

Our Big Backyard



Metro

Fall 2017



Nature through a different lens

View nature through the lens of student photographers

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Create backyard habitat

Get tips on ways to create winter habitat in your yard

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Salmon Homecoming

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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.

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Tom Hughes

Metro Councilors

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- Carlotta Collette, District 2
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- 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
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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



Jonathan Blasher started as the new director of Metro’s Parks and Nature Department in August. He oversees 17,000 acres of parks, trails and natural areas across greater Portland. Blasher guides Metro’s work to protect clean water, restore fish and wildlife habitat, and connect people with nature close to home. Read a Q&A with Blasher at oregonmetro.gov/parksandnaturenews. Photo by Cory Eldridge

Follow OregonMetro on social media

See more photos from Metro parks and natural areas by following OregonMetro on Instagram, Facebook and Twitter.



Blue Lake Regional Park rangers and Oregon Zoo staff load tasty branches and leaves from a trimmed maple tree at the park to surprise zoo animals with a feast. Photo by Bonnie Shoffner



A colorful crab spider caught a bee that was searching for pollen on a globe gilia wildflower at Quamash Prairie Natural Area. Crab spiders like to hide inside flowers to catch the prey as they approach to gather pollen. Photo by Ryan Jones



Elk can live up to 20 years. These elk remains were spotted at North Abbey Creek Natural Area, one of Metro’s four sites in the North Tualatin Mountains northwest of Forest Park. Photo by Dan Moeller



Mountain View Corbett Cemetery offers stunning views of Mount Hood, as well as the Washington Cascades. Photo by Matthew Herbert

Like what you see?

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On the cover: “My eyes see the beauty in everything.” This great horned owl was photographed at Raptor Road Trip on Sauvie Island in February 2017. Each year the Audubon Society of Portland brings birds for the public to meet. To see more nature photographs taken by students as part of a partnership with ROSE Community Development, turn to page 8. Photo by Dessi Moody

Turn your yard into winter habitat for native wildlife

Story by Elaine Stewart, Metro natural resources scientist. Photography by Cory Eldridge and Curt Zonick



For many gardeners, fall means it’s time to clean up the yard and get it ready for winter. While you are raking leaves and putting the patio chairs away, you can also make the yard ready for wildlife. Many of our native animals live here year-round, and many birds move from mountain nesting areas to spend winter in more moderate conditions. With a few tweaks to your fall clean-up routine, you can provide good habitat for them in your backyard.

Messy can be good: Tidy yards make satisfying views for people, but wildlife thrives when things are a bit messier. Look for opportunities to spread the leaves you’ve raked under trees or in flower or vegetable beds. Enjoy watching the “leaf turners” work through them in the winter, finding worms and other invertebrates to eat. American robins, varied thrushes, spotted towhees and song sparrows will take advantage of the leaves. Native shrubs with berries or other fruit help wildlife store fat for the winter.

Plant evergreens: We live in a relatively mild climate, but wildlife appreciates shelter from wind and rain. Evergreen trees and shrubs provide cover to hide from predators, too.

Native plants range from tall firs and cedars to small Oregon grape and sword fern. If your yard lacks evergreens, consider planting some for wildlife.

Create piles: Small piles of rocks and brush provide refuge from the elements, too. Beneficial wildlife like garter snakes will curl up in the spaces within these piles to spend the winter.

Remove, clean food sources: Some undesirable animals, like non-native mice and rats, will use this habitat, too. You can discourage them by removing easy food sources. Keep your compost bin closed, and the ground around your bird feeder clean. Speaking of bird feeders, it’s important to clean them at least twice a month with boiling water to limit the spread of disease among birds in close quarters.

Avoid rat bait and other poisons: It’s tempting to deal with pests by putting out poisoned bait, but native wildlife will eat it, too. Songbirds can be poisoned when they eat bugs that feed on bait. Because these poisons are persistent and bioaccumulative, hawks and other predators will eat poisoned animals and die from it, too.



Get started

It’s easy and fun to get started creating habitat in your yard. Here are some resources to help along the way.

The Backyard Habitat Certification Program helps urban gardeners provide native backyard habitat. The program offers discounts to native plants and other resources. backyardhabitats.org

Local soil and water conservation districts provide lots of tips on naturescaping, native plants, rain gardens and more. The districts often offer workshops, plant sales, yard tours and other resources.

Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District, swcd.net

Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District, conservationdistrict.org

West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District, wmswcd.org

East Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District, emswcd.org

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife provides a guide about living with wildlife, including tips about critter-proofing homes. dfw.state.or.us/wildlife

The Audubon Society of Portland provides a guide for creating bird-friendly yards. Nearly 400 types of birds visit Oregon at some point in their lives. You can call or submit questions online to the experts at Audubon’s Urban Wildlife Resource Office. audubonportland.org/wcc/urban/protectingbirds

Leave down wood in place: Many people don’t realize they have amphibians like salamanders and frogs in their yards throughout the year. If you have to cut a tree down or take out large limbs, find room to leave them on the ground. The ground under the wood remains moist, and the small spaces on the side of logs and large limbs near the ground provide cover from the weather and from predators. The invertebrates that help decompose the wood can be important food for wildlife, attracting more species to your yard. If you can leave a tall stump or snag, watch for woodpeckers that forage on the wood and excavate cavities in snags.

Once you’ve made the yard ready for wintering wildlife, sit back and enjoy the view. See how wildlife uses your habitat. Look for opportunities to make the yard even more welcoming for them next year.



3 questions with Shae Bedford

Story and photography by Guadalupe Triana

Before joining Metro’s Youth Ecology Corps, Shae Bedford never saw herself as an outdoorsy person. After learning about the program through the Project YESS employability and support program at Mt. Hood Community College, Bedford knew she wanted to become involved.

Bedford joined the program, which provides paid work opportunities to young people in habitat restoration, conservation education and workforce development. After more than a year learning about and working in a variety of Metro’s natural areas, Bedford closed out her experience by writing a song called “Anadromous” about salmon’s journey to the ocean and performing it at Metro events.

Q. What has it been like working with Youth Ecology Corps?

A. It’s just a really strange and wonderful program because not only does it give crew members work experience, it also gives them a whole variety of challenges and helps them overcome them. When I started, I didn’t know anything, so I was kind of quiet and reserved. It really helped me learn how to work with others and get along in a group, as well as stand up for myself and overcome my fears.

Q. What has been the best part?

A. My favorite part would definitely have to be the sites, the wildlife, and getting to be out there and actually see it for myself rather than in books or Google images. We were taught about wildlife and plants and how everything’s connected – how everything matters. It’s important to protect it and keep things nice. I had a really great group, and I bonded with a lot of people there, made a lot of friends. It taught me a lot of social skills, too.

Q. What would you tell someone who is interested in joining the Youth Ecology Corps and maybe doesn’t feel confident about their outdoor abilities?

A. Challenge yourself because eventually, you’ll be glad that you did. Experience everything, explore everything. Be curious because all of this is expanding your circle of awareness and making you grow as a person. That’s one thing I really loved about the Youth Ecology Corps – I could see myself growing as a person.

To learn more about Youth Ecology Corps, visit oregonmetro.gov/natureeducation

Restoration of new natural area along North Fork of Deep Creek begins with fun exploration

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



I dropped down out of the bright summer sun into the forest that blankets the steep canyon wall above the North Fork of Deep Creek near Boring. The transition to cool air and streaks of sunlight breaking through the tree canopy was sudden and welcomed. Just a few days earlier, Metro acquired this new natural area, and today was my first opportunity to explore it more closely.

When Metro first acquires a new natural area, we spend time getting to know the land better, just as I was doing on this exploration. On our walks through new natural areas, we look for degraded conditions, such as erosion or invasive weeds. We develop a list of work to do in the near term to promote healthy habitat and protect water quality.

The 50-acre forest buffers more than 2,000 feet of the North Fork of Deep Creek – a stream where steelhead and coho salmon spawn. It has as all the features scientists like me love. As I walked down from the top of the canyon, I passed through layers of the forest: the tree tops, then the mid-canopy (favored by pygmy owls and pileated woodpeckers) and finally to the terrace above the creek as the trail reached the flat land of the old floodplain.

Fortunately, the former owners were good stewards. There is no trash on the land, and the old farm road is in good condition. They constructed a small dam that pools the water on the terrace above the creek. That pond is my destination today.

The pond and the adjacent pockets of forested wetlands provide a diverse habitat for native wildlife. Some likely residents include red-legged frogs and northwestern salamanders in and around the pond and long-toed and Oregon slender salamanders under moist dead wood scattered through the forest.



Or so I hope. In the summer the pond dries up and that’s how I found it that day. But based on our knowledge of the habitat needs of our native amphibians, this pond looks promising. In an earlier visit, during the winter breeding season, the pond was drenched in sun and full with open water.

The surrounding forest has a few of my favorite things, such as snags (standing dead trees) and big pieces of down wood. The combination of seasonal water, dead wood and deep forest duff create great habitat for Pacific Northwest amphibians. Although some of our native amphibians require ponds for breeding, the forest floor and dead wood are equally important and provide shelter during most of the year.

Typically, we remove small dams like the one holding back the seasonal water on this site. Letting the water follow its natural path through the forest usually has the most benefits for wildlife and water quality. But with increasing awareness of the loss of suitable habitat for native amphibians, we recognize that some manmade ponds can help fill the gap.

I am not an amphibian expert, so next time, I’ll bring some colleagues who are. Their advice will guide how we manage this little pond. The surrounding forest is in great shape. There are scattered patches of invasive weeds, such as blackberry and English holly. Fortunately, these invasives are relatively easy to control. All in all, this new natural area does not need much intervention from Metro staff to keep providing a great space for amphibians and other wildlife.

To help restore natural areas that need extra care, visit

oregonmetro.gov/volunteer

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Field guide

LONE FIR CEMETERY



Story by Emma Williams

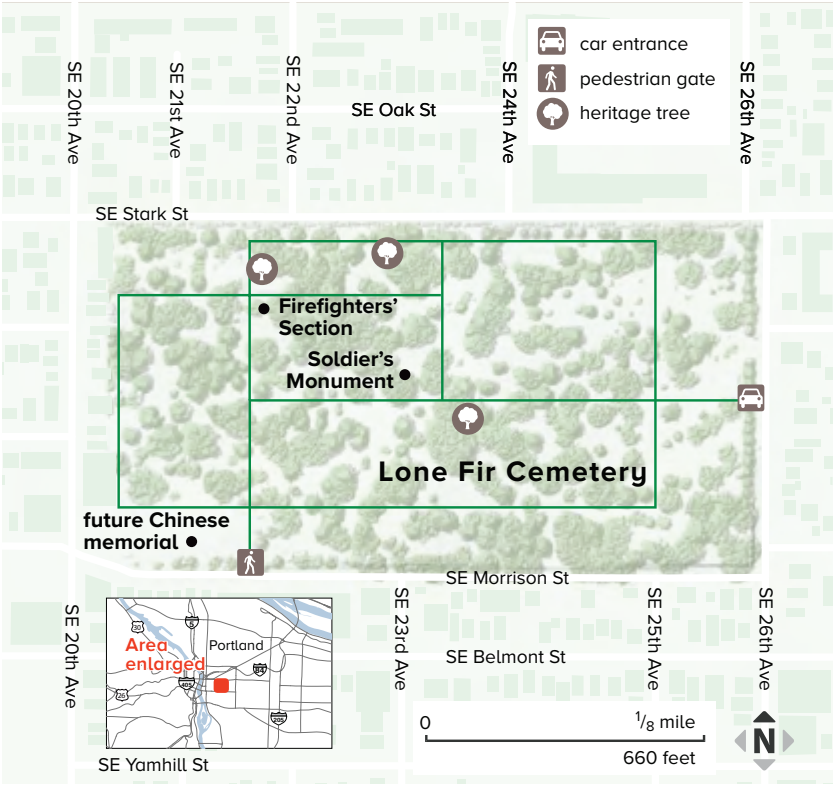
Nestled in Southeast Portland, Lone Fir Cemetery is more than just a cemetery. It's one of Oregon's most treasured historic places, a living story book of the region's history and Portland's second-largest arboretum.

In 1854, J.B. Stephens sold his farm to Colburn Barrell. Stephens' father, Emmor, had died in 1846 and was the first person buried on the property. Barrell was a partner in a passenger steamship line between Portland and Oregon City. The steamship *Gazelle* exploded in April 1854, killing several people, including Barrell's business partner, Crawford Dobbins. Barrell set aside 10 acres of his property as a cemetery and buried the victims near Emmor Stephens. He named the cemetery Mount Crawford in honor of his friend.

By 1866, 20 more acres were added. Burial plots sold for \$10. Because of marshy ground, the city closed graveyards in what is now downtown. Many bodies were then re-interred at Mount Crawford. Barrell's wife, Aurelia, changed the name to Lone Fir Cemetery for the solitary tree standing on the site. The cemetery was eventually sold to Portland investors in 1866.

Today, Lone Fir is a wooded, landscaped arboretum in the heart of Portland with more than 700 trees representing 67 species. Most of the trees were planted as memorials to loved ones as long as 150 years ago. It boasts the last pioneer rose garden in Portland.

More than 30,000 people are buried at Lone Fir. Wander around and look for the graves of the founders with street names – Hoyt, Hawthorne, Lovejoy, Davis, Couch, as well as six Portland



In the neighborhood Lone Fir occupies six blocks in the Buckman neighborhood. The neighborhood was at the center of the City of East Portland, and the East Portland Grand Avenue Historic District highlights the heart of the old neighborhood. The cemetery is within easy walking distance of many shops, restaurants, and bars along Southeast Stark, Morrison and Belmont streets, East Burnside Street and Southeast 28th Avenue.

mayors and four governors. The lovely grounds, filled with trees that belie the cemetery's name, sustains the memory of military veterans, firefighters and mental hospital patients. It is the final resting place for people of diverse ethnicities and nationalities.

Chestnut Grove Memorial Garden opened within Lone Fir in 2013 to provide an option for

the increasing number of people who choose to be cremated.

At Lone Fir, a transformation is taking shape in the block at the intersection of Southeast 20th Avenue and Southeast Morrison Street: burial grounds for patients at a nearby asylum and for Chinese immigrants. There are plans for a heritage garden and memorial on the site.

Lone Fir Cemetery

GETTING THERE

Lone Fir is located between Southeast Stark and Morrison streets and Southeast 20th and 26th avenues. Free parking along cemetery roads. TriMet bus 15 bus goes down Southeast Belmont and Morrison streets.

KNOW WHEN YOU GO

Open daily 7 a.m. to sunset. No pets. Please respect any services that might be taking place at the cemetery and families visiting graves of loved ones.

CEMETERY DETAILS

Benches; free flower vases provided at Soldier's Monument, with five water spigots along the main roadway. Lone Fir is open to new sales. If you are interested in purchasing a burial or cremation space: 503-797-1709 or oregonmetro.gov/cecemeteries

Be on the lookout!



COOPER'S HAWK



DOUGLASSQUIRREL



GREAT HORNED OWL



BALD EAGLE

Season-by-season highlights

FALL: Some may say the most beautiful time of year at Lone Fir is when the leaves have changed and a chill is in the air. Look for the three heritage trees: the bigleaf maple, incense cedar and Douglas fir, the cemetery's namesake. Every October Lone Fir hosts the Tour of Untimely Departures, an historic tour on the Saturday before Halloween highlighting some of the more unusual and interesting stories about people buried in the cemetery.

WINTER: There is something striking about a walking through an historic cemetery on a clear, cold, winter day. The cemetery is open year round, so be sure to stop in and enjoy the serene surroundings. And if we are lucky enough to have snow, you might find someone cross country skiing.

SPRING: It's the busiest time of year. Not only are the flowers blooming and the birds singing, but Portlanders are also coming out to walk the grounds after a long winter. With Mother's Day and Memorial Day in the spring, the cemetery is full of fresh-cut flowers and lots of visitors. Each Memorial Day, the cemetery hosts an event with the local fire department to honor those who gave their lives in service to the country.

SUMMER: Longer days allow for evening events in the cemetery. Every other year you can find Shakespeare in the Park performing at the Soldier's Monument.


YEAR ROUND: The Friends of Lone Fir Cemetery nonprofit group offers Art and Epitaph tours on the first Saturday of each month and historical tours on the second Saturday. friendsoflonefircemetery.org

Destination guide

	Restrooms		Playground
	Picnic facilities		Camping
	Trails		Wheelchair accessible
	Classes events volunteer		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 Nature Park
Gaze at the Willamette River below, marvel at oak trees overhead, hike and admire colorful spring wildflowers.




4

Cooper Mountain Nature Park
Hike or jog more than three miles of trails, watch wildlife or enjoy views of the Chehalem Mountains and Tualatin Valley.



5

Farmington Paddle Launch
The launch site accommodates non-motorized watercraft.




6

Glendoveer Golf Course & Nature Trail
Tee time: playglendoveer.com
Play a game of golf, footgolf or indoor tennis, or enjoy a stroll on the two-mile fitness course.




7

Graham Oaks Nature Park
Ride bikes through a restored oak woodland, stroll through a conifer forest and spot birds from a wetland overlook.




8

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.




9

Lone Fir Cemetery
Enjoy a stroll or jog in this tree-filled community greenspace, one of Oregon's most treasured historic cemeteries.




10

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.




11

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.




12

Orenco Woods Nature Park
Enjoy a leisurely jog stroll or bike ride on a network of trails while taking in views of the gently rolling hills, open meadows and forests. Children will have fun exploring the nature play area.




13

Oxbow Regional Park
Explore 15 miles of trails through ancient forests, camp year-round or find the perfect adventure on the Sandy River.



14

Scouters Mountain Nature Park
Climb the steep, fir-lined road to the top of this extinct lava dome to enjoy unrivaled views of Mount Hood.



15

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

16

Chinook Landing Marine Park

\$

17

M. James Gleason Memorial Boat Ramp

\$

18

Sauvie Island Boat Ramp





Nature through a different lens

Above: A group of about 12 students from ROSE Community Development participated in the nature photography partnership with Metro. Front row (left to right): Adriana Flores, Luwam Solomon, Dessi Moody, Celia Mellow. Back row (left to right): Brittany Iredale, Ashe Mack, Ivan Manzo, Emanuel Manzo, Lily Sponsler. *Photo by Mark Ellsworth*

View nature through the lens of student photographers

No two people experience nature the same way. Different people notice different parts of the landscape – the blossoming flower, the hiding salamander, the changing light on fern fronds.

As part of a partnership between Metro and ROSE Community Development, a nonprofit that works to revitalize outer southeast Portland, a dozen youths ages 10 to 16 visited seven Metro destinations to learn about nature photography. The photographs on these four pages were taken by program participants

from fall 2016 to summer 2017. Look through the lens of these students to see their view of nature.

Through the partnership, the students learned about the ecology of the different sites compared with their communities and tracked the changes from season to season. Students also gained experience in photography, photo editing and leadership.

The collaboration is through Metro’s Partners in Nature program, which works with culturally specific organizations to better connect historically marginalized groups with nature. Each collaboration is unique, and programming is co-created by the community-based group and Metro staff to meet the needs of each community.

To learn more about Partners
in Nature, visit
oregonmetro.gov/partnersinnature



Clockwise from top: A stonefly hangs out on one of the many willow trees that live along the edge of the Sandy River at Oxbow Regional Park. *Photo by Brittany Iredale*

Sunlight illuminates the leaves on a tree at Lone Fir Cemetery. *Photo by Emanuel Manzo*

Sword fern at Oxbow Regional Park. *Photo by Josie Dawson*



Clockwise from top: A quick flick of the camera upwards catches the start of a rain shower at Oxbow Regional Park. *Photo by Josie Dawson*

Raindrops on plants at Canemah Bluff Nature Park. *Photo by Ivan Manzo*

Black shoes contrast with green moss at Canemah Bluff Nature Park’s overlook to the Willamette River. *Photo by Celia Mellow*

As you walk through the prairie at Cooper Mountain Nature Park, you will notice a couple of bird houses tucked away in the tall grass. *Photo by Mario Flores*

After long winters, the beautiful colors of spring pop out at Lone Fir Cemetery, Portland’s second largest arboretum. *Photo by Brittany Iredale*



Clockwise from top: The light perfectly illuminates the group at Cooper Mountain Nature Park. *Photo by Adriana Flores*

Trilliums are a native wildflower. This photo was taken at Canemah Bluff Nature Park at the beginning of wildflower season. *Photo by Luwam Solomon*

Red-flowering currants are one of many native plants at Oxbow Regional Park. *Photo by Ashe Mack*



To view more photography from the students, visit the Lents Grown Story Yard, an outdoor public art installation by ROSE Community Development.

Where: 8801 SE Foster Road, Portland



Get involved

CLASSES AND EVENTS

SAT. OCT. 21 SUN. OCT. 22

Salmon Homecoming

Nothing says “Pacific Northwest” like the annual return from the ocean of salmon, fighting upstream to spawn and die in the rivers of their birth. In October, witness this ancient, iconic phenomenon at Oxbow Regional Park along the Sandy River, one of the nation’s designated Wild and Scenic rivers. Naturalists are on hand to help you spot the salmon and explore other parts of the park’s 1,000 acres of old-growth forest, hiking and equestrian trails and river beaches. This fall, in collaboration with the Native American community, Salmon Homecoming will include cultural activities, walks honoring the cultural significance of salmon, education and indigenous science programming.

All activities

Oxbow Regional Park
\$5/car, \$7/bus. No registration required.
Difficulty: easy.

View salmon

Join naturalists at the river’s edge. They’ll help you spot spawning salmon and tell you about the salmon’s behavior and life cycle. Borrow a pair of polarized fish-viewing glasses.

Oct. 21 and 22, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
All ages.

Campfire and hot drinks

Enjoy a cup of hot chocolate or cider around the campfire. Guaranteed to take the chill off and lift your spirits for a walk in the autumn woods. First-come, first-served.

Oct. 21 and 22, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
All ages.

Explore a salmon restoration site

How do young salmon find food and refuge from floods and predators? Join the Sandy River Basin Watershed Council to learn the science behind a side channel restoration project at Oxbow’s Happy Creek. Restoring habitat lost in a 1960s road-building project, the project created deep pools, bubbling riffles and hiding places for Chinook, coho and steelhead. Learn the characteristics of good habitat and tips on native plants and salmon-friendly practices you can incorporate into your life.

Oct. 21, meet at Alder Shelter at 1:45 p.m.
2 to 4 p.m. Ages 8 and older.

Mushrooms at Oxbow

Explore the incredible diversity of fungi in Oxbow’s ancient forest. In this hands-on, beginners class, learn the basics of mushrooms and other fungi. This is not an edible mushroom class.

Oct. 22, meet at Beaver shelter
1 to 3 p.m.
Ages 8 and older.



Photography by Cory Eldridge and Fred Joe

SAT. OCT. 7,21,28 SAT. NOV. 4,18 SAT. DEC. 2,9,16

Volunteer ventures

Help care for rare native seeds, bulbs and plant materials that support regional restoration projects. Fall activities include harvesting and planting native bulbs, cleaning seeds and transplanting seedlings. 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.

WED. OCT. 11

Twilight walk celebrating National Coming Out Day

Celebrate National Coming Out Day with a twilight walk around the edge of an ancient volcano. Join members and allies of the LGBTQ+ community to enjoy the sights, sounds, and smells of the plants, birds and other wildlife shifting with the turning season in the forest.

Scouters Mountain Nature Park
5:30 to 7:30 p.m.
\$6/person, \$11/family. All ages.
No strollers allowed.
Registration required. Difficulty: moderate.



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. OCT. 14

Nature through a different lens

Interested in nature photography? Gain an understanding of basic photography composition while learning about the local ecology. 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.

Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area
4:30 to 6:30 p.m.
\$6/person, \$11/family. Ages 8 and older.
Registration required. Difficulty: easy.

SUN. OCT. 15

SUN. NOV. 12

SUN. NOV. 19

Mushroom discovery hike


Discover the fascinating and weird world of mushrooms. Join a mushroom enthusiast on this woodland hike to learn about the ecological roles of fungi and how they eat and reproduce. We'll have hands-on exercises and learn how to identify mushrooms. Field guides will be provided.

Oct. 15, Scouters Mountain Nature Park
Nov. 12, Mount Talbert Nature Park
Nov. 19, Oxbow Regional Park
9:30 to noon or 1 to 3:30 p.m.
\$6/person, \$11/family;
Oxbow parking: \$5/car, \$7 bus.
All ages welcome but geared toward adults.
Registration required. Difficulty: moderate.

THU. OCT. 19

Metro Council meeting about Chehalem Ridge Nature Park


Learn about the trails, parking and other improvements proposed for a new 1,230 acre nature park 15 minutes south of Forest Grove and Cornelius. Eighteen months of community engagement and planning brought together more than 2,700 voices to shape the future of this majestic nature park. Chehalem Ridge is home to restored Douglas firs, oak and madrone habitat, as well as beavers, bobcats, and critters galore. Community members are invited to weigh in on the proposed access master plan that will guide visitor improvements.

Forest Grove Community Auditorium
1915 Main St., Forest Grove
5 to 7 p.m.
Free. All ages.
Registration not required. Difficulty: easy. 

TUE. OCT. 24

Introduction to mushroom identification


Have you ever seen a mushroom in the woods and wondered what it was? In this talk, a mushroom enthusiast will teach you the basics of mushroom identification. Learn how to start sorting species by their physical characteristics and ecology. Bring in your own finds for hands-on practice.

Oregon Zoo Education Center
6:30 to 8:30 p.m.
\$6/person. Ages 12 and older.
Registration required. Difficulty: easy. 

SAT. OCT. 28

Tour of Untimely Departures


Celebrate Halloween at historic Lone Fir Cemetery. Ghostly guides will escort visitors to meet some of the cemetery's residents and to hear the unusual circumstances surrounding their untimely departures. Tours last approximately 45 minutes. Costumes are encouraged. All ages are welcome, though some material might not be suitable for children 12 and younger.

Lone Fir Cemetery
5 to 9 p.m.
General admission: \$10; children 12 and younger, seniors 60 and older: \$5
Tickets must be purchased in advance at oregonmetro.gov/calendar
Difficulty: easy. 

TUE. OCT. 31

Haunted forest


Enjoy a trick-or-treat path through the "haunted forest" at Glendoveer Golf and Tennis Center. This event is family friendly, and costumes are encouraged.

Glendoveer Golf and Tennis Center
4 to 6 p.m.
Free. All ages.
Registration not required. Difficulty: easy. 

SAT. NOV. 11

The secret life of birds

The birds are talking. Are you listening? Learn to unravel the mysterious communications of the birds and how their various calls and alarms move across the landscape. Join a naturalist on a slow, quiet walk through the wetlands, where coyotes, weasels, and raptors share space with waterfowl and songbirds.

Blue Lake Regional Park
10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
\$6/person, \$11/family. All ages.
Registration required. Difficulty: easy. 

SAT. NOV. 18

Stayin' alive: fire by friction

Learn to make fire with no matches. Participants will carve their own "bow drill" friction fire kit, learn how to use it and take it home to keep. Participants use knives during the class, and the safe conduct of children is the responsibility of their guardians.

Oxbow Regional Park
10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
\$6/person, \$11/family; \$5/car, \$7/bus. All ages.
Registration required. Difficulty: moderate.

SAT. DEC. 2

Fantastic mosses and where to find them

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


Scouters Mountain Nature Park
10 a.m. to noon.
\$6/person, \$11/family.
All ages welcome but geared toward adults.
Difficulty: easy.

WED. DEC. 20

FRI. DEC. 22

The Grinch's candy cane hunt

Help! The Grinch discovered all the candy canes on the Glendoveer golf course, and he's planning on turning them green. Please help find the candy canes before it's too late. After all the candy canes are found, head inside to warm up with some hot cocoa and enjoy a showing of "How the Grinch Stole Christmas."

Glendoveer Golf and Tennis Center
1 to 3 p.m.
Free. Ages 2 to 11.
Registration required. Difficulty: easy. 



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 Oct. 11, Nov. 11 and 24 and Dec. 10.

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

Tools for living

PLASTIC: WHAT TO KEEP OUT OF YOUR HOME RECYCLING

Story by Toby Van Fleet

Photography by Rebecca Koffman

The collection system for home recycling handles items that can be reliably sold for use in new products. And to be sold, the recycling that’s mixed together at home has to be sorted. Sophisticated machines handle most of the sorting, but they need to be able to work efficiently for the system to be effective.

How does this play out in the world of plastics? Let’s take a look at three items that do not belong in the home recycling bin – and why.

Plastic lids

Yogurt and salsa containers, and other similarly shaped plastic tubs, go in your home recycling bin. But the lids? Well, no.

The reason: Plastic lids can be recycled at some local facilities if you want to take them there. But when mixed with home recycling, lids end up being sorted incorrectly. Machines sort the flat lids with the paper, which lowers the quality of the recycled paper and makes it harder for recyclers to sell.



Plastic bags

Almost everybody uses plastic bags at some point, and they can be recycled if you drop them off at a grocery store or recycling facility that takes them. But they do not go in your home recycling bin.

The reason: When plastic bags are mixed with other recycling, they shred in the sorting machines. The film catches in the machinery and on the conveyors, bringing the whole sort line to a halt. Facility workers must then remove the plastic by hand to resume sorting. These stoppages slow the recycling process and can make recycling more expensive. The



offending shredded plastic film – produce, grocery and freezer bags, and other types of cellophane and film – ends up in the garbage.

Plastic “clamshells”

Those flip-open plastic containers that hold your lunchtime deli sandwiches or cherry tomatoes are what recycling industry folks call “clamshells.” Many have the triangular “chasing arrows” recycling symbol stamped on them. That means it’s recyclable, right? Well, not exactly. Some might be recyclable at a local facility, but none are recyclable at home.

The reason: These plastics are newer to the stream of consumer products, and the machinery at sorting facilities is not equipped to deal with them. Even if they were, many of these plastics are so thin and flimsy that they aren’t very valuable. When you factor in the low value with the transportation, sorting and labor costs involved in home collection, it doesn’t add up.

Bottom line on recycling plastic at home

Sort by shape, not by number. Know what goes in the bin and what stays out to keep the recycling system cost-effective and safe for workers.

Find a recycler

To find facilities that accept items that can’t go in the recycling bins at home, call 503-234-3000 or search Metro’s online database at oregonmetro.gov/findarecycler

But doesn’t this mean
it’s recyclable?

Ask Metro whether to toss or recycle.



oregonmetro.gov/recycle
503-234-3000



Help shape the future

Greater Portland generates more than 2 million tons of trash every year. Join family, friends and neighbors to help Metro update the Regional Waste Plan, the 10-year blueprint that guides how we handle our garbage and recycling.

Find out when and how you can weigh in at oregonmetro.gov/letstalktrash



Regional roundup

REGIONAL LEADERS SET ASIDE LAND
FOR FUTURE GROWTH



Story by Nick Christensen

Photography by Bruce Forster and courtesy of
Clackamas County

With the stroke of a Sharpie, five regional leaders closed yet another chapter in the decade-long quest for urban and rural reserves in June.

Urban and rural reserves are the areas outside the urban growth boundary where the region may or may not grow over the next five decades. “Urban reserves” would be the first land targeted for urban growth boundary expansions through 2060, while “rural reserves” would be off limits.

It has been a long journey to finish the map. Metro, the region’s counties and cities completed the first reserves agreement in early 2010.

The 2010 agreement was appealed by several parties, including the cities of Tualatin, Lake Oswego and West Linn, who opposed designating Stafford Basin – an area roughly between West Linn and Tualatin along Interstate 205 and south of Lake Oswego – as an urban reserve.

In 2014, the Oregon Court of Appeals sided with the cities, saying Metro and Clackamas County needed to make technical fixes to the urban reserves designation.

The Metro Council and Clackamas County commission made those fixes earlier this year, and the cities joined in signing an agreement in June laying out shared expectations for how the Stafford area would grow over time.

“Now that we’ve adopted these reserves, we can finally use them in Clackamas County for their intended purpose,” said Metro Council President Tom Hughes. “[That is] growing where it makes sense, where communities have a need, and where we can make the most of our public funding for pipes, roads, parks and schools.



“We can start to talk about how to get more jobs in the I-205 corridor and wisely use available land for more housing,” he continued.

Tualatin Mayor Lou Ogden said the agreement was an important step for the region’s economy and quality of life.

“Development is a necessary part of progress,” Ogden said. “I don’t mean progress so we can till soil and build things, but it keeps the economy moving, makes sure quality of life extends for people who live here now and for the people who are coming.”

But, he said, there’s a lot of work to be done before development happens in the Stafford area. The three cities must next reach agreements among themselves about how to plan for the area’s future.

And that plan also has to meet the needs of Stafford’s current residents, said Clackamas County Chair Jim Bernard.

“We look forward to a bright future for the Stafford community that meets the needs and wants of the community and the larger region,” Bernard said.

State regulators intend to complete their review of the reserves agreement in 2017.



Clockwise from top: Aerial photos of the Stafford Basin. The final intergovernmental agreement on urban and rural reserves at the ceremonial signing agreement in June. Clackamas County Chair Jim Bernard (left) and Metro Council President Tom Hughes shake hands in front of the final agreement. Elected officials from Metro, Clackamas County, and the cities of Lake Oswego, Tualatin and West Linn attended the signing ceremony.

Learn more about urban and rural reserves at
oregonmetro.gov/reserves

Share your nature and win!



Amanda Kimball, Portland

While leading a group of 12 first graders on a crawdad adventure along the Clackamas River, we discovered this big beauty with a broken wing drowning in the water. After 10 minutes of sunbathing, it was able to fly away.

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 Nov. 15 to: ourbigbackyard@oregonmetro.gov