

What size group can I bring?

Our field trips are designed for groups of 10-25. Larger groups often can be accommodated if discussed with the naturalist well in advance.

How much time do I need for a field trip?

Most programs are one to two hours. Larger groups may require more time. This estimate does not include travel time to the site or lunch.

When should I call?

We recommend that you call at least one month in advance to reserve a field trip date. We will send you a map and more detailed information with a written confirmation after you make your reservation.

Whom do I call?

For programs at Oxbow Regional Park, call Elisabeth Neely at (503) 797-1899.

For programs at Smith and Bybee Lakes Wildlife Area, call James Davis at (503) 797-1901.

If you are planning an independent group field trip to these sites or other Metro sites without our naturalists, you must obtain a special use permit. Call (503) 797-1834 for more information on these permits.

Is there public transportation to the parks?

Unfortunately, there is no public transportation to Oxbow Regional Park or to Smith and Bybee Lakes Wildlife Area. You must arrange your own transportation.

Metro People places • open spaces

Metro serves 1.3 million people who live in Clackamas, Multnomah and Washington counties and the 24 cities in the Portland metropolitan area. The regional government provides transportation and land-use planning services and oversees regional garbage disposal and recycling and waste reduction programs.

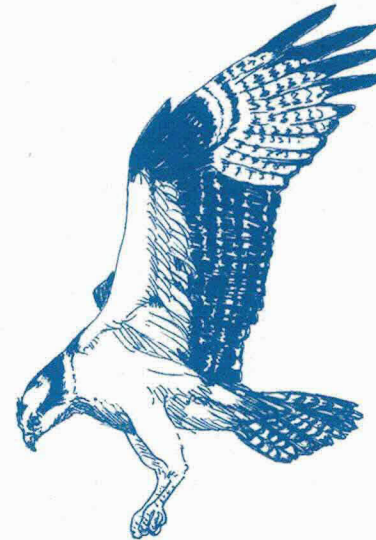
Metro manages regional parks and greenspaces and owns the Oregon Zoo. It also oversees operation of the Oregon Convention Center, the Portland Center for the Performing Arts and the Portland Metropolitan Exposition (Expo) Center, all managed by the Metropolitan Exposition Recreation Commission.

For more information about Metro or to schedule a speaker for a community group, call (503) 797-1510 (public affairs) or (503) 797-1540 (council).

Metro's web site: www.metro-region.org

Your Metro representatives
Executive Officer – Mike Burton; Auditor – Alexis Dow, CPA; Metro Council – Presiding Officer Carl Hosticka, District 3; Deputy Presiding Officer Susan McLain, District 4; Rod Park, District 1; Bill Atherton, District 2; Rex Burkholder, District 5; Rod Monroe, District 6; David Bragdon, District 7.

Field Trips for Groups



Metro's Regional Parks and
Greenspaces Department

2002 Environmental
Education Programs



METRO

PEOPLE PLACES
OPEN SPACES

Questions and Answers

Where do the field trips take place?

Our field trip sites are Smith and Bybee Lakes Wildlife Area, a 2,000-acre freshwater wetland in North Portland, and Oxbow Regional Park, a 1,200-acre forested natural area park on the Sandy River east of Gresham. Naturalists are available for programs at other locations on a limited basis.

Who can arrange a group field trip?

Field trips are available to any organized group including youth groups, daycare groups, scouts and churches. Most programs can accommodate ages 5 to adult. For school field trip programs, see our separate Field Trips for Schools brochure. For trips and classes for individuals and families, look in our quarterly Metro GreenScene calendar of events (*also available on line at www.metro-region.org*).

What do we do on a field trip?

Our trips feature fun hands-on activities that foster appreciation for nature. A Metro naturalist will guide you on the walk and activities you choose. Our trip leaders include staff naturalists and trained volunteer naturalists. For youth groups, you will need to provide one adult (parent/helper) per eight children. All trips are outdoors, rain or shine.

What does it cost?

Program fee:

\$2 per person (\$25 minimum per group)

Park entry fee:

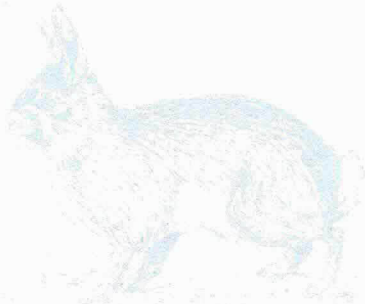
\$6 per bus or \$3 per car
(Oxbow Regional Park only)

Pay on the day of the field trip. Make checks payable to Metro.

You may combine the entry and program fees into one check if you would like.

Illustrations by Barbara Macomber

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Field Trips at Smith and Bybee Lakes Wildlife Area

Wildlife in the Water

Explore the wildlife living in the water at Smith and Bybee lakes. See if you can spot the painted turtles that live here, catch water bugs and use a magnifier to examine them up close, touch a tree stump chewed by beaver and search for other wildlife clues. (90 minutes)

Animal Tracking

How do you know what animals live around you when you rarely see them? Animals leave many types of signs that you can learn to read. Use footprints, scat, trails, nests and other clues to decipher who has been there – and maybe even what they were doing. (90 minutes)

Animal Camouflage and Wildlife Watching

Discover how wildlife can blend in and become “invisible” with camouflage – and how you can be camouflaged, too. Learn the skills passed down by native trackers and scouts to find wildlife, sneak up on them and identify them. Try the fox walk, see more with “owl eyes” (wide-angle vision), and look for animals and the clues that they leave behind. (90 minutes)

Bird Detectives

What birds live at Smith and Bybee lakes? How can you identify them? What are they saying when they sing and chirp? Learn how you can understand bird language and tell when your friends are coming near – before you can even see them. (90 minutes)

Field Trips at Oxbow Regional Park

Introduction to Oxbow Regional Park

This is a great way to kick off your group’s Oxbow camping overnight or river trip. The naturalist will come to your campsite and orient you to the park’s animals and natural features, “nature etiquette” tips and basic camper safety for children. Find out about your neighbors – the osprey, deer and fox – and handle real animal pelts. (30-45 minutes)

Wildlife Watching

Have you ever wanted to get close to a deer? Would you like to see more wild animals without scaring them away? You can when you learn the ancient secrets for being invisible in the woods. Try the fox walk and other skills that have been passed down by native trackers and scouts. Includes a short walk. (45 minutes)

Animal Tracking

What left that footprint? Was it a bear, a fox or an otter? Discover how to identify animal tracks and other clues. Handle real track casts, beaver chews and more. Explore the banks of the Sandy River in search of animal tracks. (available in 1 hour or 3 hour version; long version for ages 12 to adult)

River Exploration

Head down to the Sandy River and discover the wildlife found in this special place. Get your hands wet as we catch and release water bugs and crayfish.

Magnifiers are provided for an up close view of the food chain. A summertime favorite! (one hour)

Ancient Forest Hike

Experience an old-growth forest with all your senses. Hike under the cool shade of towering trees, through rustling ferns and singing birds – and end with an edible plant treat. Includes basics of ancient forest ecology, tree and animal sign identification. (one-hour and three-hour versions available)

Osprey Walk

What do ospreys eat? How big is its nest? Where does it go in winter? Find out all about these “fish hawks,” then take a hike through the ancient forest to observe a nest. A spotting scope is provided for up close views. (one hour, offered in June and July only)

Bird Detectives

Have you ever wondered what a bird is saying when it chirps or sings? Did you know birds can actually tell you when your friends are coming near – before you can even see them? We’ll look and listen for our feathered friends and discover their secret language. (one hour; a longer version is available for adults)

Ethnobotany: People and Plants

How did native people use some of the local trees and plants to survive? How do people use them today? Get a glimpse into this fascinating subject as we take a short walk in the forest. Then, make your own elderberry wood bead and sand it smooth with nature’s sandpaper – horsetail plant. (one hour)

Salmon Viewing Walk

Greet the wild fall chinook salmon as they return to the Sandy River at Oxbow. A naturalist will guide the way as you learn about the journey of the salmon and examine real salmon eggs. Then walk along the river to observe the salmon on their spawning grounds. Polarized viewing glasses provided. (one hour, offered from end of September through early November only)

Oxbow Community Service Project

What would a beaver put on her dinner plate? Learn the difference between native and non-native plants – and why they matter to wildlife. Find out how some “alien” plants are taking over, and what you can do to help. Then get your hands dirty and help restore wildlife habitat. Call Lupine Hudson (503) 797-1733 for this program. (two hours, or longer if desired, ages 10 to adult)