

What is the format for field trips?

Metro's Regional Parks and Greenspaces Department will provide one staff naturalist and trained volunteers. You will need to provide one adult (parent/helper) per eight children. We divide classrooms into smaller groups, and students rotate through two or three hands-on activities led by Metro staff and volunteer naturalists. In some instances, the teacher or a parent helper will be asked to lead an activity.

Who do I call to arrange a field trip?

- 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 field trip to a Metro site without our naturalists, you must obtain a special use permit in advance. Call (503) 797-1834 for more information on these permits.

What size group can I bring?

Our field trip program is designed for one classroom of 30 students or fewer, to be split into smaller study groups. We can accommodate two classrooms (maximum 50 students at Oxbow, 60 students at Smith and Bybee lakes) if you make special arrangements with the naturalist.

What is the fee for field trips?

- *Program fee:* \$2/student; parents and adult helpers are free
- *Park entry fee:* \$6/bus or \$3/vehicle (Oxbow Regional Park only)

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

You can combine the entry and program fees into one check. If your school is unable to pay due to financial hardship, you may be eligible for a program fee waiver. Ask the naturalist for more information.

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).

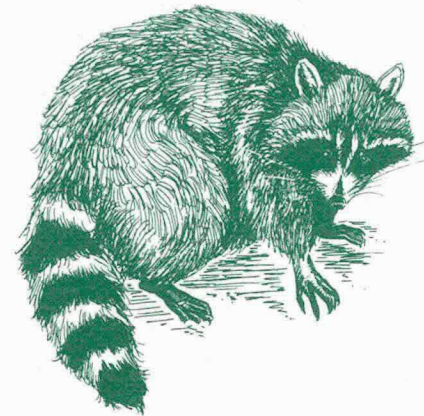
Metro's web site: www.metro-region.org

Your Metro representatives
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Illustrations by Barbara Macomber

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Field Trips for Schools



*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?

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 school field trip program?

Educational field trips are for schools and can accommodate students in grades 1-12. We often adapt the trips for adults and college-level students as well. For information about our programs for youth groups and scouts, see our Field Trips for Groups brochure. For listings of public classes and trips for adults and families, see the quarterly Metro GreenScene calendar or visit our web site at www.metro-region.org.

What do we do on a field trip?

Field trips feature naturalist-guided, outdoor, hands-on environmental education activities that foster an appreciation for the wonders of nature. Our educators include Metro staff naturalists and trained Metro volunteers. All trips are outdoors, rain or shine.

How much time do I need to allow for the field trip?

Field trips to Oxbow Regional Park are usually a full school day (three and a half to four hours in the park, excluding travel time to and from school). Field trips to Smith and Bybee lakes often can be done in a half day (two hours), depending on group size and travel time; trips for two classrooms will require a full day (four hours).

When should I book a reservation?

We begin making reservations for spring field trips on Jan. 2. We begin making reservations for fall and winter field trips on Aug. 1. Space is limited and popular dates are filled one to two months in advance.

School Field Trips

Our school field trips are carefully designed to offer students high-quality hands-on outdoor learning experiences. Our field trip sites are special places that are abundant in natural features and wildlife. Children in our programs learn science by exploring the living environment around them, and feel a sense of wonder and respect for the natural world. No matter which trip you choose, our experienced staff and volunteers will guide your students through fun and engaging activities that correlate with state educational benchmarks.

Wetlands ecology field trip at Smith and Bybee Lakes Wildlife Area

All grades; offered fall and spring

Where can your students see ducks, herons and birds of prey? Touch chew marks left on a tree by hungry beavers? Catch water boatmen and sideswimmers? Smell the sweet scent of budding cottonwoods? They can do all this and more at Smith and Bybee Lakes Wildlife Area. Experienced naturalists will guide you in an unforgettable hands-on exploration of this 2,000-acre wetland.

This field trip provides an overview of wetlands ecology, awareness of urban wetland wildlife, and an understanding of the freshwater food chain and the importance of water quality.

Students participate in two activities:

- Wildlife watching and animal tracking
- Water exploration: a “critter catch” of aquatic insects and other small animals.

If you wish to bring two classrooms, the naturalist will arrange a special schedule for you that may include sensory awareness games led by the teacher or parent chaperone.

Ancient forest and animal tracking field trip at Oxbow Regional Park

All grades; offered in spring

Explore the highlights of this 1,200-acre park with our experienced naturalists. Start with the foxwalk and other age-old secrets that help you move invisibly through the woods and get close to wildlife. Then experience an ancient forest with all your senses as you hike through towering 700-year-old trees, listen to singing birds and taste an edible plant. Play a blindfold game in the forest, then use your detective skills to follow the tracks and trails of deer, otter and other animals as we explore along the banks of the pristine Sandy River.

On this field trip, students will gain an introductory understanding of old-growth forest ecology, increase their observation skills through identification of wildlife signs and tracks, and gain a deeper awareness of wildlife and their use of forest and riparian habitats.

Elementary students participate in three activities:

- Animal tracking ABCs
- Ancient forest hike
- Sensory awareness games

For students in grades 6 and up, this program can be adapted for a more in-depth focus on ancient forest ecology or animal tracking.

Salmon and river ecology field trip at Oxbow Regional Park

All grades; offered Oct. 1 to Nov. 7

Join wild chinook salmon, Canada geese and other migrating wildlife as they arrive at Oxbow this fall. This trip focuses on the Sandy River, one of the few places in the region where students can view wild spawning salmon. Students will examine jars of salmon eggs and fry as the naturalist shares the amazing story of the salmon life cycle. Using special polarized glasses, on most days we can spot 20-to 40-pound salmon digging, fighting and resting on their spawning grounds. Students also will hike quietly down to the river's edge to search for animals, use a net to catch and identify aquatic insects, and open their senses with blindfold games.

On this field trip, students will gain understanding of the life cycle of wild salmon, the connections between the terrestrial and aquatic food chain, and the importance of watershed health.

Elementary students participate in three activities:

- Wild salmon life cycle and viewing
- River exploration
- Sensory awareness games

For students in grades 6 and up, sensory games may be replaced by a journal activity or other activity of your choice.

A sample field trip

In this example, a teacher has reserved a spring field trip at Oxbow. A class of 27 students has been divided into three smaller groups, with nine students in each group. These groups rotate through three activities, each 45 minutes long:

- Animal tracking ABCs led by Metro naturalist
- Ancient forest hike led by Metro volunteer naturalist
- Sensory awareness games led by teacher or parent chaperone

Parent/helpers are assigned to each group of students and stay with the students as they rotate.

9:30 a.m.	arrive at Oxbow Regional Park, meet naturalist at the gate
9:30 to 10 a.m.	drive to field trip site, introduction, split into small groups
10 to 10:45 a.m.	first activity and rotate
10:45 to 11:30 a.m.	second activity
11:30 a.m. to noon	lunch (all together)
noon to 12:45 p.m.	third activity
12:45 to 1:15 p.m.	closing circle, clean up, load bus
1:15 to 1:30 p.m.	drive to front gate and leave Oxbow Regional Park

Your school's field trip schedule

The schedule for your class trip will vary depending on which site you choose, whether you bring one or two classes, and your travel times and needs. After you have discussed these factors with the naturalist and made your reservation, you will receive a personalized schedule, maps and preparatory materials in the mail.

Our Policies

Preparation and follow up

Prepare the students for a quiet trip. Before the trip, practice the skills in the provided booklet “Wildlife Watching” with your students for the best possible field experience. After your trip, refer to the suggestions provided for follow-up activities.

Adults adopt an active role to help students follow behavioral guidelines. Before the field trip, divide the students into groups with at least one adult per group. Have each adult accompanying the trip read the provided “Dear Chaperones” letter.

There is no such thing as “bad” weather, only poor clothing. Have students dress for the weather – shoes that can get muddy, coats, hats or sunscreen – whatever is appropriate. Due to dampness and wind, it generally feels 10 degrees cooler at the parks than in town. Your field trip will be rescheduled if school is closed.

We all help take care of the site. Our regional parks are important habitat for many types of wildlife, and are visited by thousands of people each year. Be sure that students and chaperones all know that all plant and animal life at our parks is protected, and that students do not pick plants, create new trails through the vegetation, or chase or harass wildlife.

Reduce, reuse, recycle. Reduce the amount of packaging brought in lunches. Instead, bring containers you can reuse. Finally, we ask that you separate and take back all recyclable materials (such as aluminum cans).