but can help keep water out as bees lay their eggs. If you want to be able to use the bee box again, it's good to roll up a tube of parchment or similar paper to line the holes that have been drilled. That way, after the bees have hatched and left the bee box, you can pull the paper tubes out to "clean" the holes, put new paper parchment tubes inside, thus providing refreshed habitat.

Q: If we build our own at home, what should we consider?

A: Hang your bee boxes in late winter or early spring. You want to have the habitat ready for when they hatch, so they have the right place to lay their eggs.

Watch a video and learn how to build your own mason bee boxes at

oregonmetro.gov/parksandnaturenews

Something's Different Here

STORY BY George Winborn
PHOTOGRAPHY BY Chris Woo



NEW WETLANDS TRAIL, RESTROOMS ARRIVE AT BLUE LAKE

Metro continues to make improvements at Blue Lake Regional Park with money from the 2013 parks and natural areas levy.

The latest work includes four new restroom buildings and a rebuilt wetland trail and viewing platform.

Each new restroom building has eight single-occupancy, gender-neutral restrooms. Two restrooms in each building are wheelchair accessible. The buildings were pre-fabricated off site, saving money by decreasing the cost of on-site construction, and making them less expensive to operate, and easier to clean and maintain.

The previous restrooms, some of which were more than 50 years old, had outlived their lifespan and needed a lot of maintenance, said Chris Woo, a Metro construction project manager.

More than 1 million annual visitors will also enjoy an improved, wheelchair-accessible wetland trail. The current asphalt trail will be replaced with compacted gravel. A new fiberglass and steel viewing platform atop new metal pilings replaces an aged wooden structure.

All of the architects and engineering firms for the projects are minority-owned, women-owned and emerging small businesses.

TRAIL USERS TO SEE 400 NEW SIGNS

Nearly 400 new trail signs will be installed across the region in early 2016 thanks in part to a \$262,000 grant to Metro from the Oregon Department of Transportation.

Visitors will see new signs along the Rock Creek Trail in Hillsboro, the Fanno Creek Trail in Tigard, the Tualatin River Greenway in Tualatin, and the Trolley Trail in Milwaukie, Oak Grove and Gladstone.

The signs will make it easier for visitors to navigate the trails by providing a consistent look and feel across the trail system, said Robert Spurlock, senior regional trail planner at Metro.

Mile markers every quarter mile will boost safety by making it easier for trail users to know their precise locations.

The new signs will be co-branded with Metro, The Intertwine Alliance and local parks providers, such as the North Clackamas Parks & Recreation District and the cities of Hillsboro, Tigard, Tualatin, Durham, Milwaukie and Gladstone.

RESERVE ADDITIONAL PICNIC SITES

Visitors can now reserve picnic areas and shelters at Howell Territorial Park and Graham Oaks and Scouters Mountain nature parks.

Reservations are required for all three sites from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend as well as holidays. Reservations can be made year-round for picnics, weddings and celebrations.

For more details about shelter reservations, rates and sites, visit oregonmetro.gov/picnic or contact Sue Lowe at 503-665-4995 option 0 or susan.lowe@oregonmetro.gov.

Conserving Nature, One Acre at a Time.

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY *Kate Holleran*



As a Metro natural resources scientist, Kate Holleran sees nature's biggest challenges and most glorious surprises – and she has the muddy boots to prove it. Go behind the scenes on her journey to restore the region's voter-protected land.



OLD-GROWTH FORESTS PROVIDE UNIQUE WINTER REFUGES

Though it is a foggy autumn day, the view clears as I duck under the canopy of tall firs along the North Fork of Deep Creek. The fog is filtered by deep layers of arching tree branches. Steep as the land is, I am happy to climb up and down the canyon walls above the creek.

Thanks to voter support, Metro now owns 27 acres along the North Fork of Deep Creek, including a nine-acre patch of forest acquired in 2015. Though small in size, the natural area contains a habitat uncommon in the developing landscape of Multnomah, Clackamas and Washington counties.

The forest I'm exploring is an old-growth forest with trees more than 400 years old; some 5 feet in diameter and more than 200 feet tall. Many of our resident wildlife evolved in a Pacific Northwest landscape that wore this mantle of towering old trees and dense underbrush. For these resident wildlife, the ones that stay put during our temperate winter, old forests provide the best winter refuge.

It is hard to see the tops of trees as they reach far above the lower canopy layers of small trees, shrubs such as wood rose and red huckleberry, and a carpet of sword fern, Oregon grape and many species of mosses. A hundred and fifty years ago, most of our low-elevation conifer forests were old forests already 250 to 750 years old. Old-growth forests were common. But not today.

Along the way to becoming a forest of giant trees, hundreds of disturbances happen in a forest – trees die, small landslides occur, or lightning strikes smolder unattended – creating interruptions in the forest world. These innumerable changes over hundreds of years create a decadently rich diversity of habitat niches for wildlife.

Wintering birds are good representatives of wild residents that benefit from big, old trees in complex forests. In winter, the Pacific wren, brown creeper, red crossbills and the iconic pileated woodpecker forage for arthropods in the canopies and deeply furrowed bark of long lived conifer trees.

All of our amphibian species utilize old forests, seeking refuge from hot summer days or freezing winter nights by hiding under and inside of decaying wood. Many of our native bat species, such as the silver-haired bat, roost under the bark or in the crevices of large, old trees.

Put into human perspective, these old forests are a wild, one-stop shopping habitat for many of our common species. Over the course of the seasons, these forests are where our native wildlife thrives.

What kind of restoration work happens in an old growth forest? Not much! Instead of spending time and money trying to restore a degraded habitat, I get to kick back and enjoy the natural processes already underway in old-growth forests.

OK, invasive plants are always an issue. Birds have deposited the seeds of holly and ivy along the North Fork of Deep Creek. Those plants, if not controlled, will over time change the rich variety of native forest shrubs and herbs into a smothering blanket of simplicity.

Metro will cut, pull and remove these invasive weeds. We will work with our neighbors to protect adjacent forest habitat to buffer the older forests along Deep Creek. The rest we will leave to the slow passage of time.

It has done a good job so far.



Dip into ponds to help monitor amphibian egg masses

STORY BY *Jim Caudell, Metro park ranger*

PHOTOGRAPHY BY *Amber Basting*

Words like “Darwinian” and “primordial” tumble through my head as I splash waist deep through slow-moving ponds along Multnomah Channel. I juggle an armful of bamboo stakes and ribbon and scan the tall grasses and branches that sprout along the edge.

“Walk slowly, use a hiking pole and pay attention to your body temperature,” I was told as I was fitted for Nylon waders that morning in February 2015.

We had passed the three days of 50 to 55 degree temperatures that signal pond-breeding amphibians to get going, said Katy Weil, senior science analyst for Metro Parks and Nature and the head of the volunteer amphibian egg mass monitoring program.

Many times in the past, Weil had told me, “You have got to volunteer with the amphibian monitors. You will love it.”

And, of course, she was right. It made me excited to just think about wading through some of the region's most beautiful properties searching for and compiling data on the wildlife indicators upon which further restoration decisions would be made.

Metro's amphibian egg mass monitoring program tracks four native pond-breeding amphibians: the Pacific chorus frog, Northwest salamander, long-toed salamander and Northern red-legged frog, which is listed by the state as under threat.

The four amphibians serve as indicator species, which can be used to help gauge whether regional restoration efforts are helping more native amphibians thrive. Surveying for the egg masses each winter helps scientists survey their numbers as well as the overall health of wetlands in the region.

You never forget your first egg mass. “I think I found one!” I shouted hesitantly. The size of a gelatinous baseball, it hung off a branch half in and half out of the water.

“Yes, you have,” said Amber Basting, my scientist guide for the day.

I didn't feel the wind skittering across the water as we began collecting and recording the data.

“What stage is the egg mass in?” Basting asked. “Is it round, an embryo or tailing?”

Each new discovery brought an added excitement as I studied the egg mass, gauging to see where it was in its development.

Make sure you join the fun this year.

SAT
23
JAN

**AMPHIBIAN EGG MASS
MONITORING ORIENTATION**

Learn the basics to volunteer as an amphibian egg mass monitor.

WHERE Metro Regional Center, council chambers, 600 NE Grand Ave., Portland

WHEN 9:30a.m. to noon

REGISTRATION REQUIRED Katy Weil, 503-797-1688, Katy.Weil@oregonmetro.gov



Metro, Verde team up to diversify ranks of restoration experts

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY *Sofía Basto*

To most people, large-scale ecological restoration of a natural area seems intimidating. It requires meticulous preparation of the land, site-specific calibration of equipment, identification of plants already at the site and those to replace them, and more.

In short, implementing large-scale restoration is better left to the experts. But how does one start on the path to become an expert?

“The best way is to do it and be guided through it,” says Jonathan Soll, science and stewardship manager for Metro Parks and Nature.

Starting in summer 2015, Metro and Verde teamed up to restore a 50-acre forested wetland at Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area dominated by invasive reed canarygrass and other stubborn weeds.

The partnership also helps to diversify the ranks of restoration experts by providing training to landscape crews with Verde, a nonprofit based in the Cully neighborhood of Northeast Portland that works to boost environmental wealth for low-income and minority residents.

The project involves a crew of Metro natural resources scientists and restoration experts from Mosaic Ecology working with the Verde landscape team.

“The crew was excited to learn all the steps a project requires from beginning to end, like plant identification, proper equipment use, how to prepare for the day, and also the business side, like project management, problem-solving and how to deal with the client,” says Ricardo Moreno, Verde’s landscape program manager.

Money from the 2013 parks and natural areas levy is helping Metro create new partnerships with community organizations to provide people of color and low-income residents with training in environmental fields.

The partnership with Verde also aims to create long-term economic opportunities for Verde’s landscape team members.

“We want to draw connections and have good alignment of highly skilled crews doing something good for the environment, while making a good living, particularly people of color and low-income residents,” says Alan Hipólito, executive director of Verde. “Some crew members are very interested in restoration as a career and may start their own business or become part of a high-skilled restoration crew.”

Metro y Verde se unen para diversificar las filas de expertos en restauración

ARTÍCULO Y FOTOGRAFÍA POR *Sofía Basto*

Para la mayoría de la gente, la restauración ecológica a gran escala de un área natural puede resultar un poco intimidante, ya que requiere preparación minuciosa del terreno, calibración del equipo relativa al sitio, identificación de plantas del lugar y de aquellas que las reemplazarán, y mucho más.

En resumen, la implementación de restauración a gran escala es mejor dejarla en manos de los expertos. Pero ¿cuáles son los pasos a seguir para convertirse en un experto?

“La mejor forma es hacerlo y ser guiado a través del proceso,” asegura Jonathan Soll, gerente de ciencia y administración de parques y áreas naturales de Metro.

A partir del verano del 2015, Metro y Verde se unieron para restaurar 50 acres de humedal arbolado en Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area, plagado por hierba cinta y otra maleza dañina.

La alianza también ayuda a diversificar las filas de expertos en restauración, ya que ofrece capacitación al equipo de jardinería de Verde, una organización no lucrativa con sede en el barrio Cully del noreste de Portland que busca potenciar el valor ambiental para residentes de bajos recursos y minorías del área.

El proyecto incluye científicos de Metro especializados en recursos naturales y expertos en restauración de Mosaic Ecology, quienes entrenan al equipo de jardinería de Verde.

“Nuestro equipo tenía muchas ganas de aprender todos los pasos necesarios para ejecutar un proyecto de principio a fin, como la identificación de plantas, la forma correcta de utilizar el equipo, cómo prepararse para el día de trabajo, y también el aspecto empresarial, como la administración de un proyecto, resolución de problemas y cómo tratar con el cliente,” afirma Ricardo Moreno, gerente del programa de jardinería de Verde.

Fondos procedentes de la recaudación de un impuesto aprobado por los votantes en el 2013 para beneficiar parques y áreas naturales le permite a Metro crear nuevas alianzas con organizaciones comunitarias y proporcionar capacitaciones en el campo ecológico-ambiental a minorías y personas de bajos recursos.

La alianza con Verde también se enfoca en crear oportunidades económicas a largo plazo para los miembros del equipo de jardinería de Verde.

“Queremos establecer conexiones y tener buen alineamiento de trabajadores altamente calificados haciendo algo positivo por el medio ambiente, que ganen bien y tengan buen nivel de vida, particularmente personas de color y de bajos recursos,” explica Alan Hipólito, director ejecutivo de Verde. “Varios participantes están muy interesados en la restauración ecológica como carrera y puede que terminen creando su propia empresa o uniéndose a un equipo de restauración especializado.”

METRO PARKS AND NATURE 2014-15

ANNUAL REPORT



Building on 25 years of success: Protecting water, habitat, exploration – and planning for more

No matter where one stands in the greater Portland metro region, nature is never far.

With 17,000 acres, Metro manages parks and natural areas across every community in the region – from Chehalem Ridge on the west to the Sandy River Gorge on the east, from Blue Lake and Broughton Beach on the north to Graham Oaks on the south.

In 2015, Metro celebrated its 25th year as a parks provider. Although Metro's portfolio of land represents a big opportunity, it's also a big responsibility.

Voters have trusted Metro to wisely spend the money they've invested through two regional bond measures and a levy – more than \$400 million dollars – to protect and care for these special places while also creating opportunities for people to enjoy them.

Across the region, habitat is healthier, water is cleaner and more fish, wildlife and people are reaping the benefits. None of this work would be possible without voter investments in the 2006

natural areas bond measure and the 2013 parks and natural areas levy.

But a strong plan is needed to continue building a world-class regional Parks and Nature system that will serve the region's residents for another 25 years and beyond. To launch that effort, Metro began working with diverse community members and partners in 2014 to craft a Parks and Nature system plan.

The system plan will play out on the ground in many important ways, determining how Metro operates parks and natural areas, what a park looks and feels like when visitors arrive, which natural areas have top priority for significant visitor improvements – and much more.

Community members, partners and equity advisers are helping to develop strategies that will ensure Metro Parks and Nature serves diverse audiences and needs. By spring 2016, the Metro Council is slated to approve the system plan, laying the foundation for regional Parks and Nature work through the next decade and beyond.

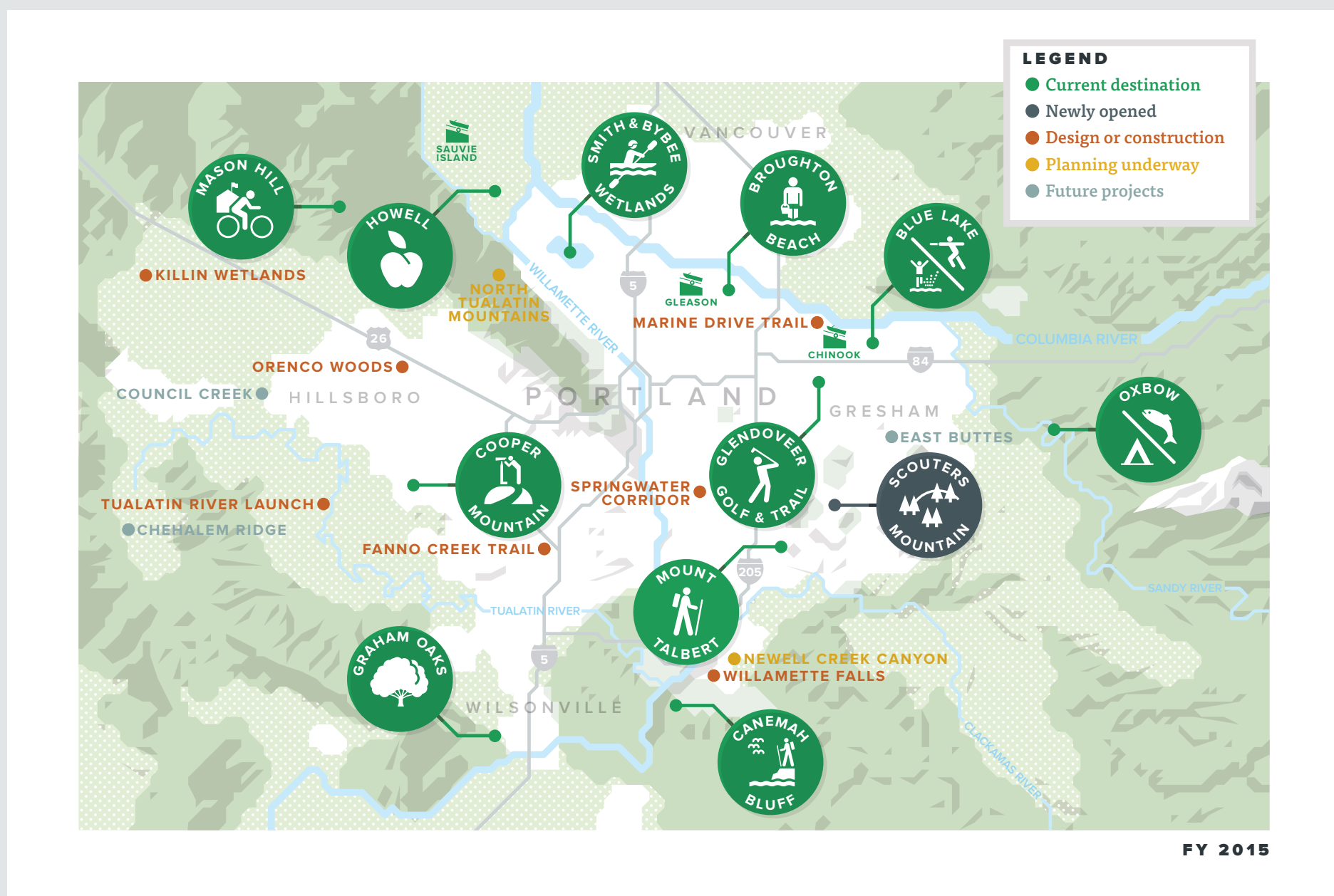
To see the impact of 25 years of voter investments and the exciting possibilities ahead, you have to hear the stories from the people on the ground. Learn more about how your dollars were spent from July 2014 to June 2015 to restore marshes, improve parks, and connect diverse and under-served communities with nature.



ACCESS TO NATURE

Metro aims to provide opportunities for residents to immerse themselves in nature with access to new parks, trails and natural areas. Access to Nature projects focus on safety and low-impact improvements, and opportunities for residents to hike, view wildlife, or enjoy a picnic. The projects

begin with extensive conversations with community members to ensure the projects provide the opportunities they're seeking, while also incorporating habitat restoration and volunteer and conservation education programs.



Habitat, visitor improvements go hand in hand at Killin Wetlands

For years, devoted birders in the Portland metro region have headed to an area about two miles west of Banks in search of the prized American bitterns and soras.

But with no formal public access to Metro's Killin Wetlands Natural Area, birders often park on the side of Northwest Cedar Canyon Road and set up their scopes on the roadway. A project soon entering the design phase aims to improve safety by opening up public access to a portion of the 590-acre site, while also restoring habitat and allowing farming to continue on another portion of the property.

"I'm very excited about the new access," said Stefan Schlick, a Hillsboro resident and a birder involved with the Audubon Society of Portland who helped shape the access project.

Community members and partners attended two open houses in the winter and spring of 2015. Many of the features they requested, such as trails and viewing stations, are included in the access

plan, which is designed to maintain a light touch on the landscape and habitat. The site includes significant wetlands and a very rare example of Willamette Valley scrub-shrub marsh habitat.

The Audubon Society has designated Killin Wetlands as an Important Bird Area. The site also supports an abundance of rare plants and animals, including Geyer willows and the state-sensitive Northern red-legged frog. Beavers, ducks and the occasional elk also call the place home.

Agricultural heritage will remain intact. Part of the site will continue to be farmed, and an old dairy barn will stay. The barn could also qualify to join the Quilt Barn Trail in Washington County with a large, painted quilt block mounted on the side.

Permitting and final design is expected to be complete by the end of 2015, with construction tentatively set for 2016 and 2017 – and a grand opening in 2017.



Park improvements

Even as Metro moves to open new destinations, work is underway to improve the parks and facilities that 1.3 million visitors a year already enjoy. Park improvement projects are aimed at upgrading aging facilities, improving sustainability features, and enhancing safety and security. For instance, a new entryway now greets visitors to Blue Lake Regional Park. Other projects include improved signage, repaired roads, new play areas, building and amenity renovations and more – all the little things that make a visit to a Metro destination more fun, convenient, safe and memorable.

EQUITY AND INCLUSION

Communities of color, low-income residents and other underserved groups have long faced barriers to accessing nature. But several innovative programs help underserved communities experience outdoor activities, foster environmental stewardship, nurture career opportunities and create new models for designing parks.

Through Partners in Nature, Metro teams up with community-based organizations such as Self Enhancement, Inc. and the Center for Intercultural Organizing to develop unique programs. In spring 2015, the Latino Greenspaces project launched in partnership with Latino Network and Hacienda Community Development Corporation to introduce youths to outdoor opportunities and careers.

Metro is working with community-based organizations to develop a new approach to designing parks that are welcoming to diverse communities. Metro is contracting with Verde to explore a new model for community groups and landscape architects to jointly develop project proposals.

And Metro is making a concerted effort to ensure restoration and maintenance contractors include as many minority-owned, women-owned and emerging small businesses as possible.

Partnerships connect students and nature

While it may not seem like that big of a deal to go for a walk in the woods, many Portland-area youths never have that opportunity. For them, nature can be an intimidating place, said Jackie Murphy, a career development manager at Self Enhancement, Inc.

She points to a project where middle school students in an SEI program visited Metro's North Abbey Creek Natural Area near Forest Park. The plan was to teach the children how bees help pollinate plants.

But for many of the children, this was primed to be their first exposure to bees that didn't involve a stinger.

"They think bees will attack," Murphy said. "There are some misconceptions of what's out in the environment. It's just not something they see in their day-to-day neighborhood."

A lot of that, Murphy said, is simply because of lack of exposure.

After the SEI program with Metro, students, by a wide margin, said they felt more comfortable in nature. About a third said they'd be interested in

exploring careers tied to natural resources and the environment.

"In natural resource and environmental jobs, a low percentage of people of color are employed in those areas," Murphy said. "With this relationship with Metro, exposing kids early on, they're gaining interest, and we can connect their interest in an area they can explore and pursue into college and a career."



RESTORATION AND MAINTENANCE

About half the money from the 2013 levy is dedicated to protecting water quality, controlling invasive weeds, boosting native plants and animals, and improving habitat for fish and wildlife.

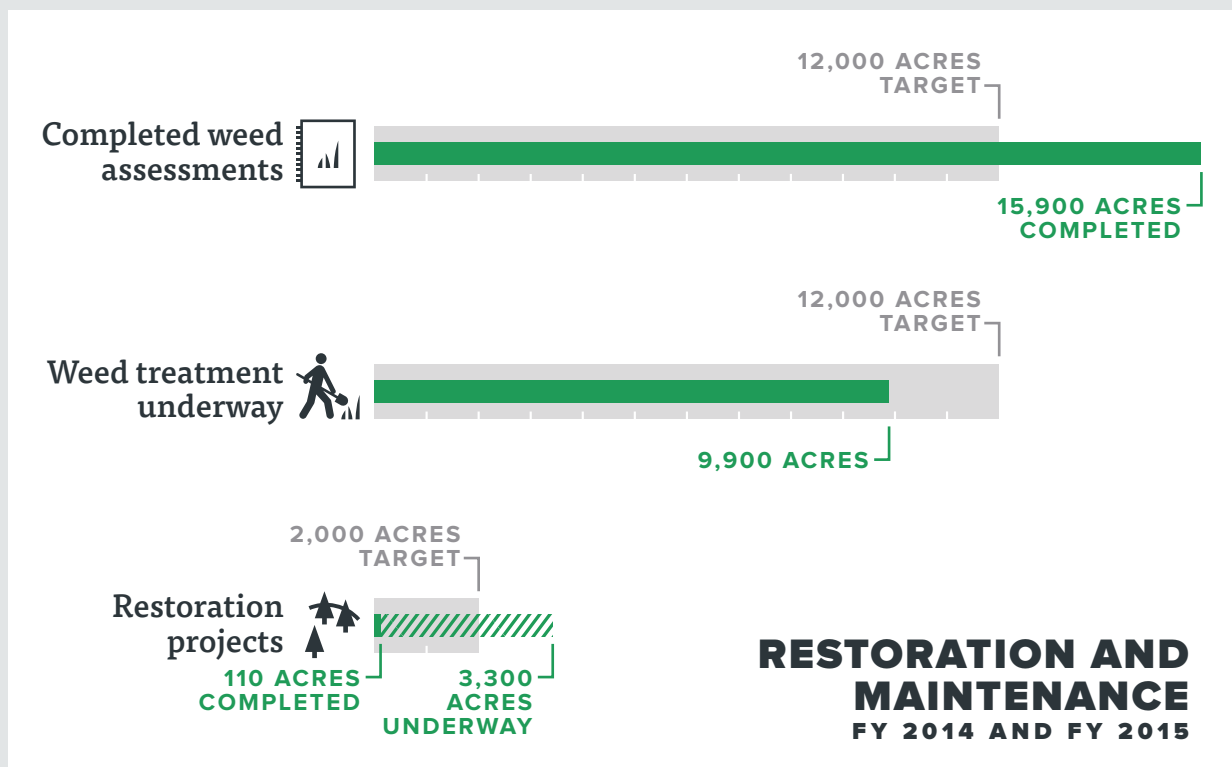
Restoration takes different forms across wetlands, oak prairies and savannas, forests and rivers. It means thinning overcrowded forests to allow sunshine to reach native oaks and madrones. It means treating invasive weeds choking out native

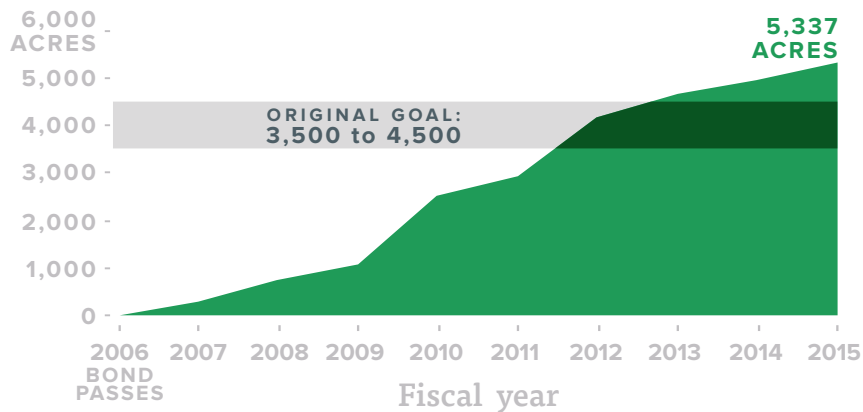
wildflowers. It means creating habitat for endangered fish. It means planting native shrubs and trees that help filter rainwater.

After Metro acquires a property, "stabilization" starts the restoration process by addressing immediate threats such as weeds. Next, a restoration plan helps return a site to its natural, wilder roots – and transition to long-term maintenance.



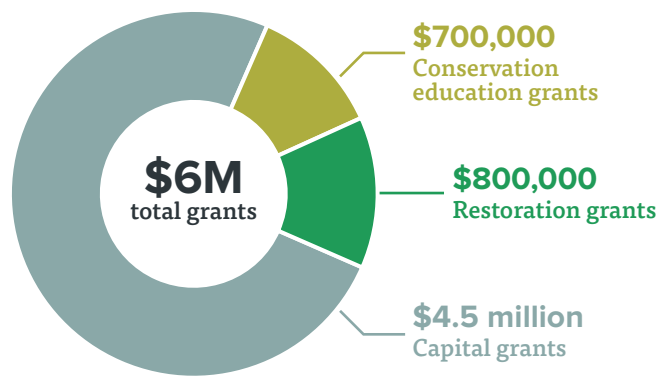
An egret quickly took advantage of waters around a new bridge at Multnomah Channel Marsh a day after construction ended in fall 2014. With help from partners, Metro is restoring native wetlands at the 350-acre natural area across from Sauvie Island and making it easier for juvenile salmon, trout and lamprey to swim into the marsh. Crews breached an earthen berm along the channel and replaced three culverts with a bridge. "What we've done is to try to get water back onto the site," said senior natural resources scientist Curt Zonick, "and then get it moving through the site."





LAND ACQUISITION WITH 2006 BOND MEASURE (CUMULATIVE)

The biggest portion of the 2006 bond measure earmarked \$168 million for land acquisition from willing sellers. More than 5,300 acres have been acquired and protected – significantly surpassing the original goal. Thanks to voters, Metro has been able to conserve some of the last swaths of native prairies, wetlands and other valuable habitat – home to rare plants and endangered or threatened fish and wildlife. Other properties fill key gaps in regional trails, providing connections for commuters, bicyclists and joggers.



NATURE IN NEIGHBORHOODS GRANTS FY 2015

Direct community investments, such as Nature in Neighborhoods grants, are one of the most popular and important parts of the Parks and Nature portfolio. Through the 2006 bond measure and the 2013 levy, three types of grants gave a collective \$6 million boost to innovative projects across the region this year. Partners are restoring salmon habitat, protecting land, improving parks, connecting diverse communities with nature and much more. In 2016, trail grants will be awarded for the first time.

PROMISES MADE, PROMISES KEPT

Thanks to voter investments, the greater Portland metro area can enjoy a world-class regional Parks and Nature system with healthy habitats, clean water, more native wildlife and more opportunities for residents to explore nature.

Although spending from the 2006 bond measure is winding down, some money remains to acquire more special places, pay for locally significant projects and award one last round of Nature in Neighborhoods capital grants.

The next three years of the 2013 levy will build on successes in the first two years and the important work underway now. Native plants will flourish where invasive weeds once grew. More new parks will open while existing parks will see many upgrades. And there will be more opportunities for residents of all backgrounds to connect with nature through classes, events and volunteering.

More work remains. Stay tuned for next year's annual report to learn about the exciting opportunities ahead.



PARKS AND NATURE SPENDING* FY 2015

	General fund	2013 parks and natural areas levy	2006 natural areas bond	Total
Restoration/maintenance of parks and natural areas	\$1,833,209	\$4,803,483	\$0	\$6,636,692
Access to nature	\$0	\$1,288,909	\$96,612	\$1,385,521
Park improvements and operations	\$6,018,179	\$1,432,336	\$0	\$7,450,515
Conservation education and volunteer programs	\$119,216	\$512,676	\$0	\$631,892
Community investments	\$45,992	\$429,949	\$1,818,752	\$2,294,693
Land acquisition/stabilization	\$0	\$0	\$9,305,952	\$9,305,952
Administration**	\$296,189	\$2,423,550	\$2,585,272	\$5,305,011
Total	\$8,312,785	\$10,890,903	\$13,806,588	\$33,010,276

* Unaudited
** Administration spending includes expenses for department administration and support services, such as the Office of the Metro Attorney, the Data Resource Center and communications.

2013 PARKS AND NATURAL AREAS LEVY

Promised to voters



Actual levy spending THROUGH JUNE 2015



IMPROVING PUBLIC ACCESS TO NATURAL AREAS REGIONAL PARK OPERATIONS NATURE IN NEIGHBORHOODS GRANTS RESTORING NATURAL AREAS FOR WILDLIFE, FISH AND WATER QUALITY CONSERVATION EDUCATION AND VOLUNTEERS

To learn more about voter investments, visit oregonmetro.gov/nature
To receive updates about Parks and Nature news, fun nature classes and events, or to sign up for Our Big Backyard quarterly magazine, visit oregonmetro.gov/parksnadnaturenews

Destination Guide

Key

- RESTROOMS
- PICNIC FACILITIES
- TRAILS
- CLASSES EVENTS VOLUNTEER
- PLAYGROUND
- CAMPING
- WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE
- COST
\$5/car, \$7/bus
(free with annual pass)

1 BLUE LAKE REGIONAL PARK
Enjoy a fun game of disc golf, or explore a nature-themed playground, a discovery garden, sports facilities and a wetland with a viewing platform and trail.

2 BROUGHTON BEACH
Head to one of Portland's best urban beaches and enjoy a picnic, beachcombing, or a stroll along the Columbia River.

3 CANEMAH BLUFF NATURAL AREA
Gaze at the Willamette River below, marvel at oak trees overhead, hike and admire colorful spring wildflowers.

4 COOPER MTN. NATURE PARK
Hike or jog more than three miles of trails, watch wildlife or enjoy views of the Chehalem Mountains and Tualatin Valley.

5 GLENDOVEER GOLF COURSE & FITNESS TRAIL
TEE TIME: playglendoveer.com
Play a game of golf, footgolf or indoor tennis, or enjoy a scenic stroll on the two-mile fitness course.

6 GRAHAM OAKS NATURE PARK
Ride bikes through a restored oak woodland, stroll through a conifer forest and spot birds from a wetland overlook.

7 HOWELL TERRITORIAL PARK
Watch for birds that flock to the park's wetlands, enjoy a picnic, and explore a piece of the region's natural and cultural history.

8 LONE FIR CEMETERY
Enjoy a stroll or jog in this tree-filled community greenspace, one of Oregon's most treasured historic cemeteries.

9 MASON HILL PARK
At this charming, one-acre park, bicycle through the rolling hills beyond Forest Park, take in spectacular views of the Tualatin Valley and picnic under the shelter.

10 MOUNT TALBERT NATURE PARK
Slip into the forested oasis to explore four miles of trails, enjoy gorgeous views, and keep an eye out for deer, pileated and hairy woodpeckers, white-breasted nuthatches and Western tanagers.

11 OXBOW REGIONAL PARK
Explore 15 miles of trails through ancient forests, camp year-round or find the perfect adventure on the Sandy River.

12 SCOUTERS MTN. NATURE PARK
Climb the steep, fir-lined road to the top of this extinct lava dome to enjoy unrivaled views of Mount Hood.

13 SMITH AND BYBEE WETLANDS NATURAL AREA
Take the Interlakes Trail or go by kayak to explore one of America's largest urban wetlands while spotting beavers, otters, deer, osprey, bald eagles and turtles.

Boat Ramps | oregonmetro.gov/boats

- 14 CHINOOK LANDING MARINE PARK** \$
- 15 M. JAMES GLEASON MEMORIAL BOAT RAMP** \$
- 16 SAUVIE ISLAND BOAT RAMP**

For more information about each destination, visit oregonmetro.gov/parks



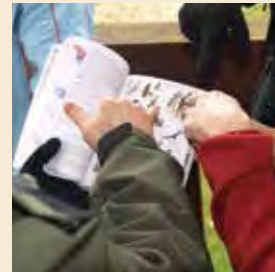
Get Involved

Raptor Road Trip

Explore Sauvie Island in search of magnificent eagles, hawks and falcons. Naturalists and hawk experts host activities at four sites around the island. Enjoy guided bird viewing, meet live raptors and see hawk identification displays. Free hot drinks and donuts in the morning. After check in at Kruger's Farm Market, you'll receive a parking permit, event guide, birding map and picture handouts. Bring binoculars and dress for the weather. Allow about three hours. Sponsored by the Audubon Society of Portland, Metro, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and Hawk Watch International.



SAT 06 FEB
WHERE Sauvie Island
WHEN 9a.m. to 2p.m.
COST \$10/vehicle, cash only
AGES all ages
REGISTRATION NOT REQUIRED
DIFFICULTY



Classes and events

SAT 09 JAN
WINTER PRUNING TECHNIQUES
 Join Metro arborist Howard Rasmussen for a hands-on class on winter pruning. Learn about safety, tree diseases and pruning techniques and watch demonstrations. Then practice in the orchards by the popular Bybee-Howell House. Bring gloves and dress accordingly for this rain-or-shine class. Tools will be provided, though participants are free to bring their favorite loppers. Hot drinks provided.

WHERE Howell Territorial Park
WHEN 9a.m. to noon
COST free
AGES 16 and older
REGISTRATION REQUIRED
DIFFICULTY

SAT 30 JAN
GEOLOGY OF NEWELL CREEK CANYON
 The Pacific Northwest is filled with geologic wonders, and the densely populated metropolitan area is no exception. Newell Creek Canyon in Oregon City has layers of stories written into the landscape. Join a naturalist to learn about the geology in this steep canyon and the surrounding area.

WHERE Newell Creek Natural Area
WHEN 1 to 3p.m.
COST \$6/person, \$11/family
AGES 12 and older
REGISTRATION REQUIRED
DIFFICULTY



SAT 23 JAN
LICHEN AND MOSS
 Lichen and moss are all around, living on trees, rocks, houses and sidewalks. This class will focus on the natural history of lichen and moss and how to identify them. Magnification lenses and field guides will be provided. Put on your rain gear, and let's take a walk in the woods together!

WHERE NW Portland. Directions will be provided to registered participants.
WHEN 1 to 3p.m.
COST \$6/person, \$11/family
AGES 12 and older
REGISTRATION REQUIRED
DIFFICULTY

SAT 27 FEB
DUCKS AND BEAVERS
 Some say the ducks and beavers will never get along. Come see for yourself at Blue Lake's best-kept secret: a wetland that hosts our rival species. Beavers ramp up territorial marking at this time of year, and the ducks are warming up for a long journey north.

WHERE Blue Lake Regional Park
WHEN 9:30 to 11:30am
COST \$5/car, \$7/bus
AGES all ages
REGISTRATION REQUIRED
DIFFICULTY



@METRONATURALIST

SUN
28
FEB

BEGINNING BIRD LANGUAGE

February marks the beginning of a rapid increase in daylight. Experience how the birds react to the expanding daylight by ramping up their vocal activity, and learn how to recognize many of their distinct songs and alarm patterns.



WHERE Cooper Mountain Nature Park
WHEN 10a.m. to 12:30p.m.
COST \$10/person
AGES 8 and older
REGISTRATION REQUIRED Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District, 503-629-6350
DIFFICULTY

SUN
06
MAR

WINTER TWIGS OF MOUNT TALBERT

Do you want to identify shrubs and trees by looking at the bark, twigs and buds? Winter's barren branches offer subtle yet observable clues to help identify plants. Join a Metro naturalist in exploring the flanks of this extinct cinder cone to identify common Northwest plants before they leaf out in the spring.

WHERE Mount Talbert Nature Park
WHEN 10a.m. to noon
COST \$5/person
AGES 12 and older
REGISTRATION REQUIRED North Clackamas Parks & Recreation District, 503-794-8092
DIFFICULTY

FRI
08
APR

Stayin' alive WINTER SURVIVAL SHELTERS FOR FAMILIES

Take shelter! The driving wind and rain can be held at bay with simple skills that every squirrel uses. In this family-oriented class, learn the basics of building a winter survival shelter that can keep you safe and warm without a sleeping bag or a fire. Younger participants will have free time to build forts.

WHERE Oxbow Regional Park
WHEN 11a.m. to 2:30p.m.
COST \$6/person, \$11/family; and \$5/car, \$7/bus
AGES all ages
REGISTRATION REQUIRED
DIFFICULTY



It's Our Nature

SIGN UP FOR YEAR-LONG OUTDOOR IMMERSION SERIES

Want to find mushrooms, follow cougar tracks and watch wild salmon spawn? Join a team of experienced naturalists to explore some of the region's most spectacular places during Metro's It's Our Nature year-long field trip series.

From February through November, a group of adults will immerse themselves in the region's natural areas, learning about natural history topics including geology, animal tracking, birding and ethnobotany. Monthly adventures give you opportunities to dive into the natural world by learning through hands-on experiences. If you crave the behind-the-scenes story, learn by doing and don't mind getting muddy, this year-long journey could be for you.

Classes combine theory with place, all in an outdoor setting. Naturalists take you on journeys in some of Metro's hallmark parks and natural areas, such as Oxbow Regional Park. Additionally, many of the classes will be held at Metro natural areas that are not officially open to the public, providing participants with a sneak peak of some of Metro's hidden nature jewels.

It's Our Nature is limited to 18 adults (ages 18 and over) who can attend orientation and at least eight of the 10 classes. Additionally, participants need to be willing and able to learn outdoors in all weather conditions and in a variety of terrain.

Classes will usually be held on the third Saturday of the month, and will typically run from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Some time changes may be necessary for certain programs. Applications are reviewed on a first-come, first-served basis, and applicants are assessed on their level of interest and ability to commit to the program. No deposit is required. Tuition of \$300 is due upon acceptance into the program.

Details and applications: oregonmetro.gov/natureimmersion

SAT
16
JAN

SAT
30
JAN

SAT
13
FEB

SAT
27
FEB

SAT
12
MAR

WINTER VOLUNTEER VENTURES

Help care for rare native seeds, bulbs and plant materials that support regional restoration projects. Winter activities include harvesting and planting native bulbs, cleaning seeds and transplanting seedlings. Dress for the weather. No experience is needed. Gloves, tools, water and snack provided. This event is wheelchair accessible with advance arrangements.

WHERE Native Plant Center, 2661 SW Borland Road, Tualatin
WHEN 9a.m. to 1p.m.
COST free
AGES all ages
REGISTRATION REQUIRED
DIFFICULTY

How to register

Unless otherwise noted, register and pay at oregonmetro.gov/calendar

Registration and payment required at least 48 hours in advance for all classes. Classes with low enrollment will be canceled; registered participants will receive full refunds. For more information: Yuliya Klichkova, 503-972-8550.

DIFFICULTY KEY

EASY MODERATE STRENUOUS

Field Guide

MOUNT TALBERT NATURE PARK

STORY BY *Dan Daly*

PHOTOGRAPHY BY *Fred Joe*

Discover the beauty of this forested oasis nestled between bustling Interstate 205 and Happy Valley. Rising 750 feet in elevation, this volcanic butte has been shaped for nearly 3 million years by fountains of lava, floods, fires and people. A mosaic of habitats and more than 4 miles of trails offer a year-round getaway for those looking to exercise, picnic or experience nature as it changes throughout the seasons.

Visitors that enter from the Mather Road Trailhead will be treated to a picnic shelter, restrooms and a short, wheelchair-accessible loop that circles through a native prairie. Early settlers found much of the Willamette Valley covered with similar prairies that have since been turned into farmland or developments.

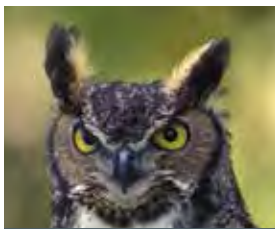
Climb the butte's southern slope through patches of Oregon white oak woodlands and savannas. Native American communities and wildlife alike value the acorns as an important staple food. Oaks grow slowly and are easily overtopped and shaded out by faster-growing trees. Traditionally, Native Americans set fire to the oak woodlands and savannas to burn off faster-growing trees and keep the oaks in full sunlight. These days, chainsaws do the work, and evidence of restoration efforts to free the oaks can be seen on Mount Talbert.

Round the west side of the butte on the Park Loop Trail to find deep red soils that hint at a once active cinder cone volcano, spewing and frothing iron-rich lava into the air. Watch for a large grove of cascara trees with shredded bark at the base that give testimony to a large black-tailed deer buck, marking his territory with unusual vigor. Dense patches of beaked hazelnut shrubs seem to murmur of homesteading days gone by.

Entering the park from the Sunnyside Road trailhead will take visitors through a series of meadows and across Mount Scott Creek, a small salmon-bearing stream.

For more information, visit oregonmetro.gov/mounttalbert

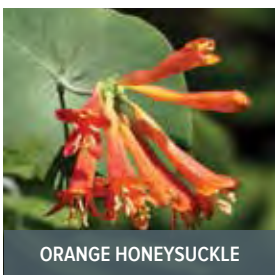
BE ON THE LOOKOUT!



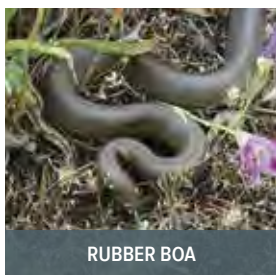
GREAT HORNED OWL



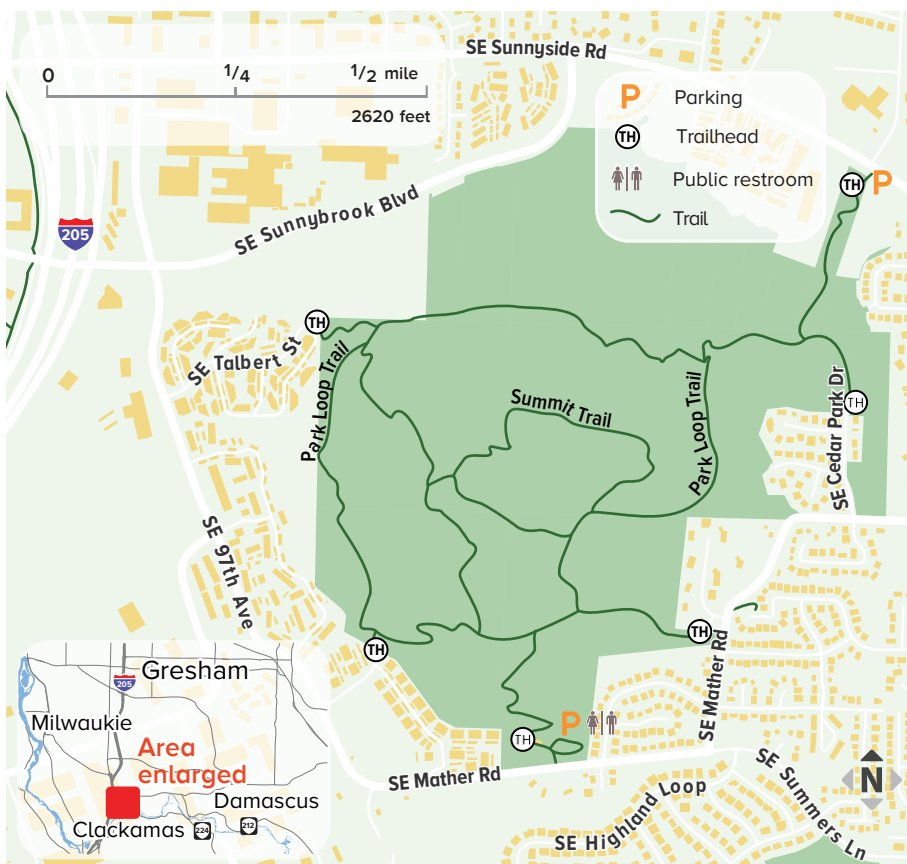
WHITE FAWN LILY



ORANGE HONEYSUCKLE



RUBBER BOA



MOUNT TALBERT NATURE PARK

10945 SE MATHER ROAD, CLACKAMAS

DIRECTIONS

From I-205, take exit 14 for Sunnybrook Road and head east briefly. Take a right immediately onto Southeast 97th Avenue, which curves onto Southeast Mather Road. The main park entrance is on the left. TriMet buses 155 and 156 also run near different entrances to Mount Talbert.

KNOW WHEN YOU GO

Open sunrise to sunset. No bikes or pets, please. The North Clackamas Parks & Recreation District provides day-to-day management.

AMENITIES

Restrooms, picnic shelter, picnic tables, hiking trails, and a short, gravel trail that is wheelchair accessible.

IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

For another dose of nature, enjoy a hike in the nearby Three Creeks Natural Area. Or take the whole family for a splash at the North Clackamas Aquatic Park. Looking for a spot of shopping? Hit up Clackamas Town Center, just across I-205. The area also offers plenty of restaurants, a theater and more.

SEASON BY SEASON

WINTER: Bare trees make geologic features easier to see. Ice age floods about 20,000 years ago likely caused the major landslide features on the Park Loop Trail. As you climb, notice rounded river cobbles in the trail that reveal the mystery of an active river system that somehow buried the volcano nearly to its summit.

SPRING: Wildflowers ranging from white fawn lily to common camas adorn the wet meadows and mixed woodlands in spring. Because Mount Talbert is an island of natural habitat in a sea of development, it is an ideal spot for migrating neotropical songbirds to rest, feed and nest. Warblers, vireos, orioles and tanagers can be seen.

SUMMER: Mount Scott Creek, accessed from the Sunnyside Road trailhead, is a lesser-known spot to take the kids for a splash in the creek. Native shrubs such as salal, serviceberry and red huckleberry offer sweet edible fruits for those who know their plants.

FALL: Fall rains bring a lovely assortment of mushrooms that rise from the duff beneath Douglas firs and white oaks. Move slowly, step quietly and watch carefully for an elusive native squirrel that you will not see in the city. The western gray squirrel is huge and sports a pure white belly and massive fluffy tail.

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LOADING DAYCATIONS



YOUR SCENIC ROUTE IS ABOUT TO GET
smarter

Explore The Intertwine like you never have before and take a Daycation!

Daycations are multi-stop adventures throughout the 3,000 miles of parks, trails and waterways of the Portland-Vancouver metro area – created by those who know and love this place the best: YOU! The new Daycation mobile app, coming in spring 2016, will be your ticket to these amazing experiences. With the app, you'll find and embark on Daycations, track wildlife sightings, get expert tips from local naturalists, then share your experiences and love of nature with the world on the "Daycation Stream."

www.theintertwine.org/daycations

EMAIL DAYCATION@THEINTERTWINE.ORG TO BE NOTIFIED WHEN THE APP IS AVAILABLE

Tools For Living

Where does your garbage go? The journey of trash

STORY BY *Rebecca Koffman*

Everyone knows the sounds of trash night. Roll-cart wheels rumble and dumpster lids slam as neighbors haul their garbage and recycling out for pick-up.

This ritual has a kind of mundane magic: Set out rotting shrimp, cat litter, empty gin bottles and unopened phonebooks, and soon growling trucks with robotic claws tip them into their bellies and take it all away.

But where is “away?”

In 2013, in 25 cities across Clackamas, Multnomah and Washington counties, more than 64 percent of what businesses and residents threw away was recycled, composted or converted to energy. What was left over was garbage.

A million tons of garbage.

That much garbage would fill 2,500 Olympic-size swimming pools.

All that trash has to go somewhere. But what happens to garbage is largely invisible once you’ve closed the lid of your trash bin. Here’s a look at the journey of trash.

FROM THE GARBAGE TRUCK TO THE TRANSFER STATION

The grinding compactors and piercing backup alarms of garbage trucks are part of our daily soundscapes.

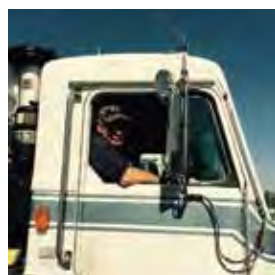
Mark Hillison of Walker Garbage Services is the sole operator of an automated side-loading truck. He’s out on his Cedar Mill and Forest Heights route in Northwest Portland at 6 a.m. sharp picking up household trash.

Not much surprises him. “I’ve been doing this for 25 years. I’ve seen everything.”

Drivers like Hillison take their 5-ton loads to one of several transfer stations in the region. Metro operates two of them, and there are four privately run transfer stations, too. At a transfer station, garbage is transferred from local trucks to long-haul trucks, which take garbage to its final destination.

“The garbage must go – we’re kind of like the postal service in that way,” says Penny Erickson, a solid waste planner at Metro.

Erickson has worked with trash in one way or another for 29 years, and she loves her job. “It’s a



mixture of operations, customer service, safety, environmental compliance and politics – all influenced by market forces,” she says.

But a transfer station is more than just a stopover for garbage. Metro’s Central Transfer Station in Northwest Portland is loud, bustling – and smelly at times. Haulers bring garbage, food scraps and yard debris from homes and businesses. Contractors bring construction waste. And residential customers bring what they can’t get rid of through their home collection service.

SOME GARBAGE GETS A SECOND LIFE, THE REST GETS BURIED

That “self-haul” and construction waste goes onto a sort line where pickers pull out cardboard, metals, plastics and other recyclables.

From the sort line, trash tumbles onto a garbage mountain where a wheel loader grinds back and forth. “He’s mixing stuff into a consistent density before sending it up the chute into the compactor,” explains Erickson.

From the compactor, trash is fed – 34 tons at a time – into the containers of long-haul trucks. Every week, about 300 trucks set off from Metro’s Central and South transfer stations.

They go east for 150 miles to the Columbia Ridge Landfill near Arlington, in the dry sage brush plains.

Then they drive the 150 miles back, empty, to be filled again.

Find more online

Watch videos and learn more about where garbage goes at oregonmetro.gov/wheregarbagegoes

Questions about what to toss or where to recycle? Ask Metro at 503-234-3000 or oregonmetro.gov/toolsforliving

What do I do with old batteries?



Ask Metro.

oregonmetro.gov/batteries

503-234-3000 |  Metro

Ask Metro ABOUT TOOLS FOR LIVING.

503-234-3000 oregonmetro.gov

Regional Roundup

A housing snapshot

STORY BY Craig Beebe

PHOTOGRAPHY BY Kevin Mealy and Justin Sherrill

You've no doubt heard the news, maybe even seen it on your street. The Portland region is growing – and so are the numbers of houses, apartments and condos.

Yet, two things also seem clear: housing supply isn't keeping pace with growth, and housing rents and prices are increasingly out of reach for many middle- and low-income residents.

How is the region changing, and what does it mean? That's the topic of Metro's new Regional Snapshots series: a bit of data and a bit of storytelling to explore things that matter to us all.

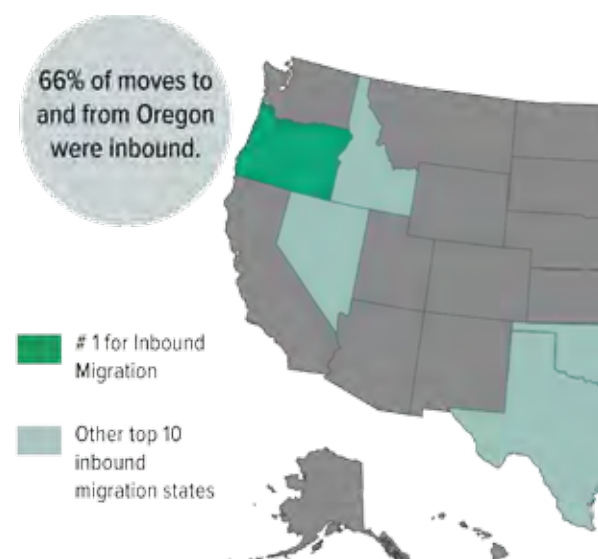


The first Regional Snapshot focuses on housing. Find it and future installments by looking for the YOU ARE HERE dot at oregonmetro.gov/snapshot

BY THE NUMBERS

A few key points:

- People are moving here – a lot of people. Oregon is the top state for inbound migration – that is, more people are coming here than leaving.
- Oregon is a state of migrants, with 51 percent of Oregonians born elsewhere. The average for other states is 32 percent.
- Though still dominated by single-family houses, the region's housing stock will change somewhat over the next 20 years. Today, 65 percent of homes in the region are single-family. In 2035, that number is projected to shift to 60 percent.
- The region's urban growth boundary has been expanded dozens of times since its creation in 1978, but many of those expansion areas still sit vacant. In fact, just eight percent of expected housing in expansion areas has actually been built.
- In November, the Metro Council decided to hold the line on the urban growth boundary at least until 2018.



Source: United Van Lines 2014 National Movers Study



WHAT'S HOLDING HOUSING BACK?

If housing is in short supply, why aren't builders developing more? Why is housing so expensive? Here are some reasons to consider:

- Simply having land to develop isn't enough without roads, sewers and such. But infrastructure is expensive to build, and it's not always clear who should pay.
- People increasingly prefer to live in walkable neighborhoods, many of them already established – raising concerns among existing residents about what it will mean for livability.
- If financing is hard to find, it's harder to build housing – particularly certain kinds of housing that fall outside the norm. For-profit builders and lenders shy away from some projects, while affordable housing advocates say public financing isn't enough.
- Builders need a variety of local permits to build. But in times of high demand, local governments can be stretched to keep up with demand, creating a bottleneck that holds up new housing.
- There's a lot of vacant land and dilapidated buildings around. Why is new housing not being built there? One reason can simply be low demand: builders sometimes can't make projects profitable, usually because the market won't support the rents or housing prices needed.
- Despite sometimes rapid change, homes aren't getting built fast enough in the region's most popular neighborhoods, so prices are still going up.
- If you can afford a house but have to drive an hour to work and spend hundreds of dollars on gas monthly, is that house really affordable? This is an aspect of housing affordability that's often forgotten.

FINDING HOME

Housing trends affect us all. We talked with residents across the region to learn about their experiences finding a place to live. Here are excerpts from some of their stories.



Derek Hoenisch, Lake Oswego

"Finding a home was harder than expected. We ended up 13 miles out of the city instead of seven or five. We had a goal of me not having to drive so far."



Brian McCauley, Tualatin

"We got everything we wanted. The only thing that would make it better is if the commute was any less."



Freddie Carthy, Northeast Portland

"We got heartbroken once or twice a week for two and a half months. It was really tough to stay with it."



Victoria Davis, Southeast Portland

"Everything I asked for I got. It makes me cry when I think about it, because it really came true. It really came to life."



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Share (Y)our Nature and Win!

Ashley Rojo | Fanno Creek Trail

I have the Fanno Creek Trail right behind my house. One morning I decided to take my dog for a walk on the trail. While on the trail I happened to look over and this great blue heron was standing on a branch on a tree. After a while, he hopped into the creek and fished out a creature of some sort.

- Ashley Rojo, Beaverton



SHARE (Y)OUR NATURE, WIN PRIZES

Win an annual parks pass, an overnight camping trip at Oxbow Regional Park, a tennis court session, or a round of golf for four people including cart at Glendoveer Golf and Tennis Center.

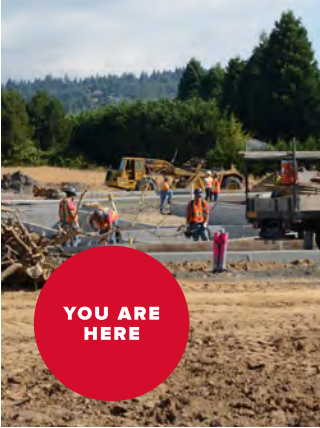
To enter, submit a photo taken at a park or natural area in the Portland metro region – your friends and family, a view of wildlife or a sunset, for example. Include a description of your experience in a 50-word caption. Where were you? What were you doing? What captured your attention?

The winner will appear in this space. By submitting a photo, you consent to Metro's future use and publication of your photo.

Send your picture and description by Feb. 29 to:
ourbigbackyard@oregonmetro.gov

© Ashley Rojo

MAKING A GREAT PLACE



Part of Metro's Regional Snapshot Speaker Series. Learn more about the Snapshots at oregonmetro.gov/snapshot

Building an Inclusive Economy

5 to 7 p.m.

Wednesday, Jan. 27

Metro Regional Center

A presentation and panel discussion on the Portland region's economy.

While the greater Portland region has seen strong job and export growth coming out of the Great Recession, not all people are benefitting from the region's prosperity. As is happening all around the country, the divide between the rich and the poor is increasing as middle-class job creation lags. Often, communities of color are experiencing the greatest challenges. For the region to prosper, all of us need opportunities.

Metro's Regional Snapshots program is hosting a moderated panel discussion about the challenge before the region and what cities, counties, Metro, transit service providers and others can do about it. Perspectives included in the panel will likely include small businesses that are taking steps to enhance the diversity of their workforce, big businesses that provide middle-income jobs, community-based organizations, economic development professionals and the philanthropic community. The panel will be moderated by Dwayne Johnson of ScaleUp Partners, a firm specializing in inclusive economic competitiveness.

Metro Regional Center

Council Chamber

600 NE Grand Ave., Portland

Metro is accessible via Green, Red and Blue MAX lines, the A + B Loop streetcar and the No. 6 bus. Bike parking is available on the premises. Car parking is available at the Metro garage on NE Grand & Irving for \$6.

Dwayne Johnson

Dwayne Johnson is a successful technologist, entrepreneur, synergist and self-professed social alchemist with over 30 years of experience leading technology, entrepreneurship, innovation, investment, operations and cross-discipline collaboration efforts.

He is a cofounder and Partner at ScaleUp Partners, a nationally networked consultancy working with local economies to scale up their economic competitiveness through inclusion. Mr. Johnson is Managing Partner of Globe Three Ventures, a strategy, business process and venture development consultancy, working with high potential and impact projects that help start-ups, corporate entrepreneurs, communities, cities



and states develop and implement successful technology-based innovation plans. He is Deputy Director for Innovate Oregon, a member of the Oregon STEM Investment Council and Oregon Business Plan Steering Committee.