



"Keep in mind how long some of this work takes, and we can only achieve it if we have a very clear and well-articulated North Star."



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

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

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

Metro Council President

Lynn Peterson

Metro Councilors

- Shirley Craddick, District 1
- Christine Lewis, District 2
- Gerritt Rosenthal, District 3
- Juan Carlos González, District 4
- Mary Nolan, District 5
- Duncan Hwang, District 6

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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:



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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.



Share your nature and win!



Winner: John Lemmer, Portland

A great egret was doing the dance on a spring morning at Commonwealth Lake Park.



Finalist: Joe Hinton, West Beaverton

This well-dressed male hooded merganser, and his mate, have been spending a lot of time in the green space-wetland behind our home in West Beaverton. It is a joy to live so close to nature in the city.



Finalist: Au Nguyen, Portland

One of a flock of yellow-rumped warblers in Forest Park in late April 2022, very active and about 50 feet up a big tree.

Submit your photo

Win an annual parking pass, a full-day picnic shelter reservation at Graham Oaks or Scouters Mountain nature parks, 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 greater Portland – 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 August 15 to:

ourbigbackyard@oregonmetro.gov

Like what you see?

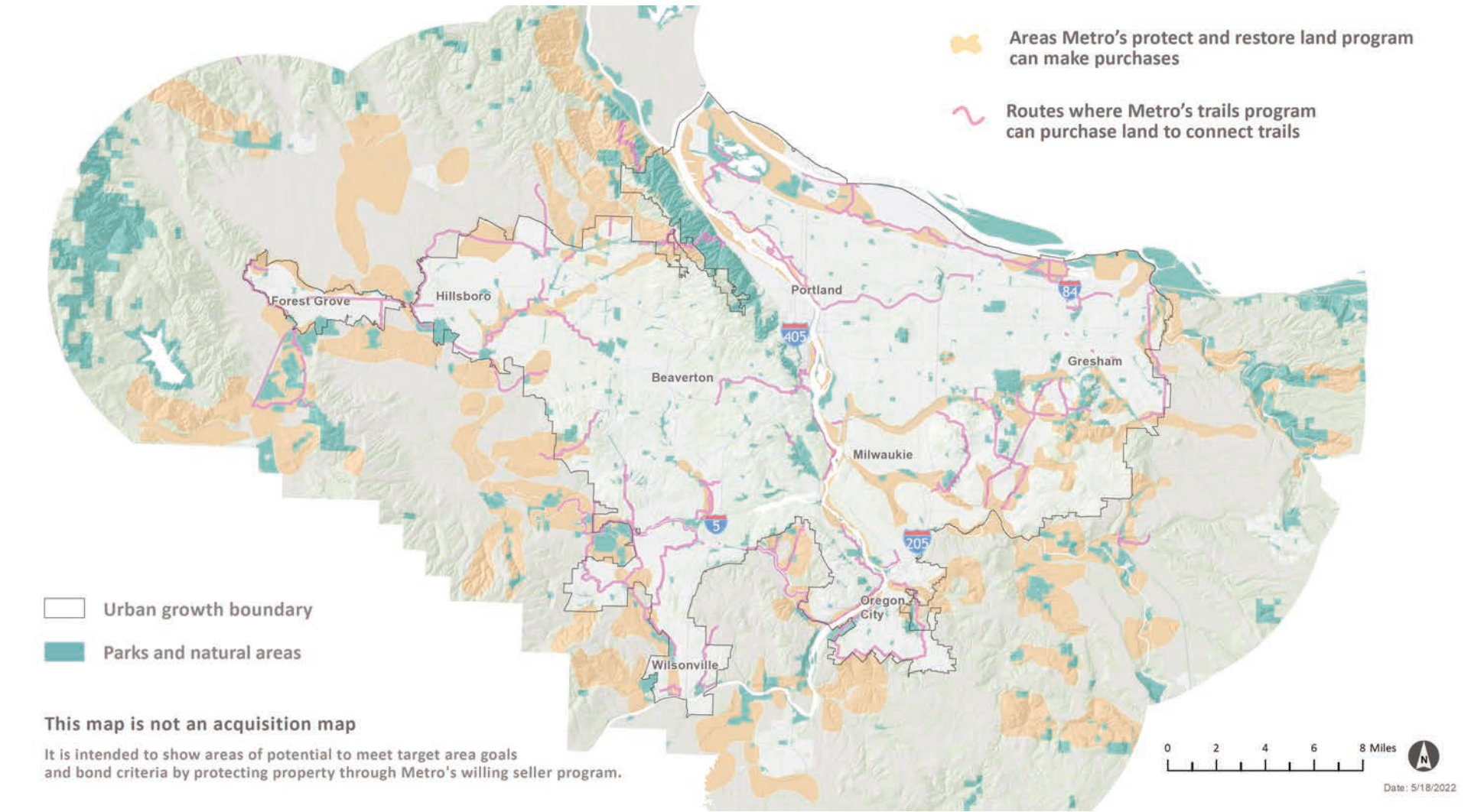
Sign up for the print edition of the quarterly magazine, change your address or save paper by switching to a digital subscription. Email ourbigbackyard@oregonmetro.gov or call 503-797-1545.

On the cover: The Clackamas River flows around River Island Natural Area's namesake island. The natural area crosses over to the south of the river (the right side of the photo). Several agencies collaboratively manage natural areas along the Clackamas River to protect water vital to salmon, steelhead and lamprey, and the people of the region, Photo by Al Mowbry.

Metro Council approves conservation road map

Up to \$155 million from the voter-approved 2019 park and nature bond measure will buy land for natural areas.

Story by Cory Eldridge | Map by Tommy Albo



In April, the Metro Council unanimously approved a road map that will guide property acquisitions for natural areas and connections between regional trails for years to come. The approval gives the green light to Metro staff to begin to more fully invest up to \$155 million available for conservation purchases and \$10 million for trail connections.

Both sets of money come from the \$475 million parks and nature bond measure approved overwhelmingly by voters in 2019. Metro acquires land only from willing sellers.

As with plans from past bond measures, Metro staff relied on extensive scientific data and the input of experts from across greater Portland. These road maps also were shaped by insights from communities of color, members of the disability community, people with low incomes and other communities who haven't been included in past planning processes. In particular, Indigenous community members were closely involved in the conservation road map.

Councilors Shirley Craddick and Christine Lewis both emphasized the long-term nature of this work. Before becoming a councilor, Craddick was part of creating Metro's 2006 natural areas bond.

Lewis recently attended the ceremonial grand opening of Newell Creek Canyon Nature Park in Oregon City, though the park opened to visitors last December. The park became a reality thanks to investments from the bond measure and the parks and natural areas local-option levy.

“When cutting the ribbon at Newell Creek Canyon, I was reminded it took 30 years from when the first measure passed to where we are today, having gathered enough parcels and then being able to invest in trail access and bike access,” Lewis said. “I want us to keep in mind how long some of this work takes, and we can only achieve it if we have a very clear and well-articulated North Star.”

The 2019 bond measure’s conservation program provides money for land acquisition and large-scale restoration projects.

“The priorities outlined in this document comprise a strong, science-based list of exciting opportunities that will indeed advance ecological healthy, biodiversity, climate resilience and equity across our landscape,” said Bob Sallinger, the conservation director at Portland Audubon. “It is time to move forward expeditiously.”

Centering community engagement, racial equity

The planning process for these roadmaps was different from the work done on in previous bond measures in 1995 and 2006. The 2019 bond measure made racial equity and community engagement key criteria for all of its programs.

Working with virtual engagement tools for the first time, Metro staff connected with community members through multiple large virtual gatherings and dozens of focus groups, many geared toward specific communities.

Judy BlueHorse Skelton, an Indigenous nations studies assistant professor at Portland State University and an Indigenous community member, laid out the reasons for this type of engagement.

“The commodification and industrialization of land, water, flora and fauna – and the resulting pollution and destruction of healthy ecosystems and the greatly diminished salmon runs – contributed to untold losses of plants and animals, and further marginalization of Indigenous, Black and communities of color from the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual health provided by connection to the natural world,” she said.

Indigenous community members worked closely with Metro staff to create assessments tools for each of the 24 target areas around the region where acquisitions will be made.

BlueHorse Skelton said she felt honored and excited that Indigenous community members continued to come to the table, stayed engaged and built relationships.

This engagement with specific communities helped establish priorities in each program. For instance, the road map prioritized trail projects in areas with limited existing trails, which often correspond to neighborhoods with higher proportions of people of color and people with low incomes.

“I’ve been really appreciative of staff’s approach to community engagement, and have been able to participate both as a member of the general public and as a councilor,” Metro Councilor Duncan Hwang said. “I want to thank staff for doing a great job on outreach and even going back to community and reporting back on how their input mattered.”



Newest natural areas

Head to page 10 to read about two recent natural areas Metro purchased, bringing a butte, a wetland and a river confluence into a system of parks and natural areas covering more than 18,000 acres in greater Portland.

Above photo: Deep Creek is a major tributary of the Clackamas River. Metro manages several natural areas in the creek’s watershed, and recently was able to purchase land where the creek flows into the Clackamas River.



Expanding the benefits of backyards



Community voices

Metro occasionally contracts with community members to write about newsworthy topics from their perspective as a member of a historically marginalized community, such as people of color, immigrants and refugees, low-income residents and people of varying abilities. These pieces are intended to provide important points of view and do not necessarily represent the opinions of Metro or the Metro Council.

Vivek Shandas is a professor of climate adaptation and director of the Sustaining Urban Places Research Lab at Portland State University. Through his research, teaching, and community service, Professor Shandas supports the creation of built environments that align with ecological dynamics and center social justice.

Professor Shandas serves on Metro's Natural Areas and Capital Performance Oversight Committee.

In greater Portland, redlining and decades of disinvestment have left lower-income neighborhoods with one-third of the green space and backyard acreage as rich neighborhoods. That leaves them more vulnerable to climate change.

Story by Vivek Shandas
Photography by Fred Joe

I'm helping my father find a home in Portland. As a recent widower, he's looking for a small, single-family residential home. As an octogenarian, a single-story he can easily move about is important. As a recent arrival to the Portland region, he wants to be in Northeast Portland, near me and my family. As somebody who immigrated to the United States over 40 years ago and mostly lived in suburbs, he insists on having a backyard.

While all of his requirements seem reasonable, the one I cannot understand is his insistence on having a backyard. Our debates revolve around whether he will spend time in the backyard, if it's practical given his ambulatory challenges, and whether it's a priority given all the other needs and the limited supply of available homes during the ongoing pandemic. A backyard, to me, seems like a trivial feature since local parks can offer opportunities for outdoor time and connections to nature.

Why, I ask him, is a backyard such an important space?

My father's love for the backyard is no accident. He grew up in India, where such personal outdoor spaces rarely exist in dense cities. The same was true in the United States not too long ago. In fact, before the 1950s, a backyard in any U.S. city largely served practical purposes, including food production, livestock, storage – it's where the outhouse sat. It was a farm in

miniature, not a garden refuge. When indoor plumbing, refrigeration and appliances began to fill homes, and larger grocery stores showed up, the role of the backyard transformed.

Throughout the 1950s and '60s, carefully crafted messaging suggested that a backyard is more than a physical space: It's an emblem of middle-class success. Ad campaigns still offer these messages, reinforcing the importance of finding leisure, recreation and family life within a backyard. Fencing, lawn fertilizers, barbecues, patio furniture and a host of other products are sold as the tools to create backyards that support a wholesome life.

In many ways, the backyard reflects a love affair with virtue and freedom – hallmarks of American rhetoric. The backyard is quintessential to the marketing of the American Dream. It's part of what my father and many in his social circles accepted as symbols of achievement and having arrived at a better life than the one he left in Asia.

There's a lot of meaning in those few hundred square feet behind his ideal home. Even beyond the perceptions of social class and virtue, the backyard offers a fresh breath. It can even offer a feeling that transcends our immediate thoughts and strengthens our relationship to nature.





Yet in looking for homes, and despite our arguments about his need for a personal outdoor space, I’ve quickly come to see that the quality and distribution of backyards mirror long-standing policies that have shaped many of our cities across the United States.

As a professor and environmental consultant, the search for my father’s home has raised questions about whether a simple feature of the outdoor space is also emblematic of the systems of land allocation that privilege some above others.

What created such inequities in the availability of personal outdoor spaces within and across the neighborhoods? How are those past wrongs leading to harm today? Could the areas with bountiful backyards help reduce the pernicious effects of climate change?

As I looked into the areas with more and less backyard space, I observed that areas of greater Portland with historically little investments indeed had less available backyard space and also fewer (and smaller) parking strips where trees and other large vegetation could be planted. Upon digging further, I observed that age-old urban planning policies, even some officially rescinded by the civil rights acts of the 1960s, are still in play today.

The most obvious and well-documented example of our planning system privileging specific neighborhoods is the federal codification of neighborhood-based segregation practices, commonly known as redlining. Starting in the 1930s, redlining began as a means for defining risks for federally backed mortgages during the Great Depression. The program generated hundreds of city maps that delineated neighborhoods as “hazardous” or “definitely declining” and others as the “best.”

The difference between a neighborhood marked blue or green for good, and qualified for federally backed mortgages, and one marked red for bad, and disqualified from those mortgages, was who lived in each. White, wealthy residents lived in the green and blue neighborhoods, while the redlined neighborhoods were home to people of color, low-income white people and immigrants from southern and Eastern Europe.

Turns out that redlining and other racist housing policies led to lower land values in those neighborhoods. Houses were built on smaller lots with smaller backyards. Industrial sites, big-box stores and major highway projects took advantage of the low land prices. Those land-hungry developments

created landscapes of asphalt and concrete, reducing opportunities for greening these neighborhoods.

Redlining, racial covenants and other racist zoning practices led to the inequitable distribution of green spaces in U.S. cities. In greater Portland, lower-income neighborhoods have one-third of the green space and residential outdoor space found in the region's higher-income neighborhoods.



As a region, we can do much better to address historic inequities while making our home more resilient to climate change. A strategy of creating or preserving a wide array of green spaces may be an answer.

A year after the 2021 “heat dome” that killed over 100 Oregonians and over 1,000 people in the Pacific Northwest, green spaces are an increasingly precious line of defense against the effects of climate change. During that extreme weather, air temperature in neighborhoods with bigger backyards were 25 degrees Fahrenheit cooler than those with little or no backyards.

Areas with more concrete, asphalt and buildings – those often found in disinvested areas of a region – absorb the sun’s heat faster, and release it slower. In greener neighborhoods, trees shade roads and other hard surfaces; the backyards create greater gaps between heat-absorbing building, allowing the wind to move freely and cool spaces. Recent research also illustrates greater levels of harmful air pollution in formerly redlined areas of cities.

As our region faces the twin crises of homelessness and affordable housing, our collective task will be to develop novel approaches that enable greater and more affordable densities while also supporting more trees, green spaces and parks. Yet, one already clear challenge is that the same areas that were historically disinvested – and thus remain less costly and have fewer resources to, rightly or wrongly, oppose new developments – are now undergoing a proportionally greater transformation into higher-density housing.

One approach is increasing the diversity of green spaces in neighborhoods seeing an increase in housing density. Using diverse types of greening is a proven method for absorbing the sun’s radiation during summer. Outside of investments in parks – small and big – we need to also consider green spaces like green walls, ecoroofs, pea-patches and



Photos: During the lethal 2021 heat wave, Vivek Shandas took the streetside temperature of different neighborhoods around Portland. He found that neighborhoods lacking green space were up to 25 degrees hotter than green neighborhoods.

roadways that support more street-scale plants in parking strips, pocket parks and bioswales.

An immediate solution is identifying the scattered, undeveloped and unintentionally green tax lots within the region’s historically disinvested neighborhoods. By whatever accidents of history, these lots were never filled in. There are hundreds of disinvested lots across the region, for example, that contain large trees. With the right investments, these are potential parks and community gardens – green treasures in increasingly dense neighborhoods.

Metro’s 2019 Parks and Nature Bond will invest almost half a billion dollars to protect and restore land and center criteria to address racial equity, community engagement and climate change goals.

The bond added all of greater urban Portland to the areas where Metro can spend up to \$155 million to buy land that supports natural areas. While laudable, only a few of these urban natural areas are where people who face the most acute impacts from climate change now live. The bond also provides \$92 million to the region’s 27 park providers to purchase land and direct investments into urban areas. This is a chance for the region to turn its attention to create urban green spaces where they are lacking instead of adding to the greenery of already-green spaces.

To support the centering of the racial justice goals of the bond, we also need planning tools that integrate our understanding of race with reducing climate impacts and promoting economic prosperity. Relevant tools are beginning to appear, including King County’s Equity Impact Review Tool, California’s Cal EnviroScreen, and the federal government’s Justice40 Initiative. Our own recently passed HB4077 will help to create such a tool for Oregon, which is a first step to addressing historical environmental injustices.

We are reckoning with the systems of investment that continue to amplify racial injustices. We are also at a turning point of climate change and the severity of its impacts for the region. These two issues are part of my search for a house for my father. His desire for a backyard may turn out to create a climate refuge that supports the whole neighborhood. Everyone and every neighborhood deserves these refuges. We need to see a region where anyone looking for a place to live can escape into their nearby green spaces, whether small, large, high, low and all different kinds.

Restoration at River Island

Story by Cory Eldridge
Photography by Al Mowbry

At most of Metro’s natural areas, restoration projects are pretty low-touch. Invasive plant species like blackberry or English ivy are removed and replaced with native plants, maybe a few Douglas firs will be felled to give Oregon white oak a chance to thrive. The biggest tool used is a chain saw. The approach gives the landscape a boost so it can then strengthen itself.

Sometimes, though, a restoration project looks more like a massive construction site.

That was River Island Natural Area six years ago. The site neighbors Barton County Park on the Clackamas River. It had been a gravel quarry until the 1996 flood wiped it out. The industrial infrastructure of pits and earthen berms had been built to thwart natural processes, like seasonal flooding, and two decades later they were still keeping the landscape from healing itself. The natural area needed a big kick-off to get started.

Earth movers shaped a gravel-filled channel and cut a link between a stream and a pond. Stone sorters separated gravel from stones so the stones could make a stream bottom and the gravel would go to the floodplain. A tractor with a pulverizing mower ate through blackberry thick along levies. Excavators hoisted enormous logs and stacked them into logjams.

When the heavy-lift phase of the project ended, it looked impressive, but unless you were a natural resource scientist like the project’s lead, Brian Vaughn, it was hard to see the nature in the project. But just like the softer-touch projects, all that big, earth-moving work was simply helping the landscape get to a state where it could do its good work.

Six years later, it’s easy to see nature healing.

Here’s what Vaughn sees when he looks at River Island today.

Young plantings

Since the spring of 2016, more than 120,000 native trees and shrubs have been planted at River Island. The plantings include large numbers of Oregon ash, red alder, spirea, snowberry and tall Oregon grape. The young plants right here are only 5 to 6 years old, just starting to become established.

Willows

In very wet areas of the site, Sitka, Scouler’s and Pacific willow grow, providing food and shade to Goose Creek. Shade is especially important for keeping the water cool during hot summer days. Healthy tributary streams and off-channel habitats are critical for providing spawning and rearing habitat for salmon, steelhead, cutthroat trout and Pacific lamprey. Where they meet the Clackamas River, tributaries like Goose Creek provide cold-water refuges for fish.

Logjam

Goose Creek flows into the Clackamas River through a channel the river once used, before it carved its current course during the 1996 floods. During seasonal floods, the Clackamas River backwaters into Goose Creek, depositing sediment, woody debris and nutrients in its floodplain. We constructed these logjams here in Goose Creek to replace those that had been lost. Over time, the trees and shrubs growing in and by the chancel will become the long-term source of large wood in the system.

Turtle pond

Turtles and pond-breeding amphibians like red-legged frogs are present in ponds throughout upland and floodplain areas of the lower Clackamas River. A large population of western painted turtles live in the ponds at River Island. In the winter, turtles hibernate in the muddy bottoms of the ponds. Each spring, they emerge to find logs to bask on and warm up before starting their search for suitable nest area in the nearby upland areas. Gravel patches placed on the south-facing side of the ponds were designed to create suitable nesting habitat for turtles.

Normal high-water mark

Each year, deposits of gravel and logs form along the Clackamas River as the main channel rises during seasonal flooding. The river’s floodplain, if it’s protected, provides plenty of space for this flotsam to settle. As climate change continues to affect the region, we expect to see higher air and water temperatures and more severe flooding. Protecting floodplains and wetlands becomes even more critical as we prepare our region to be resilient to climate change.



River Island in 2016, a few months after restoration construction work finished.

Heron rookery

Despite long legs that look ill-made for perching in trees, great blue herons prefer to nest in colonies called rookeries. Typically located in large trees, rookeries can contain many birds. Herons will abandon a rookery if people get too close, and the best views of rookeries are from a distance. So please enjoy them only with a good pair of binoculars or a spotting scope.

Connections to other conservation projects

The Clackamas Partnership, a coalition of Portland area watershed councils, government agencies, tribes and other organizations, works collaboratively to improve the watershed's health. The partnership recently developed a strategic restoration action plan and are now implementing projects throughout the watershed to improve stream habitat, protect water quality and native fish populations with funding support from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board.

Side channel

In 2014, with help from Portland General Electric, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Clackamas River Basin Watershed Council and using funds from bond and levy measures, Metro was able to restore the site of a former gravel quarry. A newly formed side channel and high-water connection to the floodplain provide important areas for fish to rest out of the main channel when the river floods in the winter.

A river for everyone

The Clackamas River is vital for our region. Keeping its water clean and cool helps fish and people, too. The river is one of two priority watersheds for salmon and steelhead recovery in the Willamette Valley, and it is the source of drinking water for 300,000 people. The river also offers some the region's best opportunities for wildlife habitat conservation, and it provides connections to nature close to home. Milo McIver State Park and Clackamas County's Barton and Carver parks are wonderful places to fish, camp, hike and float along the lower Clackamas River.



Metro

Zip. Click. Pull.

Wearing a life jacket is the best thing you can do to stay safe in water. The jacket has to fit to do its job. Here's how to find the right jacket for the right fit.

1 Size

Life jackets are made for people of different sizes and weights. Check the label for the jacket's weight range and chest size.



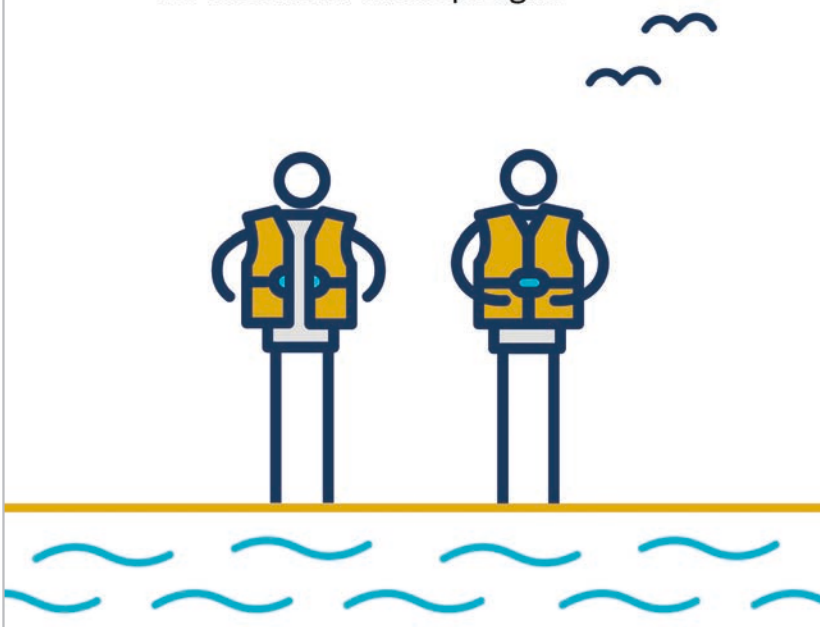
2 The kids

Life jackets for children include a leg strap. Life jackets for infants also have a collar.



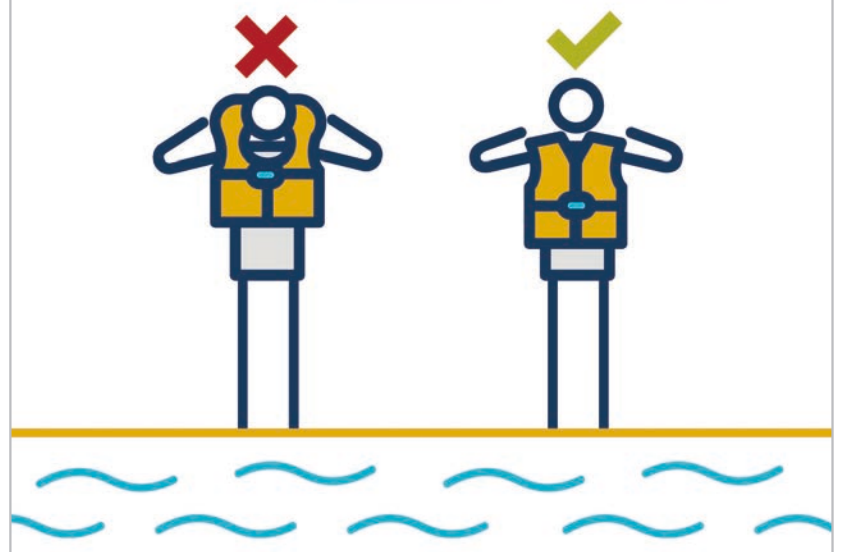
3 Zip, click, pull

Make sure all zippers and clips are fastened. Pull straps tight.



4 Shoulder test

Pull the jacket up at your shoulders. If it slides up to your ears, it's too big. If it stays tight, you are ready for the water!



Questions?

Contact Metro staff at 503-797-1545.

For updates on Metro parks visit oregonmetro.gov/watersafety



Field guide

FARMINGTON PADDLE LAUNCH

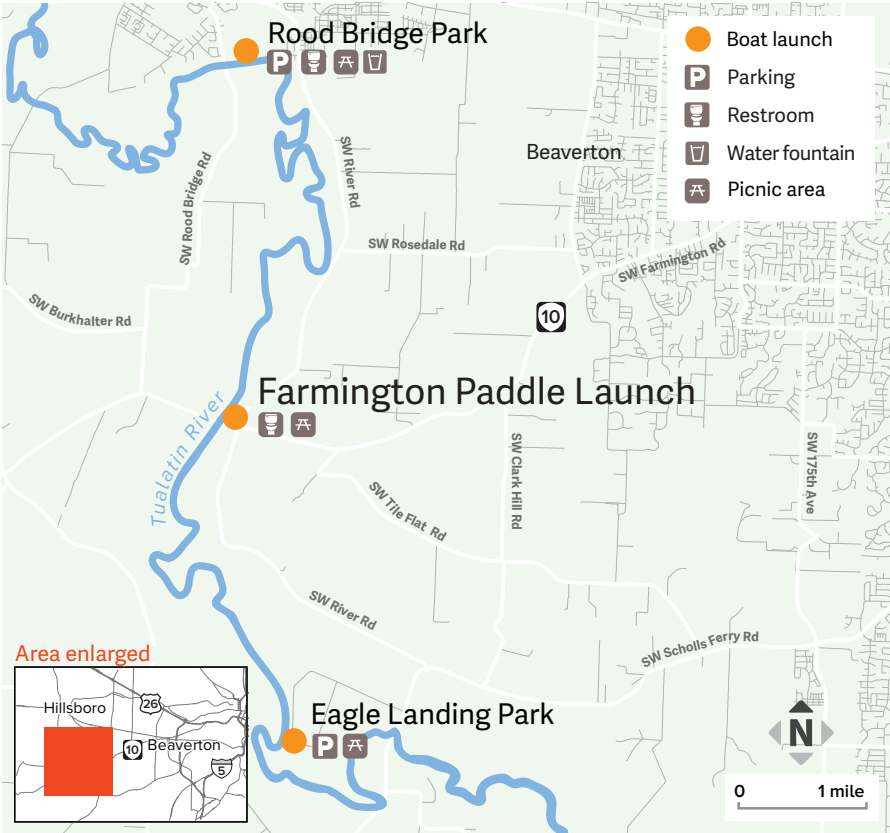
Story by Ashley Conley
Photography by Fred Joe

Right at the start of the lower stretch of the Tualatin River, Farmington Paddle Launch provides visitors a safe and accessible location to set out on the Tualatin River Water Trail. The launch, which includes ample parking and restrooms, was built in 2017 through a partnership between Metro and Clean Water Services.

The Tualatin River's headwaters begin on the eastern slopes of the Coast Range in the Tillamook Forest. For about 80 miles, the river meanders through the Tualatin Basin, where it eventually meets the Willamette River in West Linn.

Since time immemorial, the calm and winding Tualatin River has been the lifeblood of what is now Washington County. The river and its valley are both named for the Indigenous people who continue to care for the valley. 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.

The lower part of the Tualatin River is a meandering, slow-moving flow in the summer months. Paddlers can even paddle upriver with relative ease in the 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



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 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.

high-flow times, but beginners should aim for exploring in the summer.

Farmington is also an excellent spot for cyclists to begin two-wheeled journeys through the flat, rolling terrain of Washington County.

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 (streamside) 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

New natural area additions

Story by Sam Bakall
Photography by Ryan Ruggiero

The Metro Council gave the thumbs-up to the new roadmaps that will guide Metro as it purchases natural areas across greater Portland (read about the plans on page 3). Even while those plans were developing, Metro purchased multiple properties that were once-in-lifetime

opportunities to protect special places. Metro is able to purchase these properties with funds from the 2019 parks and nature bond measure. The measure provides up to \$155 million to protect land in the region.



31 acres at Barton Natural Area

High on a bluff overlooking the Clackamas River, just under 32 acres have been added to Metro’s Barton Natural Area, bringing the natural area to 127 acres in size. The addition cost \$1.68 million.

The 31.8-acre parcel is at the confluence of the Clackamas River and Deep Creek. The confluence area, fully within the Clackamas River Scenic Waterway, is located across the

Clackamas River from Metro’s 195-acre North Logan Natural Area. Clackamas County’s Barton Park is just up the river, along with Metro’s River Island Natural area. (Read about restoration work at River Island on page 6.)

The parcel, ringed in Douglas fir and western red cedar, includes more than a quarter mile of stream banks on Deep Creek as it spills into the Clackamas River and nearly a half mile along the Clackamas River on high bluffs.



Barton Natural Area

Current size: 127 acres

New addition: 32 acres

Neat feature: Confluence of Deep Creek and the Clackamas River

Habitat: Streamside forests, ponds

Animals: Black-tailed deer, cougar, coyote, amphibians, turtles, many bird species

This area is a rich and complex habitat for a host of aquatic species, including native fish like Coho and Chinook salmon, steelhead and cutthroat trout that use Deep Creek as a tributary between the Cascades and the Clackamas River.

The site also contains a pond that is likely a habitat for western pond turtles. A filled in quarry on the property will be restored to healthy habitat.



117 acres at Sunshine Butte Natural Area

A new, 117-acre parcel has recently been added to Sunshine Butte Natural Area. The addition, which cost \$1.4 million, provides increased wildlife habitat and ensures travel corridors for animals migrating through the region. The natural area straddles the Clackamas-Multnomah county line in the east buttes area south of Gresham.

Sloping down Sunshine Butte to the west and southwest, the expanded natural area is rich with iconic Pacific Northwest foliage, including Douglas fir, western hemlock, big-leaf maple and western red cedar. It boasts relatively healthy streamside habitats along its 7,700 feet of streams, which ultimately flow into Johnson Creek.

The purchase more than doubles the size of the Sunshine Butte Natural Area, bringing its



Sunshine Butte Natural Area

Current size: 202 acres

New addition: 117 acres

Neat feature: 7,700 feet of streams

Habitat: Upland mixed conifer and hardwood forest

Animals: Black-tailed deer, amphibians, bats, many bird species

total footprint to 202 acres. The purchase is an opportunity to restore habitats that will support strong populations of native plants and wildlife that can adapt to a changing climate.

The entire hardwood-studded parcel is located within the Johnson Creek watershed, which originates in Boring before winding 26 miles west to its confluence with the Willamette River in Milwaukie.



How to reduce waste while painting

Story by Arashi Young

We've all been there – looking at a wall, thinking it could use a fresh coat of paint, and wondering how “Avocado Green” from the '70s got so popular.

Painting is a great way to brighten your space and cover up the regrettable color choices of yesteryear. Some extra planning can cut down on waste, save money and allow your paint to stay fresher, longer.

Before you put your tape up and drop-cloths down, read this primer and your next painting project will pass with flying colors.

Buy only the paint you need

The best way to know how much paint you need is to calculate the square footage of space. To do this, take measurements of the walls and multiply the length by width. A 10 x 8 foot wall is 80 square feet of surface. One gallon of paint will cover about 250 square feet if you are spraying and 300 square feet if you are rolling.

In general, a gallon of paint will cover a smaller space like a bathroom or laundry room. Two gallons of paint will cover a standard bedroom. Plan on needing three gallons for a large bedroom or living room.

We suggest using two coats of paint. In that case, double the number of gallons you'll buy.

Pick the right weather

Painting under the right conditions saves time and resources. Apply paint when surface and ambient temperatures are between 50 and 90 degrees and relative humidity is between 30-80 percent. Look for when these conditions hold steady for 24-48 hours. Avoid painting in direct, hot sunlight.

To prime or not to prime?

A best practice is to prime every time. Priming helps paint stick to the surface and covers the current color. Glossy paints, in particular,

should start with a coat of primer. Check product guidelines on whether to prime before painting; in some cases, skipping primer can void a manufacturer's warranty on paint.

There are some instances when you can avoid priming. If the surface is painted and in good condition, make sure it is clean and go straight to painting. If you are making only a small color change, like going from white to cream, for example, you may not need to prime.

Paint waste disposal

After all the fun of watching paint dry, then comes the cleanup. Metal paint cans that have thin coat of dried paint go in the recycling bin. If the dried paint is at least an inch thick, it needs to be tossed in the garbage. For plastic containers, let the paint dry, remove the lids and then toss in the trash.

If you have leftover paint, see if someone else can use it. Try posting on Nextdoor or a local buy nothing group to see if anyone needs paint for a small project. You can also donate latex paint at Habitat for Humanity ReStore locations. For donation information call, 971-229-8888.

Paint recycling

In Oregon, paint recycling is paid for by a product stewardship program called PaintCare. Paint manufacturers are responsible for creating an environmentally responsible program to manage paint waste. Visit paintcare.org/drop-off-sites to see where you can drop off paint for free.

PaintCare also accepts leftover deck coatings, floor paints, stains and more. The program does not accept paint thinners, auto, marine or craft paints, aerosol cans, glues, adhesives or resins. When in doubt, take them to a Metro household hazardous waste facility or neighborhood collection event.

If you have questions about paint and household hazardous waste disposal, ask Metro's waste prevention experts at 503-234-3000.

For questions about paint waste disposal, ask Metro.

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Illustration by Zoe Keller

Up in the canopy at Oxbow Regional Park

On a hike on Oxbow's Ancient Forest Trail, you'll often hear all sorts of animal activity: bird calls, barks and chuffs from squirrels, rustling leaves that could be the wind or an eagle taking flight. There's a whole treetop world just out of sight. Insect eaters like chickadees, brown creepers and woodworkers pick bugs out of bark and off of leaves while they dodge bird-eating Cooper's hawks. Owls and flying squirrels rest during all this daytime activity. And somewhere at the top of the trees, bald eagles' nest.

Follow OregonMetro on Instagram and Facebook or visit oregonmetro.gov/parks to find out when the park opens.

