

OUR BIG BACKYARD

*Explore great places and more
with Metro*

RIVERS RESTORED

Water quality, fish and wildlife habitat
get a boost in local rivers.

pg. 8

COMING SOON

Learn more about 3
upcoming regional
destinations

pg. 3

4 QUESTIONS

Get to know Drake Butsch
and why he values parks
and nature

pg. 4

BIRD LANGUAGE

Decipher the language
of birds

pg. 6

JOBS SNAPSHOT

Get insight on where
the region's economy is
heading

pg. 15

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Explore

Parks and Nature News pg / 2
Conserving Nature,
One Acre at a Time pg / 5

Unearth

Intertwine pg / 7
Cover Story pg / 8
Field Guide pg / 10
Destination Guide pg / 11
Get Involved pg / 12

Discover

Tools for Living pg / 14
Regional Roundup pg / 15
It's Your Nature Contest pg / 16

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

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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
twitter.com/oregonmetro

Dogs policy

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

WEIGH IN ON PARKS AND NATURE INVESTMENTS

PHOTOGRAPHY BY Joshua Manus



Voter investments are protecting clean water, restoring fish and wildlife habitat, and expanding opportunities to connect with nature close to home across Metro's 17,000 acres of parks, trails and natural areas. The Metro Council is focusing on finding the resources to continue this work, including the possibility of asking voters in November 2016 to renew the current local-option levy.

A yes vote would extend the end date of levy funding from June 2018 to June 2023. The current levy provides money for restoration, park improvements, nature programs and more. The levy costs \$20 for the owner of a typical home with \$200,000 in assessed value.

Here's where you come in: Metro wants your ideas about how to fine-tune what could be included in another levy. To share your opinions about which projects are most important and how you like to spend time in nature, visit oregonmetro.gov/nature. A formal survey will be open through mid-April, and comments will be accepted throughout the spring.

New docks for popular Columbia River boat ramp

PHOTOGRAPHY BY Chris Woo



New aluminum docks with fiberglass decking were installed in January at Chinook Landing Marine Park, one of the most popular boat ramps in the state. The new docks replace the heavily used docks that were about 25 years old. The replacement project is possible thanks to two grants totaling \$570,000 from the Oregon State Marine Board. Metro is contributing \$120,000 from the parks and natural areas levy that voters in the region approved in 2013.

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.



Clockwise from left: Visitors will soon be able to enjoy nature at Killin Wetlands near Banks, Newell Creek Canyon in Oregon City and the North Tualatin Mountains near Forest Park. Thanks to voter investments, improvements will soon provide formal public access as well as continued restoration at the three sites.

COMING SOON: MORE REGIONAL DESTINATIONS TO PLAY IN NATURE

STORY BY Yuxing Zheng

Three new regional destinations will soon provide opportunities for residents to enjoy hiking, bird-watching, off-road cycling and more.

Public access projects are in the works for Killin Wetlands near Banks, Newell Creek Canyon in Oregon City and the North Tualatin Mountains near Forest Park. Hundreds of community members over the last two years helped shape the future improvements at the three sites.

The three upcoming destinations are among the first to be paid for with money from the parks and natural areas levy that voters approved in 2013.

Plans for the three sites also include opportunities for continuing habitat restoration, volunteer programs and conservation education.

KILLIN WETLANDS

Birdwatchers can look forward to trails and scenic viewpoints at Killin Wetlands as soon as 2017.

For years, devoted birders have headed to Killin Wetlands two miles west of Banks in search of the prized American bitterns and soras. But with no formal public access, birders often parked on the side of Northwest Cedar Canyon Road and set up their scopes on the roadway.

The plan, developed with input from dozens of community members, calls for 20 parking spots, a boardwalk, three viewpoints and other amenities.

A project will improve safety by providing visitors with formal access to a portion of the 590-acre site, while also restoring habitat and allowing farming to continue on another portion.

The Metro Council on Dec. 10 unanimously adopted the master plan for the site, and the coming months will be spent preparing the site for upcoming improvements, applying for permits, and finalizing design and engineering.

NEWELL CREEK CANYON

With no formal public access, Newell Creek Canyon's wildlife and verdant forests of firs, maples and Western red cedars have remained largely inaccessible for years.

That's about to change, with public access coming as soon as late 2017.

After two years of conversations with the community, Metro is recommending hiking and off-road cycling trails and other improvements to allow visitors views of the canyon, a small waterfall, a cedar grove and several ponds formed by past landslides. The site will provide an opportunity to escape into nature in a neighborhood surrounded by homes, businesses and bustling Oregon 213.

Newell is unique. When you step into the canyon, you're just transported into another place, another feeling, another way of being that's really lost to us.

-Sha Spady,
Newell Creek Canyon neighbor

The trailhead off Warner Milne Road would provide car and bus parking. An entry plaza, restrooms, picnic and an overlook area are all included in the first phase of construction. The plan includes space for a nature play area, picnic shelter and overlook shelter if money becomes available later.

Metro will continue to work with local social service agencies and police to transition illegal campers found in the canyon to local homes. The canyon has experienced illegal camping for some time, which also brought litter, dumping, unauthorized trails and other impacts that affect the habitat. The hope is that officially opening Newell Creek Canyon to public access will attract a steady flow of visitors and, in the process, help discourage illegal camping.

Metro started acquiring land in Newell Creek Canyon after voters in the region approved a natural areas bond measure in 1995.

"The fact that we have an open space to enjoy, I just think it's a tribute to a community of people who refused to compromise, didn't want

development and did everything they could to ensure the land would be given to the next generation as an open space that they loved," said neighbor Sha Spady, who served on the stakeholder committee. "Newell is unique. When you step into the canyon, you're just transported into another place, another feeling, another way of being that's really lost to us."

NORTH TUALATIN MOUNTAINS

After more than a year of engaging community members and receiving hundreds of comments, Metro is recommending that two of its four sites in the North Tualatin Mountains be opened for official public access, including trails for hiking and off-road cycling.

The recommendation would focus public access at the Burlington Creek site and a portion of the McCarthy Creek site. Equestrian riders will continue to have local access to former logging roads at the two sites.

Habitat restoration would continue at all four sites. At the Ennis Creek and North Abbey Creek sites, existing informal trails and former logging roads not needed for maintenance would be removed to preserve the two sites as core habitat areas. There are no planned visitor improvements at these two sites, except for a provision for the future Pacific Greenway Trail through Ennis.

"We've listened to the community and used their input, good science and our own experience to develop a recommendation that protects wildlife habitat, water quality and provides meaningful experiences in nature for visitors," said Dan Moeller, conservation program director for Metro Parks and Nature.

To learn more, visit
oregonmetro.gov/killin,
oregonmetro.gov/newell and
oregonmetro.gov/tualatinmountains

4 Questions with Drake Butsch

STORY BY *George Winborn* / PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY OF *Drake Butsch*



When voters in the region approved a \$227 million bond measure for natural areas in 2006, it came with an independent oversight committee to review how Metro invests taxpayer money.

Drake Butsch, the builder services manager at First American Title, is chairman of the oversight committee, which includes finance, real estate and habitat restoration experts. Butsch is also the board president of the Home Builders Association of Metropolitan Portland and an avid angler.

Q: *How did you get into fishing?*

A: I grew up on the Oregon Coast. When kids played hooky in Newport, you borrowed your dad's boat and you went and drifted the river.

Q: *As the region grows, why are parks and nature important?*

A: I think part of what makes Oregon and Portland what it is, is our access to nature. If anything has worked in our land-use system, it's that we've done a good job of protecting the areas outside the (urban growth) boundary.

But we still don't protect them to the extent that Metro protects them. Metro protects them to a much higher level for their natural resource. When it comes to the stream corridors, which are the priority, we're truly setting them up for success.

Q: *What role does parks and nature play?*

A: Acquiring a natural area is always the best way to protect it. We're going to restore the natural state, create

better drainage, better water, a better environment, even into the (urban growth) boundary.

We're so lucky to have so many streams in Portland. I'm a fisherman, and when I tell people I fish for salmon and steelhead within the urban growth boundary, they're shocked. I've been on a conference call with people in Washington, D.C. and told them, "Oh, I just saw someone pick a steelhead out of the river outside my office window," they can't believe it. We're talking about a 35-pound fish caught in downtown Portland.

Q: *Anything else you'd like to add?*

A: Metro spends a lot of time, effort and the voters' money to create these parks. I include myself in a list of people who do not take advantage of those resources. How often do we drive to Mt. Hood to walk on a trail when there are some within five miles of your home that are just as beautiful, with probably better facilities than you're going to have in those areas?



Something's Different Here



STORY BY *Yuxing Zheng*
PHOTOGRAPHY BY *Alex Perove*

CANEMAH BLUFF IMPROVEMENTS

Visitors to Canemah Bluff Nature Park in Oregon City can soon take advantage of a new scenic overlook, footbridge and improved trails.

The new overlook will provide a safe, scenic vantage point to gaze at the river. And a new boardwalk and footbridge will keep your feet a little less muddy while reducing the impact on natural resources, too.

Before construction began last fall, contractors first drilled rock anchors into the face of the basalt cliff, knitting the rock together to boost the geological stability of the site.

Wetlands along Oregon 99E in the southern portion of the site are once again able to store water and support habitat. Crews last fall removed 135 cubic yards of concrete, asphalt and other debris that was dumped in the wetland prior to Metro ownership. The debris – the equivalent of about 14 dump trucks – was disposed off-site.

In its place, boulders and down wood provide habitat for wildlife. The wetland was seeded with native grasses and sedges. Crews last fall planted willow stakes and bundles for erosion control.

The improvements were possible thanks to voter investments in the parks and natural areas levy in 2013.

A RECORD PLANTING SEASON

About 594,000 native plants took root in Metro parks and natural areas this winter – a record-setting planting season that eclipses last year's 500,000 plants.

Native plants serve a crucial role in Metro's efforts to restore wetlands, oak woodlands and other habitats. The plants provide shelter for fish and wildlife as well as an important food source.

Newell Creek Canyon in Oregon City saw the largest influx, with about 63,300 plants. Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area in North Portland received 58,000 plants.

The contractors who completed the work included seven minority-owned, women-owned and emerging small businesses that Metro worked with for the first time.

Free Metro park(ing) days

Get out and explore nature! Enjoy free parking at Oxbow and Blue Lake regional parks, Broughton Beach, M. James Gleason Memorial Boat Ramp and Chinook Landing Marine Park on April 22, May 21, June 18, July 7, Oct. 14, Nov. 11 and 25, and Dec. 23, 2016, and Jan. 16, 2017.

Conserving Nature, One Acre at a Time.

STORY BY *Kate Holleran* / PHOTOGRAPHY BY *Joshua Manus, Elaine Stewart and Kate Holleran*



As a Metro natural resources scientist, Kate Holleran sees nature's biggest challenges and most glorious surprises – and she has the muddy boots to prove it. Go behind the scenes on her journey to restore the region's voter-protected land.

PRE-FOREST HABITAT CRITICAL FOR NATIVE SONGBIRDS

Let's not plant any trees here.

That was my first thought as I looked out across a 15-acre field of invasive Scotch broom, Himalayan blackberries and a few old fruit trees at a natural area along Baker Creek in rural Washington County. This thought would not have occurred to me 10 years ago, because as a forester, I was focused on trees in my restoration work.

Then I began to learn about the decline in Pacific Northwest songbirds, which rely on the youngest, pre-forest stage of a forest. This stage, referred to as the early seral phase, is composed of forbs, grasses, shrubs, and abundant standing and fallen dead wood. Conifers might be present, but they are often small seedlings and isolated older trees. This ephemeral habitat exists for a relatively short period of time – decades instead of centuries – then evolves into complex forests.

Songbirds forage, breed and shelter in the large swathes of open, low-growing grasses and shrubs that comprise seral habitat. Some scientists now consider seral habitat to be one of the rarest in the Pacific Northwest, in part due to forest management policies. As a result, some iconic songbirds, such as rufous hummingbirds, orange-crowned warblers and black-headed grosbeaks, have seen their numbers decline 2 to 4 percent a year. Restoration projects that create seral habitats may help our native songbirds make a comeback.

Most habitats experience major disturbances, such as wildfires or windstorms, which can create the conditions for shrub-dominated landscape to take root. Current policies emphasize putting out wildfires, which limits one effective way that nature uses to create early seral habitat.

The Oregon Forest Practices Act requires the rapid replanting of trees in harvested areas. On federal lands, the emphasis is on old-growth

forests, and most disturbed land is replanted with trees. Although there are many good reasons to plant trees, this emphasis on planting trees – along with development – has reduced the seral habitat many songbirds depend on.

Metro manages more than 17,000 acres of natural areas, most of which are not in pre-forest condition. With songbirds in mind, every time we acquire a new site, we look for opportunities to start restoration as close to the beginning of a forest as possible. That means I choose native grasses, forbs and shrubs with just a few conifer seedlings in my planting mix to create some of the conditions of early forests. In the spring, these brushy habitats fill with the chapel-like call and response of birdsongs as chats and flycatchers, sparrows and hummingbirds stake their territories, find mates, breed and feed.

Along Baker Creek, we'll remove invasive plants and fill in the open ground with native shrubs. By picking shrubs that bloom at different times and that produce different flower shapes, fruits, seeds and nuts, we are creating a cafeteria of variety and providing a source of food and shelter for many months each year.

At McCarthy Creek Natural Area, a former tree farm near Forest Park, we found a few places where the conifer tree planting done by the former owner failed. Hooray! In these areas, we interplanted with shrubs and thinned some of the remaining trees so they wouldn't shade out the native oceanspray, baldhip rose, red-flowering currant and Oregon grape. The trees will come, establishing slowly from the adjacent forest: willows and red alder, black cottonwood, Douglas fir and western red cedar.

What is early seral now won't stay that way. It will be a forest again someday, but I hope not too soon.



40-Mile Loop: Metro to move forward on closing key trail gap

STORY BY *Ellen Wyoming DeLoy*

Barbara Walker might not be a household name, but anybody who has biked or walked on regional trails or strolled through downtown Portland's Tom McCall Waterfront Park has benefited from her work as a trails and parks advocate.

This spring, one of Walker's visionary projects – a 140-mile loop of trails around Portland – will move a step forward. Metro in collaboration with Gresham and Troutdale will launch a planning effort to close one of the most significant remaining gaps between Troutdale and the popular Springwater Corridor Trail. The goal is to identify a trail alignment that will guide future easement negotiations, land acquisitions and grant applications.



Walker, who died in October 2014, was one of the founding members of the 40-Mile Loop Land Trust, a nonprofit that works to acquire land for the trail. The

organization name is a reference to the original 40-Mile Loop that the Olmsted brothers – whose father designed Central Park in New York City – recommended to the city of Portland in 1903 as part of a regional parks plan.

The loop has since expanded beyond Portland to Fairview, Wood Village, Gresham and Troutdale, though it's still called the 40-Mile Loop. But about eight to 10 gaps still remain, said Bob Akers, board president of the land trust. The loop, he said, "is designed as a way for walkers, hikers, cyclists and equestrians to connect to nature and get around the magnificent place we live."

The upcoming planning effort will be one step toward realizing Walker's vision for the loop trail. In honor of her decades of work and passion for nature in the greater Portland community, the annual regional trails fair has been renamed in her honor starting this year.

Learn more at oregonmetro.gov/troutdale-springwater

WED
22
JUN

SIXTH ANNUAL BARBARA WALKER REGIONAL TRAILS FAIR

Learn more about regional trails and recreation opportunities.

WHERE: Metro Regional Center, Apotheker Plaza, 600 NE Grand Ave., Portland

WHEN: noon to 3p.m.
oregonmetro.gov/calendar

Learn the language of birds

STORY BY *Dan Daly, Metro naturalist*



It's a Sunday, and I'm walking north on the Butler Creek trail in Gresham. The day is clear and sunny, and soon I come to a small viewpoint that looks out over Johnson Creek. In the red alder trees that line the bank, a small flock of black-capped chickadees feed in the branches above.

One energetic bird belts out a "CHICKA - DEE DEE DEE" at twice the volume of the twittering birds around it. "That's an alarm call," I think to myself. "I wonder if it's about me?"

Understanding the language of the birds allows a person to enter the story of the landscape. Birds are the most vocal animals on earth, and in 200 million years of evolution their voices have developed to communicate a wide range of messages. The exciting part is that people can understand what the birds are saying.

I pause, listen and look around. In the shadows on the far bank of the creek, a ripple moves out across the water. I crouch down and lean into the grey bark of the alder tree. Moments pass, and suddenly a muskrat explodes from a hole in the muddy bank.

Like a small brown cannonball, the muskrat hurls itself into the water. Swimming frantically, its tail is held in a shallow arc out of the water behind it. As it reaches the center of the stream, a mink pops out of the hole in hot pursuit.

By the time the mink is midstream, the muskrat reaches the far bank and heads for cover in the blackberry bushes. Having lost its advantage, the mink turns back and climbs onto a log. Pausing, its gorgeous dark fur is struck by the sunlight. It scans the bank and stares up at me with an

intensity that made me glad that it was not much bigger than a loaf of French bread.

The mink follows the log up into the brambles, and a spotted towhee begins making alarm calls, which sound a lot like a meowing cat. The muskrat returns to the creek, and starts swimming laps back and forth, staying out in the open water.

Then, I remember. Several months ago, I walked up on this same viewpoint and saw a muskrat swimming back and forth as the far bank was a symphony of song sparrow alarms. It didn't make sense at the time, but now a pattern emerges.

The song sparrows were likely calling out warnings about a mink. When the mink is on land, the muskrat's safety zone is the open water.

Over time, people learned through observation how to interpret these types of bird calls in order to gauge where predators were on the landscape.

On the one hand, this is nothing new. Hunter gatherers lived shoulder to shoulder with formidable predators, and people were on the menu. On the other hand, understanding what the birds are saying has largely been forgotten by modern people. That may be changing.

Jon Young, an anthropologist and naturalist, has worked with Native American and indigenous elders around the world to relearn this language and has created a system to interpret what the birds are saying.

With a little practice, it's easy to learn, because bird language can be heard every day in the cities, suburbs and right outside your door.

Is bird language the same thing as what you experience when you go on a bird identification walk? It's connected, but the goals of bird language are different than bird identification.

In bird identification, the goal is to walk around and see as many different kinds of birds as you can. The excitement is in finding a rare bird.

In bird language, a person finds a spot outside and sits down. This allows the birds to return to the state of harmony that gets disrupted when a person moves around a lot. As the birds return to feeding and preening, a bird language observer pays close attention to certain birds.

Which birds? It's the common songbirds – such as the American robin, Bewick's wren and dark-eyed juncos – that live here year round and feed on the ground that are the most vocal about the predators that hunt them.

The goal is to know these common birds very well, learn what they do when the landscape is in harmony and hear how they respond when a predator moves into their territory.

Personally, I enjoy both of these approaches and think they work really well together. Spring is a great time of year to dive into the world of birds. Aren't you curious about what the birds are saying?

Turn to page 12 to find information about bird language classes and more.

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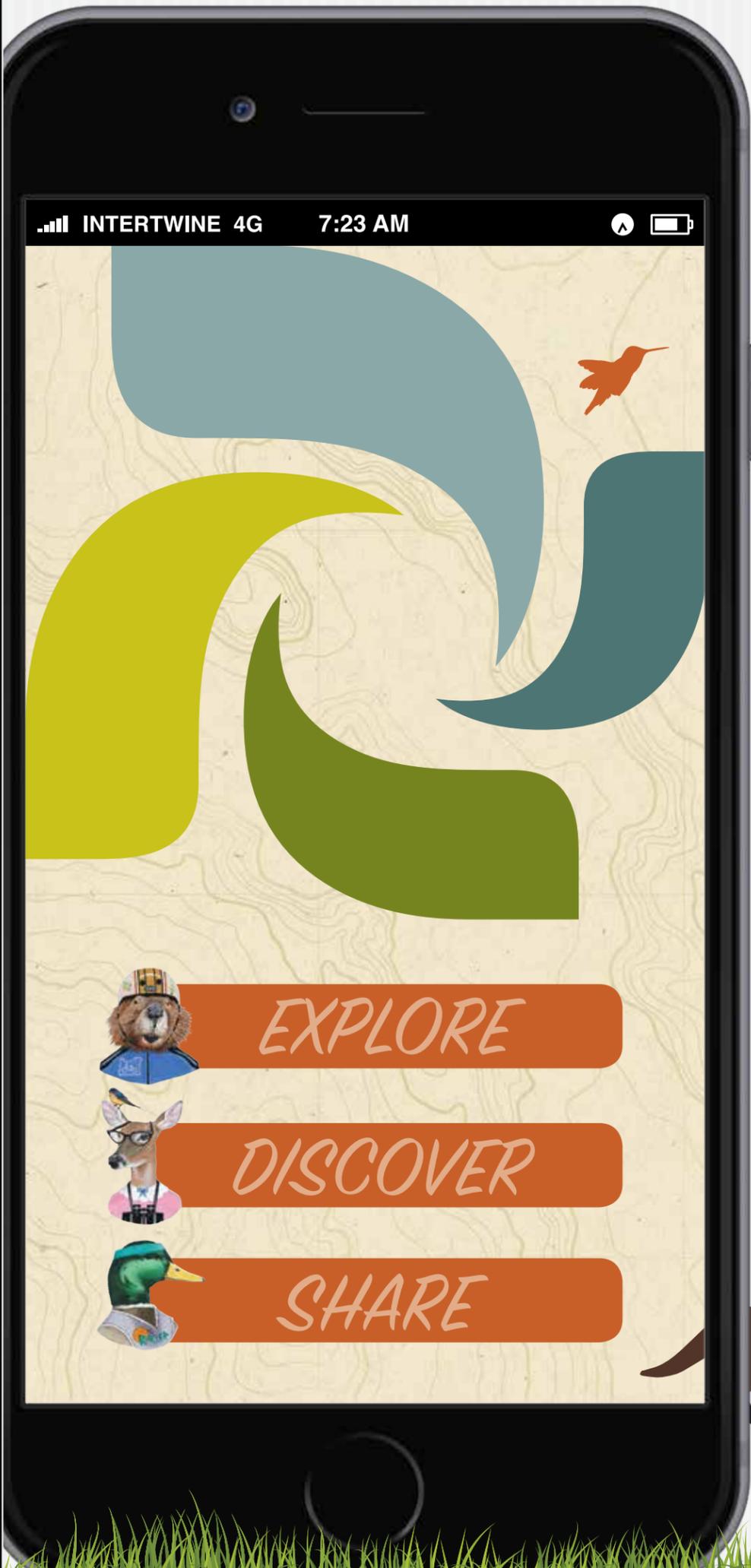
THE
INTER
TWINE



LOADING DAYCATIONS



(estimated completion of adventure uploads: Summer 2016)



DAYCATION! THE SMART WAY TO GET *outside*

The Daycation Mobile App
is *your* fresh and fun way to:

EXPLORE

3,000 miles of parks, trails and waterways through the eyes of those who know and love this place the best: *you!*

DISCOVER

new neighborhood and park destinations, as well as *new* ways to enjoy your current favorite outdoor adventures.

SHARE

your favorite things to do outside, *your* discoveries, and *your* perspectives on nature, through words and images.

www.theintertwine.org/daycations

EMAIL DAYCATION@THEINTERTWINE.ORG TO BE NOTIFIED WHEN THE APP IS AVAILABLE

MILWAUKIE RIVERFRONT PARK

A \$225,000 Metro grant helped pay for improvements that are enticing residents and salmon to linger a little longer. Crews constructed a stone riffle over an exposed sewer pipe and log jams where Johnson Creek flows into the Willamette River. The new Klein Point overlook creates a scenic space that welcomes school field trip groups and local residents.

MOUNT SCOTT CREEK

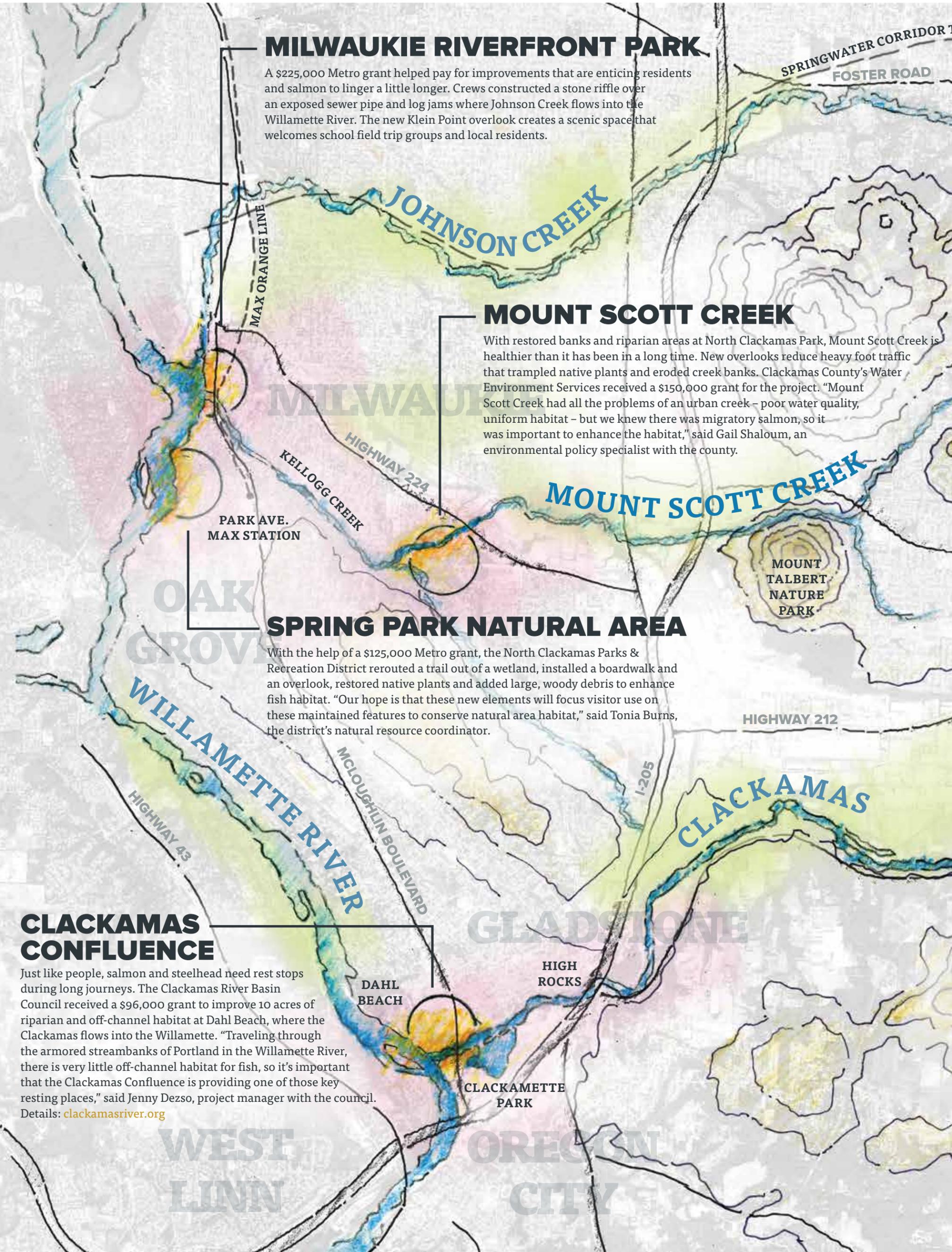
With restored banks and riparian areas at North Clackamas Park, Mount Scott Creek is healthier than it has been in a long time. New overlooks reduce heavy foot traffic that trampled native plants and eroded creek banks. Clackamas County's Water Environment Services received a \$150,000 grant for the project. "Mount Scott Creek had all the problems of an urban creek - poor water quality, uniform habitat - but we knew there was migratory salmon, so it was important to enhance the habitat," said Gail Shaloum, an environmental policy specialist with the county.

SPRING PARK NATURAL AREA

With the help of a \$125,000 Metro grant, the North Clackamas Parks & Recreation District rerouted a trail out of a wetland, installed a boardwalk and an overlook, restored native plants and added large, woody debris to enhance fish habitat. "Our hope is that these new elements will focus visitor use on these maintained features to conserve natural area habitat," said Tonia Burns, the district's natural resource coordinator.

CLACKAMAS CONFLUENCE

Just like people, salmon and steelhead need rest stops during long journeys. The Clackamas River Basin Council received a \$96,000 grant to improve 10 acres of riparian and off-channel habitat at Dahl Beach, where the Clackamas flows into the Willamette. "Traveling through the armored streambanks of Portland in the Willamette River, there is very little off-channel habitat for fish, so it's important that the Clackamas Confluence is providing one of those key resting places," said Jenny Dezso, project manager with the council. Details: clackamasriver.org



Restoring Rivers

STORY BY Yuxing Zheng / ILLUSTRATION BY Dave Elkin

Clean water and healthy habitats are the hallmarks of parks and nature in the Portland metro region. Look no further than nearby creeks and rivers, where residents can enjoy scenic summer floats, wildlife viewing and unrivalled winter fishing.

Thanks to two decades of voter investments, Metro has been able to acquire and restore natural areas along rivers as well as provide Nature in Neighborhoods grants to local organizations for restoration projects. From the wilder reaches of the Clackamas River to the urban stretches of the Willamette River, a number of restoration projects in the area in recent years are collectively making a big difference for water quality, fish and wildlife.

Each year, tens of thousands of Chinook and coho salmon, steelhead, cutthroat trout and Pacific lamprey migrate from the Pacific Ocean and up the Columbia and Willamette rivers to return to their traditional spawning grounds in the Clackamas River.

Healthier habitats make for healthier people, too. The Clackamas River, for instance, provides drinking water to nearly 400,000 people.

None of these restoration projects would be possible without the help of many local partners and volunteers.

Apply for the next round of Nature in Neighborhoods restoration grants in May: oregonmetro.gov/grants

RICHARDSON CREEK AND BAKERS FERRY NATURAL AREAS

Native fish and wildlife will soon enjoy better habitat – and more of it – at two Metro sites. At Richardson Creek, large wood will be placed in two streams so that fish can access more habitat, and a new bridge will replace an undersized culvert. At Bakers Ferry, a project will enhance an alcove, side channel and spring-fed tributary by installing large wood, replacing a culvert and expanding riparian areas that also improve water quality. The two projects are possible thanks in part to \$1 million from Portland General Electric's Clackamas Fund.

RIVER ISLAND NATURAL AREA

A former gravel mine devastated by floodwaters in 1996 is returning to its wild roots. Improvements last year on the south side of the Clackamas included removing concrete and asphalt on the riverbank, creating habitat for fish, decommissioning two sections of gravel roads and installing native plants. This summer, improvements on the north side will reconnect Goose Creek with the Clackamas and restore habitat for fish, turtles and wildlife.

Details: oregonmetro.gov/riverisland

KIPLING ROCK

"I have lived!" author Rudyard Kipling wrote after fishing near this spot on the Clackamas in June 1889. Kipling is best known for writing "The Jungle Book."

SCOUTERS
MOUNTAIN
NATURE
PARK

SUNNYSIDE ROAD

HIGHWAY 212

CARVER
BRIDGE

HIGHWAY 224

DEEP CREEK

BARTON
PARK

CLEAR CREEK

Field Guide

GLENDOVEER

STORY BY *Nicole Lewis*

PHOTOGRAPHY BY *C. Bruce Forster*

“A beautiful 36-hole golf course just 15 minutes from the heart of the city with fresh green tree bordered fairways — truly the golfers Mecca.” So boasts a 1930s Oregon Golf Magazine advertisement for Glendoveer Golf and Tennis Center.

Since 1924, Glendoveer has served as a center of community in northeast Portland. As the economy, greater Portland community and the world of recreation have evolved, so has Glendoveer. Today, this cherished resource attracts more than 250,000 visitors annually, and offers new and fun ways to experience a golf course that reach a far broader community than the golf and tennis crowd alone.

Year-round, residents of all ages enjoy a quiet walk or run along Glendoveer’s 2.2 mile perimeter trail. This wood-chipped path provides a safe place for exercise and nature experience close to home for the local Hazelwood community. Lose yourself among the sequoias, big-leaf maples, cedars and Douglas firs – including a heritage tree that started growing when the United States became a nation.

Glendoveer offers FootGolf, the innovative sport that combines soccer and golf. Try out your skills on the same holes played by Major League Soccer All-Stars.

Free community events attracted nearly 6,000 people last year. Glendoveer is a proud community partner and hosts and sponsors blood and clothing drives, charity tournaments, and golf programs that integrate life skills mentoring and support for local children in foster care. For two years running, Glendoveer has hosted the prestigious Nike Cross Nationals, the high school national cross-country championships, which also includes a community run open to the public.

From wildlife habitat to solar energy, Metro’s commitment to a healthy environment comes to life across the property. This site serves as an island oasis of nature among the busy city streets. And recent course improvements save 31 million gallons of water a year.

DON'T MISS!



TRILLIUM



ANNA'S HUMMINGBIRD



GOLDEN CROWNED KINGLET



COYOTE



GLENDOVEER

DIRECTIONS

TriMet buses 20, 25 and 77 stop within half a mile. MAX Blue Line stops at East 122nd or East 148th avenues are a mile away.

KNOW WHEN YOU GO

Glendoveer trail open sunrise to sunset, pro shop and tennis facility open 6:30 a.m. to 9:45 p.m. year-round. Available tee times for golf vary by season. For golf, FootGolf and tennis reservations: 503-253-7507

AMENITIES

Two 18-hole golf courses, driving range, indoor tennis, pro shop. Two-mile, wood-chipped loop trail with restrooms, picnic table, drinking fountain. RingSide Grill restaurant.

IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Grab some onion rings or enjoy a happy hour cheeseburger at RingSide Grill, a Portland institution located at Glendoveer. Nadaka Nature Park at Northeast 176th Avenue and Northeast Glisan Street features a nature play area, meadow and short loop trail. Visit Ventura Park at Southeast 115th and Southeast Stark Street, where bicyclists can practice their skills at the pump track built and maintained by the Northwest Trail Alliance. Metro’s Blue Lake Regional Park and Chinook Landing Marine Park are just a 15-minute drive away. For more information, visit playglendoveer.com

SEASON BY SEASON

SPRING: Glendoveer’s annual Easter egg hunt drew nearly 4,000 in 2015. Explore the grounds with your young friends and family this Easter during the free event. Free kids golf and tennis clinics are offered spring, summer and fall. Look for the beautiful, white trillium blossoms along the trail, and rufous hummingbirds in early spring. If you’re out at dusk, you may see a Western screech owl.

SUMMER: Play a round of golf on one of Glendoveer’s two 18-hole courses or try out FootGolf. Tour the course on a GolfBoard and see what it’s like to “skateboard” over the grass. Sign up the kids for weeklong golf and tennis camps. Be on the lookout for twilight walks with a naturalist – explore the natural side of Glendoveer at a unique time of day.

FALL: Every Halloween, Glendoveer transforms into a “Haunted Forest,” providing a safe, fun and dry place for trick-or-treating. Fall-themed tennis and golf events are a fun way to enjoy the last of the nice weather. And don’t forget “Glendo-Fest,” the end of summer season family event celebrating all things Glendoveer. Enjoy a stroll around the fitness trail and soak in the vibrant colors. You’ll see vine maple, western hazel and red huckleberry, among others.

WINTER: Donating to the on-site holiday charity drives is a fulfilling and accessible way to support the community. Or help care for the Glendoveer trail and remove invasive plants by joining the annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service work party in January. For those who go stir crazy during the winter, don’t forget: the tennis facility and driving range is covered and, more importantly, the latter is heated.

Destination Guide

Key

- | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|--|---|
| | 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 MTN. NATURE PARK
Hike or jog more than three miles of trails, watch wildlife or enjoy views of the Chehalem Mountains and Tualatin Valley.

5 GLENDOVEER GOLF COURSE & FITNESS TRAIL
TEE TIME: playglendoveer.com
Play a game of golf, footgolf or indoor tennis, or enjoy a scenic stroll on the two-mile fitness course.

6 GRAHAM OAKS NATURE PARK
Ride bikes through a restored oak woodland, stroll through a conifer forest and spot birds from a wetland overlook.

7 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.

8 LONE FIR CEMETERY
Enjoy a stroll or jog in this tree-filled community greenspace, one of Oregon's most treasured historic cemeteries.

9 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.

10 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.

11 OXBOW REGIONAL PARK
Explore 15 miles of trails through ancient forests, camp year-round or find the perfect adventure on the Sandy River.

12 SCOUTERS MTN. NATURE PARK
Climb the steep, fir-lined road to the top of this extinct lava dome to enjoy unrivaled views of Mount Hood.

13 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

- 14 CHINOOK LANDING MARINE PARK** \$
- 15 M. JAMES GLEASON MEMORIAL BOAT RAMP** \$
- 16 SAUVIE ISLAND BOAT RAMP**

For more information about each destination, visit oregonmetro.gov/parks



Get Involved

Wildlife Tracking for Beginners

Wild animals are secretive, but even the most elusive ones leave clues that a tracker can deduce. Join Metro naturalists for an inspiring lecture May 18 or sign up for the full series for adventures outside May 21 and 28.



WED
18
MAY

WHERE lecture: Tabor Space, 5441 SE Belmont St., Portland
field classes: locations will be provided to registered participants.

SAT
21
MAY

WHEN lecture: 6:30 to 9p.m. (5/18)
field classes: 9a.m to 2p.m. (5/21 and 5/28)

SAT
28
MAY

COST lecture: \$10/person
lecture and both field classes: \$50/person

AGES 15 and older

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

DIFFICULTY



THUR
21
APR

LEARNING THE LANGUAGE OF BIRDS

Birds are the alarm system of the forest. Through their vocalizations and movement, they broadcast the drama happening on the land. Come to the evening lecture for an introduction to bird language or sign up for the series to practice in the field. Field component involves a bird walk, a bird sit and introduction to bird language mapping.

SAT
23
APR

WHERE lecture: Lucky Labrador Brew Pub, 915 SE Hawthorne Blvd., Portland
field class: St. Johns Prairie

WHEN lecture: 7 to 8:30p.m. (4/21)
field class: 9a.m. to 1p.m. (4/23)

COST lecture: \$10/person
lecture and field class: \$20/person

AGES 15 and older

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

DIFFICULTY



SAT
30
APR

SMITH AND BYBEE WETLANDS KAYAK TOUR

Explore the calm back waters with a naturalist in search of wildlife in this large urban wetland. Alder Creek Kayak and Canoe will provide kayaks, paddles, floatation devices and instruction. Some kayaking experience recommended. Detailed information about what to bring will be provided to registered participants.

WHERE Smith and Bybee Wetlands

WHEN 8:30 to 11:30a.m.

COST \$28/person

AGES 15 and older

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

DIFFICULTY



SAT
23
APR

SOLVE-IT FOR EARTH DAY!

Oregon's largest Earth Day event needs you! Pick your favorite park and join Metro rangers, neighbors and friends in a day of work and fun. Gloves, tools, training and snacks are provided. Choose from projects at Blue Lake Regional Park, Broughton Beach or Graham Oaks Nature Park. See oregonmetro.gov/volunteer for more information.

WHERE various locations

WHEN 9a.m. to 1p.m.

COST free

AGES all ages

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

DIFFICULTY



SAT
30
APR

NATURALIST IN THE PARK

Join a Metro naturalist for a leisurely stroll through the white oak woodlands of Cooper Mountain and gain a deeper knowledge of this neighborhood park. Walk begins promptly at 10a.m. from the Nature House.

WHERE Cooper Mountain Nature Park

WHEN 10a.m. to noon

COST free

AGES all ages

REGISTRATION NOT REQUIRED

DIFFICULTY



DIFFICULTY KEY



EASY



MODERATE



STRENUOUS



@METRONATURALIST

SAT
07
MAY**GRAHAM OAKS ECO-BLITZ**

The Graham Oaks Nature Park Eco-Blitz is part of a regionwide series to find and collect data on the area's wildlife. A knowledgeable leader will take the group on each shift to search for various species of plants and animals. Special night shift for nocturnal insects and bats. No experience necessary; introduction to iNaturalist app will be provided. Details at theintertwine.org/blitz

WHERE Graham Oaks Nature Park
WHEN shifts from 9:30a.m. to 10p.m.
COST free
AGES all ages
REGISTRATION REQUIRED
DIFFICULTY

SUN
22
MAY**TURTLE WALK AT SMITH AND BYBEE WETLANDS**

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

WHERE Smith and Bybee Wetlands
WHEN 10a.m. to noon
COST \$6/person, \$11/family
AGES all ages
REGISTRATION REQUIRED
DIFFICULTY

SAT
07
MAY**SMITH AND BYBEE WETLANDS CANOE AND KAYAK TOUR**

Join a Metro naturalist to learn about the wildlife and natural history of one of the country's largest urban wetlands. Alder Creek Kayak and Canoe will provide boats, paddles, floatation devices and instruction. Two adults in a canoe can add one or two young children. Detailed information about what to bring will be provided to registered participants.

WHERE Smith and Bybee Wetlands
WHEN 8:30 to 11:30a.m.
COST \$28/adult (14 and older), \$8/child
AGES 5 and older
REGISTRATION REQUIRED
DIFFICULTY

SUN
05
JUN**TREES OF SCOUTERS MOUNTAIN NATURE PARK**

Trees, trees beautiful trees. Do you know which local tree hosts the most number of lichens and mosses? Or which tree grows the tallest? Come take a walk and learn about conifer and deciduous trees. We cover tree identification, and human and animal uses of trees.

WHERE Scouters Mountain Nature Park
WHEN 10a.m. to 12:30p.m.
COST \$6/person, \$11/family
AGES 8 and older
REGISTRATION REQUIRED
DIFFICULTY

SUN
08
MAY**MOTHER'S DAY BIRDS AND BLOOMS OF CANEMAH BLUFF**

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

WHERE Canemah Bluff Nature Park
WHEN 1 to 3p.m.
COST \$6/person, \$11/family
AGES 6 and older
REGISTRATION REQUIRED
DIFFICULTY

SAT
25
JUN**ANIMAL TRACKING ADVENTURE**

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

WHERE Oxbow Regional Park
WHEN 10a.m. to 1:30p.m.
COST \$6/person, \$11/family; \$5/car, \$7/bus
AGES 8 and older
REGISTRATION REQUIRED
DIFFICULTY

FRI
13
MAY**SANDY RIVER SPEY CLAVE**

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

WHERE Oxbow Regional Park
WHEN 9a.m. to 4p.m. daily
COST \$5/car and \$7/bus or free with annual parks pass
AGES all ages
REGISTRATION NOT REQUIRED
DIFFICULTY

SAT
14
MAYSUN
15
MAYTHUR
30
JUN**TWILIGHT THURSDAY AT SMITH AND BYBEE WETLANDS**

As the sun begins its descent in the sky, many animals go out to forage for one last meal. At the same time, nocturnal animals begin to awaken and move across the landscape. Join a naturalist on a hike to explore the magical space between day and night.

WHERE Smith and Bybee Wetlands
WHEN 7:30 to 9:30p.m.
COST \$6/person, \$11/family
AGES all ages
REGISTRATION REQUIRED
DIFFICULTY

SAT
02
APRSAT
16
APRSAT
07
MAYSAT
21
MAYSAT
11
JUNSAT
25
JUN**SPRING VOLUNTEER VENTURES**

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

WHERE Native Plant Center, 2661 SW Borland Road, Tualatin
WHEN 9a.m. to 1p.m.
AGES all ages
REGISTRATION REQUIRED
DIFFICULTY



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: Yuliya Klichkova, 503-972-8550.

Tools For Living

Can I kill the ants but not the dog?

Ants are good for the garden – they till the soil, eat pests and provide food for birds. But ants can also come inside searching for food.

WHAT KIND OF ANTS DO YOU HAVE?

Nuisance ants are tiny and dark brown. Carpenter ants are big and black or black and red. Both eat small insects and bits of food and grease, and both seek moisture and nesting sites indoors – so, many strategies for preventing them are the same.

KEEP ANTS OUT

Inside, use caulk or spackle to seal gaps between baseboards and floors, window frames and walls, and where plumbing enters the wall.

Outside, seal foundation cracks and holes around electrical, plumbing and cable lines. Use weather stripping to close gaps around doors and windows.

Prune tree branches or shrubs away from the walls or roof of your house so ants can't use them as a bridge. Remove piles of wood or decaying stumps near your home's foundation so there are fewer places for ants to colonize. Check firewood carefully before bringing it inside.

Clean gutters and seal any leaks in siding, roof and plumbing so moisture does not attract ants or cause wood rot that invites infestations. Wooden parts of the house should not contact soil. Make sure sprinklers are not watering the house. Repair any rotten or weather-damaged wood, and be sure that attic and crawl space ventilation is adequate.



WHAT IF THEY'RE ALREADY INSIDE?

Wash surfaces with soap and water, and make sure food is sealed in containers with tight lids.

Wipe ants up with a soapy rag. Soap kills ants and washes away the chemical markers they leave behind to guide other ants on the trail. If you have a lot of ants, you can vacuum them up and then remove the vacuum bag, seal it tightly in plastic and dispose of it in the trash.

If nuisance ants persist, use bait stations. Look for ones with boric acid or some form of "tetraborate" as the only active ingredients. Keep them away from children and pets.

PROFESSIONAL ANT REMOVAL

Carpenter ants are difficult to deal with without the help of a professional. Ask questions and be wary if they suggest perimeter sprays – they are relatively ineffective and unsafe. Removing colonies is more effective.

If chemicals are needed, ask about less toxic options such as desiccants, boric acid and eugenol.



photo: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Camponotus_queen.jpg



Get a written proposal that includes what pests were found, what products will be used and what guarantees they have in case of problems.

Find more tips on nontoxic pest control for the home and the yard at oregonmetro.gov/toolsforliving



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

Valid only at MetroPaint Swan Island, 4825 N. Basin Ave. in Portland. Limit of one coupon per customer per day. Limit one per household. Offer expires Feb. 29, 2016.

Ask Metro about affordable paint.

503-234-3000 | oregonmetro.gov/metropaint



0BB16

Where do I toss an **old tub?**



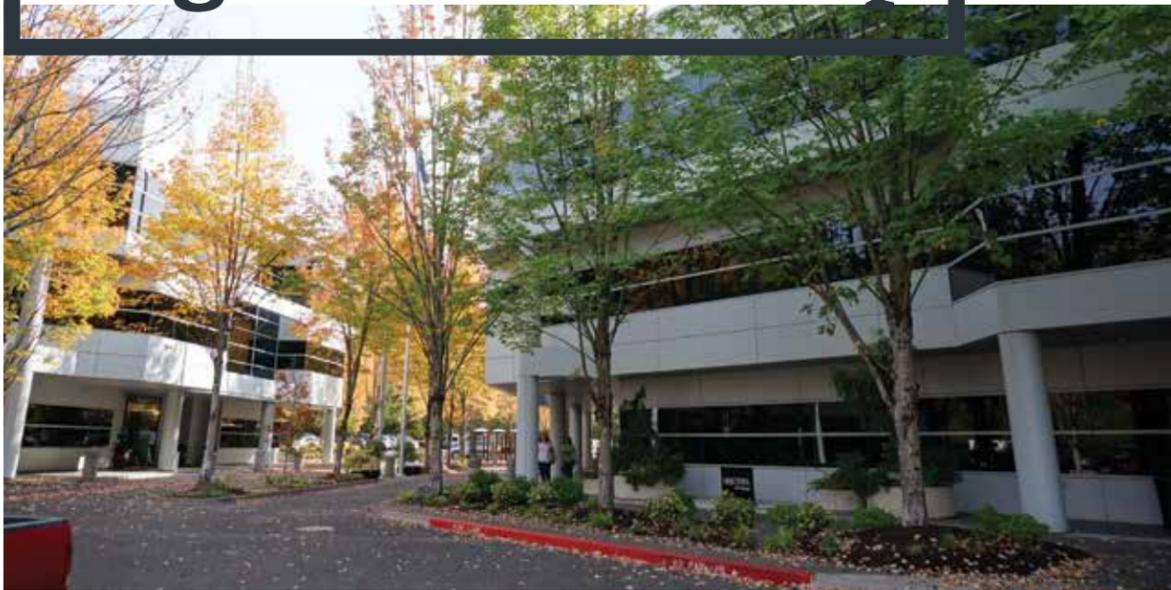
Ask Metro about remodel clean-up.

oregonmetro.gov/tub | 503-234-3000 | 

Ask Metro ABOUT TOOLS FOR LIVING.

503-234-3000 oregonmetro.gov

Regional Roundup



MADE HERE

The region has a reputation for innovation. Leading that charge are entrepreneurial people from a variety of industries, including:



RICK TUROCZY, PORTLAND INCUBATOR EXPERIMENT: *I always say the Portland region is big enough to be statistically relevant, but not so big that you can't try new things.*



DR. LISA COUSSENS, KNIGHT CANCER INSTITUTE: *It hasn't been hard at all (to recruit cancer researchers to Portland). I don't think I have had anyone complain. People are pleasantly surprised by Portland.*



D'WAYNE EDWARDS, PENSOLE FOOTWEAR DESIGN ACADEMY: *This is by far one of the most creative cities in America. Yet, Portlandia gets all the attention.*

MAKING IT HERE

But people have different experiences with the economy. Here's how some people are getting by:



YIN AYE NAW, 42, A REFUGEE FROM MYANMAR: *I am trying any job for experience. I was a cashier, (I did) housekeeping. I will try to do it. I want to know how to survive while living in the United States.*



JEREMY WHIZ, 21, WORKING TWO NONPROFIT INTERNSHIPS: *I'd rather have a career than just a paycheck. Unfortunately, I have to worry about the money and the job, and to me it feels like it shouldn't be like that.*



SARA FISHER, 36, PURSUING AVIATION MAINTENANCE TECHNOLOGY AT PCC – ROCK CREEK: *My instructor said to make sure you don't do too much work outside of the program. But if I don't work, I can't pay my bills.*

YOU ARE HERE Read the full stories, explore infographics and watch videos at oregonmetro.gov/snapshot



A jobs snapshot

STORY BY *Craig Beebe*
PHOTOGRAPHY BY *Sally Painter and Justin Sherrill*

The Great Recession is over. But how quickly is the Portland region getting out from the recession's shadow – and how evenly?

Metro's second Regional Snapshot looks at the region's economy and areas of success and concern. With data, personal perspectives and expert insight, it's a great way to get up to speed with where the economic road is heading.

BY THE NUMBERS

- At a glance, the region is doing well, with twice as many jobs gained in recent years as those lost from 2008 to 2010.
- The region's job growth is on par and even outpacing some of the country's strongest regional economies – places such as San Francisco, Salt Lake City and Seattle. And overall, the Portland region's workers are more educated and earn more than the national average.
- Job and income growth aren't spread evenly. Like other American cities, the Portland region is seeing richer and poorer households grow more quickly than middle-income households.

People of color and women continue to fall behind both in wages and in the educational attainment needed to break into higher-paying job sectors. What does that mean for a more diverse future?

THE RUNDOWN

Four experts on the economy – Greater Portland Inc.'s Janet LaBar, Oregon Entrepreneur Network's Linda Weston, inclusive economy expert Dwayne Johnson and Oregon Employment Department economist Christian Kaylor – gave their take:

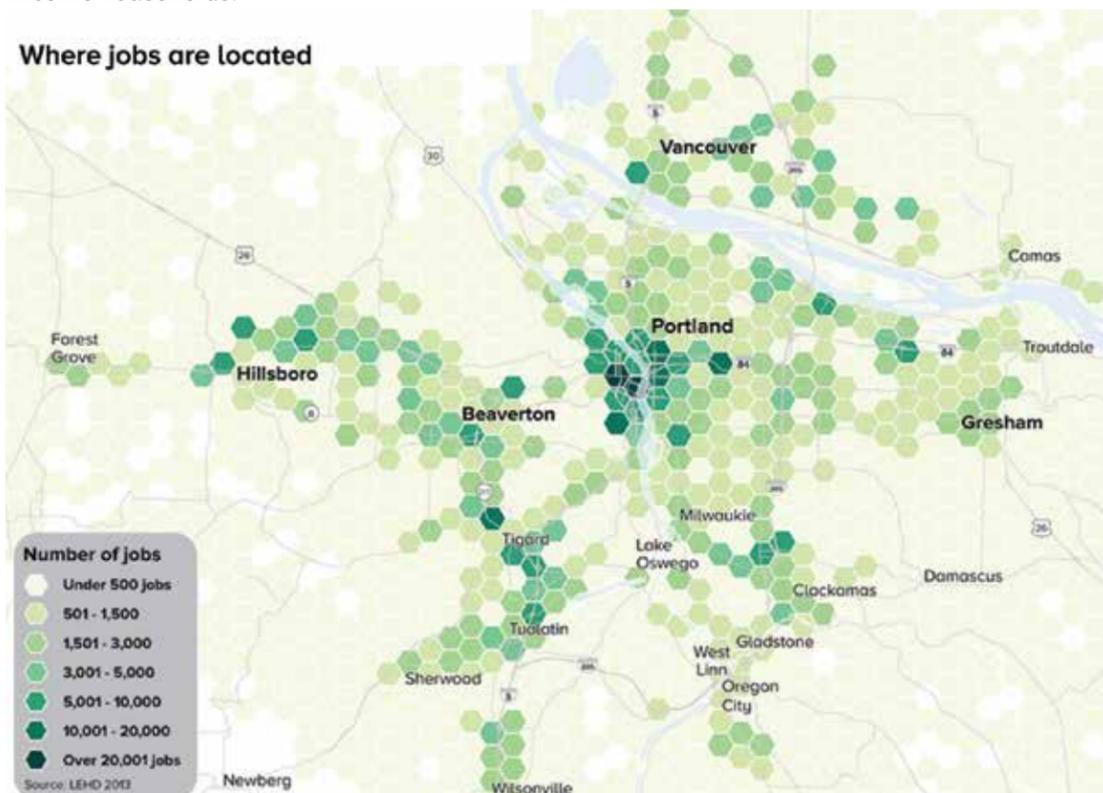
Where are we strong?

LABAR: *It sounds cliché, but quality of life is something that greater Portland can hang its hat on.*
WESTON: *We are open to innovation and new ideas.*
JOHNSON: *Our people.*
KAYLOR: *The diversity of job growth. Every major industry is growing.*

Where are we challenged?

LABAR: *The region could do better in having more of a competitiveness mindset.*
WESTON: *What our public agencies are able to provide to support economic development.*
JOHNSON: *We don't take advantage of our resources.*
KAYLOR: *We are not creating enough jobs in middle-income, middle-skill industries.*

Where jobs are located





Metro

600 NE Grand Ave.
Portland, OR 97232-2736

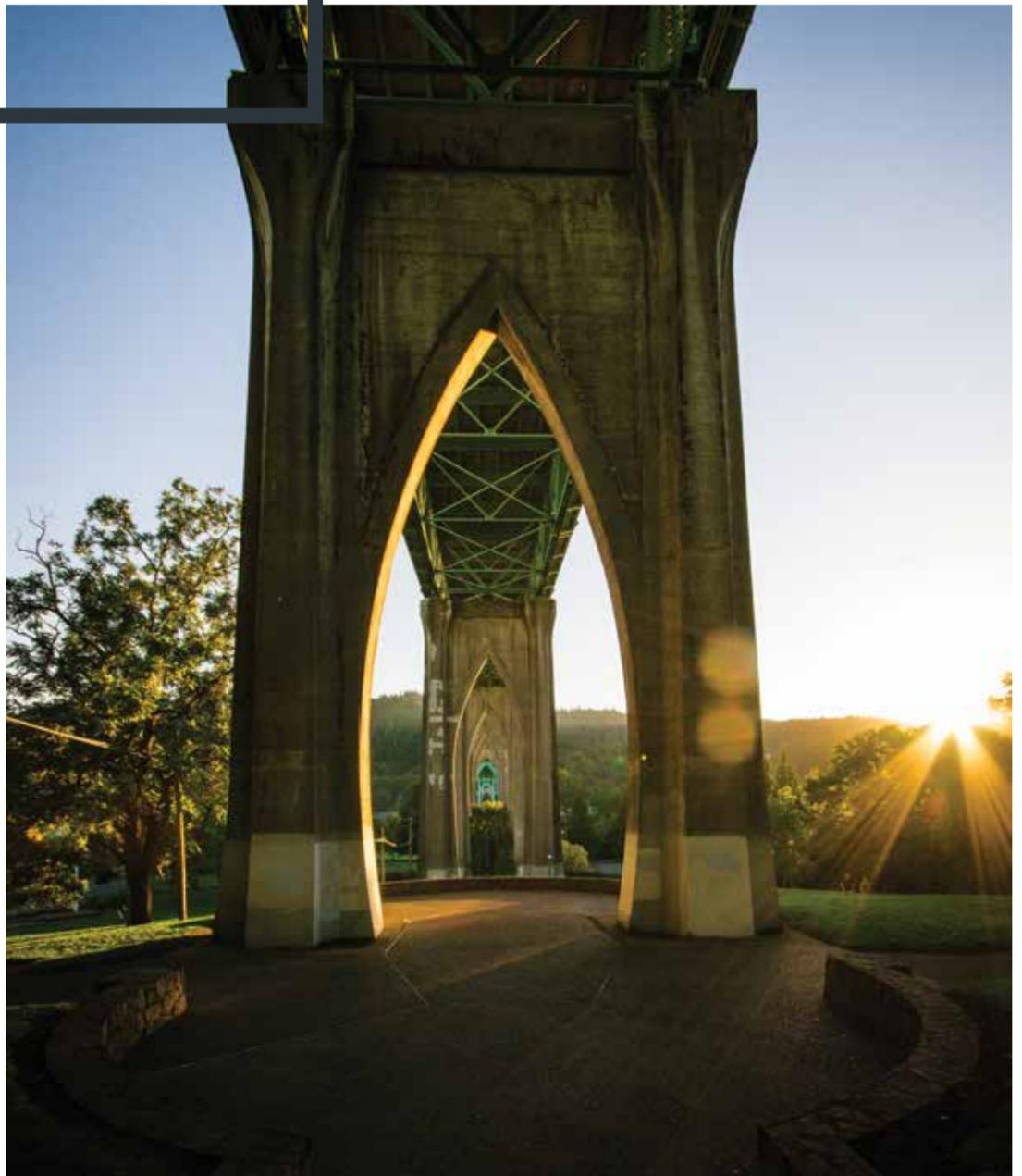
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Share (Y)our Nature and Win!

Sarah Stills | Oregon City

While I was walking my dog through Cathedral Park with my husband, the sun was setting perfectly behind the river.

- Sarah Stills, Oregon City



SHARE (Y)OUR NATURE, WIN PRIZES

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 description of your experience in a 50-word caption. 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 picture and description by May 31 to:
ourbigbackyard@oregonmetro.gov

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Metro

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