

Spring 2017



Metro

Our Big Backyard

Destination
Guide inside



Force of nature

Estella Ehelebe was the first black woman to be parks superintendent and helped preserve Oxbow Regional Park's ancient forest.

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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.

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Pets policy
To protect plants, wildlife and people, Metro does not allow pets at most regional parks and natural areas. Pets can damage sensitive habitat and threaten wildlife the region has worked to protect. In natural areas where pets 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.

Parks and nature news



An estimated 1,024,300 native plants – a new record – went into the ground over the winter at 42 Metro parks and natural areas across Clackamas, Multnomah and Washington counties. Native plants play a crucial role in efforts to restore wetlands, oak woodlands, prairies and other habitats. The plants can help improve water quality, reduce erosion, and provide shelter and food for a wide variety of fish and wildlife. At St. Johns Prairie in North Portland, pictured above, 19,800 tall Oregon grapes, cluster roses, red-flowering currants and other native plants went into the ground to improve wildlife habitat and control erosion. *Photo by Yuxing Zheng*

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Metro naturalists found this incredible polypore fungus, *Daedalea quercina*, that popped out on a log at Cooper Mountain. It kind of looks like something you’d expect to find at the bottom of the ocean, or a brain! *Photo by Ashley Conley*



These aren’t spices, but wildflower seeds that will pepper St. Johns Prairie. This seed mix was prepared by Metro Native Plant Center staff, who collect seeds and bulbs from the wild, grow them, and coordinate their planting at regional parks and natural areas. *Photo by Adrienne Basey*



Before the snow started, this was the serene view from Clear Creek Natural Area. *Photo by Kristina Prosser*



Not sure how this tree is still standing after a hungry beaver roaming St. Johns Prairie sculpted it so thin. *Photo by Ashley Conley*

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On the cover: Estella Ehelebe in 1978 as Multnomah County parks superintendent. *Photo courtesy of Bob Ehelebe*

Oregon Zoo’s new Education Center focuses on conservation, sustainability

Story by Guadalupe Triana
Photography by Laura Oppenheimer Odom , Guadalupe Triana and Michael Durham



The Oregon Zoo’s Education Center opened March 2 with conservation and sustainability as the main themes.

Displays offer ample opportunities for visitors to learn about exploring nature in greater Portland and taking action in their daily lives to promote conservation. Visitors can learn about native plants and animals through the wildlife garden and insect zoo. New classrooms provide space for children participating in field trips and camps to learn more. A 150-person event space can host conferences or be leased for private events.

“Zoo visitors, as well as the community at large, benefit the most from this addition,” said Grant Spickelmier, Oregon Zoo education curator. “I really see this center as a hub for conservation education in the community.”

Visitors have a myriad of features to enjoy both inside and outside the center. Outside, close to the wildlife garden, visitors have the chance to take a break and enjoy a snack in the new café. Children can also explore a new nature play area.

The education center will hopefully serve as a gateway to parks and natural areas in the region that people might not know about or have explored, said Heather Nelson Kent, community investments and nature education manager for Metro Parks and Nature Department.

“They’re probably people who have voted to support the things we’re doing, but they might not actually be doing things with us,” Kent said. “I think it’s a great bridge opportunity to that audience.”

As part of those efforts, the education center features a 55-inch interactive map to showcase

33 parks and natural areas throughout greater Portland. Visitors can choose from 24 activities, such as wildlife viewing and picnicking. From there, people can view parks that offer their favorite activities.

“We wanted to make sure that people from all walks of life – different ethnicities and backgrounds – are comfortable going out,” said senior public affairs specialist George Winborn, who worked on the map. “We definitely wanted to create awareness of our park system.”

Officials hope the building itself will achieve net-zero energy operations, meaning the amount of energy used by the building is equal to the amount generated by the building itself. A total of 760 solar panels line the roof. Rainwater is collected and stored in a 10,000-gallon underground storage tank and then used to flush toilets.

Outside, the nature play area and landscape gates use salvaged wood from the previous elephant building.

“We’re really striving to be a model of the sustainability that we’re asking other people to do,” Spickelmier said.

In 2008, voters approved Metro’s \$125 million Oregon Zoo bond measure dedicated to zoo improvements with a focus on animal health and safety. The education center cost around \$17 million, with an additional \$1.7 million in private donations for enhancements and conservation efforts.

The education center is working to promote the idea that one person – with a single action – certainly has an impact on the environment, said Kate Giraud, an assistant project manager for the bond program. She hopes that children and adults alike will walk away with



information that inspires them to think about conservation.

“Most zoos are moving away from that entertainment aspect and more into education and conservation. They’re answering the question ‘Why do we have animals in zoos?’” Giraud said. “The answer is so we can teach people why it’s important to conserve, because if we don’t, we’re going to lose these animals.”

4 preguntas para Rudy Rolon-Rivas

Artículo por Guadalupe Triana

Fotografía por Sofia Basto y Guadalupe Triana

Para Rudy Rolon-Rivas, la naturaleza se ha convertido en un elemento muy importante en su vida diaria. En Latino Network, una organización sin ánimo de lucro que se dedica al fortalecimiento de la comunidad latina, Rolon-Rivas es responsable de guiar y aconsejar a jóvenes. Usando su pasión y conocimiento de la naturaleza, Rolon-Rivas espera inspirar a los jóvenes para que salgan al aire libre y aprendan más sobre sus alrededores.

Previamente, Rolon-Rivas participó en It’s Our Nature, un programa de Metro de inmersión en la naturaleza que dura un año, y pronto participará en Nature University para convertirse en un naturalista voluntario.

P. ¿Qué es lo más interesante que aprendiste durante el programa It’s Our Nature?

R. No podría escoger una sola casa. Cada vez que nos reuníamos íbamos a un lugar nuevo y observábamos nuevos pájaros, plantas, árboles, ambientes, ecosistemas y caminos. Todo era nuevo para mí y me resultó fascinante. Llevaba la mente de un explorador dondequiera que iba.

P. ¿Por qué es importante que los jóvenes con los que trabajas tengan acceso a la naturaleza?

R. Yo pienso que es importante para todos, pero en general, los jóvenes de color, los jóvenes pobres, los jóvenes que no tienen vehículos – todos viven en conjuntos de apartamentos. No pueden salir de sus vecindarios. Nadie los lleva a vivir aventuras. Además la ciudad está muy urbanizada, razón por la cual jóvenes de color sin recursos no pueden ver la naturaleza. Solo ven asfalto.

Los parques cercanos son lugares donde se reúnen pandillas. Son sitios populares para las drogas donde te pueden pegar un tiro, o puedes meterte en problemas y terminar arrestado. Por eso creo que es muy importante para los jóvenes de color – no solo jóvenes hispanos – que salgan y se metan al bosque, que vayan de excursión a conocer la naturaleza, a comprenderla, a apreciarla, a admirarla por lo que es y maravillarse con su belleza

P. ¿Cómo es que tú traes la naturaleza a los jóvenes con los que trabajas?

R. En realidad soy yo quien los lleva a la naturaleza. Trato de traer el amor, la alegría y la pasión que tengo por el bosque cuando les hablo. Les pregunto “¿Oye, qué sabes de los árboles?” Todo lo que he aprendido en mi vida trato de pasárselo a ellos de un modo u otro.

P. ¿Qué aspecto de Nature University te hace sentir más entusiasmado?

R. Quiero aprender más. Nunca es suficiente. Quiero explorar y quiero aprender a educar a otras personas. Pero también es porque mi gente no está representada. Quisiera que a más jóvenes les interese la naturaleza. Necesito ver a más gente de mi comunidad en el bosque, para enseñar a los jóvenes, o hasta para que también se conviertan en naturalistas.

4 questions with Rudy Rolon-Rivas

Story by Guadalupe Triana

Photography by Sofia Basto and Guadalupe Triana



For Rudy Rolon-Rivas, the outdoors has become a powerful element in his everyday life. At Latino Network, a nonprofit dedicated to empowering and transforming the lives of Latinos, Rolon-Rivas is responsible for mentoring and guiding youths. Using his love and knowledge of nature, Rolon-Rivas hopes to inspire kids to venture outdoors and learn more about their surroundings.

Rolon-Rivas previously participated in It’s Our Nature, Metro’s yearlong nature immersion program, and will be participating in Nature University to become a volunteer naturalist.

Q. What’s the most interesting thing you learned during the It’s Our Nature program?

A. I can’t really pinpoint one. Every time we met up, we were at a new location and we looked at new birds, plants, trees, different environments, different ecosystems, different trails. Everything was new to me and it was fascinating. I had the mind of an explorer everywhere I went.

Q. Why is it important for the young people you work with to have access to nature?

A. I think it’s important for everybody, but generally speaking, kids of color, poor kids, kids who don’t have cars – they all live in apartment complexes. They’re stuck in the neighborhoods. Nobody’s really taken them on an adventure. The city is so highly developed, which is another reason minority kids who don’t have resources don’t really see nature. All they see is concrete.

The neighborhood park is a place where gangs hang out. It’s a popular drug spot where you can get shot or get into trouble and get arrested. That’s why it’s very important for minority kids – not just Hispanic kids – to get

Clockwise from top: Rudy Rolon-Rivas is passionate about helping children connect with nature. In 2015, Metro partnered with Latino Network and Hacienda Community Development Corps to connect Latino youths to local natural spaces and introduce them to careers in conservation. Students visited Metro’s Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area (bottom right) and Oxbow Regional Park (bottom left) to learn through a bilingual, hands-on program combining science, art, music and cultural storytelling.

out into the woods and take a hike, get to know nature, understand it, appreciate it, admire it for what it is and just marvel at its beauty.

Q. How do you bring nature to the kids you work with?

A. Actually, I bring the kids to nature. I try to bring that love and joy, that passion I have for the forest when I talk to the youth. I ask them “Hey, what do you know about the trees?” Everything I ever learned in my life, I try to pass it down to them, some way, somehow.

Q. What are you most looking forward to at Nature University?

A. Learning more. It’s never enough. I want to explore, I want to learn to teach others. But also it’s because my population really isn’t out there. I need more kids to be into nature. I need more of my population out in the woods, to teach kids, or even volunteer to become a naturalist.

To learn more about It’s Our Nature and Nature University, visit oregonmetro.gov/natureeducation

Grant Butte Wetlands: Restoration of urban natural area comes with challenges, fun

Story and photography by Kate Holleran, Metro senior natural resources scientist



I did not expect to fall in love with an old dairy farm and a weedy pasture along a busy street on the east side of Gresham. But then I discovered it was a refuge for wildlife set in a sea of development. On a dark, rainy spring day I stood on the east slope of Grant Butte and looked down into the pasture and wetland and found them unexpectedly full of wildlife.

In 2014 Metro, East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District and the City of Gresham partnered to purchase the 33-acre site known as Grant Butte Wetlands. Located along a natural habitat corridor, the combination of open water, marshy areas and a grassy meadow along a forested slope create the conditions that attract more than a hundred different wildlife species to rest, feed and breed. River otter, Canada and cackling geese, red-winged blackbirds and American kestrels are just a few of the animals using the wild lands there.

Metro is taking the lead in cleaning up the site and enhancing wildlife habitat in collaboration with our partners. Restoration of this natural area is complicated by its location along busy Southeast Division Street and surrounded by homes and businesses. It's complicated by the land's recent history as a dairy. And it's complicated by the presence of so many wildlife species, some uncommon to the area.

The wetlands sit in a bowl between the city-owned Grant Butte to the south and Berry Butte to the east. There's no formal public access to the site currently as clean up and restoration work is underway.

Some restoration tasks are relatively straightforward. We've dug into the soils, geology, plant communities, wildlife habitat and human history of the area to inform our work. The old homes and barns were removed



shortly after we purchased the property. We've controlled the invasive plants and planted native trees and shrubs in areas once blanketed by Armenian blackberries.

The long history of dairy farming has made restoration work around the creek more complicated. Historic vegetation maps describe much of the lowlands as a willow swamp. That dramatically changed around 1870 when Thomas Grant and other farmers built ditches in the wet areas to create drier land for farming. In the process, they constructed what became known as Fairview Creek.

Rather than try to re-create the willow swamp, our restoration work will focus on increasing wildlife features along the creek. We'll install basking logs and plant dense shrub patches. These simple and relatively inexpensive steps will increase resting, hiding and feeding sites for many wildlife species.

Now to the best complication: Although the natural area has been significantly altered, it seems to be working well for wildlife. Since restoration work can disturb wildlife, we'll alter some of our practices to minimize our impacts. For example, we'll likely change the type and timing of weed treatments. Moving forward, I'd like to improve the site for western painted turtles, ground-nesting songbirds and other native animals.

Instead of trying to re-create historic conditions, we'll work with the current conditions, only slightly modifying the landscape to enhance habitat. For the next few years, we'll reduce the pasture grasses, plant native grasses and forbs, and open up patches of bare ground to turn the pasture into a prairie. And I'll continue visiting the site on early spring days to observe from a distance the wildlife of Grant Butte Wetlands.



New millipede, rare salamander found in East Buttes

By Cory Eldridge
Photography by Phil Nosler and Yuxing Zheng

When Metro acquires new properties, scientists often know the particular animals they hope will be protected. Sometimes, though, the land holds creatures no one knew lived there – or even existed.

In the 90s, when Metro and the City of Gresham began buying and protecting land in the hills around south Gresham, no one thought Oregon slender salamanders lived in the East Buttes. The four-inch salamander has a tail as long as its body and tiny legs that seem like an afterthought. When disturbed, it coils like a snake and freezes, trying to blend in with the rich-red, decomposing wood it lives in. Like most amphibians, it's extremely sensitive to habitat change.

Scientists thought the salamander only lived in old-growth forests, and the East Buttes had been logged many decades ago. Then Laura Guderyahn, an ecologist who worked for Gresham, found them there in 2009. She found a lot of them. The Oregon slenders don't seem to mind the younger, re-established forest. "Inside an old cedar stump, it's common to find a dozen salamanders," said Guderyahn.

While the salamanders were unexpected, the millipedes that high school student Phil Nosler found were unknown to science. Like most millipedes, the ones that Nosler found have dozens of legs along a skinny body and eat fallen leaves and other forest debris. It's just a centimeter long, so you'll be lucky to see one, though its cream-colored body might help a careful observer.

Scientists are in the process of certifying the millipede is a new species, said William Shear, a professor emeritus of biology at Hampden-Sydney College who studies millipedes.

The new millipede's habits and how it contributes to the forest aren't known, but that mystery is what makes preservation so important, said Nosler, 17. "Regardless of how small a species is," he said, "it could be carrying out a critical but unknown function in the forest."





Metro parks, Oregon Zoo team up to provide vegetation to animals

Story by Guadalupe Triana
Photography by Guadalupe Triana and Lupine DeSnyder



Every Tuesday morning, volunteer Reed Taillard has a new maintenance task for the day.

Today, there’s a willow hedge that needs pruning. Nearby, an invasive Himalayan blackberry bush desperately needs a trim.

Though Taillard’s work is crucial to keeping the habitat healthy at Blue Lake Regional Park, animals at the Oregon Zoo are counting on Taillard, too.

The unwanted piles of plant debris that Taillard removes have become the new favorite toys and snacks of the zoo’s elephants and bears.

Through a collaboration that started in spring 2016, volunteers collect the leaves, twigs and vegetation left over from pruning and other grounds maintenance done at Metro parks, natural areas and cemeteries. The debris is delivered to the Oregon Zoo, where animals consume the vegetation, known as browse.

For many zoo animals, browse plays a key role in maintaining a naturally healthy diet.

“It supplements not only their nutritional intake, but the enrichment is very important,” said Dani Ferguson, a horticulturalist at the zoo. “Browse could be scattered around an exhibit to encourage animals to seek it out. Black bears will pick it up, play with it, play with each other, or throw it up in the air.”

Senior elephant keeper Bob Lee says that no zoo animals benefit from the browse as much as the elephants. When consumed, the material helps wear down elephant teeth, which is useful in avoiding surgical procedures, such as extraction. The non-native strawberry trees and invasive blackberries are among elephant favorites.

“Because of their size, elephants are able to take a whole lot more browse than the other animals,” Lee said. “These guys eat over 100 pounds of food every day and they require great diversity, so this works out really well for them.”

The innovative partnership began when parks staff inquired about ways to deliver the material to zoo animals, instead of hauling it or paying someone to take it away.

Throughout the last few months, volunteers have worked with staff to trim, cut and prune plants across Metro parks, natural areas and cemeteries. The same day, material is loaded onto trucks and sent to the zoo.

Volunteers are a crucial part to getting the job done. A class from the Multnomah Education Service District routinely volunteers. The 10 students range in age from 16 to 24 and are part of a transition class to learn work skills.

Taillard, who has been volunteering with the horticulture team for about two years, says she volunteers as a way of giving back to the community.

“I love the zoo, being outside, working with Dani and the horticulture crew,” Taillard said. “It’s a great place to volunteer, give back and feel like you’re doing the right thing.”

“It’s really just talking to each other a lot more so we’re able to make the cycle work better for both parties.”

Lupine DeSnyder, volunteer coordinator for Metro

Since its inception, the program has proved advantageous to both Metro and zoo staff by reducing waste and providing natural material to animals.

“It’s been really helpful for us to have another source of plants to use for the animals,” Taillard said. “It’s been really beneficial for all parties involved.”

The process doesn’t end there. In return, park staff hauls away “zoodoo,” animal waste that has been composted. The compost can be used at parks to suppress weeds, retain moisture in the soil and naturally fertilize the ground.

“It’s building a relationship around who’s available, what’s available,” said Lupine DeSnyder, a volunteer coordinator for Metro. “It’s really just talking to each other a lot more so we’re able to make the cycle work better for both parties.”

Metro, Hillsboro celebrate grand opening of Orenco Woods Nature Park

Story and photography by Guadalupe Triana



Despite the damp afternoon, Hillsboro community members poured into Orenco Woods Nature Park Feb. 4 to celebrate the grand opening of the region's newest nature park.

Metro and the Hillsboro Parks & Recreation Department hosted the grand opening celebration of Orenco Woods, a 42-acre park that was once home to the Oregon Nursery Company, the largest nursery on the West Coast.

The event featured speakers, family-friendly activities, guided tours, children's activities and informational booths with Hillsboro Parks & Recreation naturalists on site.

"The turnout was amazing, but not surprising because people love Orenco, and they're so excited for this park," said Hillsboro Mayor Steve Callaway. "During the speeches, you saw people already walking the trails, so they understand the most important thing is getting out and being active."

Orenco Woods sits nestled between Orenco Woods Elementary School to the west, Northwest Cornelius Pass Road to the east, the MAX Blue Line to the north and neighborhoods to the south. Rock Creek, a tributary of the Tualatin River, quietly meanders its way through the park, with a variety of vegetation covering the park's wetland, oak savanna and forest habitat.

After the nursery closed in 1927, the land eventually became a nine-hole golf course once owned by the Hillsboro Elks Lodge. Developers in 2006 planned to turn the area into a large housing development, but plans came to a halt when the recession hit in the following years. Orenco community members then told city officials that they wanted to see the open space turned into a park.

The City of Hillsboro and Metro jointly purchased the land in December 2011 using money from the 2006 Metro natural areas bond measure. Restoration work in the following years included building log jams in the Rock Creek floodplain to provide fish habitat and planting native trees, shrubs and flowers to provide wildlife habitat.

"If I know one thing about Washington County residents, it's that I know we love having a bit of nature in our community's backyards," said Metro Councilor Kathryn Harrington, who represents the area.

The park features a number of trails and viewpoints, picnic tables and play areas. Visitors will also be able to walk by the historic Malcolm McDonald House, a 1912 Craftsman-style house named after the co-founder of Oregon Nursery Company. The house, owned by the city, is not currently open.

Visitors can see several remnants from the site's history, including repurposed sequoia trees that now serve as benches, and two tulip poplar trees from the original Orenco nursery.

"As we walked the trail, people mentioned to me how excited they are to have this park in their community," Harrington said. "There's so much here for them to enjoy."

Art is another important element in the park. As part of an effort to promote the arts in the park, the City of Hillsboro installed the first of two sculptures that pays tribute to the Orenco apple, the nursery's signature product. Visitors have the chance to check out the bright green apple sculpture by sitting inside of it.

"The goal of the public art program is to make magical places, to bring art into the places we enjoy together," said Valerie Otani, the public art program supervisor for Hillsboro, "for art to be part of the way you think of Hillsboro."

Though the creation of the park was a collaboration between Metro and Hillsboro, Hillsboro Parks & Recreation will provide day-to-day management.

"We couldn't have had a better partner than the City of Hillsboro," said Metro Council President Tom Hughes, who previously served as Hillsboro mayor. "We worked through a lot of knotty details and came up with this beautiful experience that we have here today."

Heaven in a wild flower

Colorful wildflowers dot the region's landscapes in spring and summer. Head outside and see if you can find the bright blooms below during your adventures.



TRILLIUM

Best viewed March through May at Glendoveer Nature Trail, Graham Oaks Nature Park and Gabbert Butte Natural Area.



PACIFIC BLEEDING HEART

Best viewed in April and May at Oxbow Regional Park, Graham Oaks Nature Park and Gabbert Butte Natural Area.



CAMAS

Best viewed in April and May at Canemah Bluff and Mount Talbert nature parks.



GOLDEN PAINTBRUSH

Best viewed in May at Cooper Mountain Nature Park.



OREGON SUNSHINE

Best viewed in May and June at Cooper Mountain and Canemah Bluff nature parks.



OREGON IRIS

Best viewed in May and June at Cooper Mountain Nature Park.



WHITE ROCK LARKSPUR

Best viewed in June at Cooper Mountain Nature Park.



BRODIAEA

Best viewed in July at Canemah Bluff Nature Park.



MEADOW CHECKERMALLOW

Best viewed all summer at Graham Oaks Nature Park.



Force of nature



This page, clockwise from top: Estella Ehelebe in 1999. Ehelebe with then-Portland Mayor Bud Clark. From left: Fred Ehelebe, Anjala Ehelebe, Estella Ehelebe and Bob Ehelebe. Fred and Estella Ehelebe after getting married in 1953.

Opposite page, clockwise from top left: Estella Ehelebe pictured in an article in The Oregonian in 1975, when she was acting executive director of the Oregon Arts Commission. The ancient forest at Oxbow Regional Park. Ehelebe gardening in the yard of her home in Northeast Portland.



Estella Ehelebe was the first and only black woman to lead Multnomah County Parks before they were transferred to Metro. She broke barriers her whole life and helped keep intact the treasured ancient forest at Oxbow Regional Park.

Story by Yuxing Zheng
Photography courtesy of Bob and Anjala Ehelebe and by Jerome Hart and Yuxing Zheng



Turn any direction in the ancient forest at Oxbow Regional Park, and an expanse of green greets the eye. Moss-covered limbs hang from towering Douglas firs. Sword ferns blanket the ground. A chorus of birds provides the soundtrack.

The beloved forest is intact today thanks in part to Estella Ehelebe, who served as the Multnomah County Parks superintendent starting in the 1970s, about two decades before county parks were transferred to Metro in 1994. She helped fight an effort to remove some trees from the ancient forest, preserving a piece of the rare old-growth forests that once dominated the Sandy River Gorge.

Ehelebe was the first black woman to lead the parks system. She spent her life breaking barriers and serving her community, often in public service jobs. A steely will, eagerness to learn and ability to forge relationships helped her flourish in settings often dominated by white men.

“She was the first pretty much everywhere,” said her daughter, Anjala Ehelebe, a Northeast Portland resident. “People were always underestimating Mom, thinking she was an affirmative action hire. She was quite content to have people underestimate her until she dropped the boom on them.”

Estella Ehelebe worked for Multnomah County for more than a decade and also served on the inaugural Multnomah County Parks Advisory



Committee. She died from inoperable lung cancer in January 2007, leaving behind a legacy of advancing racial equity and helping protect trees hundreds of years old at Oxbow.

Seeds of public service

She was born Estella Mae Allen in June 1928 in Wichita Falls, Texas, and graduated as high school valedictorian when she was 16. World War II was still ongoing in 1944, and her graduating speech was titled “A Blueprint for a New World Order,” according to the local newspaper.

After graduating, she moved with her family to Vanport in North Portland, where her stepfather worked in the Kaiser Shipyards.

“She hated the weather of Texas and the dust,” Anjala Ehelebe said. “She loved the greenness of Oregon and the trees.”

She enrolled at the University of Oregon, where she was among the first black women allowed to live on campus, her daughter said.

While at UO, Estella met her future husband, Fred Ehelebe, who graduated with a degree in education in 1948. Estella graduated with a business degree the same year, though she originally dreamed of studying law.

“Her adviser said ‘give it up, you can’t do it. You’re a black female,’” Anjala Ehelebe said. “She felt a business degree would be marketable if she couldn’t be a lawyer.”

She moved to Japan during the Korean War and worked for the U.S. Army Special Services as a hostess and wrote letters of condolence to families of soldiers who died in the war. She lived with a Japanese family, started learning Japanese and took judo classes, her daughter said.

After returning in 1952, she married Fred the next year, and they bought a house for \$7,950 in the Eliot neighborhood of Northeast Portland, one of the few places in the city where black people were allowed to buy homes at the time. The pair had two children, and Estella Ehelebe loved being a homemaker, making clothes and upholstering furniture, Anjala Ehelebe said.

After the two divorced in 1965, she worked at the Job Corps, as a national field adviser for the Northwest Region of Camp Fire Girls, and served as acting executive director of



the Oregon Arts Commission before a friend helped her land a job at Multnomah County.

“She never had a job she was exactly trained for; she always learned on the job,” Anjala Ehelebe said. “She was an observer of people. That stood her in good stead when she got into management.”

Lifelong love of trees

The 160-acre ancient forest and the campground at Oxbow are owned by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management and are today managed by Metro through an agreement started in 1961 with Multnomah County.

The parcels were a part of what are known today as Oregon & California Lands, a land grant program the federal government established in 1866 to promote the completion of a railroad connecting Portland and San Francisco. Starting in 1937, O & C Lands were intended to be managed for timber production.

Around the late 1970s, BLM officials told parks staff that they intended to remove some dead hazard trees from the ancient forest, said Charlie Ciecko, then an Oxbow park ranger who later served as director of the parks services division. Ehelebe asked her staff to remove the trees immediately for public safety – and told BLM no further action was needed.

“What was special about Estella was that she got the bigger picture and decided it was worth making a statement about,” Ciecko said.

Bill Doran started working as an Oxbow park ranger in 1977 and retired in 2014. “It was her response to BLM that stopped any additional trees from being removed,” he said.

The ancient forest at Oxbow is part of a biodiversity corridor connecting Mount Hood with the Columbia River Gorge, and it supports wildlife not found in other parts of the park. Doran recalls seeing nesting pygmy owls and hummingbirds and a pair of black bears, which raised two sets of cubs while living in the upper stretches of the ancient forest.

“When you look at other pieces of old-growth, it’s often not as intact as that piece at Oxbow is,” Doran said. “It makes it even more valuable to have it so close to a large metropolitan area.”

Estella Ehelebe went on to oversee facilities maintenance at Multnomah County, and she worked to hire more minority-owned businesses as contractors, her daughter said.

She had a no-nonsense attitude. She was driven, and she focused on what she needed to

do to provide for her children, said her son, Bob Ehelebe.

“She’d be the only black woman in a room full of older white men, and she’d go ‘Yup, this is the way it is, but we just keep going,’” Bob Ehelebe said. “She tried to control the things she could. She also had a very charming, disarming personality.”



BOB EHELEBE




The funny thing is that Estella Ehelebe was never truly an outdoor person, and their father was the one who often took Bob and Anjala Ehelebe hiking and camping as kids. “We’d go to the beach, but my mother preferred her house and yard,” Bob Ehelebe said.

Estella and Fred Ehelebe remained good friends after their divorce and lived next door to each other for decades. Bob lives in his father’s former house, which previously belonged to Estella Ehelebe’s mother. Estella Ehelebe loved to garden, and Bob recalls working together on both their yards.

“Her yard is filled with trees,” he said. “There’s a redwood out front planted the year I was born. My sister got a maple. There’s a Douglas fir in the backyard corner planted when I was in first grade. It’s fun to see it now, 40 to 50 feet tall.”

Though Estella Ehelebe is gone, the trees she first fell in love with in Oregon remain for everybody to enjoy, whether on a quiet neighborhood street or the treasured ancient forest at Oxbow.



Once upon a time, in the land of Our Common Ground, a  grew weary of the dreary winter days. Ready to be among the  and the  and the  once again, they prepared to head outside. But with so many choices, the  wondered, “Where, oh where, should we go to pedal our  and muddy our  ?” Then they discovered , a magical portal to easy adventures throughout nature and their community. It was  at first sight. Before long, the  had grabbed their  and their  and headed off to the  to make and share memories to last a lifetime.

THE BEGINNING

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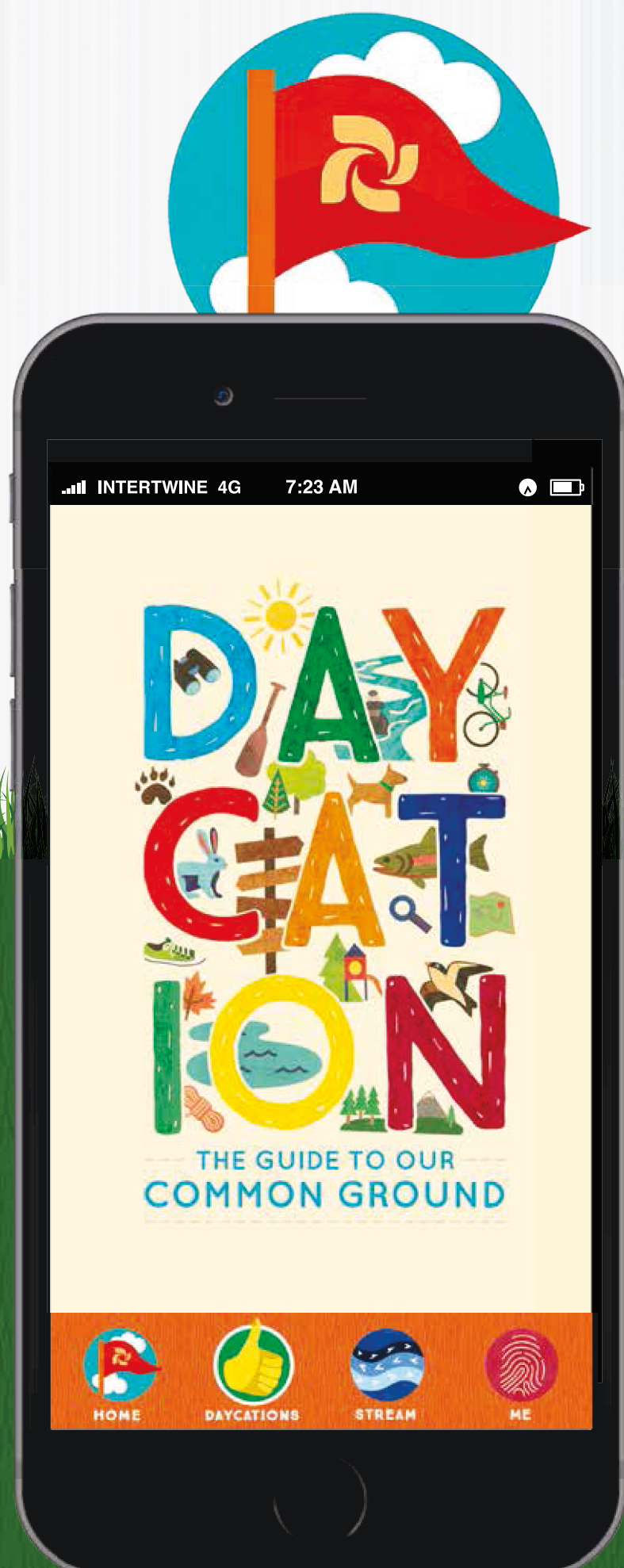
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EXPLORE • DISCOVER • SHARE





Field guide

FARMINGTON PADDLE LAUNCH

Join Metro, Tualatin Riverkeepers and Clean Water Services for the Discovery Day grand opening June 24.

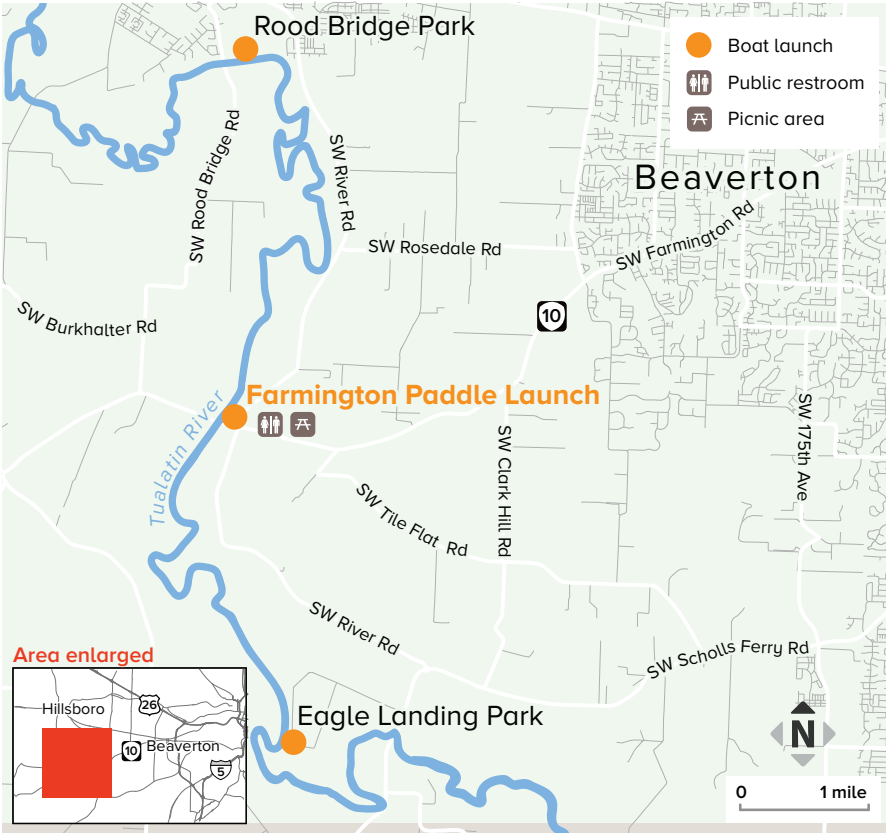
Story by Ashley Conley
Photography by Tannen Printz

On the east side of the Coast Range in the Tillamook Forest, the waters of the Tualatin River are born. For about 80 miles, the river meanders through the Tualatin Basin where it eventually meets the Willamette River in West Linn. The river descends approximately 2,000 feet from its headwaters, with much of the descent occurring in the first 15 miles. As it reaches the lower levels of the fertile Tualatin Valley, abundant recreational opportunities and stunning nature await the explorer.

Farmington Paddle Launch, built through a partnership between Metro and Clean Water Services, provides visitors a safe and accessible location to set out on the Tualatin River Water Trail. The new destination opens spring 2017 and will be a much-needed addition to the water trail, helping to fill in a long gap between current launching areas.

The river levels out in the middle and lower reaches, providing great exploration opportunities for beginners and advanced paddlers alike. The lower part of the river is a meandering, slow-moving flow in the summer months. Paddlers can even paddle upriver with relative ease in the low-flow months of summer. By winter and spring, the water picks up in volume and velocity, providing well-oxygenated water for the salmon that are moving toward their spawning grounds in the upper reaches of the watershed. The river is still accessible in these high-flow times, but it is advisable that beginners aim for exploring in the summer.

Farmington is also an excellent spot for cyclists to begin two-wheeled journeys



Farmington Paddle Launch

9665 SW River Road, Hillsboro

GETTING THERE
From Highway 217, take exit 2A and head west on Southwest Beaverton Hillsdale Highway, which becomes Southwest Farmington Road. Head west for about eight miles, then turn right on Southwest River Road. The entrance will be on the left.

KNOW WHEN YOU GO
Open sunrise to sunset. Pets allowed on leash; please bring cleanup materials. Always wear life jackets when paddling. Watch out for log jams in the river.

AMENITIES
Restroom, picnic tables, ADA-accessible parking, bike racks

oregonmetro.gov/farmington

In the neighborhood The Cruise In Country Diner is across the street on River Road. Grab a tasty burger or treat the family to delicious shakes on a warm summer day. Metro's Cooper Mountain Nature Park is a hop, skip and a jump away. Go from river otters and osprey to oak savannas and breathtaking vistas of the Tualatin Valley in less than 10 minutes. SakeOne in Forest Grove is one of six sake brewing facilities in America and the only one in Oregon. Stop by and give it a taste test.

through the flat, rolling terrain of Washington County.

Opening a safe and visible launching point helps to promote awareness of water quality issues and wildlife habitat protection. The calm and winding Tualatin River is the lifeblood of Washington County. It provides drinking water for hundreds of thousands of residents,

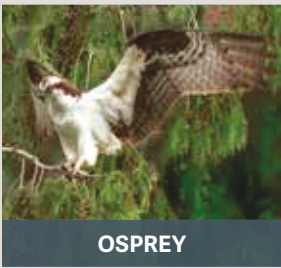
essential riparian habitat for wildlife, and is a popular, close-to-home recreational getaway for residents of the metro region.

For those wanting to explore nature in a unique way, the Tualatin River is a great place to get your feet wet, and Farmington Paddle Launch is the perfect place to start your exploration.

Be on the lookout!



RED-STEM DOGWOOD



OSPREY



BEAVER



BELTED KINGFISHER

Tualatin River Water Trail

Paddling access to the Tualatin River is limited to the lower 40 miles from Hillsboro to West Linn. The summer months bring glassy, slow-moving waters to the lower Tualatin River that make Farmington Paddle Launch an ideal place for paddlers of all skill levels to begin river explorations or practice paddling skills.

Farmington lies five miles downriver from the developed Rood Bridge Park in Hillsboro and four miles upriver from the undeveloped Eagle Landing launch site. From this location, Farmington brings the region a step closer to completing the vision of the Tualatin River Water Trail: to create a series of access points

every five river miles that open the river to wildlife viewing and recreation opportunities. The trail provides myriad opportunities for visitors to explore a rich riparian ecosystem from the unique perspective of being on the water.

Tualatin Riverkeepers, a local nonprofit group, provides resources and tips for people wishing to explore the area. The group offers organized paddle trips, information about boat rentals, and opportunities to learn about restoration, the watershed and more. Learn more at tualatinriverkeepers.org



Get involved

CLASSES AND EVENTS

WED. APRIL 5 SAT. APRIL 22 SAT. MAY 13

Wildlife tracking: the art and science of reading the sign

Wild animals are all around, but where are they? Learn how to see and read the hidden stories etched into the landscape. A free evening workshop on April 5, followed by a series of two field outings April 22 and May 13, will awaken your ability to find and interpret tracks and signs. You can register and attend just the free workshop, both of the field classes, or the workshop and both field classes.

April 5 workshop
Oregon Zoo Education Center
6:30 to 8:30 p.m.
Free. Ages 12 and older.
Registration required. Difficulty: easy. ♿

April 22 and May 13 field classes
Locations provided to registered participants.
9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
\$25/person. Ages 12 and older.
Registration required. Difficulty: moderate.



Photography by Fred Joe and Richard Will

SAT. APRIL 1, 8 SAT. MAY 6, 20 SAT. JUNE 10, 24

Volunteer ventures

Help care for rare native plants that support regional restoration projects. Spring activities include planting bulbs and seeds and maintaining wildflower seed beds. No experience is needed. Gloves, tools, water and snack provided. This event is wheelchair accessible with advance arrangements.

Native Plant Center
2661 SW Borland Road, Tualatin
9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Free. All ages.
Registration required.
Difficulty: moderate. ♿

SUN. APRIL 9 SUN. APRIL 23

Mushroom discovery hike

Discover the fascinating and weird world of mushrooms. Join mushroom enthusiast Leah Bendlin on this woodland hike to learn about the ecological roles of fungi and how they eat and reproduce. We'll have hands-on learning about the mushrooms we encounter, including learning basic identification processes. Field guides will be provided.

April 9, Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area
April 23, Oxbow Regional Park
9:30 to 11:30 a.m. or 1 to 3 p.m.
\$6/person, \$11/family; Oxbow: \$5/car, \$7/bus
All ages welcome but geared toward adults.
Registration required. Difficulty: easy.
Smith and Bybee: ♿

SAT. APRIL 15 SUN. APRIL 16

Bunny Bonanza, Golden Easter Egg Hunt

At Bunny Bonanza April 15, visitors can have their photo taken with the Easter Bunny, enjoy face paint, make bunny ears and nature crafts and talk to natural gardeners. Please bring a bag or basket. Rain or shine. At the Golden Easter Egg Hunt April 16, visitors can search for a golden egg to win a prize, enjoy a bouncy house and more. Participants asked to bring food to donate to the Oregon Food Bank.

April 15, Blue Lake Regional Park
10:30 a.m. for children 4 and younger; 11 a.m. for children 5 to 10.
\$5/car; \$7/bus. Ages 10 and under.
Registration not required. Difficulty: easy.

April 16, Glendoveer Golf and Tennis Center
10:15 a.m. for children 3 to 5; 10:30 a.m. for 6 to 8; 10:45 a.m. for 9 to 12.
Free. Ages 3 to 12.
Registration not required. Difficulty: easy.

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: Nature Education team, 503-972-8550.

SAT. APRIL 22

Naturalist in the park

Join a naturalist for a leisurely stroll through the white oak woodlands of Cooper Mountain Nature Park and gain a deeper knowledge of this regional destination. Walk begins promptly at 10 a.m. from the Nature House. Bring binoculars if you’d like.

Cooper Mountain Nature Park
10 a.m. to noon.
Free. All ages.
Registration not required. Difficulty: moderate.

SAT. APRIL 22

SOLVE-it for Earth Day!

Oregon’s largest Earth Day event needs you! Join Metro rangers, neighbors and friends for a day of work and fun. Gloves, tools, training and snacks are provided. For more information, visit oregonmetro.gov/calendar

Lone Fir Cemetery, Southeast 28th Avenue between Southeast Stark and Morrison streets.
9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Free. All ages.
Registration required. Difficulty: easy. ♿

SAT. APRIL 29 SAT. MAY 20

Fantastic mosses and where to find them

Diminutive but darling, Northwest mosses are renowned for their abundance. Grab your hand lens and take a closer look into the enchanting world of mosses. Learn about their ecology and how to identify them.

April 29, Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area
May 20, Scouters Mountain Nature Park
10 a.m. to noon.
\$6/person, \$11/family. All ages welcome but geared toward adults.
Registration required. Difficulty: easy.
Smith and Bybee: ♿



Free Parks Days

Enjoy free parking at Oxbow and Blue Lake regional parks, Broughton Beach, M. James Gleason Memorial Boat Ramp and Chinook Landing Marine Park on May 5, June 21, Sept. 15, Oct. 11, Nov. 11 and 24 and Dec. 10.

Parking at all other Metro parks and boat ramps is free year-round.

THU. MAY 4

SAT. MAY 6

Learning the language of the birds

Birds are the alarm system of the forest. Through their vocalizations and movement, birds broadcast the drama happening on the land. Come to the evening lecture May 4 for an introduction to bird language. Sign up for the full series to practice in the field May 6. Field component involves a bird walk, a bird sit and introduction to bird language mapping. Participants need to join the lecture to attend the field class.

May 4 lecture, Metro Regional Center, 600 NE Grand Ave., Portland. 7 to 8:30 p.m.
\$10/person. Ages 12 and older.
Registration required. Difficulty: easy. ♿

May 6 field class, location provided to registered participants. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
\$20/person (includes lecture). Ages 12 and older.
Registration required. Difficulty: moderate.

FRI. MAY 12

SAT. MAY 13

Sandy River spey clave

Get your feet wet at the largest two-hand fly rod event in the Western Hemisphere. Learn the basics of spey casting from Northwest fly fishing legends, guides and national experts. Rods, lines, reels and some sizes of waders are available for use during the classes, or bring your own equipment. Free breakfast and lunch. Details at flyfishusa.com

Oxbow Regional Park
9 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily.
\$5/car; \$7/bus.
All ages. Registration not required.
Difficulty: moderate.

SUN. MAY 14

Mother’s Day birds and blooms

Instead of taking flowers to mom this Mother’s Day, why not take her to the wildflowers? Join Metro naturalist Dan Daly for a leisurely stroll to see and learn about common wildflowers. Enjoy the serenade of nesting songbirds and views of the Willamette River and Canemah Historic Pioneer Cemetery.

Canemah Bluff Nature Park
1 to 3 p.m.
\$6/person, \$11/family. Ages 6 and older.
Registration required. Difficulty: easy.

SUN. MAY 21

Turtle walk in the wetlands

Oregon’s turtles are rare, shy and hard to find, but Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area is home to one of the largest populations of Western painted turtles in Oregon. Learn about their natural history and examine shells of specimens found there in the past.

Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area
10 a.m. to noon.
\$6/person, \$11/family. All ages.
Registration required. Difficulty: easy. ♿

MON. MAY 29

Nature through a different lens

Interested in nature photography? Gain an understanding of basic photography composition while learning about the birds that live at Cooper Mountain Nature Park. Class will start prior to golden hour in order to capture the best light of the day. Cell phones, point-and-shoot cameras and all skill levels are welcome.

Cooper Mountain Nature Park
6:30 to 8:30 p.m.
\$6/person, \$11/family. Ages 8 and older.
Registration required. Difficulty: easy.

SUN. JUNE 11

Animal tracking adventure

Join veteran tracker Terry Kem in search of tracks and signs of wildlife along the banks of the Sandy River. Learn the basics of track identification and awareness skills needed to watch wildlife at close range. With practice, beginners can learn to read the ground like an open book.

Oxbow Regional Park
10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
\$6/person, \$11/family; \$5/car, \$7/bus.
Ages 8 and older.
Registration required. Difficulty: moderate.

SAT. JUNE 17

Pollination celebration

The annual Pollination Celebration returns to Howell Territorial Park. Metro is excited to partner with the Sauvie Island Center for this fun, family friendly educational event in support of National Pollinator Week. Through interactive games and a scavenger hunt, guests will learn about the world of pollinators, the challenges they face and the important role pollinators play in the food supply. Everyone will receive a pollinator passport and a map for the event. From there, guests will depart for a self-guided tour visiting a variety of hosted stations around the farm and on the grounds of the park. For details and to pre-register, visit sauvieislandcenter.org

Howell Territorial Park
10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
\$10 suggested donation. All ages.
Registration not required. Difficulty: easy.

SAT. JUNE 24

Stayin’ alive: survival fires

You are lost, and the storm clouds are gathering. Could you light a fire with just one match? Join naturalist Dan Daly in this family-oriented class to learn how to light a fire in the toughest conditions. Participants use knives during the class, and the safe conduct of children is the responsibility of their guardians. Fire safety will be emphasized.

Oxbow Regional Park
11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
\$6/person, \$11/family; \$5/car, \$7/bus. All ages.
Registration required. Difficulty: easy.

Tools for living

BEFORE A HOME PROJECT, TEST FOR ASBESTOS



For many homeowners, spring and summer include activities like ripping out a bathroom floor, tearing out plaster walls, or repairing a roof.

But don't pick up that sledgehammer yet. Your project might need to start with a test.

That's because most projects – from small home improvements to major remodels – are likely to create waste you'll need to get rid of. And if that stuff contains asbestos, you'll need to handle it differently.

Asbestos is a mineral fiber used in a variety of building materials for strength and durability. When material containing asbestos is damaged or disturbed, it is extremely hazardous. Small fibers are released into the air, and breathing them in increases the risks of lung disease and cancer. Direct contact with any amount should be avoided throughout the project, including in the disposal of any garbage or recycling.

Because of these hazards, Metro transfer stations require documentation for all loads of construction, remodeling and demolition debris that might contain asbestos. A wide range of construction materials, such as siding, ceiling and floor tiles, pipe insulation and plaster, could contain asbestos. There's only one way to know for sure.

Before demolition or remodeling at home:

1. Use an accredited inspector to survey your project for materials that might contain asbestos.
2. Have any suspect materials tested.
3. Fill out a waste acceptance form at oregonmetro.gov/asbestosrules
4. Bring the form and survey or test results with your load to a Metro transfer station. If you don't have the proper paperwork, your load will be turned away.

What to test

Metro transfer stations require documentation certifying 1 percent or less asbestos by weight to dispose of the following items from structures built before 2004:

Interior walls and ceilings: acoustical tiles, glue dots, plaster, and textured surfaces

Exterior walls: cement siding, stucco

Flooring: vinyl tiles, sheet vinyl

Insulation/fireproofing: block, boiler, spray-applied, vermiculite, monokote, sink undercoating, thermal system insulation (exempt: fiberglass, cellulose, mineral wool)

Gaskets: furnace, mechanical, boiler, wood stove

Heating: white paper or seam tape on ducts, air-duct cement and insulation



Fire doors, fire/kiln brick and fireproofing

Roofing materials: tar paper, felt, silver/white roofing paint, Nicolite paper

Various compounds: window glazing, adhesives, caulks, patching, mastics, vapor barrier products (exempt: plastic or synthetic materials such as Tyvek)

Electrical: switch gear, circuit boxes and fuse panels; wiring with cloth insulation (exempt: Romex wiring)

Metro accepts small amounts of asbestos

Metro's hazardous waste facilities accept a maximum of two 25-pound bags of asbestos-containing materials per day from residential customers only. Materials must be sealed in double, six-millimeter plastic bags.

Hillsboro and Wasco County landfills accept larger amounts of waste containing asbestos.

One free gallon



of **MetroPaint** when you purchase a gallon of equal or greater value

Valid only at MetroPaint Swan Island, 4825 N. Basin Ave. in Portland. Limit of one coupon per customer per day. Limit one per household. Offer expires Feb. 28, 2018.

Ask Metro about affordable paint.

503-234-3000
oregonmetro.gov/metropaint



OBB17

Ask Metro

Find the most up-to-date information about asbestos requirements for both do-it-yourself remodelers and contractors, including resources for finding testing labs and other information. 503-234-3000 or oregonmetro.gov/asbestosrules

Where do I toss an old tub?

Ask Metro about remodel clean-up.

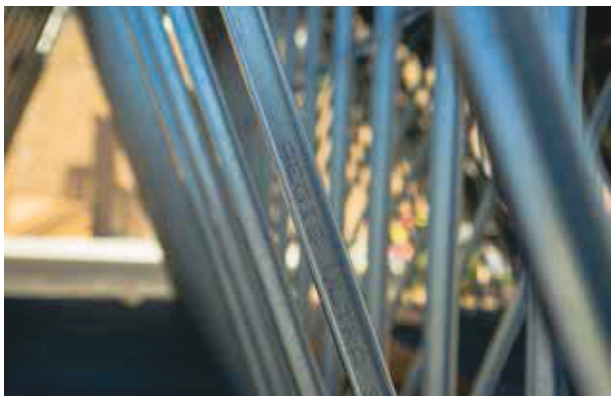
503-234-3000
oregonmetro.gov/tub





Regional roundup

NEW LIFE FOR POLLUTED PROPERTIES



Story by Craig Beebe

Photography by Joshua Manus

There are thousands of them, all over greater Portland. Sometimes they sit vacant behind fences, choked with weeds. Sometimes they have buildings, abandoned or still being used – gas stations, factories, even homes.

Polluted properties like these, often called brownfields, are a drag on the region’s economy. Worse, they’re potential threats to human and ecological health.

But they don’t have to stay that way. As part of an overall checkup on greater Portland’s economy, Metro’s latest Regional Snapshot visits five brownfields seeing new life. Every brownfield is different, but each success story shares common themes: vision, partnerships and patience cleaning up land, creating jobs and restoring habitat and communities.

Here’s a glimpse of three of these sites.

A rare opportunity: Troutdale Reynolds Industrial Park

An aluminum plant built up east Multnomah County’s economy but left behind a legacy of deeply polluted groundwater and soil when it closed in 2002.

What’s happening now: Seeing a vital opportunity for a large-scale industrial site near key transportation infrastructure, the Port of Portland purchased the 700-acre site for redevelopment. FedEx Ground operates a regional distribution hub with more than 800 employees and 250,000 packages passing through daily. Several more job sites are due to come online this year; thousands of jobs are possible in the future. The port is also restoring wetlands and trails on more than 350 acres.

What it took: One of the Portland area’s largest cleanup efforts, tens of millions of dollars have been spent to get the site ready for new jobs. The aluminum company paid for much of the cleanup. The port, Oregon Department of Transportation, Metro and the City of



Troutdale have all chipped in for street and intersection upgrades, new trail links and habitat restoration.

A place of peace: Siskiyou Square

When state transportation officials built Interstate 205 and other roads decades ago, they dumped anything that got in the way – buildings, trees, rocks and more – in a former quarry off Northeast 82nd Avenue in Portland. They capped the landfill 30 years ago, but the site became an overgrown eyesore with polluted soil.

What’s happening now: A Buddhist community is rising from the former landfill. Dharma Rain Zen Center purchased much of the site five years ago. They’ve built a graceful temple building, community gardens, and paths that cross the site and connect nearby neighborhoods between Rocky Butte and Northeast 82nd Avenue. In the future: Homes for monks and 31 apartments, plus more restored habitat. Bald eagles and owls soar overhead and views extend to distant buttes; it’s a surprisingly pastoral place.

What it took: The purchase, cleanup and redevelopment cost \$5.5 million, most of it privately raised. The Portland Brownfield Program, funded by federal grants, helped pay for assessments and a cleanup plan that largely allowed the landfill materials to decay in place, covered over with clean soil and properly vented and monitored. Metro’s Nature in Neighborhoods grants program contributed \$90,000 for the trail links and another \$25,000 for nature education programming. And thousands of volunteer hours have cleared invasive species, planted thousands of oaks and fruit trees and helped raise new buildings as a community takes shape.

More to the cup: Ava Roasteria

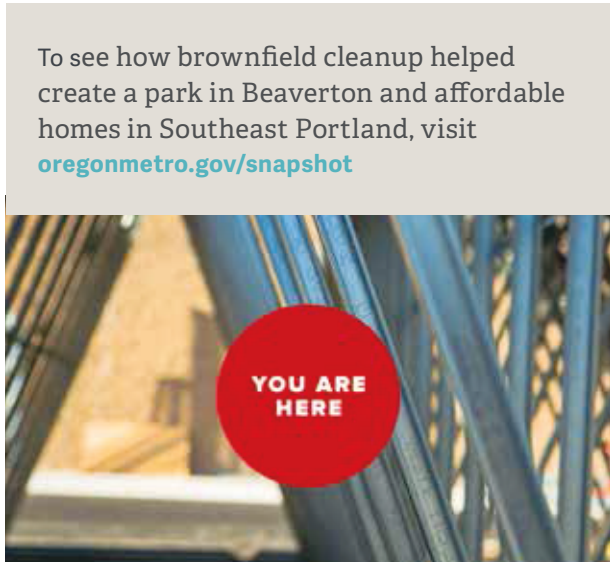
A closed gas station sat abandoned for years on a prime corner lot, just blocks from the main Beaverton City Library and a popular park. Leaky tanks and pipes spread toxic



pollution underground, crossing property lines. More challenging: The site was marked as an “orphan” by state authorities because its owners, unable to pay for cleanup, had essentially abandoned it.

What’s happening now: Ava Roasteria has become a downtown institution 10 years after environmental consultant Amy Saberiyan purchased the property and decided to open a 24-hour coffee shop. Warm interiors attract a steady stream of customers at all hours; in summer months customers gather on the patio by a bubbling stream and fire pit. Ava Roasteria has expanded to a bakery and conference center a block away, along with four other coffee shops around the region.

What had to happen: A \$120,000 loan from the state-funded Oregon Brownfields Redevelopment Fund, administered by Business Oregon, was crucial seed money for a cleanup that cost about \$300,000. Trucks hauled away tons of polluted soil for proper disposal, and state regulators continued to monitor the site for several years. State officials also helped convince a private lender to finance the coffee shop, in part by limiting future liability – a key barrier to redevelopment. And of course, the community members had to step up and support the new business – which they have in droves.



To see how brownfield cleanup helped create a park in Beaverton and affordable homes in Southeast Portland, visit oregonmetro.gov/snapshot

Share your nature and win!



Katy Parsons, Fairview

On dry days during late winter and early spring, my neighbors and I often kayak down the Columbia Slough and watch the migratory birds. We are so lucky to have such an amazing place to watch wildlife so close to the city!

Submit your photo

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 50-word description of your experience. 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 photo and description by May 15 to: ourbigbackyard@oregonmetro.gov