PARKS & NATURE SYSTEM PLAN

DRAFT

Metro

Metro

ABOUT METRO

Clean air and clean water do not stop at city limits or county lines. Neither does the need for jobs, a thriving economy, and sustainable transportation and living choices for people and businesses in the region. Voters have asked Metro to help with the challenges and opportunities that affect the 25 cities and three counties in the Portland metropolitan area.

A regional approach simply makes sense when it comes to providing services, operating venues and making decisions about how the region grows. Metro works with communities to support a resilient economy, keep nature close by and respond to a changing climate. Together we're making a great place, now and for generations to come.

METRO COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Tom Hughes

METRO COUNCILORS

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A BRIGHTER, WILDER FUTURE

From preserving farmland to brewing beer, Oregonians do a world-class job at the things we love – and protecting nature towers near the top of that list.

Over the last quarter-century, voters have supported investments to build a regional park system that spans 17,000 acres and touches every community in the greater Portland area. Metro is proud to serve as steward of the forests, savannas, wetlands and riverbanks that make this region unique.

Our landscape creates a stunning place to call home, and a lot of opportunities to explore. By protecting nature, we keep our air and water clean. We secure the future of native fish, wildlife and plants. We make our communities more resilient, and more fun. We attract businesses and tourists who seek out a beautiful, healthy, playful destination.

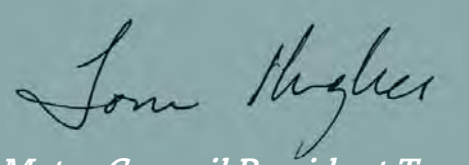
After 25 years of investment, Metro owes it to Oregonians to make the most of the land they've protected. Very few metropolitan areas have the opportunity before us: leveraging our natural setting to create a brighter, wilder future. That's why we're crafting a Parks and Nature System Plan to guide the next generation of decisions and investments.

A plan can be a powerful tool. We've seen proof in the 1992 Greenspaces Master Plan, which charted a vision and galvanized support to bring it to life. Today, that plan has translated to a big portfolio of parks, trails, natural areas, nature programs and historic cemeteries. What we need is an overarching strategy to protect, care for and connect people with these special places.

While laying out Metro's mission, role and priorities, the system plan also promises to make sure that nature benefits our whole community. Sparkling water, soaring birds and family picnics belong to every Oregonian – including people of color and low-income residents, who have often been left behind by public investments. It is Metro's responsibility, and our honor, to build an equitable Parks and Nature system.

We have all the right ingredients: A landscape worth protecting. People who love it. A track record of innovation and investment. And, now, a plan to guide our efforts over the next 25 years and beyond.

Let's get started.



Metro Council President Tom Hughes

A COMMUNITY EFFORT

Thank you, partners and community members, for shaping Metro's Parks and Nature System Plan. You have been generous with your time, talent and perspective - from local government leaders who hosted detailed conversations with Metro's Parks and Nature team to families who took a few minutes at a summer festival to share what nature means to them. Contributors include fellow park providers, local governments, community-based organizations and representatives from conservation, recreation, business, neighborhood, health and other nonprofit groups. This plan reflects your voices, and your commitment to clean water, healthy wildlife habitat and opportunities to connect with nature.

CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

INVESTING IN NATURE
COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS
LOOKING AHEAD

INTRODUCTION

No matter where you stand in the greater Portland area, nature is never far. With 17,000 acres, Metro manages parks and natural areas across every community in the region – from Chehalem Ridge on the west to the Sandy River Gorge on the east, from Blue Lake and Broughton Beach on the north to Graham Oaks on the south.

This portfolio of land represents both a big opportunity and a big responsibility. Voters have trusted Metro to wisely spend the money they've invested through two regional bond measures and a levy – more than $400 million – to protect and care for these special places, while also creating opportunities for people to enjoy them.

In 2015, Metro celebrated its 25th year as a parks provider. This milestone comes at a time of tremendous growth, with new destinations, programs and partnerships taking root. A strong plan is needed to guide future decision-making and investments, building a world-class Parks and Nature system that will serve the region's residents for another quarter century and beyond.

Metro's flourishing network of parks, trails, natural areas, nature programs and cemeteries supports the agency's broader mission: making a great place. As Metro invests in livable communities, connections with nature are as critical as homes, jobs and transportation. A successful Parks and Nature system protects water quality and vanishing wildlife habitat. It increases housing values and attracts employers to the region, providing welcome access to the great outdoors for people who live in urban and suburban neighborhoods.

Perhaps most importantly, Oregonians' sense of place is rooted in the forests, rivers and meadows that Metro protects. Nature makes this place feel like home.

INVESTING IN NATURE

People have demonstrated their commitment to nature over the last quarter century by building a unique regional park system – one of just a handful in the United States with nature at its heart.

Starting with the closure of the St. Johns Landfill and transfer of Multnomah County's parks and cemeteries, Metro has evolved into a major landowner, manager and regional leader. Twice, the region's voters have directed Metro to acquire additional natural areas to protect water quality, fish and wildlife habitat and opportunities for people to connect with nature.

Top priority was given to buying sensitive habitat, before it was developed or rose dramatically in price. As a result, Metro has helped increase the region's portfolio of publicly owned natural areas and parkland by more than 25 percent, bringing the grand total to nearly 70,000 acres – enough to cover the entire cities of Beaverton, Hillsboro and Gresham. Residents can exercise, commute and connect with nature on the first 225 miles of a regional trails network that someday may expand to 900 miles.

In 2013, voters passed a levy to care for Metro's Parks and Nature portfolio. Across the region Metro is restoring habitat, improving parks for visitors, opening new sites, expanding opportunities to volunteer and learn about nature, and supporting community projects. Several new initiatives are designed to better serve residents who historically have missed out on the benefits of nature, including people of color and low-income communities.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Metro is not in this alone. By its very nature, developing a regional system has been a collaborative effort.

Metro's two bond measures both included funds for cities, counties and local park providers to invest in nature close to home. A few local jurisdictions care for properties that Metro owns. And Nature in Neighborhoods grants support local partnerships to restore habitat, open and improve parks, and involve the community.

The regional trails program, in particular, depends heavily on local partners to build and maintain new corridors. Metro's role has been one of convener, technical expert and steward of the region's vision, as well as securing the rights to build missing sections that force runners, walkers and bicyclists onto public streets.

Like Metro, many local jurisdictions balance managing their natural landscapes day-to-day while proactively addressing challenges such as invasive plants, unauthorized trails and transient camping. Meanwhile, as the greater Portland area grows and becomes more diverse, partners see a shared opportunity to make parks and nature relevant to the communities they serve.

Recognizing the importance of these shared challenges – and the opportunities to make the most of nature – local governments, private businesses, nonprofit groups and community members came together to launch an innovative coalition known as The Intertwine Alliance. This broad-based group works to create, care for and promote a world-class network of natural areas, parks and trails. Nurturing this partnership and reaching out to the community is an integral part of Metro's work going forward.

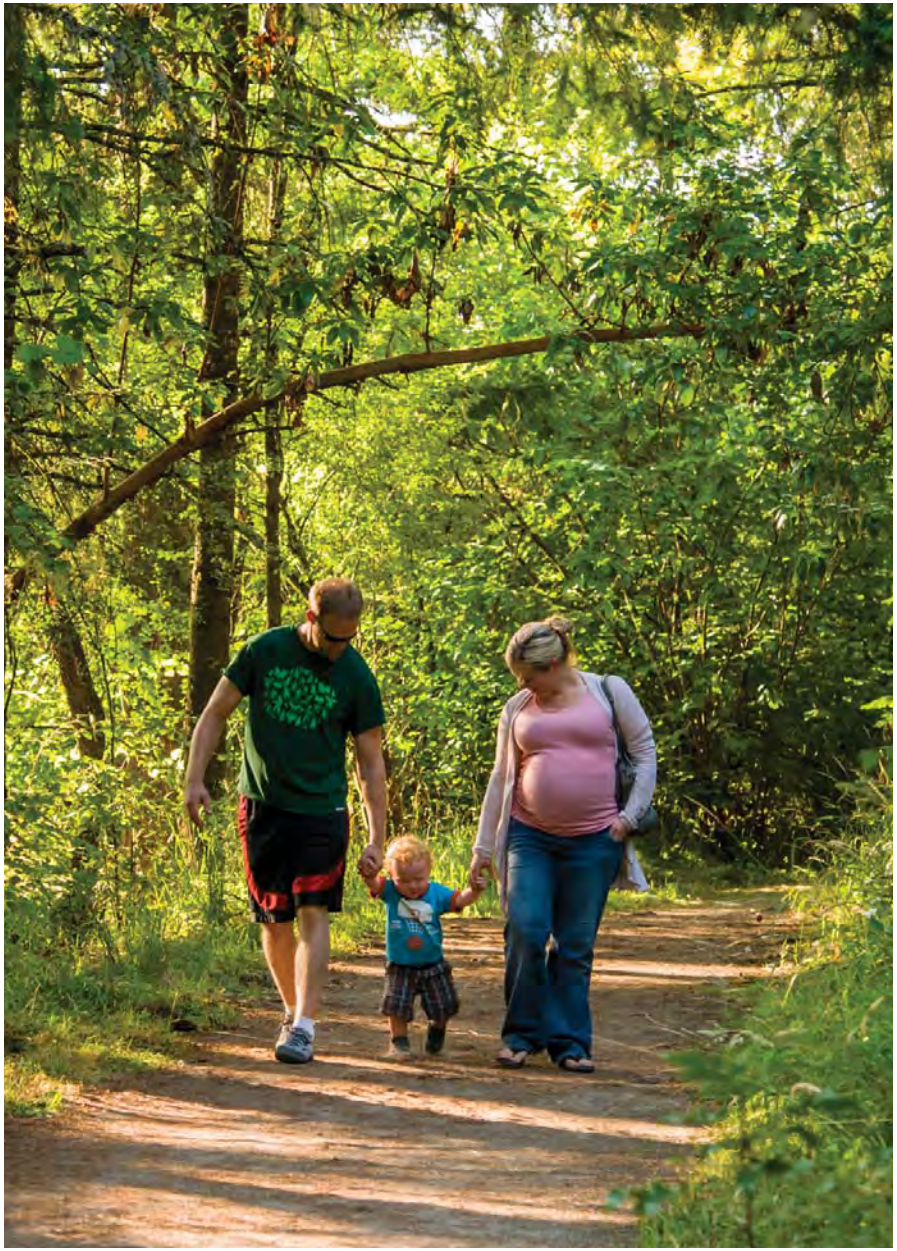
LOOKING AHEAD

After a quarter century of rapid growth, Metro Parks and Nature has a clear vision of its land and programs. Growing from its roots in Multnomah County, Metro now has a presence across the region and plays a critical role in providing residents a complete system of parks, trails and natural areas. It's time to plan for the next generation of decision-making and investments.

The Parks and Nature System Plan lays out Metro's mission and role, the state of the portfolio today, trends that will shape this work and a slate of strategies to guide the future. By providing clarity on Metro's direction, the plan is intended to support Metro's partners and strengthen relationships – but is not intended to guide the broader regional network of parks, natural areas and trails. This plan also provides a framework for future decisions about the funding needed to sustain Metro's Parks and Nature portfolio. While setting the vision for the next two decades, the system plan will be updated every five to seven years.

Metro's vision will succeed only if it benefits diverse communities across our region. Too often, parks and nature investments have focused on people who are already engaged, and already have access to the outdoors. Woven throughout the Parks and Nature System Plan, Metro makes commitments to doing a better job serving people of color and low-income communities. Making a difference will take resources, planning, collaboration, careful listening – and time.

The system plan will play out on the ground in many tangible ways, from prioritizing restoration efforts to helping shape the look and feel of future destinations. Ultimately it elevates the region's stunning landscapes, popular destinations and fun programs to more than individual successes, tying them together as part of a world-class Parks and Nature system.



CHAPTER 2: MISSION AND ROLE IN THE REGION

MISSION
ROLE IN THE REGION
OPERATING MODEL
COMMUNITY VALUES

> "It is our assertion that if we are to have parks and open space areas in the future, we need to reposition our planning and funding priorities now to reflect the importance of greenspaces in our urban fabric. The protection, acquisition and active stewardship of greenspaces must become just as important as planning highways, transit, water and sewer lines, and other basic services."
>
> Metropolitan Greenspaces Master Plan, 1992

This call to action in the 1992 Greenspaces Master Plan helped spur a remarkable investment in the greater Portland region's parks and natural areas over the last two decades. It also started Metro's transformation into one of the largest land managers in the region. Metro's mission as a provider of parks and natural areas has been shaped by two bond measures, the 2013 local option levy and regional planning efforts such as The Intertwine Alliance's Regional Conservation Strategy and Biodiversity Guide for the Greater Portland-Vancouver Region.

METRO MISSION STATEMENT

Metro Parks and Nature protects water quality, fish and wildlife habitat, and creates opportunities to enjoy nature close to home through a connected system of parks, trails and natural areas.

ROLE IN THE REGION

Metro's work is deeply connected with its partners', both in local government and community-based organizations. The system plan is intended to clarify Metro's role, particularly its niche relative to other park providers.

More than 20 years of policy, voter investment and community support have established Metro as a provider of parks, trails and natural areas. This portfolio plays an essential role in protecting clean air, water, and fish and wildlife habitat while providing access to nature. Because Metro's portfolio has been built around natural resources, it looks different than most park providers' – and so do access opportunities. When you arrive at a Metro destination, you'll have a front-row view of some of the most spectacular habitat in the greater Portland area. Across its portfolio, Metro leads science-based restoration activities, provides nature education and volunteer programs, invests in community nature projects and plays a key role in convening local, regional, state and federal partners.

It is just as important to be clear with partners about what Metro doesn't provide. In general, Metro does not operate local and neighborhood parks, sports complexes, indoor or developed swimming facilities or recreation centers. However, stakeholder feedback demonstrated that these facilities are very important to the community, particularly in underserved neighborhoods.

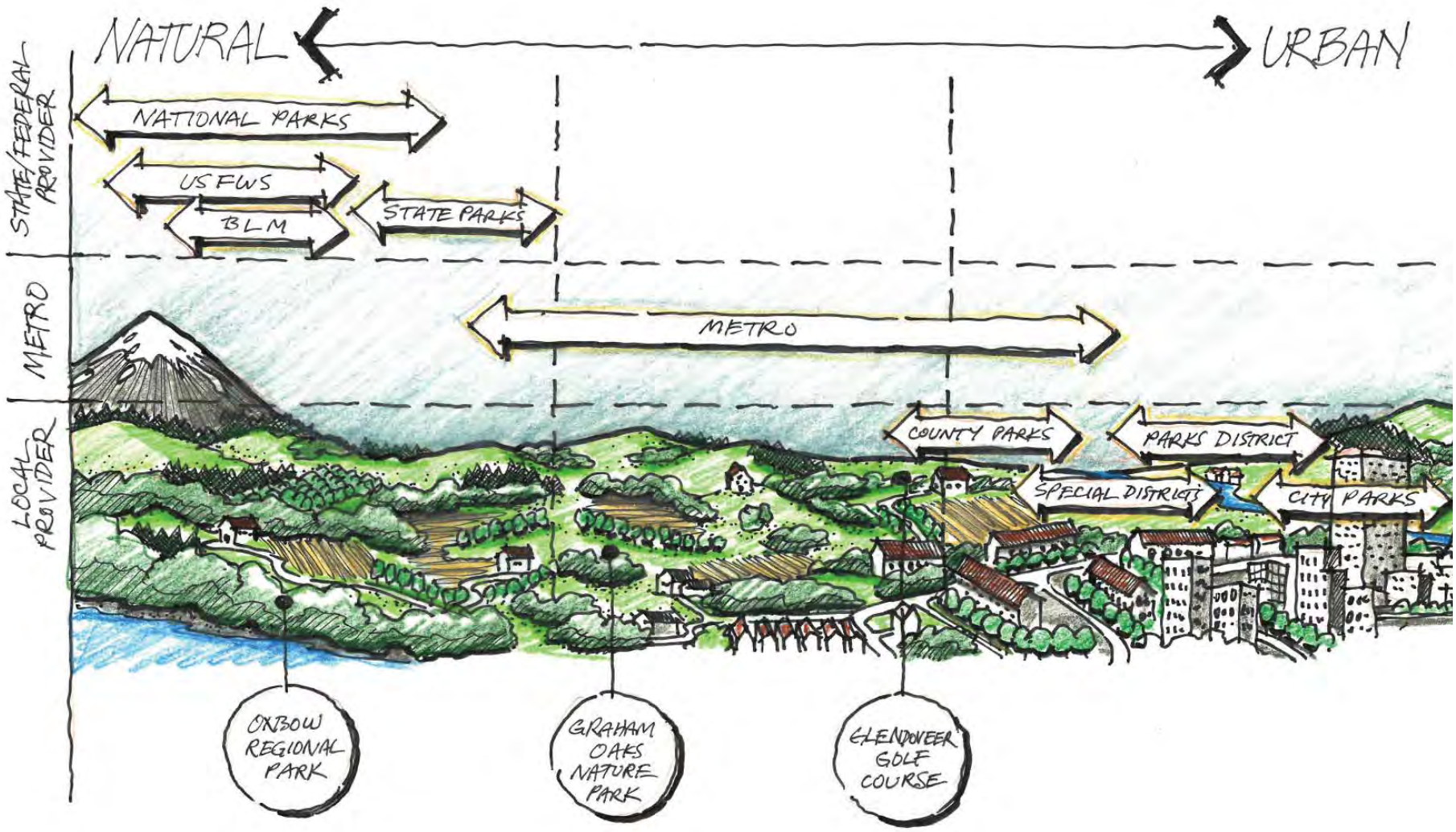
Metro's work is built on partnerships with local governments, which are strongest when parks systems complement – rather than compete with – one another. Community and partner engagement has reflected strong support for Metro's role. Partners and the public want to see Metro focus on its niche of protecting natural resources, providing outdoor experiences with nature at their core, working with partners to complete the regional trails system and investing in local communities.

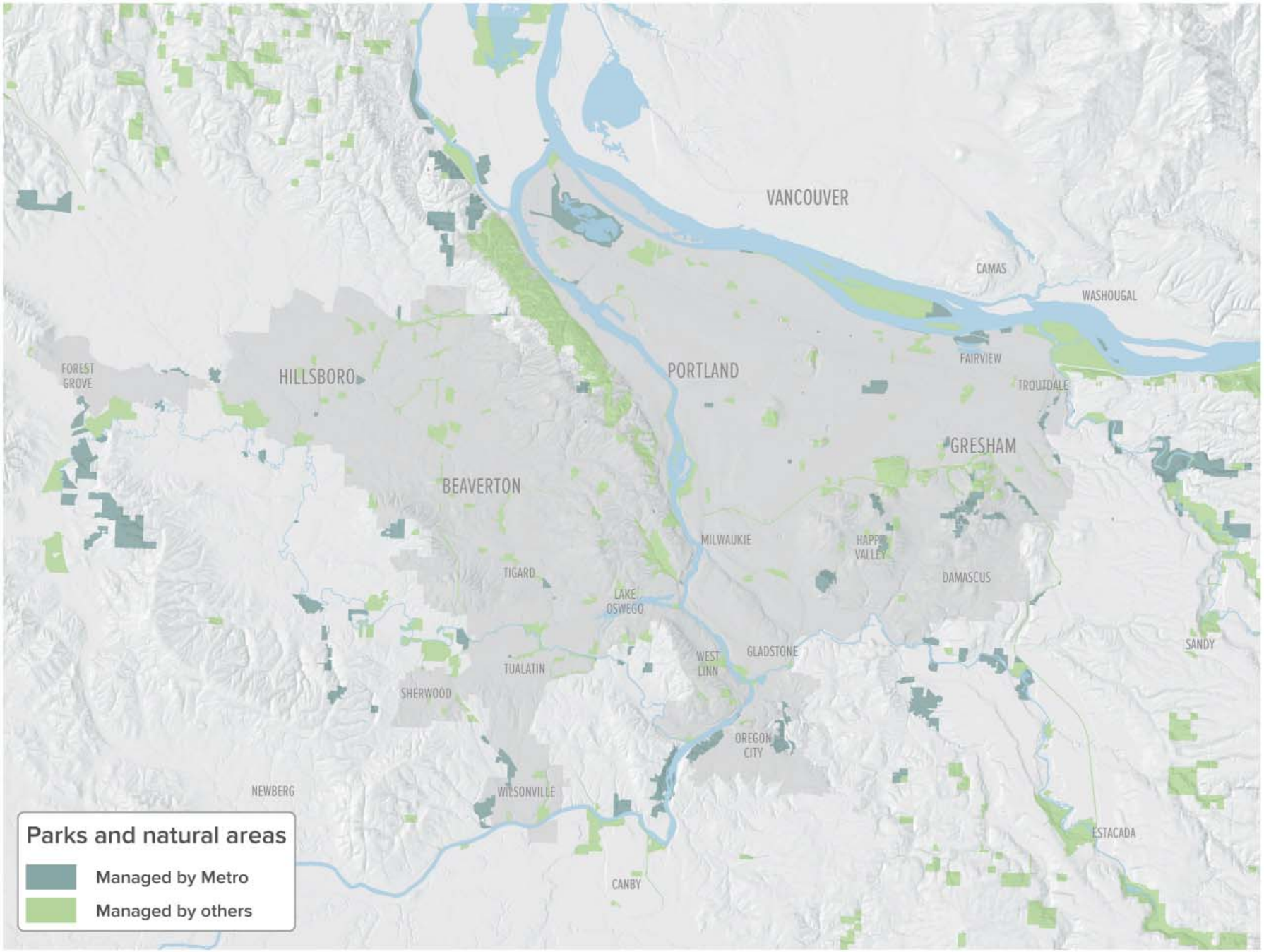
Metro fills a crucial role in the spectrum of parks, between urban providers like cities and parks districts and federal and state parks. The greater Portland region has a strong network of local park providers and an excellent system of protected state and federal land. However, Metro is one of the few agencies focusing on large-scale conservation of natural areas close to home in an urban setting. As the graphic shows, Metro has some facilities that are an unusual fit within its mission – but every provider has outliers. In Metro's case, the best examples include Glendoveer Golf Course and its historic cemeteries; while these sites don't have natural resources at their core, Metro has worked to integrate experiences with nature.

Metro's role is distinguished from other providers in several important ways. First, Metro focuses on natural areas protection and ecosystem conservation in an urban context. Second, Metro can acquire and provide access to large sites that typically are beyond the reach of local jurisdictions, but closer to population centers than those managed by state and federal providers. Finally, Metro's resources support regional partners through grants and other active partnerships.

REGIONAL LEADERSHIP

While growing in its role as a major park provider, Metro remains a committed leader in advancing regional initiatives to protect, restore and connect people with nature. Metro will continue to take a collaborative approach, working with The Intertwine Alliance, local park providers, community-based organizations and other partners. Convening regional projects and sharing technical expertise are important parts of Metro's role.


NATURAL
URBAN
STATE/FEDERAL PROVIDER
METRO
LOCAL PROVIDER
NATIONAL PARKS
USFWS
BLM
STATE PARKS
METRO
COUNTY PARKS
PARKS DISTRICT
SPECIAL DISTRICTS
CITY PARKS
OXBOW REGIONAL PARK
GRAHAM OAKS NATURE PARK
GLENDOVEER GOLF COURSE


VANCOUVER
CAMAS
WASHOUGAL
FAIRVIEW
TROUTDALE
PORTLAND
HILLSBORO
FOREST GROVE
GRESHAM
BEAVERTON
MILWAUKIE
HAPPY VALLEY
DAMASCUS
TIGARD
LAKE OSWEGO
WEST LINN
GLADSTONE
SANDY
TUALATIN
SHERWOOD
OREGON CITY
NEWBERG
WILSONVILLE
ESTACADA
CANBY
Parks and natural areas
Managed by Metro
Managed by others

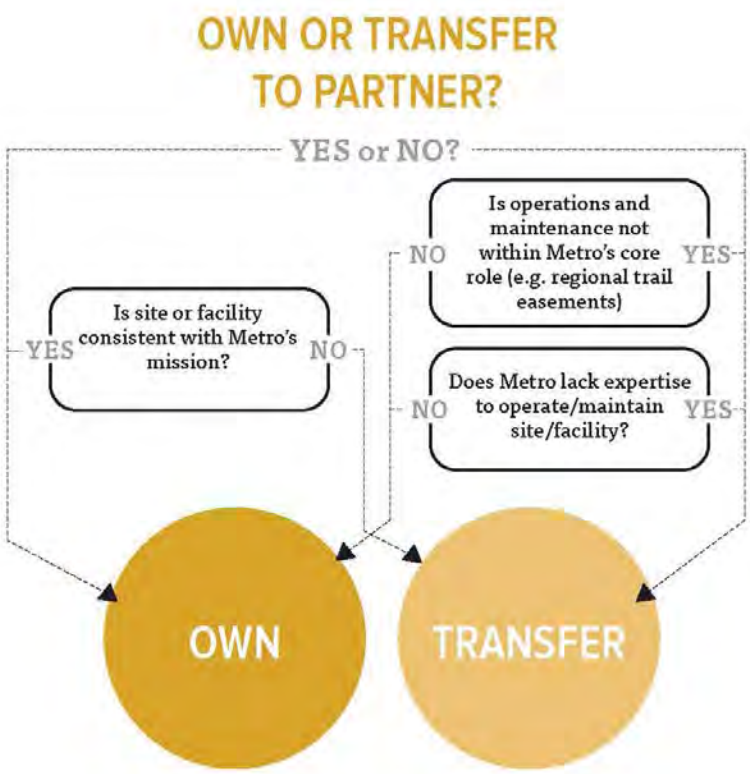
OPERATING MODEL

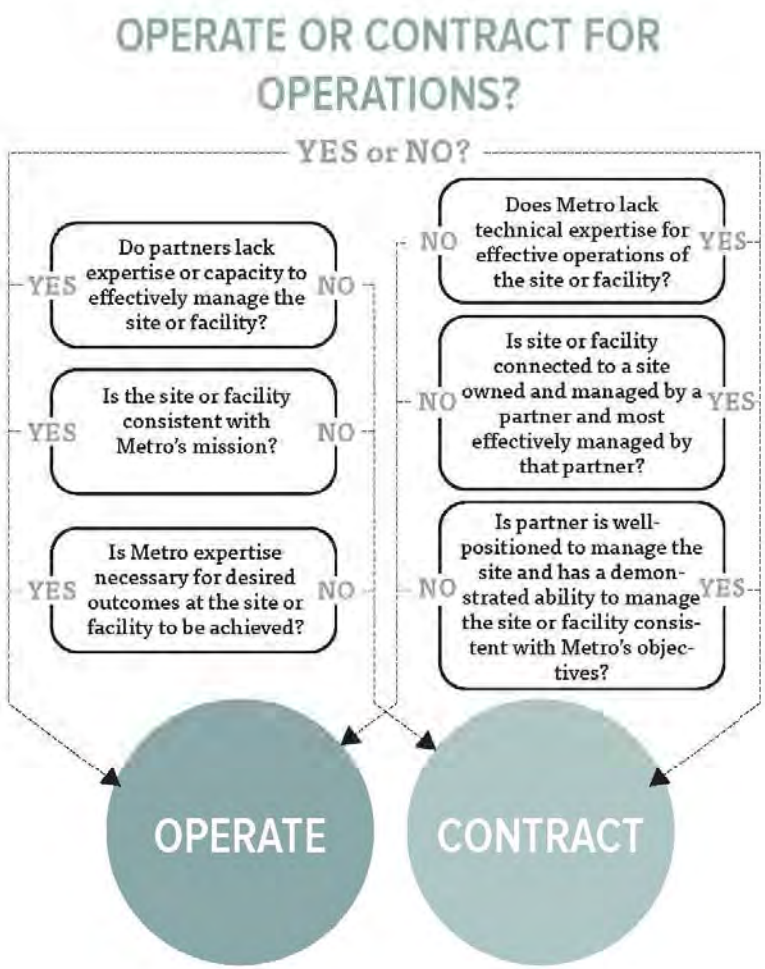
Defining Metro's role in the region is an important part of Metro's evolution as a landowner and operator. It's also critical to be clear how Metro will operate the diverse portfolio of parks, trails and natural areas. The size and span of Metro's holdings show the importance of having a clear operating strategy.

Metro's policy is to own and operate parks and natural areas that are consistent with its Parks and Nature mission. The primary goal is always to ensure that the desired outcomes on the site are achieved – whether they are water quality and habitat improvements or high-quality opportunities to enjoy nature. Any choices to transfer ownership of sites or contract operations will ensure that the region's residents are recognized for their investments in the site.

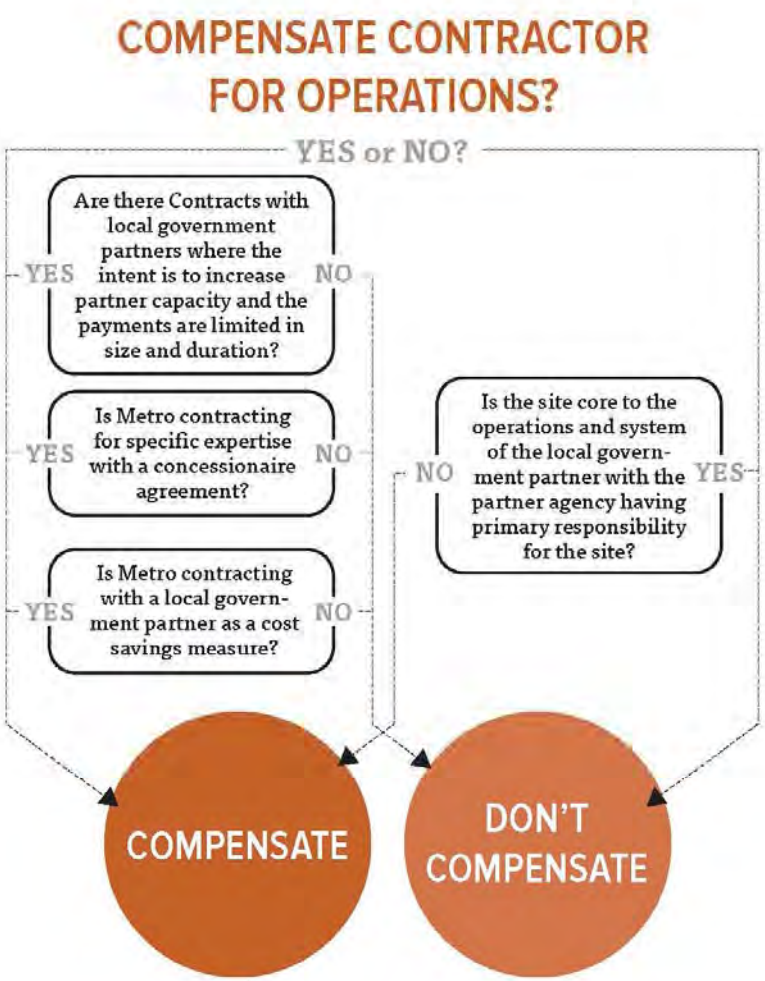
This model provides a framework for making decisions in the future for how new parks, trails and natural areas will be operated. It is not intended to suggest changes in operations for any current Metro sites.

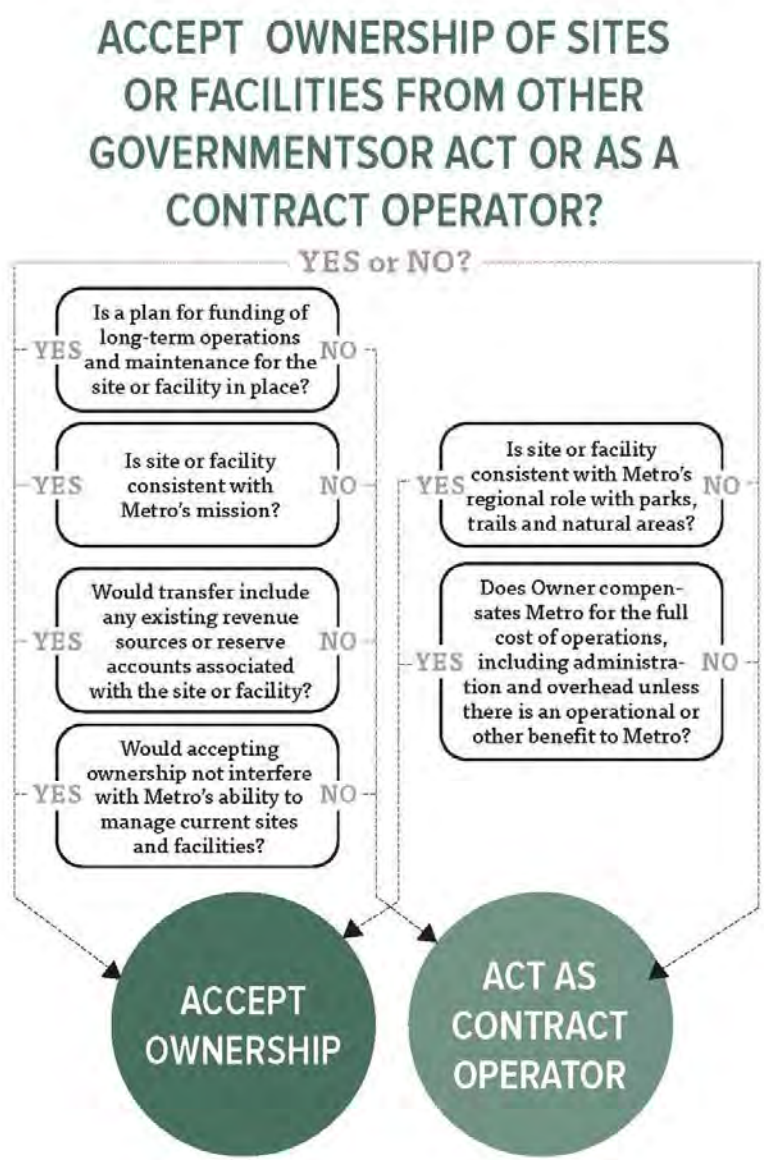
OPERATING MODEL

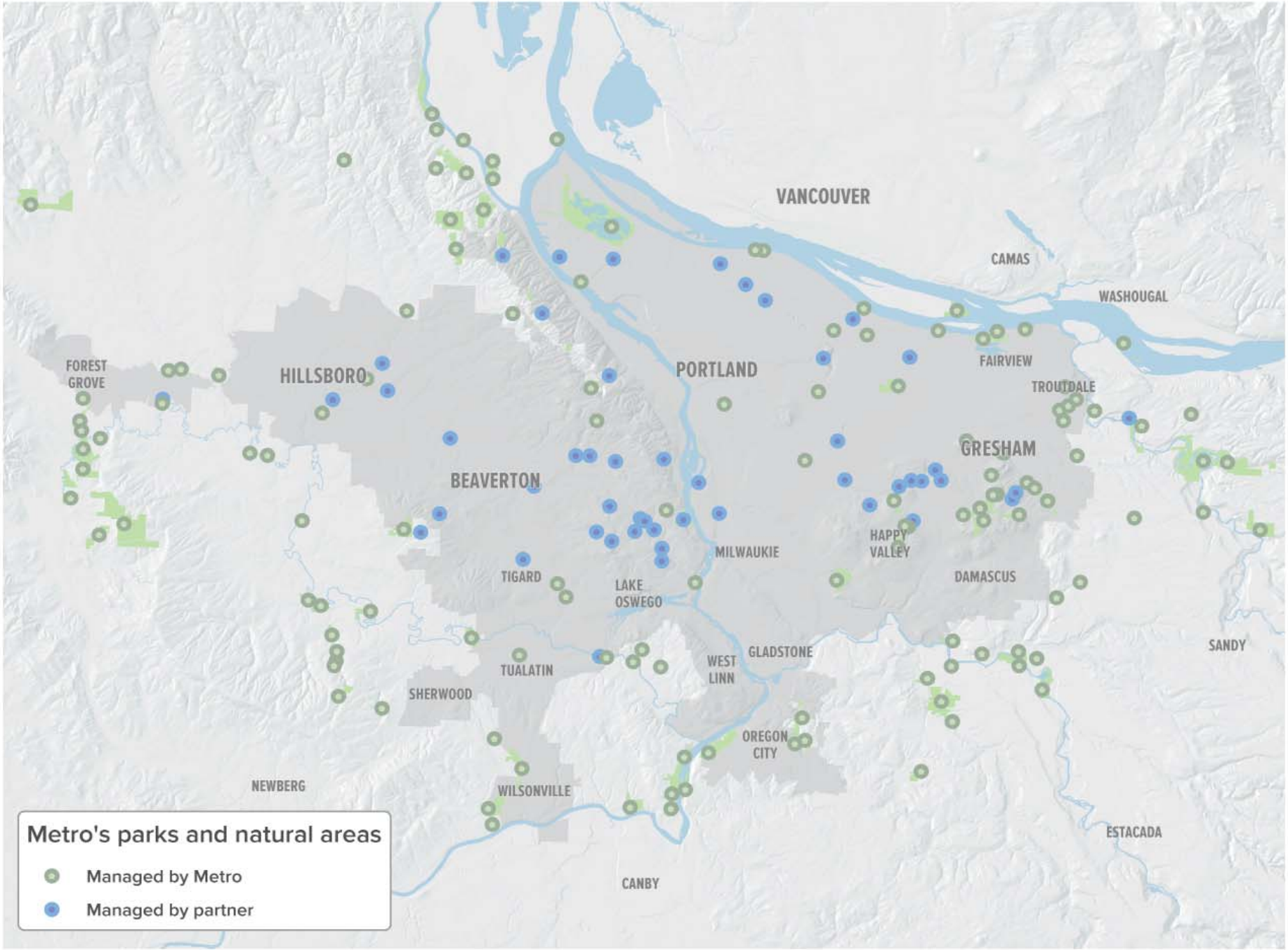




OPERATING MODEL



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GRESHAM
BEAVERTON
HAPPY VALLEY
MILWAUKIE
TIGARD
LAKE OSWEGO
DAMASCUS
SANDY
GLADSTONE
WEST LINN
TUALATIN
SHERWOOD
OREGON CITY
NEWBERG
WILSONVILLE
ESTACADA
CANBY
Metro's parks and natural areas
Managed by Metro
Managed by partner

COMMUNITY VALUES

Community members, partners, the Metro Council and Metro staff shaped the foundation for the Parks and Nature System Plan though an extensive series of engagements during 2014 and 2015.

More than 2,100 people shared what they value about nature through Metro's online engagement tool, Opt In. Another thousand visitors talked with Metro's Parks and Nature team at a booth that traveled across the region, from the Jade Night Market in east Portland to the First City Festival in Oregon City.

Partners engaged in the future of Metro's Parks and Nature work through visits with city managers and park district leaders, and multiple rounds of partner meetings. Dozens of organizational stakeholders participated in one of these forums, helping define what's important to them for the future of Metro's Parks and Nature work.

As these conversations crisscrossed the region, several major themes emerged: Oregonians appreciate the clean air, water and wildlife habitat that nature provides. They love to spend time in nature, connecting with the natural world and one another. And many feel a connection to something greater when they can spend time to reflect, renew and rejuvenate in the great outdoors. There is also a deep and growing commitment to ensuring that our region's diverse communities can all benefit from nature.

System plan engagement shaped a series of foundational statements that guide Metro's Parks and Nature System Plan – and the day-to-day work of carrying it out.

SYSTEM PLAN FOUNDATIONAL STATEMENTS

NATURE

Oregon is renowned for clean water, fresh air and healthy wildlife habitat – assets that draw people here, and keep them here. Oregonians can depend on Metro to safeguard those qualities across the region, from the Chehalem Mountains on the west to the Sandy River on the east. Using science to protect nature for current and future generations is at the heart of Metro's role.

OUTDOOR RECREATION

Nature supports healthy, active outdoor lifestyles. Whether you're picnicking at Blue Lake Regional Park, strolling through a forest listening for birds, fishing for steelhead on the Sandy River or jogging on the Fanno Creek regional trail, you will find a destination that meets you where you are.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION

Diverse communities should feel safe and welcome at parks, trails and natural areas. Working together, Metro and our partners create opportunities for all our residents to work at, play in and care for these special places – ensuring that everyone gains from the benefits of nature.

CONNECTIONS WITH NATURE

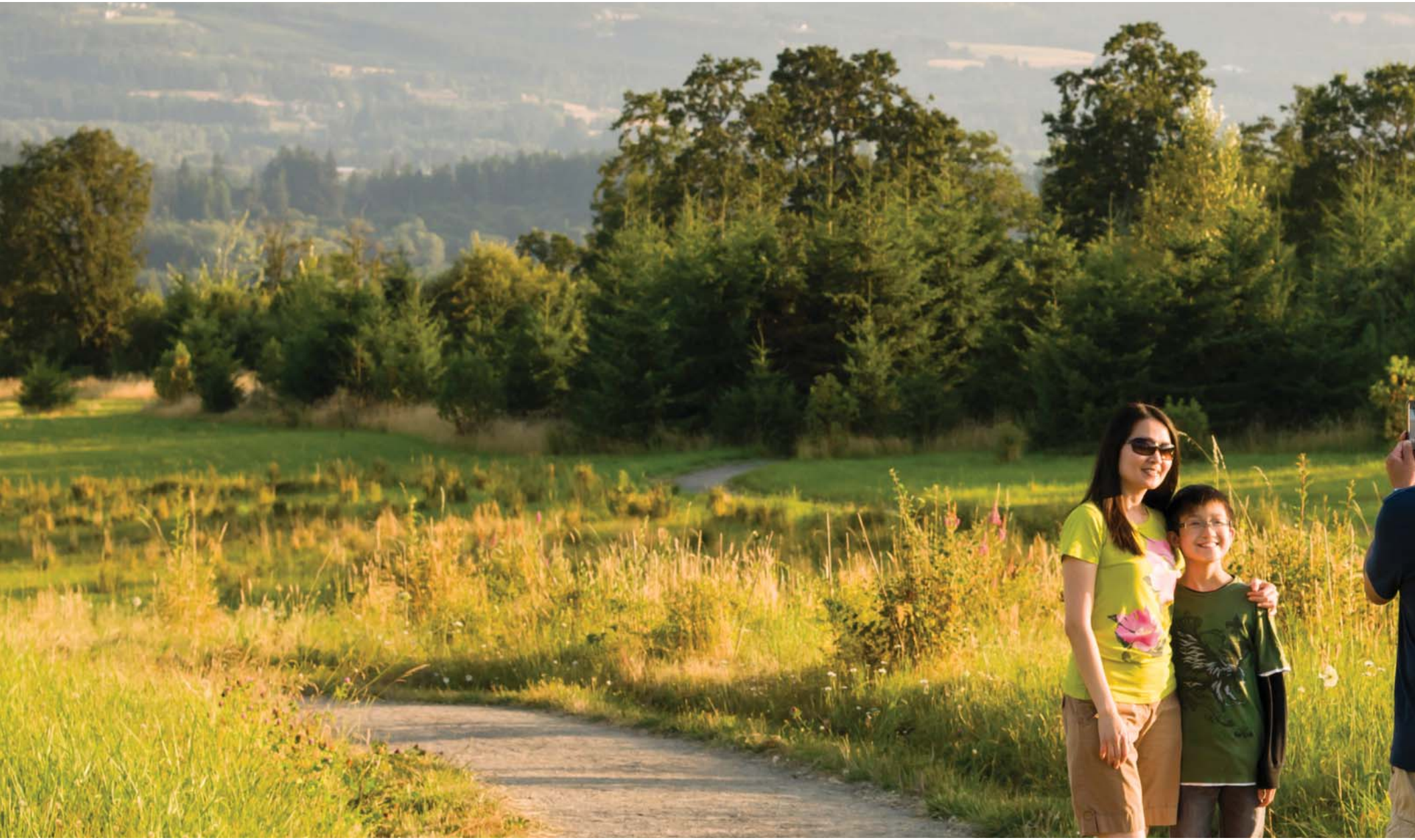
People depend on nature for peace, quiet and renewal. Metro provides opportunities to immerse yourself in nature – and give back – by learning, volunteering and connecting to the outdoors.

VIBRANT COMMUNITIES

Having nature nearby makes our communities happier and healthier. By protecting regional parks, trails and natural areas, we create a big backyard for people living in urban areas. Nature supports strong, resilient communities where people want to live and attracts businesses and tourists to the region, encouraging investments in the local economy.

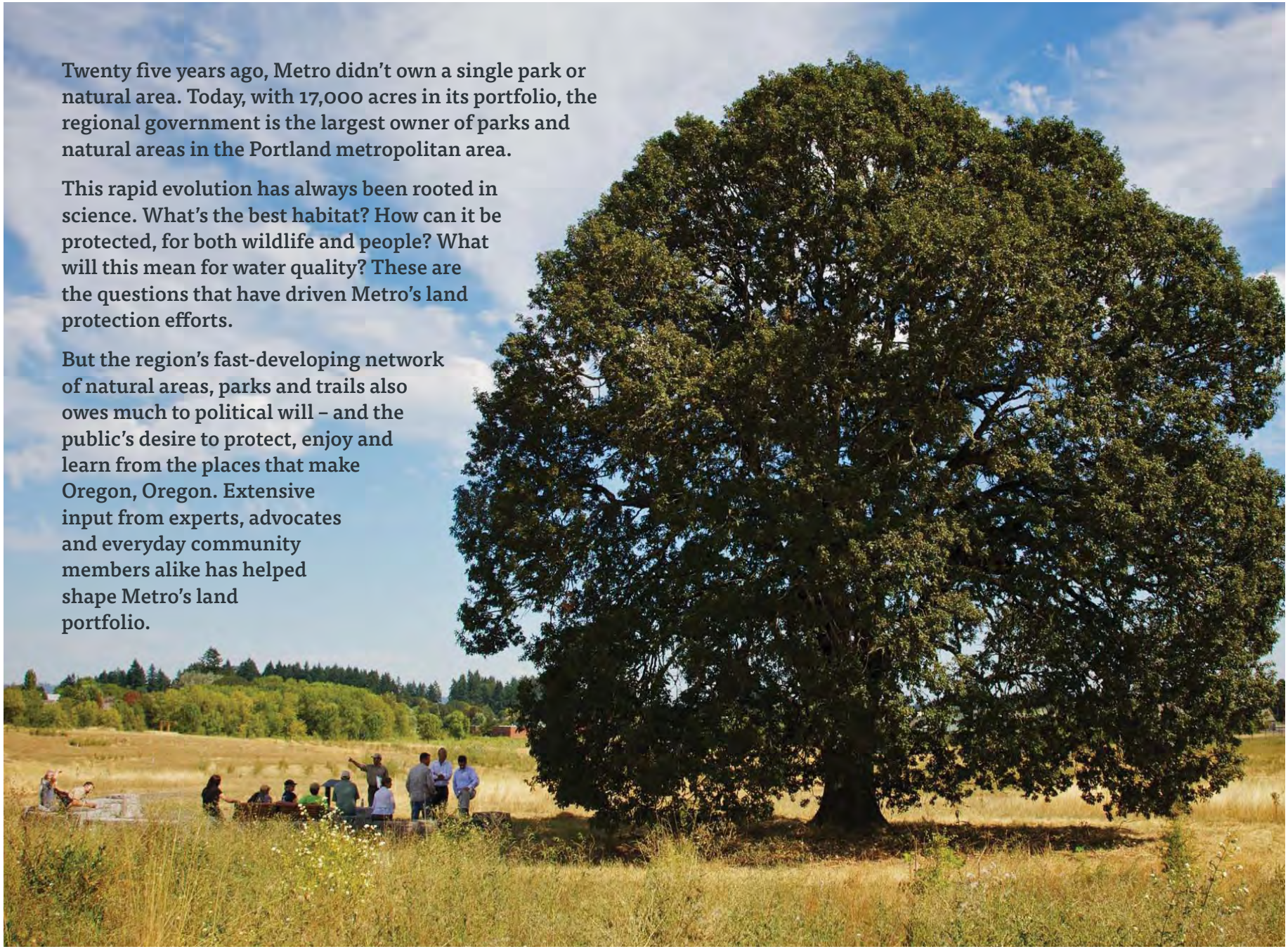
STEWARDSHIP

Metro is committed to responsibly caring for the nature and places entrusted to us in a changing climate. We use a transparent and accountable approach to planning, managing and protecting the public's investments.



CHAPTER 3: PLANTING ROOTS IN PARKS AND NATURE

GETTING INTO THE PARKS BUSINESS
METRO GOES BACK TO THE BALLOT
DEVELOPING THE 'REGIONAL SYSTEM'
'FOUR PARKS IN FOUR YEARS'
CREATING MOVEMENT: NATURE IN NEIGHBORHOODS
CARING FOR METRO'S PARKS AND NATURAL AREAS
ADVOCATES COME TOGETHER



Twenty five years ago, Metro didn't own a single park or natural area. Today, with 17,000 acres in its portfolio, the regional government is the largest owner of parks and natural areas in the Portland metropolitan area.

This rapid evolution has always been rooted in science. What's the best habitat? How can it be protected, for both wildlife and people? What will this mean for water quality? These are the questions that have driven Metro's land protection efforts.

But the region's fast-developing network of natural areas, parks and trails also owes much to political will – and the public's desire to protect, enjoy and learn from the places that make Oregon, Oregon. Extensive input from experts, advocates and everyday community members alike has helped shape Metro's land portfolio.

GETTING INTO THE PARKS BUSINESS

Like many Metro stories, the agency's entry into the parks business begins with garbage. In 1990 Metro was designated the lead agency in the St. John's Landfill closure, which established a trust for management of the landfill along with the adjacent Smith and Bybee Lakes – a 1,900-acre wildlife refuge in North Portland. Metro took the helm in implementing a natural resource plan for the wetland and managing the area for visitors. The Metro Council and the Portland City Council adopted the plan in an historic joint meeting. The area's other major property owner, the Port of Portland, also supported the plan.

Meanwhile, Metro launched a region-wide planning effort to inventory key natural areas and find a way to protect these special places. Using infrared photography, the fieldwork of local wildlife biologists and community input, Metro mapped the region's significant wetlands, uplands and forests. This effort, which was funded partially by a federal appropriation, revealed that some 29 percent of the 370,000-acre region in Clackamas, Multnomah and Washington counties was considered natural areas. Of that, less than 9 percent was protected.

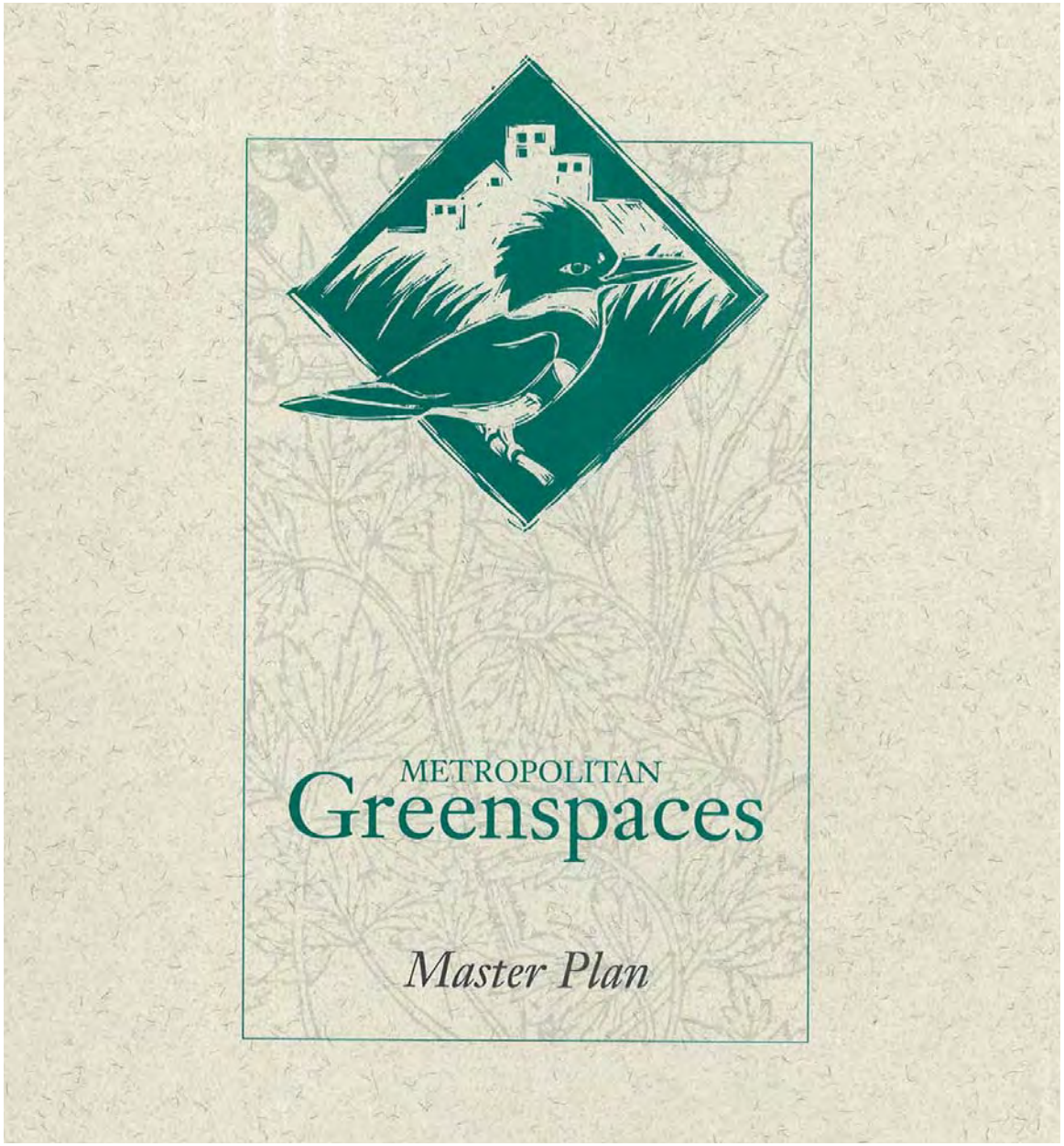
Biologists analyzed the maps and recommended what to protect, based on ecological significance and connections that help wildlife move from place to place. More than 200 meetings were held, involving hundreds of people who identified their most important and most cherished places.

A group of activists led by the 40-Mile Loop Land Trust, the Audubon Society of Portland and The Wetlands Conservancy was advocating for a regionally planned and funded system of natural areas, parks and trails. They organized groups of community members concerned about specific natural areas to form a coalition known at FAUNA, "Friends and Advocates of Urban Natural Areas." FAUNA mobilized hundreds of people to identify natural areas as part of Metro's inventory.

In July 1992, the Metro Council adopted the Metropolitan Greenspaces Master Plan. It established a vision of a cooperative regional system of parks, natural areas, trails and greenways for wildlife and people. In the process, the plan described a collection of bluffs and buttes, forests and fens, hills and valleys. This blueprint specifically prioritized 57 of these areas and 34 trails and greenways on the Oregon side of the Columbia River. A separate, complementary process was undertaken by the City of Vancouver and Clark County on the north side of the Columbia. In Oregon, all three counties, more than 20 cities, two park districts and hundreds of businesses, interest groups and community members formally endorsed the plan. As the first step to making the vision a reality, Metro councilors also placed a $200 million greenspaces bond measure on the November ballot. The bond measure, which authorized Metro to become involved in parks, would raise property taxes to buy land for a regional system of natural areas, parks and trails.

The Metro Council endorsed a public awareness effort for the new master plan and ballot measure. But, weeks before the election, it was clear that the small, grassroots campaign had far to go to generate the regional support needed to pass the measure. Despite the passionate efforts of a handful of volunteers – including the construction of a human-sized birdhouse in Pioneer Courthouse Square – the measure failed with 44 percent approval.

Days after the election, an editorial in The Oregonian urged advocates to try again. "We can't save what is already gone," the editorial said. "The region must act soon to save its natural treasures before they disappear forever." Moving forward, Metro officials and their partners focused on two key shortcomings of the $200 million ballot measure: the lack of specifics in the proposal and Metro's lack of experience as a park provider.



METRO GOES BACK TO THE BALLOT

Metro began gaining experience quickly in 1995, when Multnomah County transferred ownership, responsibility and staff for its regional parks, boat ramps, historic cemeteries and Glendoveer golf facilities to Metro. Almost overnight, Metro became a regional park provider responsible for managing more than 3,500 acres of parks and natural areas – one of the largest land portfolios in the region.

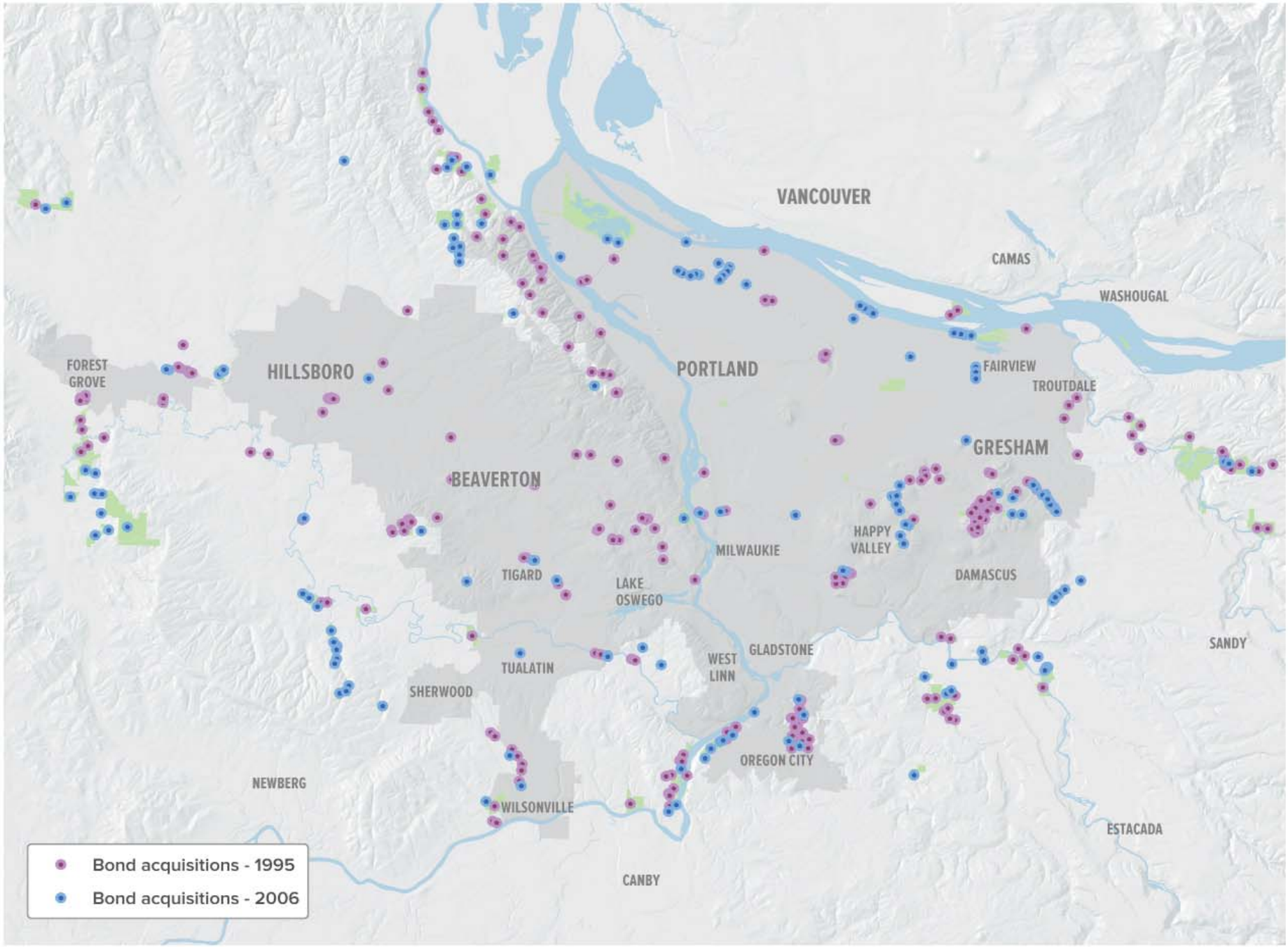
Meanwhile, Metro began gearing up for a second try at the ballot. The Metro Council turned to local government representatives on the Greenspaces Policy Advisory Committee for help. Their recommendations were reviewed by a "Blue Ribbon Committee" of business and civic leaders, and a new ballot measure began to take shape.

This time, Metro Executive Officer Mike Burton also added a strategy committee to answer a critical question: "If the Open Spaces, Parks and Streams ballot measure is approved on Tuesday, what should we do on Wednesday?" The committee, which represented extensive experience in real estate, financing, property management, trail and natural resource protection, called for a public "refinement" process to define objectives in each area where land was to be purchased. This way, if the measure passed, Metro could maximize the return on the public's investment.

The Metro Council submitted to voters its repackaged proposal – a $135.6 million general obligation bond – for a special election in May 1995. The measure called for buying land in 14 "target areas" and six regional trail and greenway projects. It also authorized the distribution of $25 million to local park providers for capital projects that provided new or improved access to nature. The ballot's explanatory statement added key details, stating that the bond measure was dedicated to preserving local land for parks and trails and "providing areas for walking, picnicking and other outdoor recreation." Metro also committed to taking care of the land that voters were protecting. "New funding will be needed for maintenance of future public use improvements," the statement said.

Although core supporters continued to play an important role, the effort grew from a grassroots crusade led by FAUNA to a professional, strategic campaign. Many of the Blue Ribbon Committee members enlisted as supporters, and the campaign continued to widen the tent beyond the environmental community. The most surprising new recruit was the Home Builders Association of Metropolitan Portland, a group that had opposed the previous effort.

In the end, 63 percent of voters said yes to Measure 26-26. More importantly, the measure passed handily in all three counties. In the months following the election, Metro conducted a significant outreach and public involvement process to shape the acquisition strategy for each of the target areas approved by voters. Direct mail, community presentations, open houses and formal adoption of the plans by the Metro Council engaged thousands of people in establishing the goals and priorities for Metro's land acquisition program.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TIGARD
LAKE OSWEGO
DAMASCUS
SANDY
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OREGON CITY
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WILSONVILLE
ESTACADA
CANBY
Bond acquisitions - 1995
Bond acquisitions - 2006

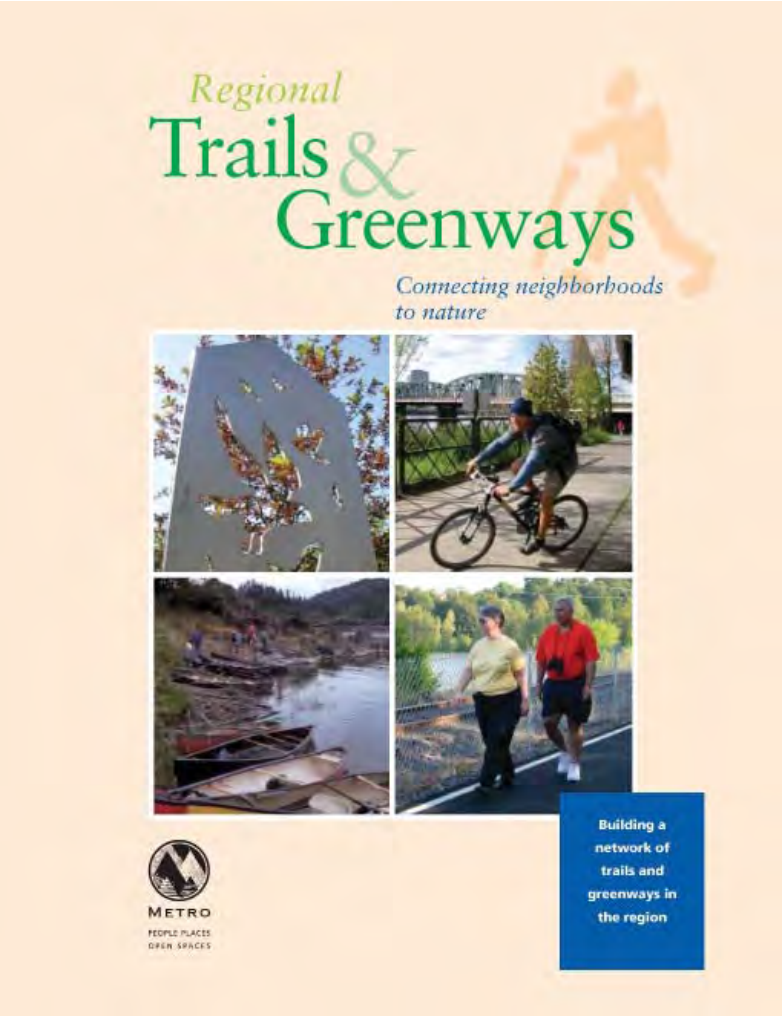
DEVELOPING THE 'REGIONAL SYSTEM'

While Metro was achieving success with the 1995 bond measure, the agency was also building a growth management strategy and vision for the future with local governments and residents. Regional leaders decided to expand the urban growth boundary as necessary, but focus on "growing up, not out" by concentrating growth in regional hubs near public transit. This philosophy was the heart of the 2040 Growth Concept, a long-range vision adopted region-wide in 1995, and the Council's 1997 Regional Framework Plan.

The plan directed Metro to inventory, protect and manage a regional system of natural areas, parks, trails and greenways and, in cooperation with local governments, find long-term, stable funding to help plan, acquire, develop, manage and maintain this regional system. These policies – many straight out of the Greenspaces Master Plan – gained authority because they were integrated into the region's long-term land use vision.

This progress triggered a new phase of partnership-building, research and planning for Metro's Greenspaces Technical Advisory Committee. Members inventoried the region's parks, prioritized significant natural areas and helped the Metro Council officially define and select regional trails. During this time Metro's Quarterly Trails Forum, a grassroots collection of trail advocates and park and transportation professionals, met every three months to share information and resources. With their input, the Metro Council adopted a Regional Trails Plan in 2002, replacing the list of trails in the Greenspaces Master Plan and creating a conceptual map that showed their routes.

Meanwhile, a parks subcommittee of the Metro Policy Advisory Committee issued a report calling for action to elevate parks and natural areas to the same level as regional priorities such as land use and transportation planning. The so-called "Zehren report" – nicknamed for advisory committee member and parks advocate Jim Zehren – pushed Metro to seek funding beyond the 1995 bond measure.



'FOUR PARKS IN FOUR YEARS'

Metro Councilor David Bragdon was determined to follow through on the bond measure's commitment to provide people with access to some of the new lands that Metro had acquired. In 2001, he encouraged the Metro Council to appoint a 17-member Green Ribbon Committee that included a mix of elected officials and business and community leaders. The Council asked the group to examine Metro's natural areas, identify priorities for development within the next five years and make recommendations to the Metro Council on how to pay for improvements and ongoing operations.

In their final report, the committee proposed a $60 million package, funded through an increase in Metro's solid waste excise tax. The report identified four "anchor" sites and four trails as top priorities, with seven other sites recommended as second-tier priorities.

The Metro Council had promised voters to care for land protected by the 1995 bond measure, but the increasing acreage and cost of managing these areas required additional support beyond Metro's general fund. In 2002, councilors approved a two-year, $1-per-ton increase in the solid waste tax. Then, in 2004, the Council considered extending and increasing the funding to provide long-term care for Metro's natural areas and to develop "four parks in four years" – a new catchphrase for the effort – as recommended by the Green Ribbon Committee.

In the end, the Council increased the tax to $1.50 per ton and committed to opening new parks at three of the anchor sites identified by the Green Ribbon Committee: Mount Talbert near Happy Valley, Cooper Mountain near Beaverton and Graham Oaks, then known as the Wilsonville Tract. Rather than developing a fourth new site, Metro invested these funds in significant upgrades at Smith and Bybee Wetlands. The money also was designed to provide for additional maintenance, restoration and renewal and replacement needs at all Metro parks and natural areas – "to take care of what we already have," as the Metro Council ordinance put it.

Putting an exclamation point on a decade of work supported by the 1995 bond measure, Metro launched an outreach effort in summer 2005 designed to report back to voters on the region's progress: 8,000 acres of new natural areas preserved, 74 miles of river and stream banks protected and more than 100 community parks and nature projects completed. And, now, three new nature parks were on the way. While there had been ongoing efforts to showcase results, this was the largest public awareness campaign for Metro's natural areas in more than a decade, reaching far into the community with special events, public tours, TV, radio and print advertising, bus ads, billboards and direct mail.

Mount Talbert Nature Park

Cooper Mountain Nature Park

Smith and Bybee Wetlands

Graham Oaks Nature Park

CREATING MOVEMENT: NATURE IN NEIGHBORHOODS

Metro was building not just a natural areas and parks network, but also community awareness and stewardship. By 2004, more than 12,000 people attended Metro's special events and education and interpretation programs every year. Between 2001 and 2006, some 6,500 volunteers donated more than 100,000 hours to Metro's parks and natural areas programs. And, every year, Metro awarded more than a dozen habitat restoration and environmental education grants to community groups, nonprofits and schools, funded by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

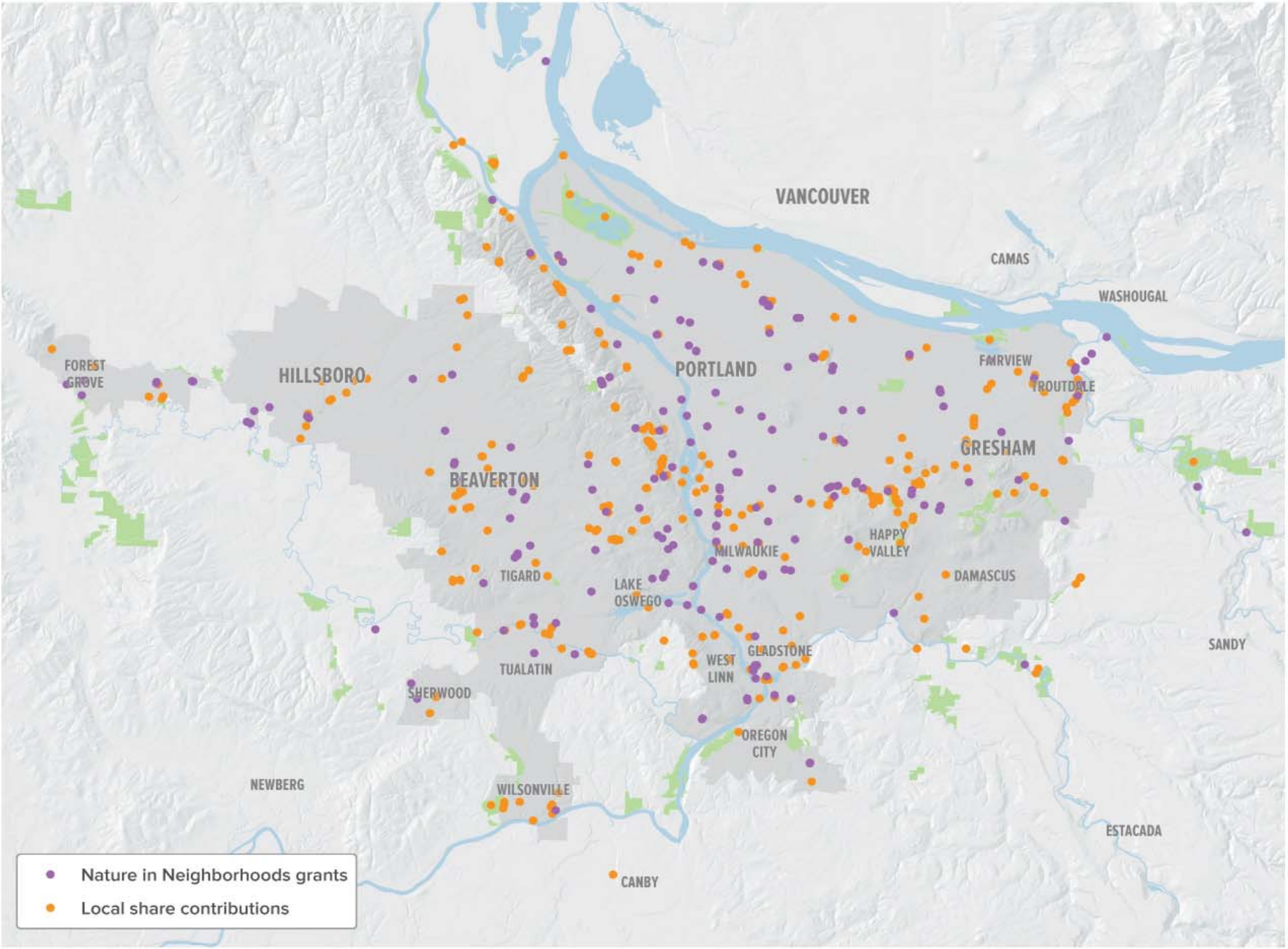
In 2004, the Metro Council also revamped and established a new Greenspaces Policy Advisory Committee, which enlisted community members and technical experts to further the vision of the Greenspaces Master Plan and the Regional Framework Plan. This new group replaced separate technical and community advisory committees.

During this time, the region was struggling to agree on how to best use Metro's land use authority to protect natural resources inside the urban growth boundary. The Metro Council was responsible for implementing the State of Oregon's natural resources, scenic and historic areas and open spaces planning requirements, known as "Goal 5." Navigating a highly contentious political process, the Council in 2005 launched a broad-based initiative called Nature in Neighborhoods to conserve, protect and restore the region's highest value fish and wildlife habitat. Nature in Neighborhoods called for a comprehensive approach, including voluntary, incentive-based and educational elements. The Metro Council committed to monitor and evaluate Nature in Neighborhoods over a 10-year period.

The Council also decided to continue Metro's natural areas protection effort by asking voters to support another bond measure – and established a Blue Ribbon Committee to help shape it. Like the previous measure, this one would direct Metro to buy land from willing sellers and protect it as natural areas, wildlife habitat and outdoor destinations, with some funds distributed directly to local jurisdictions. The bond issue was pegged at $135 million to $270 million, to be determined by the Council after recommendations from the Blue Ribbon Committee, the new Greenspaces Advisory Committee, local jurisdictions and the community at large. The Metro Council conducted public involvement and consulted with local government partners across the region and, ultimately, referred a $227.4 million package to voters in 2006.

Measure 26-80, "Natural Areas, Parks and Streams," passed with nearly the same strong support as its predecessor 11 years earlier. Because it appeared on the ballot in a regular November election with higher voter turnout, more than 300,000 people voted "yes" – nearly twice as many as in 1995. Metro again conducted extensive public outreach and engagement after the measure's approval, including mailings to more than 40,000 households in and around the target areas, community presentations and both actual and "virtual" open houses. The Council again adopted detailed plans for each target area, and staff began purchasing new properties for protection.

By early 2016, nearly 5,500 additional acres had been secured, bringing the total to more than 13,500 acres and counting between the two bond measures. As envisioned, Metro opened regional nature parks at Mount Talbert, Cooper Mountain and Graham Oaks. A new capital grants program has invested nearly $15 million in innovative community projects. After passage of the 2006 bond measures, the Metro Council opted to "undedicate" the $1.50-per-ton solid waste excise tax that had been set aside for park development and long-term maintenance, diverting that money to other agency priorities. Funding to develop the three new nature parks came from the 2006 bond measure.


VANCOUVER
CAMAS
WASHOUGAL
FOREST GROVE
HILLSBORO
PORTLAND
FAIRVIEW
TROUTDALE
GRESHAM
BEAVERTON
HAPPY VALLEY
MILWAUKIE
TIGARD
LAKE OSWEGO
DAMASCUS
SANDY
GLADSTONE
WEST LINN
TUALATIN
SHERWOOD
OREGON CITY
NEWBERG
WILSONVILLE
ESTACADA
CANBY
Nature in Neighborhoods grants
Local share contributions

CARING FOR METRO'S PARKS AND NATURAL AREAS

As Metro continued to acquire land and establish itself as a park provider, caring for this growing portfolio became a top priority – as had been anticipated in both bond measures. In 2012, the Metro Council again turned to community leaders for advice on next steps.

An advisory committee agreed that Metro had a duty to care for its natural areas and parks, and recommended asking voters to approve a five-year operating levy. Additionally, the committee suggested including and supporting communities that had not always benefitted from Metro's Parks and Nature investments – particularly low-income communities and communities of color.

The Metro Council sent a $10-million-per-year proposal to the ballot, asking the typical household to commit $20 per year to maintain and improve Metro's Parks and Nature portfolio. Voters said yes in May 2013, continuing their investment in the land they had protected over the previous two decades.

About half the levy funding goes toward restoration and maintenance: controlling invasive weeds, boosting native plants and animals, and improving habitat for fish and wildlife. Restoration takes different forms across Metro's land, from creating habitat for endangered fish to thinning overcrowded forests so sunshine can reach native oak and madrone trees. Weed treatment spans the entire 17,000-acre portfolio.

The levy foots the bill for community planning efforts that will formally welcome visitors to priority sites, including Newell Creek Canyon in Oregon City, the North Tualatin Mountains northwest of Forest Park, Killin Wetlands near Banks and Chehalem Ridge near Forest Grove. Meanwhile, visitor improvements are underway at the destinations that 1.3 million visitors per year already enjoy, from a new overflow parking lot at Cooper Mountain Nature Park to a new entry, native landscaping and bathrooms at Blue Lake Regional Park.

Community investments and programming also get a significant boost from the levy. Nature in Neighborhoods grants are now available for restoration, conservation education and trails projects, in addition to the capital grants funded by the 2006 bond measure. Metro has expanded its nature education and volunteer programs, offering more opportunities to get involved – as well as innovative new partnerships like the Youth Ecology Corps job-training program with Mt. Hood Community College's Project YESS.

Throughout every program area, Metro is taking active steps to include diverse and underserved communities. A new effort called Partners in Nature piloted projects with groups including Self Enhancement, Inc. and the Center for Intercultural Organizing to develop unique nature programs specific to the communities they serve. Working with community-based organizations, Metro is developing an approach to designing parks and natural areas that are welcoming to diverse communities. And a concerted effort to support diverse contractors has helped the Parks and Nature Department exceed Metro's goals for using Minority, Women and Emerging Small Business contractors.

As Metro continues to invest the 2006 bond measure and 2013 levy, the focus has turned toward the long-term future: What does a complete Metro Parks and Nature system look like? What funding is needed to sustain it? And what priorities come first?

ADVOCATES COME TOGETHER

While building its own portfolio, Metro has also worked to build a regional support network. In 2007, Metro Council President David Bragdon – who had focused on natural areas as a district councilor – gathered hundreds of business, government and community leaders under the banner of "Connecting Green" and challenged them to create "the best parks system in the world." This event, which featured a talk by Chicago Mayor Richard Daley, launched a new era of cooperation between activists and business leaders. An eclectic mix of partners committed to making the region's network of parks, trails and natural areas a calling card and competitive advantage.

Following extensive research and outreach, the system was renamed and branded The Intertwine, to reflect the interconnected nature of the region's parks, trails and natural areas. In 2008, Metro and it's partners founded The Intertwine Alliance, a coalition of nonprofit organizations, government agencies and corporate partners dedicated to expanding the system. The effort focuses on a few key initiatives: protecting and restoring the highest-value habitats and the region's biodiversity, completing a network of bicycle and pedestrian trails, building and maintaining a world-class outdoor recreation network, and fostering stewardship through nature education.

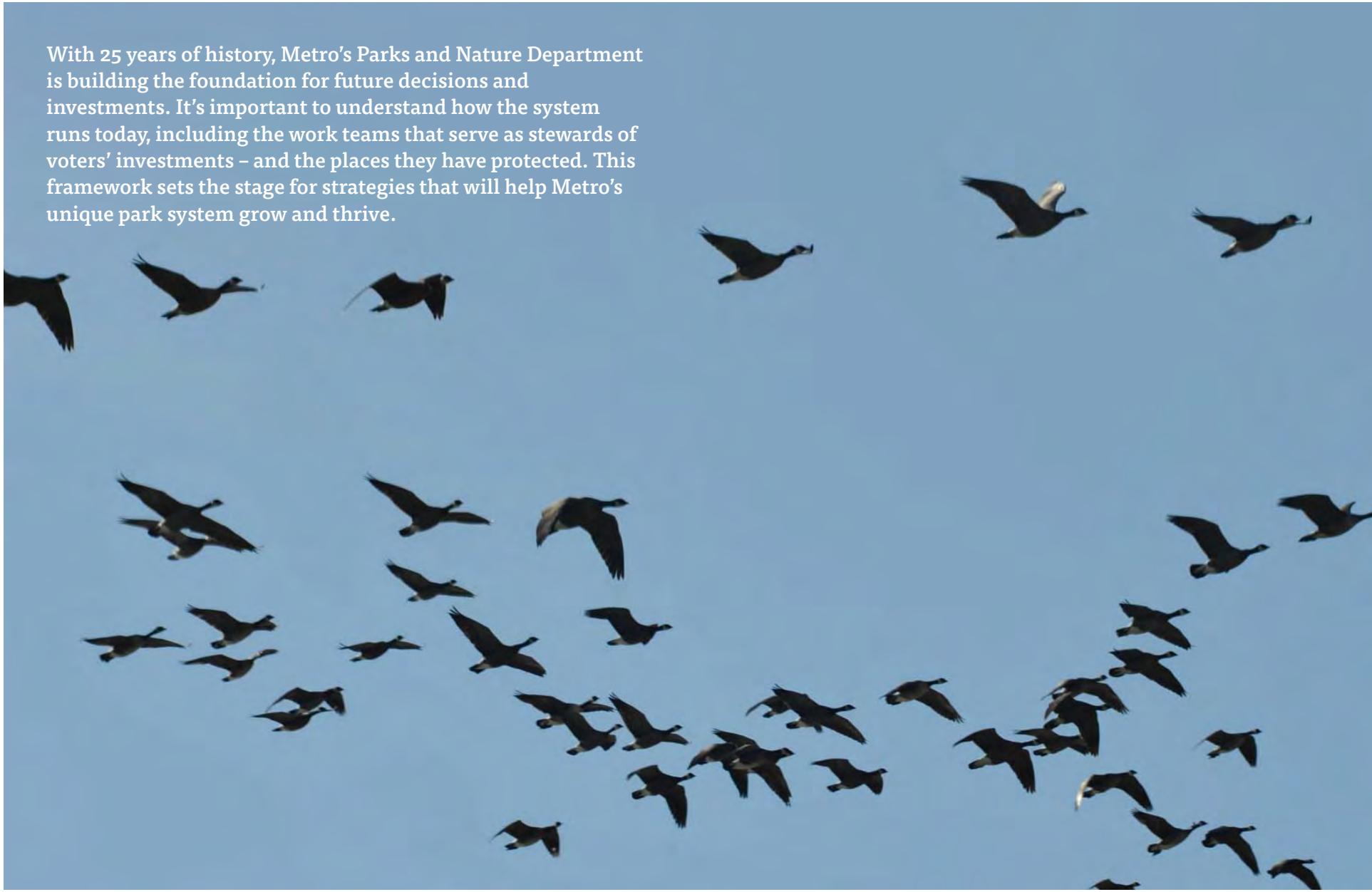
In 2011, The Intertwine Alliance became an official nonprofit with its first board of directors and executive director. This major step forward attracted regional attention, including an Oregonian editorial. "The Intertwine Alliance has already demonstrated, contrary to conventional wisdom," The Oregonian wrote, "that park providers are willing to think outside their own park and trail systems."

Today, Alliance membership stands at 140-plus and growing, from Travel Portland to The Trust for Public Land, from Keen Footwear to Clean Water Services. Metro continues to play a central role in the regional network, as a founding member and financial contributor.

Intertwine members have collaborated on many significant projects. A Regional Conservation Strategy, for example, guides natural resource protection and habitat restoration. An Active Transportation Plan lays out a vision for integrated investments in walking, biking and public transit.

CHAPTER 4: METRO'S PORTFOLIO

PROGRAM AREAS
THE HEART OF METRO PARKS AND NATURE: THE PLACES
NATUREHOOD DESCRIPTIONS
REGIONAL TRAILS
HISTORIC CEMETERIES



With 25 years of history, Metro's Parks and Nature Department is building the foundation for future decisions and investments. It's important to understand how the system runs today, including the work teams that serve as stewards of voters' investments – and the places they have protected. This framework sets the stage for strategies that will help Metro's unique park system grow and thrive.

PROGRAM AREAS

Fulfilling Metro's Parks and Nature mission requires contributions across nine major program areas, drawing on specialized professional backgrounds such as natural resource science, real estate acquisition and grant-making. Parks and Nature leaders are committed to integrating priorities across each work team, ensuring that the whole is more than the sum of its parts.

No single work group is responsible for Metro's commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion. Instead, every work team within the Parks and Nature Department is expected to take tangible steps toward extending the benefits of nature to communities who have missed out in the past. For example, the planning team is charged with designing welcoming, inclusive parks, while the science and land management teams are increasing the proportion of contracts awarded to firms owned by people of color, women and new entrepreneurs.

LAND ACQUISITION

Metro's Parks and Nature work begins with the land that voters have protected for its water quality, wildlife habitat and recreation potential. The land acquisition team purchases property from willing sellers at fair market value, within target areas specified by the 2006 bond measure.

CONSERVATION SCIENCE

For Metro, buying a new natural area isn't an ending; it's an opportunity to begin the complex process of protecting and restoring some of Western Oregon's most important natural treasures. The science and stewardship team takes short-term actions and develops long-term plans for each site, preserving the best remaining habitat – and, in many cases, helping native plants and animals make a comeback.

LAND MANAGEMENT

Metro cares for voter-protected land by treating weeds, carrying out restoration plans and helping ensure each site is safe and secure. The land management team plays an important role in building relationships with neighbors at sites with limited or light public access.

PARKS OPERATIONS

Metro's park operations team welcomes 1.3 million people per year to public destinations within the Parks and Nature portfolio. Duties range from greeting visitors to watering plants, from evaluating customer service to replacing aging facilities. All park operations work supports a common goal: providing fun, safe and interesting places to connect with nature.

PARKS, TRAILS AND NATURAL AREAS PLANNING

As more voter-protected land opens to the public, the Parks and Nature planning team collaborates with communities to plan high-quality destinations. Visitor improvements are designed to protect water quality and wildlife habitat while creating opportunities for people to enjoy nature in areas where it makes sense.

EDUCATION AND VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS

Metro invites Oregonians to learn about nature and give back to their community through nature programming. Nature education highlights include field trips for schools and groups, a year-long nature immersion series and the Youth Ecology Corps job-training program. The volunteer team offers opportunities to enhance Metro's parks, natural areas and cemeteries while building relationships and developing a sense of stewardship.

COMMUNITY INVESTMENTS AND PARTNERSHIPS

Supporting local communities is a core role for Metro Parks and Nature. "Local share" from the 2006 bond measure allows cities, counties and park providers to invest in nature projects close to home, such as purchasing natural areas or improving parks. Nature in Neighborhoods grants in several categories – capital, restoration, conservation education and trails – reward innovative ways to nurture nature in an urban region. And the new Partners in Nature program collaborates with culturally specific community-based organizations to tailor nature programming to the populations they serve.

HISTORIC CEMETERIES

At the intersection of the past and present, Metro manages 14 historic cemeteries across Multnomah County. The cemeteries team sells available spaces for burial and cremation, cares for the properties and builds relationships with surrounding communities. Metro's cemeteries function both as burial grounds and as park-like spaces to walk and connect with nature.

SUPPORT TEAMS

Communications, finance and legal teams support Metro's Parks and Nature Department by engaging the community and ensuring that voters' money is invested responsibly.

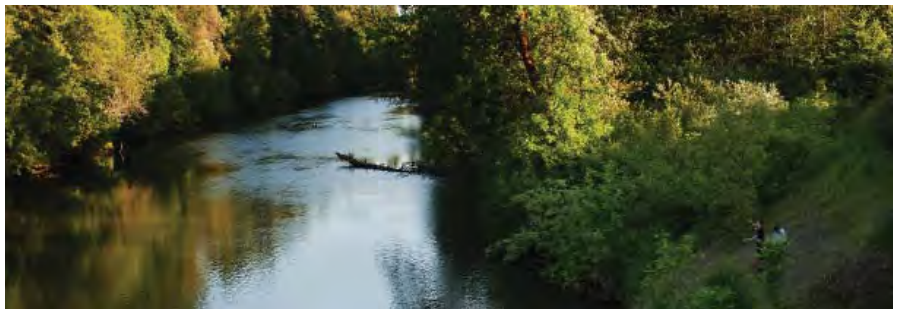
METRO PARKS & NATURE PROGRAM AREAS
LAND AQUISITION
LAND MANAGEMENT
PARKS, TRAILS & NATURAL AREAS PLANNING
PARK OPERATIONS
HISTORIC CEMETERIES
SCIENCE & STEWARDSHIP
EDUCATION & VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS
COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS & INVESTMENTS
SUPPORT TEAMS

THE HEART OF METRO PARKS AND NATURE: THE PLACES

In the greater Portland region, nature creates a backdrop for family photographs, weekend walks, computer screensavers, tourist guidebooks and national news coverage – in other words, it's a big part of who we are. Metro's Parks and Nature properties reflect the region's unique natural environment, from the ancient forest at Oxbow Regional Park to the languid flow of the Tualatin River beside a future boat launch, from wetlands in North Portland to towering oak trees along the curves of the Willamette Narrows in West Linn. Thanks to these iconic places, Oregon's urban heart has native salmon, Western meadowlarks and black-tailed deer close to home.

This natural landscape also provides a framework for organizing and describing the 17,000 acres that Metro manages on behalf of the public. Because, when it comes to nature, city and county lines don't matter. Rivers, forests and native birds have no idea when they're moving from one community to the next. Yet, with more than 130 distinct clusters of land, Metro needs a way to manage its portfolio today and plan for the future. Voter-approved bond measures designated "target areas" where Metro has purchased natural habitat – a logical approach for investing these funds, but not for managing a large, diverse portfolio that spans decades, communities and funding sources.

Oxbow Regional Park



Tualatin River Boat Launch

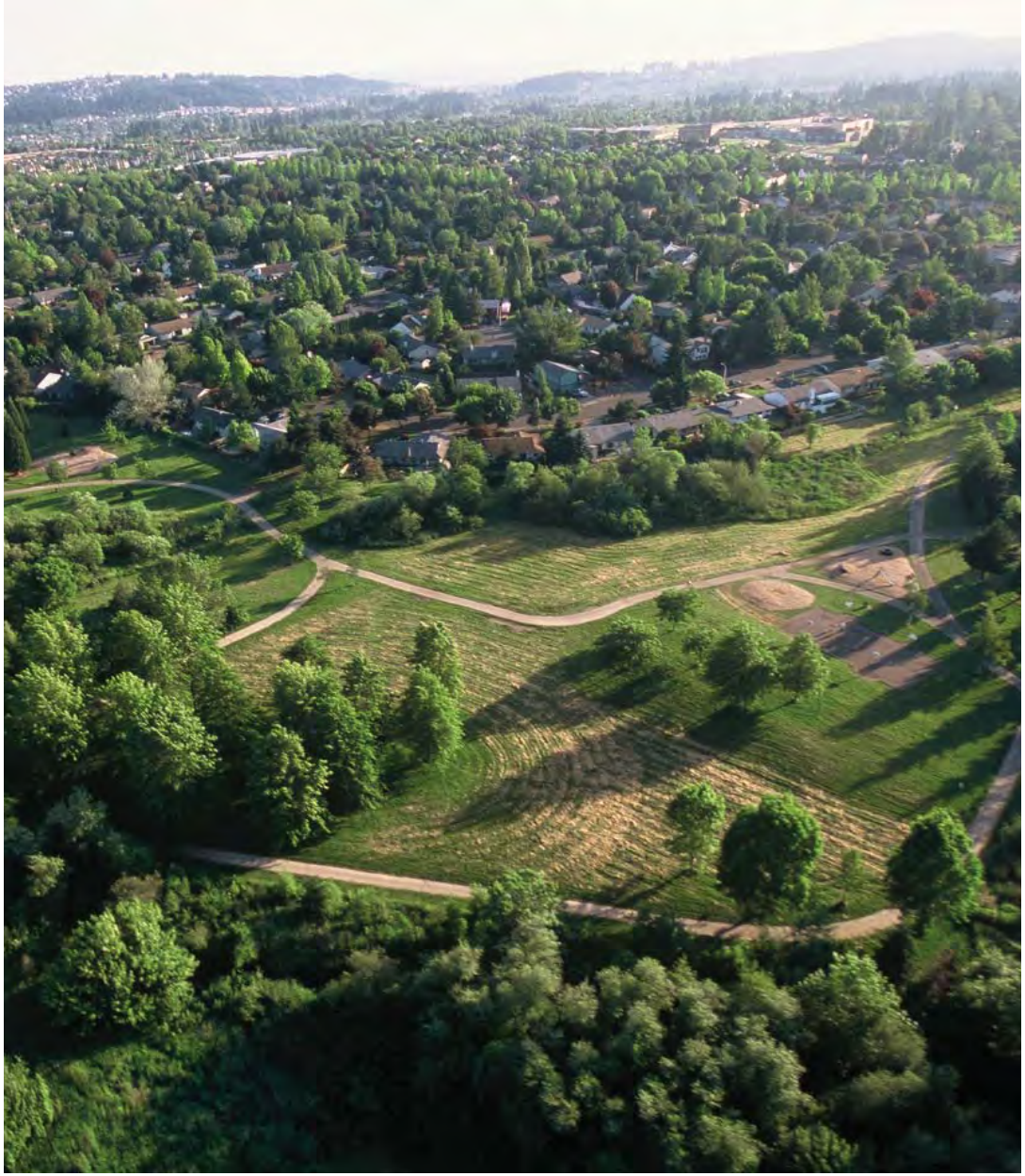
Smith and Bybee Wetlands

Willamette Narrows Natural Area

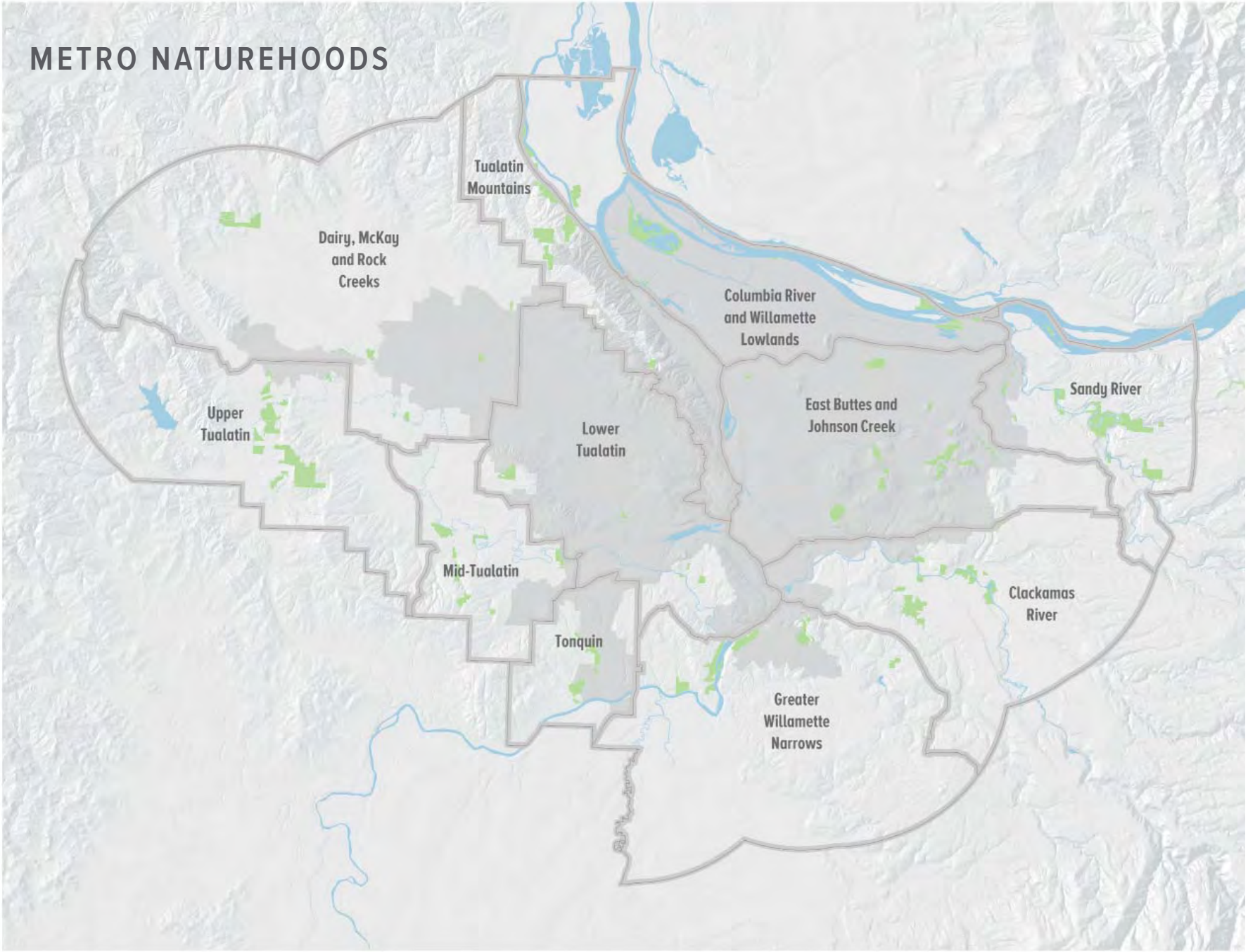
NATUREHOODS

To organize its Parks and Nature portfolio, Metro has defined 11 "naturehoods" named for their unique geographic and ecological identities. The boundaries of these areas are chosen to combine commonality of conservation issues and geographic features such as watersheds (drainage basins) or ridgelines (such as the Tualatin Mountains ridgeline), with partners and other socio-economic factors. Our regional landscape is important; it is part of our natural and cultural heritage. A scientific, informed, and integrated approach helps us to conserve, enhance, restore and regenerate our regional landscape. We recognize that our region is made up of special and unique places, whether urban, natural, or somewhere in between. The naturehoods define and illustrate what makes one landscape different from another within the region and provides a comprehensive understanding of what gives our region its character.

For example, in the Tonquin Naturehood, large boulders and scoured ponds tell the tale of historic floods that ripped through the area – and set the backdrop for today's Graham Oaks Nature Park and Ice Age Tonquin Trail. In the Clackamas River Naturehood, the namesake gives life to nearby Christmas tree farms, as well as native turtles, salmon and other wildlife. Each naturehood provides a new way of thinking about where you live, just as meaningful as your neighborhood or the Pacific Northwest.



Fanno Creek Regional Trail

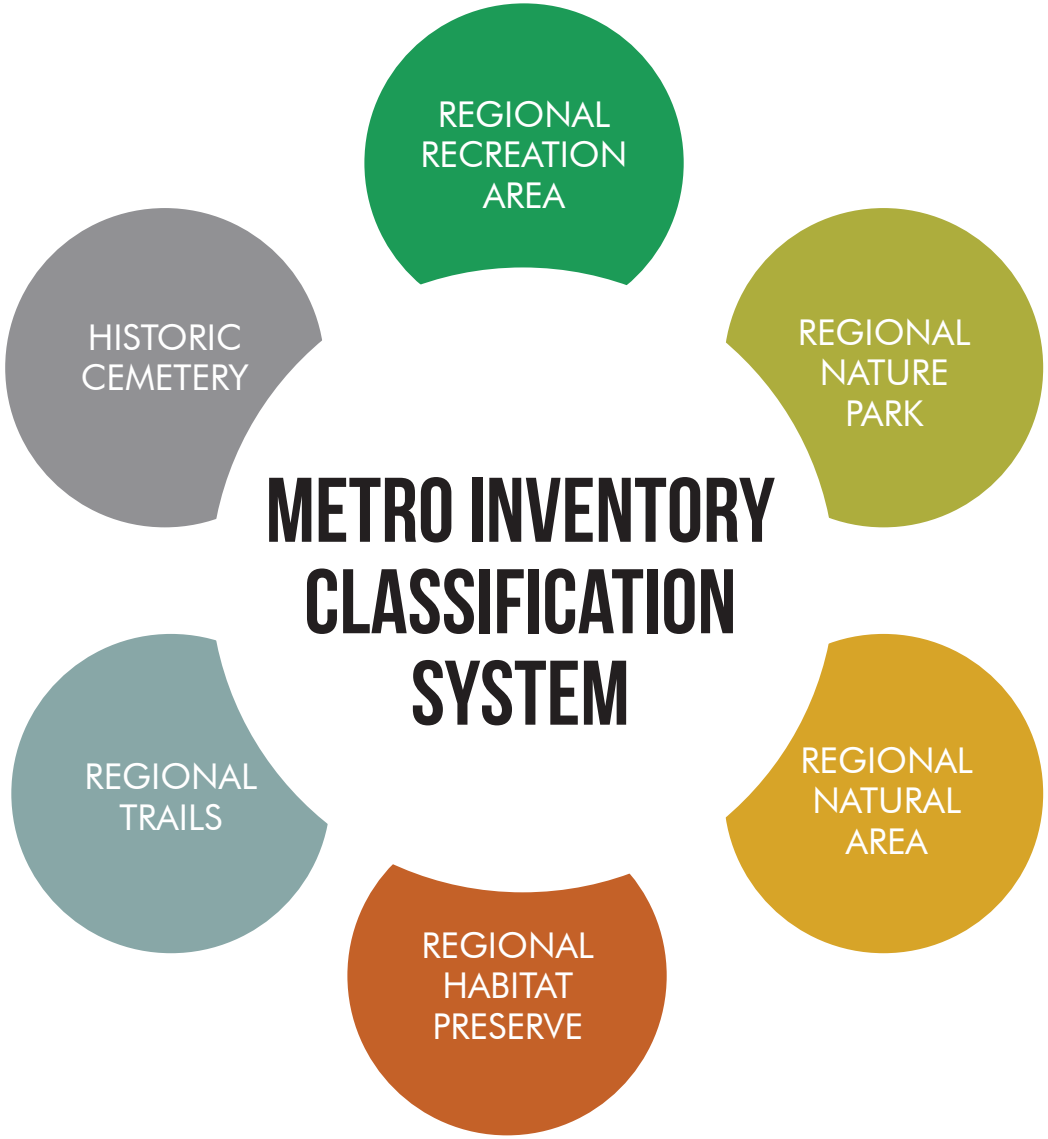

METRO NATUREHOODS
Tualatin Mountains
Dairy, McKay and Rock Creeks
Columbia River and Willamette Lowlands
Sandy River
East Buttes and Johnson Creek
Upper Tualatin
Lower Tualatin
Mid-Tualatin
Clackamas River
Tonquin
Greater Willamette Narrows

METRO NATUREHOODS	PAGE	DESCRIPTION
Clackamas River	59	Includes sites on the Clackamas River, Deep Creek, and Clear Creek, offering regionally important opportunities to aid in salmon recovery through in-stream, floodplain and riparian enhancement projects on the Clackamas River and its two most important tributaries.
Columbia River and Willamette Lowlands	62	Includes most of the historic Columbia and Willamette floodplains such as Sauvie Island, Multnomah Channel and the Columbia River bottomlands including the Columbia Slough and Columbia River islands. Major opportunities within this naturehood are primarily wetland related, but also include regionally important large patches of floodplain forest, as well as two notable prairie/savanna restoration opportunities.
Dairy, McKay and Rock Creeks	71	Focuses on Tualatin tributaries north of the river. Floodplain wetlands and forests are the focal points of this naturehood.
East Buttes and Johnson Creek	75	Includes properties throughout outer Southeast Portland, Gresham and Happy Valley/Damascus. Together the East Buttes properties are the backbone of protection of regionally important large blocks of upland forest. Johnson Creek offers important enhancement opportunities for water quality, flood mitigation and locally important fish habitat improvement.
Greater Willamette Narrows	82	Includes the Willamette Narrows complex, Canemah and Weber Farms natural areas, and Newell and Abernethy creeks. This area supports some of the most important opportunities for enhancing oak savanna and woodland in the region, as well as supporting large blocks of riparian and upland forest at all of the sites.
Lower Tualatin	87	Encompasses the lower Tualatin River including the Stafford and Fanno Creek areas, and is the most urbanized portion of the watershed . It excludes nearby Tryon Creek State Park and Riverview Natural Area (Metro conservation easement), which are included in the Tualatin Mountains naturehood. The emphasis here is on water quality protection through riparian habitat restoration, although native turtles and small patches of oak habitat are present.
Mid-Tualatin	90	Extends from upstream of the confluence of Fanno Creek to just downstream of the confluence of Rock Creek and includes the Tualatin National Wildlife Refuge. The prairie and oak sites are the most regionally significant elements, although locally significant opportunities for wetland, riparian forest and Coho salmon restoration are found throughout the naturehood.
Sandy River	93	Includes the mainstem Sandy River and two important lower tributaries (Gordon and Beaver creeks). Major issues include regionally important salmon habitat (in-stream), and protecting and restoring large blocks of contiguous upland and riparian forest.
Tonquin	97	Includes the Coffee Lake complex, Graham Oaks Nature Park, and Corral Creek. This relatively small but diverse naturehood supports an outstanding wetland restoration opportunity at Coffee Lake Creek, as well as locally important stream and forest restoration. Savanna restoration at Graham Oaks Nature Park is a highly visible and accessible location to share important nature lessons.
Tualatin Mountains	100	Includes Abbey, McCarthy, Burlington and Ennis creeks, and extends south to Tryon Creek State Park. The Tualatin Mountains offer a regionally important large block of forest habitat extending from the inner city to the edges of the coast range. Although there are important riparian habitat restoration opportunities, the focus here is on managing and restoring large blocks of upland forest.
Upper Tualatin	104	Extends along the main stem Tualatin River from above the Dairy Creek confluence to Wapato Lake and includes the portion of the Chehalem Mountains running north-south adjacent to the Wapato Lake Wildlife Refuge. It includes lower sections of Carpenter and Gales creeks. Includes opportunities to enhance prairie, floodplain wetlands, riparian habitat and Coho salmon habitat. Chehalem Ridge presents a regionally significant large block of upland forest.

CLASSIFICATION OF METRO'S INVENTORY

Within each naturehood, Metro manages a variety of properties along the spectrum from popular destinations to sensitive habitat where humans rarely set foot. However, up to this point, Metro has not established definitive criteria for classifying its inventory. The way sites were named has evolved over time, starting with the transfer of the Multnomah County properties such as Blue Lake Regional Park, Chinook Landing Marine Park and Howell Territorial Park. Through the 1995 and 2006 bond measures, properties acquired for habitat protection typically were assigned as natural areas with a few key sites selected for development as nature parks.

After 25 years of exponential growth, Metro's Parks and Nature portfolio needs a classification system to help focus planning, development and management. The new system outlined here describes the primary characteristics and values of each type of place, from regional recreation areas to habitat preserves. Using this system as a guide, Metro can ensure consistency across the region when planning for natural resource protection, park development, amenities and programming.



Metro's Parks and Nature classification system is designed to support clear communication among Metro's staff and partners, as well as the general public. By learning how a Metro site is classified, people will also gain a clear picture of how it is used and managed, and what level of public access to expect. For the most part, different classification titles signify different types of resources and access.

However, these distinctions are not absolute. Properties set aside primarily for one type of resource or designation may also contain other types. For example, one of Metro's flagship nature parks – Graham Oaks in Wilsonville – covers 250 acres of rolling Willamette Valley lowland, home to oak savanna, oak woodlands, wetlands and a mature fir forest. Although visitors can explore Graham Oaks through a four-mile trail system, sensitive habitat within the park is still protected, restored and monitored. In a park system with nature at its heart, Metro's focused scientific efforts to protect wildlife, restore habitat, and provide clean air and water extend across property classifications.

Graham Oaks Nature Park oak savanna restoration

REGIONAL RECREATION AREA

REGIONAL NATURE PARK

REGIONAL NATURAL AREA

REGIONAL RECREATION AREA

A Regional Recreation Area offers access to some of the region's most distinctive natural and constructed features for boating, swimming, picnicking and other activities. While some include sensitive lands and areas managed and treasured for their cultural, habitat and ecosystem values, Regional Recreation Areas generally support high levels of activity and use.

REGIONAL NATURE PARK

Protected for their scenic, historic or natural features, Regional Nature Parks are carefully developed and opened to the public as places to connect with nature. Regional Nature Parks offer unique recreation and education experiences in outstanding natural settings. In these places, Metro promotes activities like hiking and quiet enjoyment of nature and wildlife, sharing the story of some of the region's most unique cultures, landscapes and natural systems. Metro continues its efforts to restore and preserve water quality and wildlife habitat.

REGIONAL NATURAL AREA

Regional Natural Areas are protected landscapes that have substantially retained their natural character. Metro focuses its management activities on restoration and enhancement for the benefit of the region's native fish and wildlife, water and air quality. Public access is managed at select locations with a mind toward respecting the sensitive balance between recreation and habitat protection.

REGIONAL HABITAT PRESERVE

REGIONAL TRAIL

HISTORIC CEMETERY

REGIONAL HABITAT PRESERVE

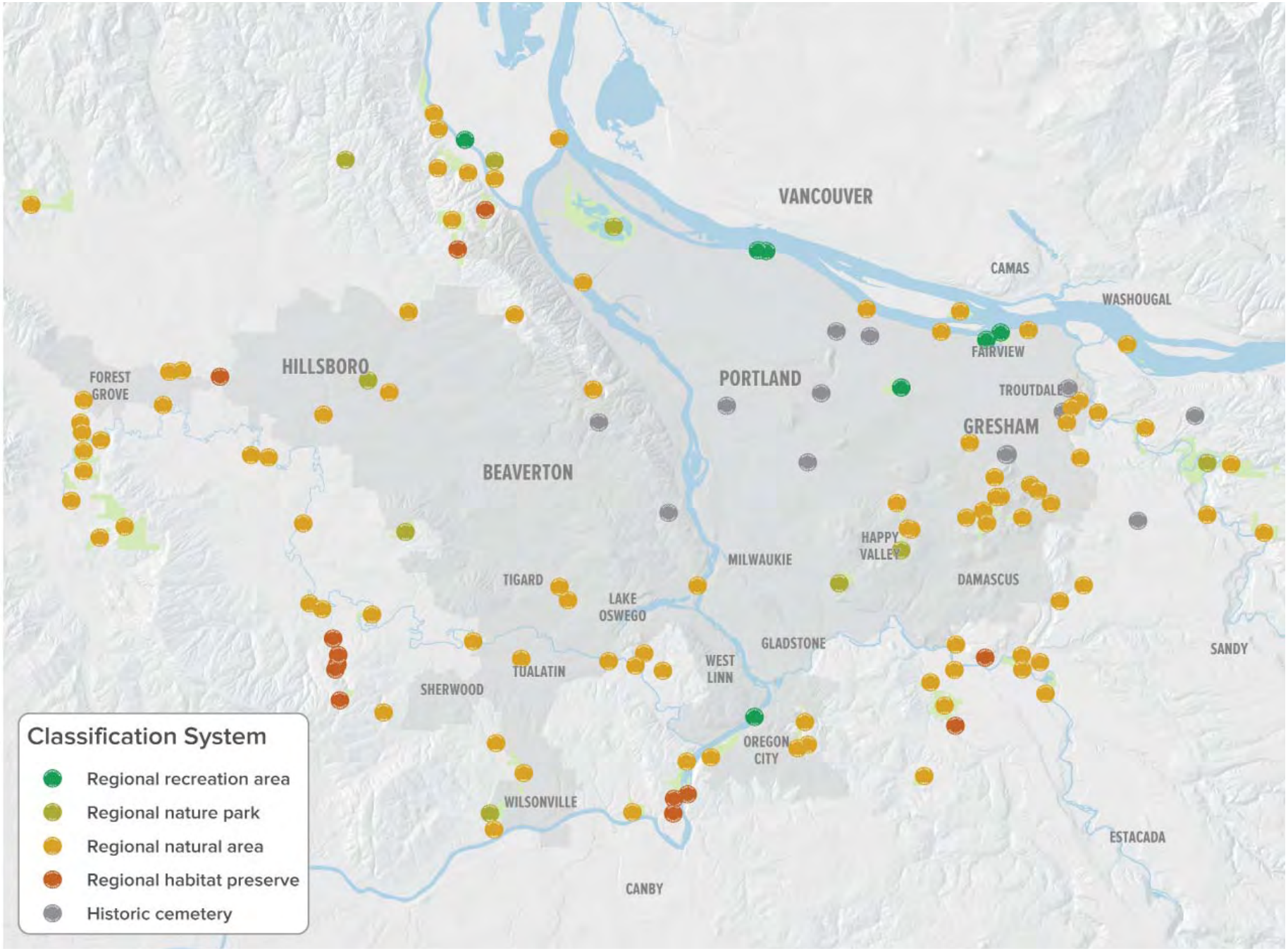
Regional Habitat Preserves play an instrumental role in preserving clean air and water, and protecting our region's biodiversity. Metro manages these unique and sensitive landscapes with a focus on ecological integrity of rivers, streams and wetlands; regeneration of once-common plant and wildlife communities; and regional habitat connectivity for fish and other species. Access by the public is limited to occasional guided tours and other specialized activities.

REGIONAL TRAIL

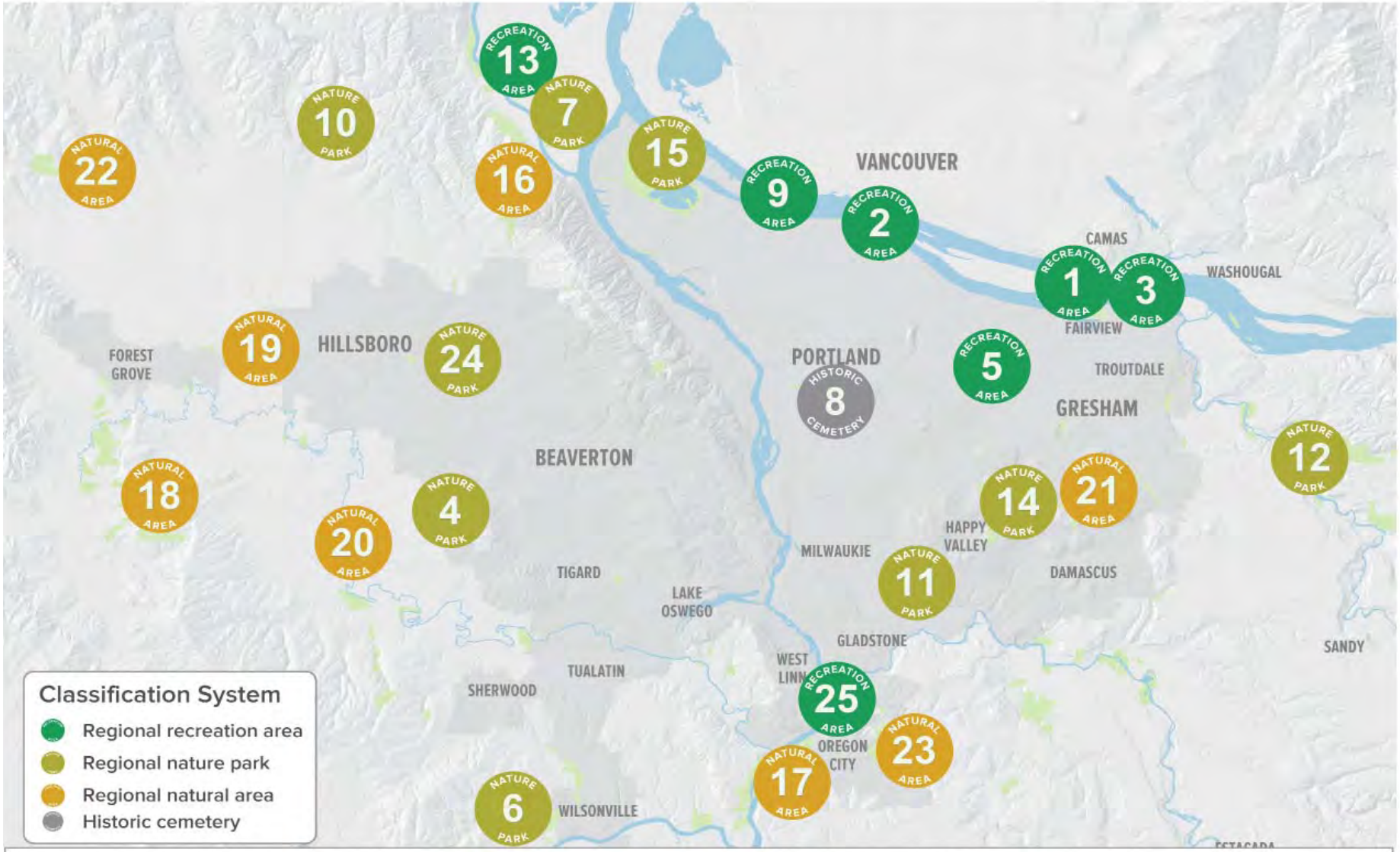
Regional Trails differ from local trails in that they are usually larger in scope, crossing neighborhood lines and linking cities, counties and even states. As excellent places for hikers, walkers, runners, cyclists and paddlers to exercise and experience nature, regional trails are destinations unto themselves – but they also take us from the places we live to the places we learn, work, shop and play. Most Regional Trails are maintained by local jurisdictions; however, Metro serves as a convener in planning the overall regional trails system.

HISTORIC CEMETERY

Metro's Historic Cemeteries are valued as sacred places. The public can seek them out for burial options, in addition to visiting a loved one's grave, conducting historical research, and simply reflecting or connecting with nature. Metro's Historic Cemeteries host many types of light recreation such as walking, birding, horticulture interpretation and appreciation, historical research and art.


VANCOUVER
CAMAS
WASHOUGAL
FAIRVIEW
TROUTDALE
GRESHAM
PORTLAND
HILLSBORO
FOREST GROVE
BEAVERTON
HAPPY VALLEY
MILWAUKIE
DAMASCUS
TIGARD
LAKE OSWEGO
GLADSTONE
SANDY
WEST LINN
TUALATIN
SHERWOOD
OREGON CITY
WILSONVILLE
ESTACADA
CANBY
Classification System
Regional recreation area
Regional nature park
Regional natural area
Regional habitat preserve
Historic cemetery

METRO CLASSIFICATION	METRO DESTINATIONS/ PUBLIC ACCESS SITES	DESTINATION MAP #	NATUREHOOD
REGIONAL RECREATION AREAS	Blue Lake Regional Park	1	Columbia River and Willamette Lowlands
	Broughton Beach	2	Columbia River and Willamette Lowlands
	Chinook Landing Marine Park	3	Columbia River and Willamette Lowlands
	Glendoveer Golf Course	5	East Buttes and Johnson Creek
	M. James Gleason Memorial Boat Ramp	9	Columbia River and Willamette Lowlands
	Mason Hill Park	10	Tualatin Mountains
	Sauvie Island Boat Ramp	13	Columbia River and Willamette Lowlands
	Willamette Falls Riverwalk (coming soon)	25	Greater Willamette Narrows
REGIONAL NATURE PARKS	Cooper Mountain Nature Park	4	Lower Tualatin
	Graham Oaks Nature Park	6	Tonquin
	Howell Territorial Park	7	Columbia River and Willamette Lowlands
	Mount Talbert Nature Park	11	East Buttes and Johnson Creek
	Oxbow Regional Park	12	Sandy River
	Scouters Mountain Nature Park	14	East Buttes and Johnson Creek
	Smith and Bybee Wetlands	15	Columbia River and Willamette Lowlands
	Orenco Woods Nature Park (coming soon)	24	Dairy, McKay and Rock Creeks
REGIONAL NATURAL AREAS	Burlington Creek Forest Natural Area (coming soon)	16	Tualatin Mountains
	Canemah Bluff Natural Area (coming soon)	17	Greater Willamette Narrows
	Chehalem Ridge Natural Area (coming soon)	18	Upper Tualatin
	East Council Creek Natural Area (coming soon)	19	Dairy, McKay and Rock Creeks
	Farmington Natural Area (coming soon)	20	Mid-Tualatin
	Gabbert Hill Natural Area (coming soon)	21	East Buttes and Johnson Creek
	Killin Wetlands Natural Area (coming soon)	22	Dairy, McKay and Rock Creeks
	Newell Creek Canyon Natural Area (coming soon)	23	Greater Willamette Narrows
REGIONAL CEMETERY	Lone Fir Historic Cemetery	8	East Buttes and Johnson Creek



Existing

1) Blue Lake Regional Park
2) Broughton Beach
3) Chinook Landing Marine Park
4) Cooper Mountain Nature Park
5) Glendoveer Golf Course
6) Graham Oaks Nature Park
7) Howell Territorial Park
8) Lone Fir Pioneer Cemetery
9) M James Gleason Memorial Boat Ramp
10) Mason Hill Park
11) Mount Talbert
12) Oxbow Regional Park
13) Sauvie Island Boat Ramp
14) Scouters Mountain Nature Park
15) Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area

Coming Soon

16) Burlington Creek Forest
17) Canemah Bluff
18) Chehalem Ridge Natural Area
19) East Council Creek
20) Farmington Natural Area
21) Gabbert Hill
22) Killin Wetlands
23) Newell Creek Canyon
24) Orenco Woods
25) Willamette Falls River Walk

NATUREHOOD DESCRIPTIONS

Naturehoods provide a framework for organizing and describing the 17,000 acres that Metro owns and manages. Get to know each naturehood in the Metro Parks and Nature system by reading about voter-protected land, exploring a map and learning about highlight destinations. Within each area, Metro's inventory includes a range of properties – from Regional Recreation Areas to Regional Habitat Preserves.

The section that follows provides a map of each naturehood, a naturehood description and individual highlights of Metro properties located in the naturehoods listed below:

- CLACKAMAS RIVER
- COLUMBIA RIVER AND WILLAMETTE LOWLANDS
- DAIRY, MCKAY AND ROCK CREEKS
- EAST BUTTES AND JOHNSON CREEK
- GREATER WILLAMETTE NARROWS
- LOWER TUALATIN
- MID-TUALATIN
- SANDY RIVER
- TONQUIN
- TUALATIN MOUNTAINS
- UPPER TUALATIN

CLACKAMAS RIVER NATUREHOOD

Along the Clackamas River just upstream from Barton Park, Metro's River Island property provides 240 acres of habitat for plants and wildlife, including endangered salmon and steelhead, native turtles and migratory birds. Metro is spearheading a major restoration project, working with numerous partners, to return River Island to a natural, wilder existence and help improve water quality in a river that provides drinking water to nearly 400,000 people.
Further west, more restoration is underway at Clear Creek Natural Area. Situated beyond Oregon City and Carver, nestled among Christmas tree farms, Metro's Clear Creek Natural Area serves as a haven for wildlife. Named for the creek that snakes through this canyon, the natural area is home to endangered Coho and Chinook salmon, as well as deer, coyote, beaver and otter. Brilliant purple camas bloom in the spring; fungi can be found in the fall. Extensive restoration has improved the health of the site, supporting salmon and prairie habitat.

Additional Metro natural areas trace the Clackamas River on its path through rare habitats. For wildlife, Deep Creek is the equivalent of a freeway, making connections between the Clackamas River and the Cascades, the East Buttes area of Gresham and the urbanized Johnson Creek . Frequent travelers include Coho and spring Chinook salmon, wild winter steelhead, cutthroat trout and lamprey eel. Because Deep Creek and its tributaries flow into the Clackamas River, they have a significant effect on water quality.

Acres: 1,476

Access considerations: River Island is a cherished place for people to fish and enjoy nature. Also on the Clackamas River, the 174-acre North Logan Natural Area, which is used by people rafting, tubing and fishing, has potential to support a nature park. Most other properties in this naturehood have sensitive habitat, and are recommended as habitat preserves.

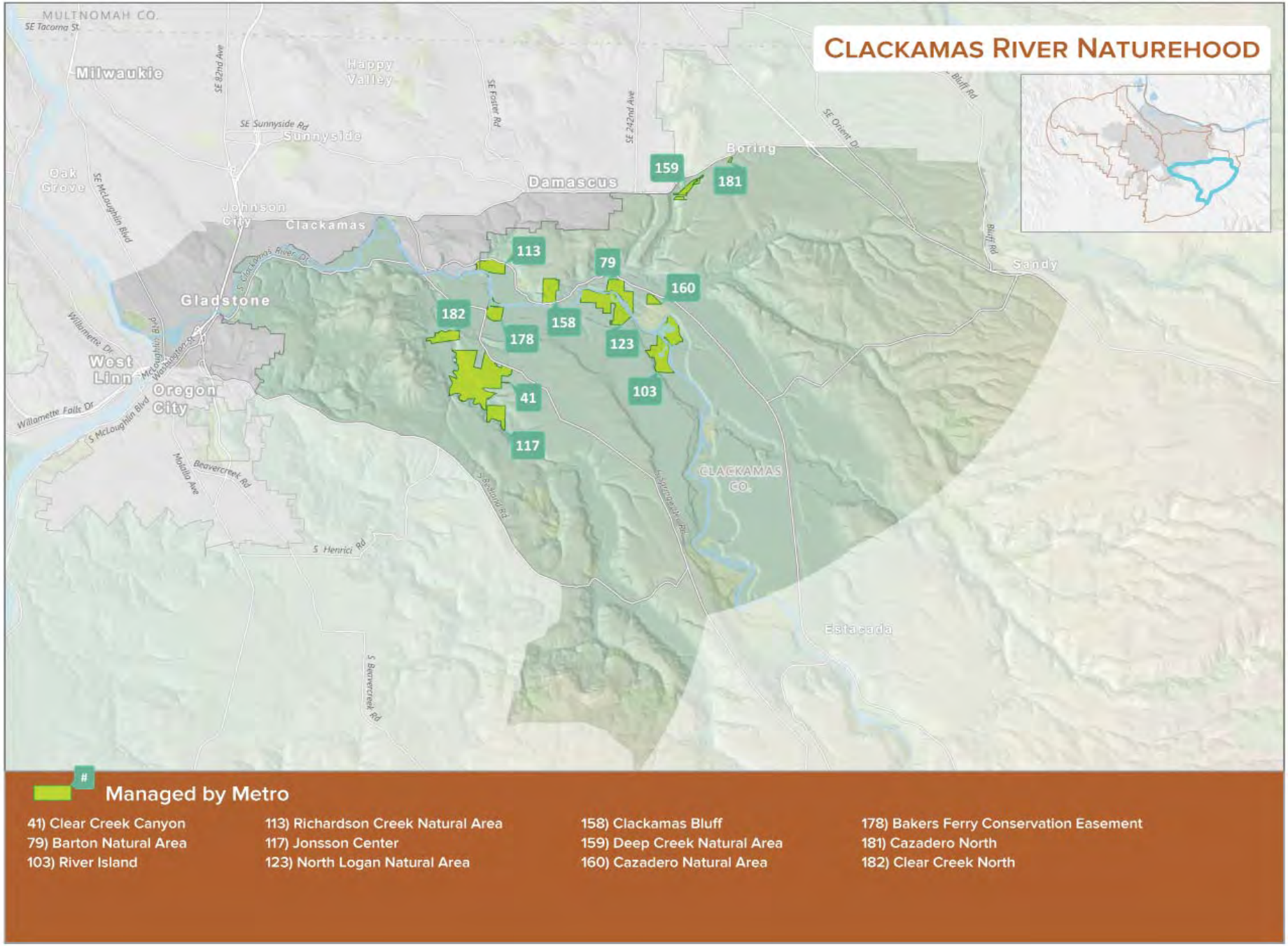
Clear Creek was targeted as a potential nature park during the first bond measure, due to its spectacular scenery and environmental education potential. Sensitive habitat will require careful planning to balance access with natural resource protection.

Other public agencies manage large parks in the area, including Milo McIver State Park and Barton Park. Ongoing acquisition efforts may affect options for potential future public use.

Key partnerships: Clackamas County Parks, Clackamas Soil & Water Conservation District, Clackamas River Council, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Oregon Parks and Recreation, Oregon Wildlife Heritage Foundation, Portland General Electric. Metro has an active restoration partnership with the Springwater Environmental Sciences School adjacent to Clear Creek Natural Area.

Regional context: Changes in the Clackamas River related to historic gravel mining and the 1996 floods are creating significant management challenges, which will require a multi-partner solution and substantial funding.

Metro is undertaking extensive restoration work at places like River Island and Clear Creek Natural Area. The Clear Creek prairie is also an important anchor habitat for regional conservation.


CLACKAMAS RIVER NATUREHOOD
MULTNOMAH CO.
SE Tacoma St
Milwaukie
SE 82nd Ave
Happy Valley
SE Foster Rd
SE 242nd Ave
SE Sunnyside Rd
Sunnyside
Oak Grove
SE McLoughlin Blvd
Johnson City
Clackamas
Damascus
Boring
SE Orient Dr
Bluff Rd
Sandy
Gladstone
Willamette Dr
McLoughlin Blvd
Washington St
West Linn
Oregon City
Willamette Falls Dr
S McLoughlin Blvd
Molalla Ave
Beavercreek Rd
S Henrici Rd
S Beavercreek Rd
CLACKAMAS CO.
Estacada
159
181
113
79
160
182
158
178
123
103
41
117
Managed by Metro
41) Clear Creek Canyon
79) Barton Natural Area
103) River Island
113) Richardson Creek Natural Area
117) Jonsson Center
123) North Logan Natural Area
158) Clackamas Bluff
159) Deep Creek Natural Area
160) Cazadero Natural Area
178) Bakers Ferry Conservation Easement
181) Cazadero North
182) Clear Creek North

NATUREHOOD HIGHLIGHTS

RIVER ISLAND NATURAL AREA

Nestled on the Clackamas River just upstream from Barton Park, River Island provides habitat for plants and wildlife, including endangered salmon and steelhead, native turtles and migratory birds. It is also a favorite place for people to fish and enjoy nature. Years of gravel mining and record flooding in 1996 altered the natural area's landscape and changed the Clackamas River's path through the gravel mine – bad news for wildlife that depend on the river. Metro is undertaking a major restoration project to improve fish and wildlife habitat by returning the river channel to a more natural state and treating invasive species.

Acres: 235

Public use: Most public access in the area is through Clackamas County's adjacent Barton Park.

Key partnerships: Clackamas County, Clackamas River Basin Council, Portland General Electric, State of Oregon

Regional context: The Clackamas River supplies drinking water to over 200,000 people and supports significant runs of federal and state listed fish species, including Chinook salmon, Coho salmon, steelhead, cutthroat trout, bull trout and Pacific lamprey.

River Island Natural Area

River Island Natural Area

COLUMBIA RIVER AND WILLAMETTE LOWLANDS NATUREHOOD

People know Metro's Columbia River holdings best by Smith and Bybee Wetlands, but this naturehood also includes significant parcels of land protected for fish and wildlife habitat along the region's two iconic rivers. Metro owns additional sites along the nearby Columbia Slough, a rich network of waterways and wildlife.

Off the shores of the Columbia, Metro parks and natural areas run from the confluence of the Sandy and Columbia rivers to Sauvie Island. Metro natural areas range from the sloughs, wetlands and forests at Smith and Bybee Wetlands to the 220 acres on the tip of Government Island. Government Island is part of a series of islands in the Columbia that provide habitat for fish, deer, beaver, otter and birds – and a spot for boaters to fish, eat lunch or walk in the shade of large cottonwood trees.

Along the Multnomah Channel, Metro turned back the clock to mimic historical flooding patterns that nurtured wildlife and plants. Control structures hold water each winter and spring and allow wetlands to drain slowly each summer, as they did before farming and development disrupted the ecosystem. Metro and partners planted tens of thousands of native trees and shrubs. Now, it's common to see Northern red-legged frogs, bald eagles and great blue heron.

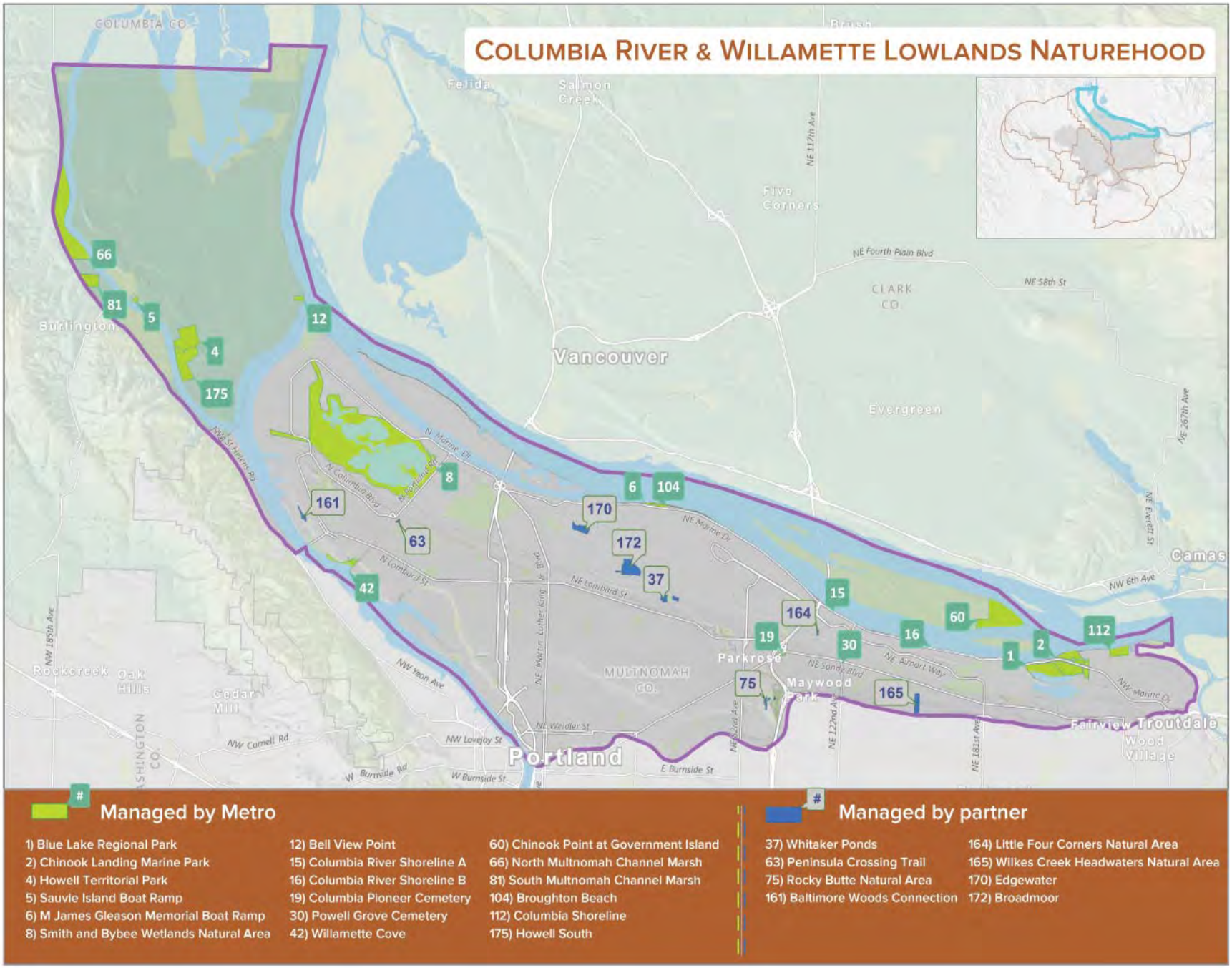
Acres: 3,177

Access considerations: The Columbia Slough Trail provides the primary access in and around the slough. Lands protected for their habitat value and water quality benefits are less likely to provide access. Multnomah Channel offers opportunities for low-impact wildlife viewing.

Key partnerships: 40-Mile Loop Land Trust, Bonneville Power Administration, City of Portland, Columbia Slough Council, Ducks Unlimited, East Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District, Friends of Smith & Bybee Lakes, Lower Columbia River Estuary Partnership, Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife, Oregon Parks and Recreation, Port of Portland, Smith and Bybee Wetlands Advisory Committee, St. Johns Neighborhood Association

Regional context: The Columbia Slough, a 19-mile network of remnant lakes, wetlands and slow-moving channels, stretches from Fairview Lake to Kelley Point Park, where the Willamette and Columbia Rivers meet. The slough and its banks provide valuable habitat for plants, fish and wildlife, including deer, beaver, river otter, 25 fish species and 175 bird species. Metro has protected land that provides habitat connections and water quality benefits along the Slough.

On the Willamette, Multnomah Channel is a spectacular example of restored wetlands, showcasing Metro's science-based approach to land management.


Columbia River & Willamette Lowlands Naturehood
Managed by Metro
1) Blue Lake Regional Park
2) Chinook Landing Marine Park
4) Howell Territorial Park
5) Sauvie Island Boat Ramp
6) M James Gleason Memorial Boat Ramp
8) Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area
12) Bell View Point
15) Columbia River Shoreline A
16) Columbia River Shoreline B
19) Columbia Pioneer Cemetery
30) Powell Grove Cemetery
42) Willamette Cove
60) Chinook Point at Government Island
66) North Multnomah Channel Marsh
81) South Multnomah Channel Marsh
104) Broughton Beach
112) Columbia Shoreline
175) Howell South
Managed by partner
37) Whitaker Ponds
63) Peninsula Crossing Trail
75) Rocky Butte Natural Area
161) Baltimore Woods Connection
164) Little Four Corners Natural Area
165) Wilkes Creek Headwaters Natural Area
170) Edgewater
172) Broadmoor
Vancouver
Portland
Camas
Burlington
Felida
Salmon Creek
Five Corners
Evergreen
Parkrose
Maywood Park
Fairview
Troutdale
Wood Village
Rockcreek
Oak Hills
Cedar Mill
COLUMBIA CO.
CLARK CO.
MULTNOMAH CO.
WASHINGTON CO.
NE Fourth Plain Blvd
NE 58th St
NE 117th Ave
NE 267th Ave
NE Everett St
NW 6th Ave
NW Marine Dr
NE Marine Dr
N Marine Dr
N Columbia Blvd
N Portland Rd
N Lombard St
NE Lombard St
NE Martin Luther King Jr Blvd
NE Sandy Blvd
NE Airport Way
NE 122nd Ave
NE 181st Ave
NE 82nd Ave
NE Weidler St
NW Yeon Ave
NW Lovejoy St
NW Cornell Rd
NW 185th Ave
NW St Helens Rd
W Burnside Rd
W Burnside St
E Burnside St

COLUMBIA RIVER AND WILLAMETTE LOWLANDS NATUREHOOD HIGHLIGHTS

BLUE LAKE REGIONAL PARK

Twenty minutes from downtown Portland, Blue Lake Regional Park offers a wealth of ways to enjoy the outdoors, from boating, fishing and swimming to picnics, community events and special programs. The park's namesake is a 64-acre natural lake fed by underground springs, which helps visitors cool off on hot days. Amenities include a Lake House available for rentals, a spray ground, a nature-based playground, a discovery garden, boat rentals, disc golf course, sports facilities and a wetland area with a viewing platform and trail. The 2013 levy has made it possible to carry out many visitor improvements, including a new entryway, bathrooms and native landscaping.

Acres: 180 acres

Public use: More than 300,000 visitors per year, with a diverse audience including people who speak Spanish, Ukrainian and Russian.

Key partnerships: The City of Fairview has been a longtime supportive partner. The City of Portland operates several groundwater wells beneath the undeveloped eastern portion of the park.

Regional context: At one time Blue Lake Regional Park reportedly was the Nichaqwli Village, home to Chinook Indians and noted in the journals of Lewis and Clark. A section of the 40-mile Loop trail system travels through the park's northern boundary and provides access to a 20-mile stretch of trail between Troutdale and the Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area. Blue Lake is one of the only parks in the greater Portland area with a swimming lake.

Blue Lake Regional Park

BROUGHTON BEACH

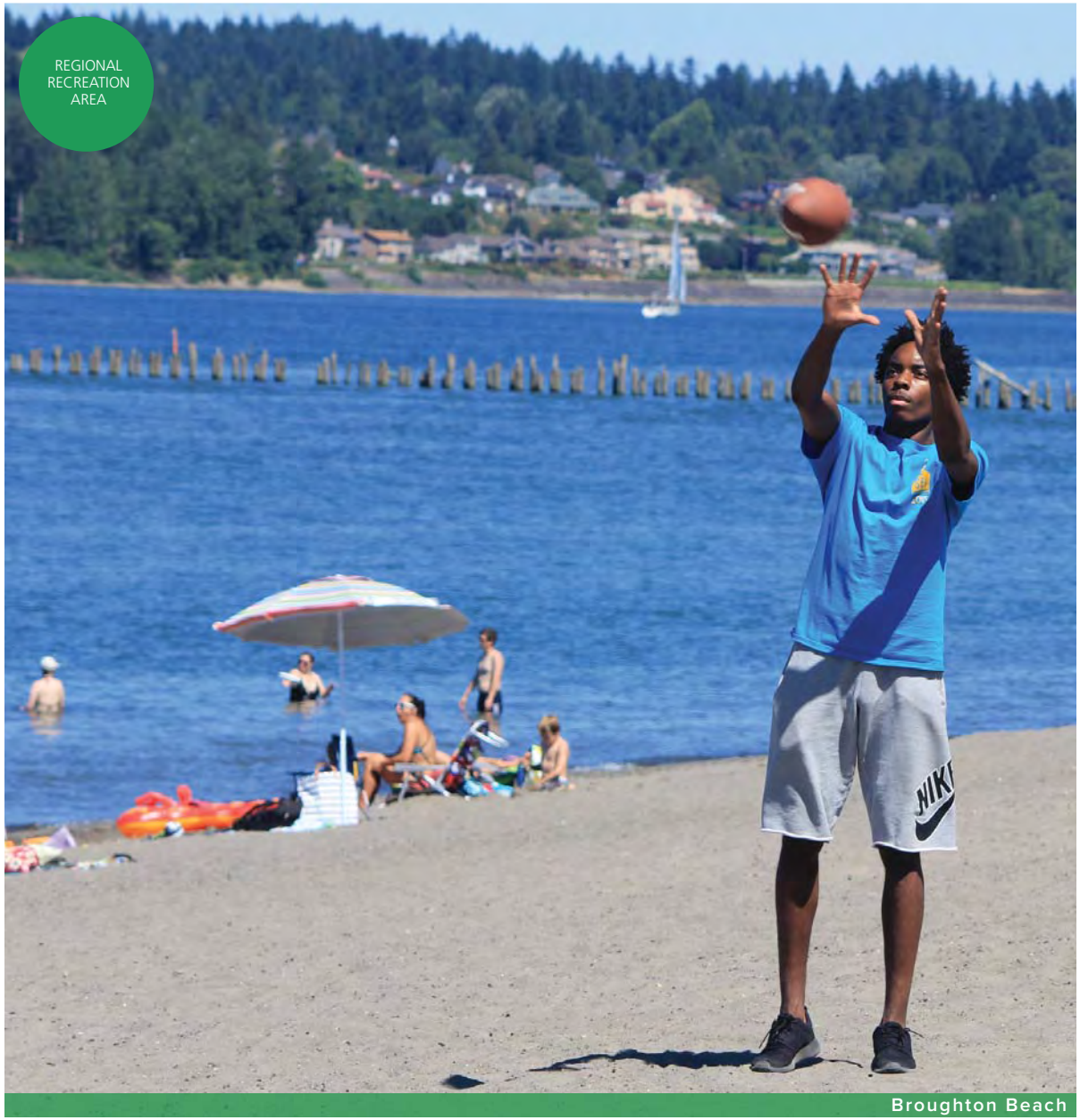
Across from Portland International Airport, Broughton Beach provides a clean, safe, sandy place to play along the Columbia River – one of the region's best urban beaches. Visitors enjoy walking, beachcombing, picnicking and more. On a clear day, they can also catch a great view of Mount Hood.

Acres: 10

Public use: In recent years, Broughton Beach has undergone a transformation from notorious party destination into a family-friendly venue, thanks to Metro's effort to clean up the beach and redesign the adjacent parking lot at Metro's M. James Gleason Memorial Boat Ramp.

Key partnerships: Multnomah County River Patrol, Port of Portland, Oregon State Marine Board

Regional context: Broughton Beach is one of only a handful of urban beaches in the Portland area. It is adjacent to M. James Gleason Memorial Boat Ramp, extending the recreational opportunities along Marine Drive.



Broughton Beach

CHINOOK LANDING MARINE PARK

With six launching lanes on the Columbia River, Chinook Landing is one of the largest public boating facilities in Oregon. The park offers picnic areas, wetland and wildlife habitat, disabled-accessible docks, restrooms and a seasonal river patrol station. Improvements to Chinook Landing's parking and walking trail were recently completed.

Acres: 18

Public use: 180,000 visitors per year

Key partnerships: The Oregon State Marine Board provides periodic funding for maintenance of the boat ramp. The Multnomah County River Patrol is also a partner.

Regional context: Chinook Landing Marine Park draws boaters from the greater Portland-Vancouver area.

Chinook Landing Marine Park

HOWELL TERRITORIAL PARK

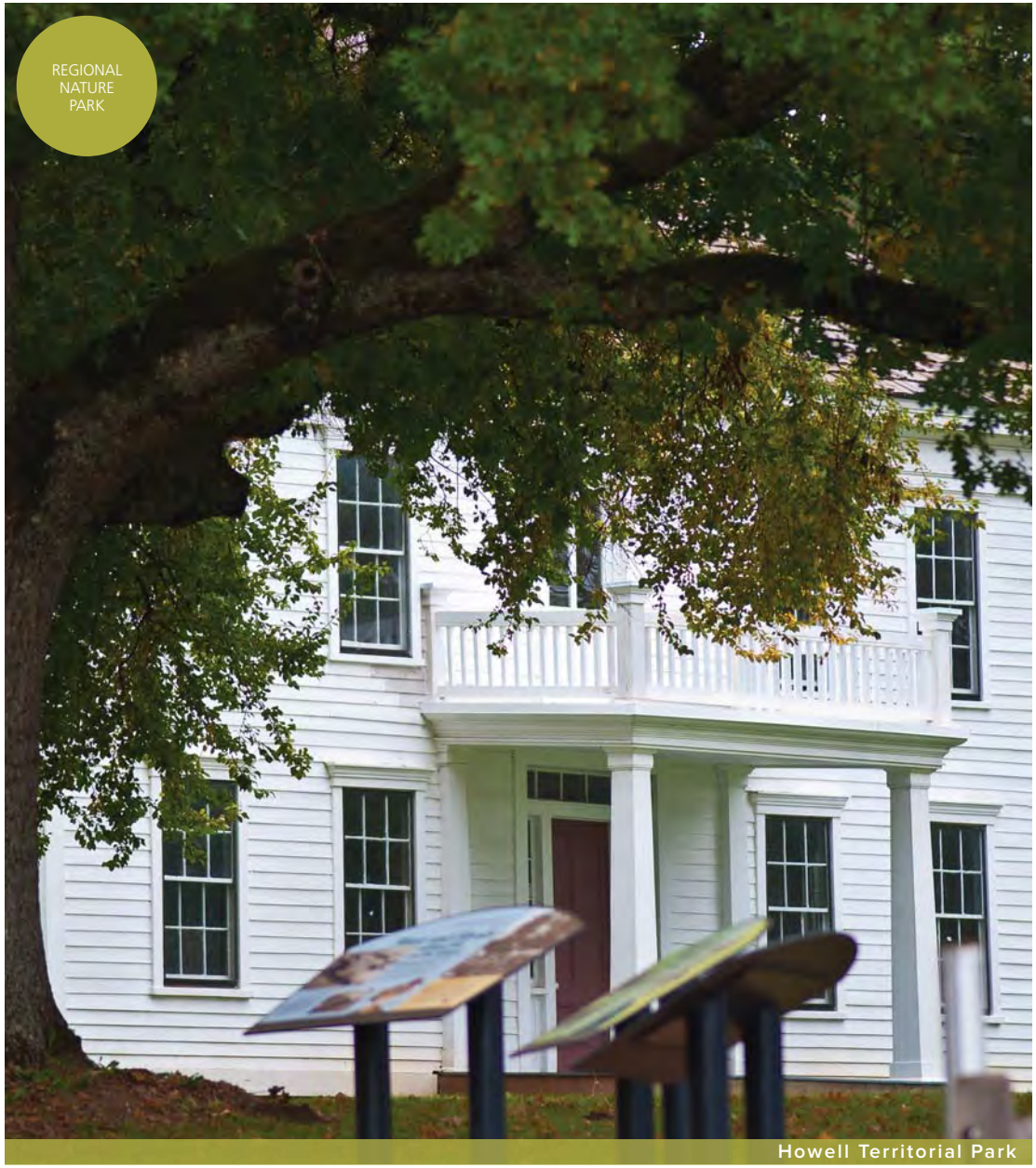
Tucked away on Sauvie Island, Howell Territorial Park is a great destination for picnickers, bird watchers and history buffs. The region's natural and cultural history come together in one serene, pastoral setting. Attractions include a picnic shelter, a pioneer orchard, large natural wetlands and an authentically restored farmhouse built in the 1850s. Interpretive signage tells the story of Sauvie Island and the families who homesteaded and farmed here. School education programs are a popular activity at the park.

Acres: 100

Public use: 4,600 visitors, mostly for education programs

Key partnerships: Sauvie Island Center runs the education programs at the park and leads field trips for school students. Sauvie Island Organics food co-operative leases land at the park to grow vegetables. Janus Youth Food Works Program involves high school students in growing vegetables at the park.

Regional context: Very few historic farms are open to the public in the greater Portland area. There is untapped potential to increase programming, including providing tours of the historic home. Demand for agricultural education also is growing.



Howell Territorial Park

M. JAMES GLEASON MEMORIAL BOAT RAMP

Minutes from downtown Portland, the M. James Gleason Memorial Boat Ramp offers a convenient public launch on the Columbia River. Recent upgrades include a debris deflection wall, extra launch lanes, boarding docks, restrooms, river maps and a river patrol office.

Acres: 18

Public use: Tens of thousands of users visit the boat ramp adjacent to Broughton beach annually.

Key partnerships: The Oregon State Marine Board provides periodic funding for maintenance of the boat ramp. The Multnomah County River Patrol is also a partner.

Regional context: M. James Gleason Memorial Boat Ramp is one of the most popular public boating ramps in Oregon. Several projects were recently completed at the ramp to improve operations of the facilities and visitor experience.

M. James Gleason Memorial Boat Ramp

SAUVIE ISLAND BOAT RAMP

Sauvie Island Boat Ramp gives boaters an opportunity to enjoy the quiet waters and wildlife of the Multnomah Channel. In recent years, the site has been upgraded to include a new launch ramp, new parking lot, new restrooms, lighting and landscaping with native and salvaged vegetation.

Acres: 6

Public use: 10,000 to 15,000 visitors per year

Key partnerships: The Oregon State Marine Board provides periodic funding for maintenance.

Regional context: The only public boat ramp on the Multnomah Channel, this facility serves all of Sauvie Island.

Sauvie Island Boat Ramp

SMITH AND BYBEE WETLANDS

Take the Interlakes Trail or go by boat to explore the largest protected wetlands in an American city. Either way, you might find beaver, river otter, black-tailed deer, osprey, bald eagles and Western painted turtles at Smith and Bybee Wetlands. You'll also find major restoration projects: a water control structure is restoring the network of sloughs, wetlands and forests that existed more than 200 years ago. The former St. Johns Landfill is now a meadow and an integral part of the habitat.

Acres: 1,880

Public use: 18,000 visitors per year

Key partnerships: The Smith and Bybee Wetlands Advisory Committee is an active partner, advising on the site's restoration and use. Other partners include the 40-Mile Loop Land Trust, City of Portland, Columbia Slough Council, Friends of Smith & Bybee Lakes, Port of Portland, and the St. Johns Neighborhood Association.

Regional context: One of the region's best-kept secrets, Smith and Bybee is surrounded by neighborhoods, port terminals, warehouses and commercial development. When built, the North Portland Greenway Trail and missing links in the Columbia Slough Trail will allow people to walk or bike through the natural area to jobs and other destinations. As the last big piece of floodplain wetland at the confluence of the Columbia and Willamette rivers, the site has ecological and historic significance.

Smith and Bybee Wetlands

DAIRY, MCKAY AND ROCK CREEKS NATUREHOOD

On the region's western fringes, Metro serves as the steward of several significant expanses of wildlife habitat.

Tucked along Highway 6 on the way to the Oregon coast, Killin Wetlands Natural Area is known as a haven for elusive marsh birds – and bird watchers. Between Hillsboro and Cornelius, Dairy and McKay creeks converge at the interface of farmland and urban development. By protecting land along these major tributaries to the Tualatin River – as well as nearby wetlands – Metro has helped improve water quality throughout the . Other Metro acquisitions expanded Jackson Bottom Wetlands Preserve in Hillsboro.

The health of the Tualatin River is greatly influenced by headwater and tributary streams like Rock Creek. If water is kept cool, clear and clean, benefits will flow downstream. Nestled between Portland and the developing Bethany urban area, Metro properties offer people and wildlife a refuge from development pressures. This area is home to bobcats and elk, as well as steelhead, trout and Coho salmon.

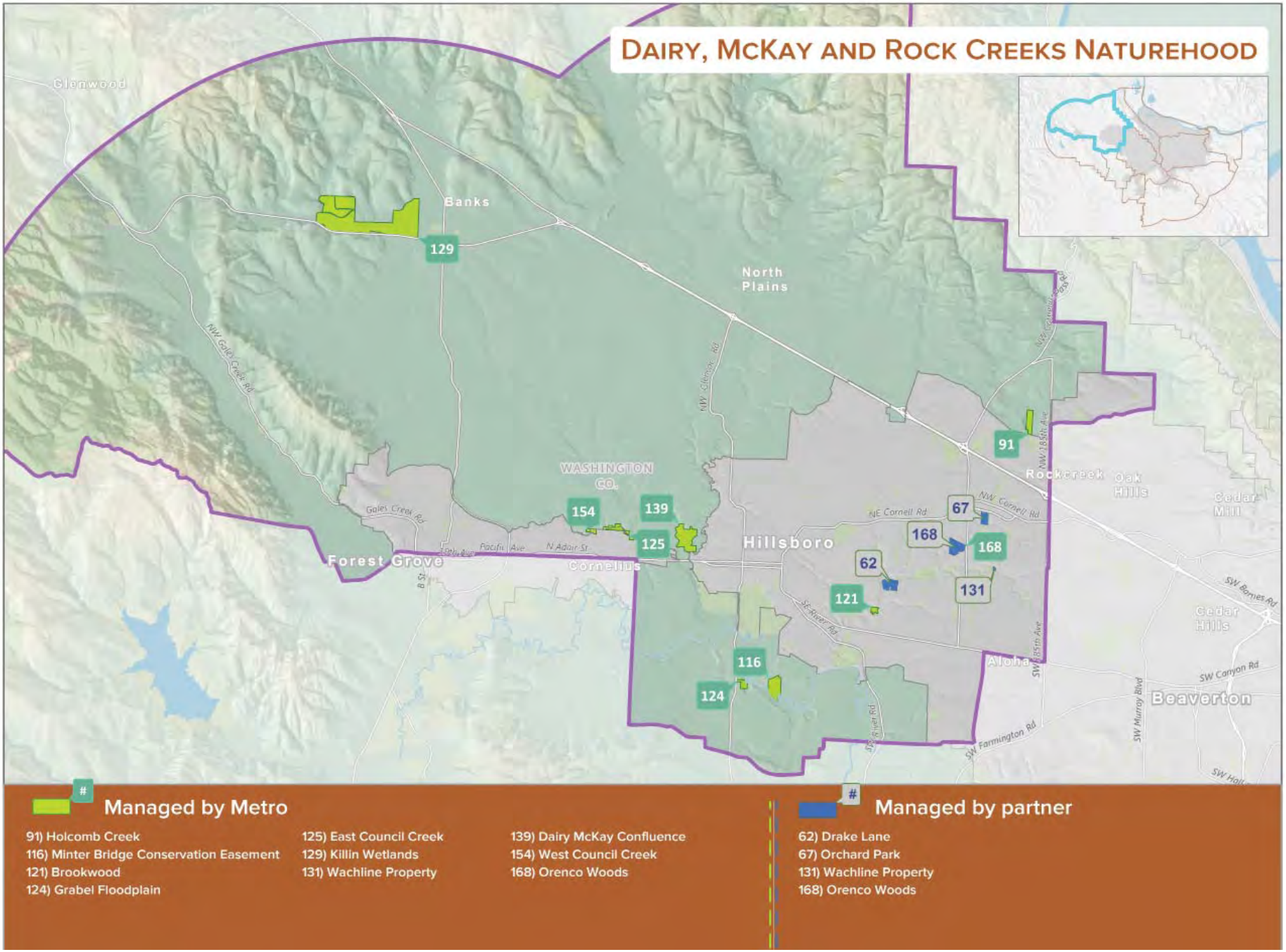
Acres: 946

Access considerations: Part of Metro's land lies along the proposed Council Creek Trail, providing options for a public natural area. The isolated Dairy-McKay Confluence Natural Area, along its namesake creek, is suited to a habitat preserve.

Sensitive habitat precludes high levels of access on Rock Creek Headwaters properties. Public use will be provided on the nearby Rock Creek Greenway trail, which is described in the trails section of this chapter.

Key partnerships: City of Cornelius, City of Hillsboro, Clean Water Services, Columbia Land Trust, West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District

Regional context: Dairy, McKay, Council and Rock creeks provide a key conservation corridor between the growing communities of Cornelius and Hillsboro. Metro is actively working on trail easements in this area with the City of Hillsboro, using the city's local share allocation from Metro's 2006 bond measure.


Dairy, McKay and Rock Creeks Naturehood
Glenwood
Banks
North Plains
WASHINGTON CO.
Forest Grove
Cornelius
Hillsboro
Rockcreek
Oak Hills
Cedar Mill
Cedar Hills
Aloha
Beaverton
129
91
154
139
125
67
168
168
62
131
121
116
124
Managed by Metro
91) Holcomb Creek
116) Minter Bridge Conservation Easement
121) Brookwood
124) Grabel Floodplain
125) East Council Creek
129) Killin Wetlands
131) Wachline Property
139) Dairy McKay Confluence
154) West Council Creek
168) Orenco Woods
Managed by partner
62) Drake Lane
67) Orchard Park
131) Wachline Property
168) Orenco Woods

DAIRY MCKAY AND ROCK CREEKS NATUREHOOD HIGHLIGHTS

KILLIN WETLANDS NATURAL AREA

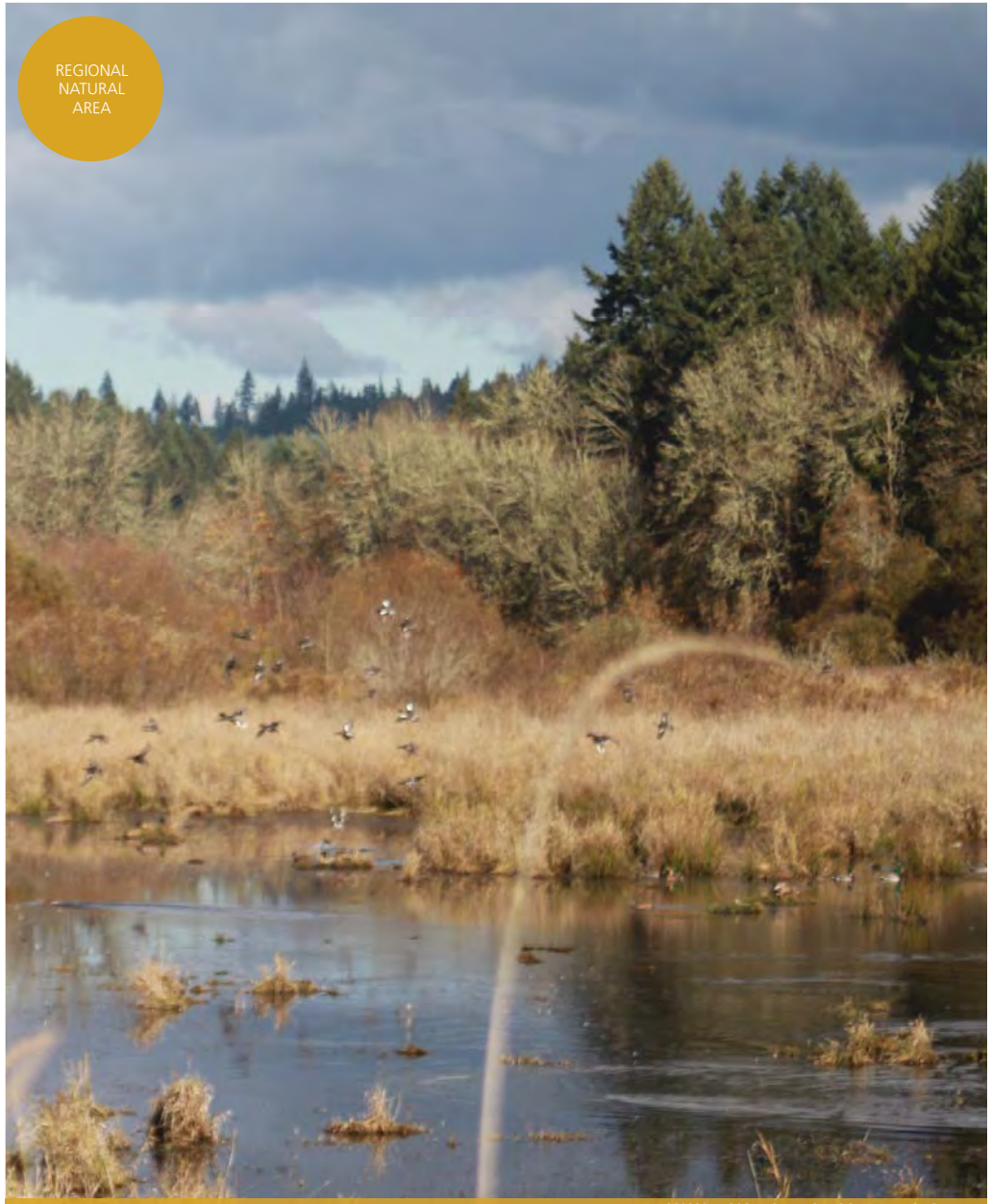
Nestled near Banks, Killin Wetlands Natural Area is known as a haven for elusive marsh birds. One of the Willamette Valley's largest remaining peat soil wetlands, it represents the last 2 percent of scrub-shrub marsh in the region and supports a rare assemblage of plants and animals. These ecologically significant wetlands improve water quality, provide wildlife habitat and store floodwater.

Acres: 590

Public use: Killin is popular with birders, but has no parking or amenities. Metro has engaged the public to plan for both restoration of the site and public access, with proposed amenities including a viewing platform, trails and parking. Formally supporting use will alleviate safety concerns and impacts on both the wetlands and neighboring farmers. The new amenities are scheduled to open to the public in 2017.

Key partnerships: City of Banks, Washington County

Regional context: The natural area's reputation as a site for regionally significant bird watching has led to challenges in managing human use from a safety perspective because there is no formal place to park. Metro is resolving this issue with a carefully designed project to meet both restoration and access goals.



Killin Wetlands Natural Area

ORENCO WOODS NATURE PARK

Hillsboro residents will soon enjoy walking, picnicking and learning about nature at Orenco Woods Nature Park, a collaboration between Metro and the City of Hillsboro. Nestled within the historic Orenco neighborhood, the park is located near the MAX Blue Line and Orenco Elementary School. Visitors will see Rock Creek snaking through the voter-protected land, and eventually they will be able to connect with the Rock Creek Trail. The parkland was once part of the Oregon Nursery Co., later became a golf course – and, before the housing market crashed, was platted as a residential development.

Acres: 45

Public use: Orenco Woods Nature Park will soon open to the public, with improvements slated to be completed by the end of 2016. Amenities will include parking, a nature-based play area, at least one picnic shelter, a restroom, soft-surface trails and education stations.

Key partnerships: City of Hillsboro, Clean Water Services

Regional context: In addition to the local trail in the park, a segment of the regional Rock Creek Trail will pass through the site, and is slated for completion in 2016. While not open to the public, the McDonald House on the park property is especially meaningful to the local community, and was recently included on the National Register of Historic Places.

Orenco Woods Nature Park

EAST BUTTES AND JOHNSON CREEK NATUREHOOD

Ancient lava domes that make up the East Buttes look out on spectacular valleys, rich farmland and sparkling Cascade peaks. Mount Talbert and Scouters Mountain nature parks provide forested refuges surrounded by communities growing more dense each year. In addition to the large nature parks, Metro natural areas offer trail opportunities, regionally important swaths of upland forest and creek headwaters, which protect threatened fish and other wildlife.

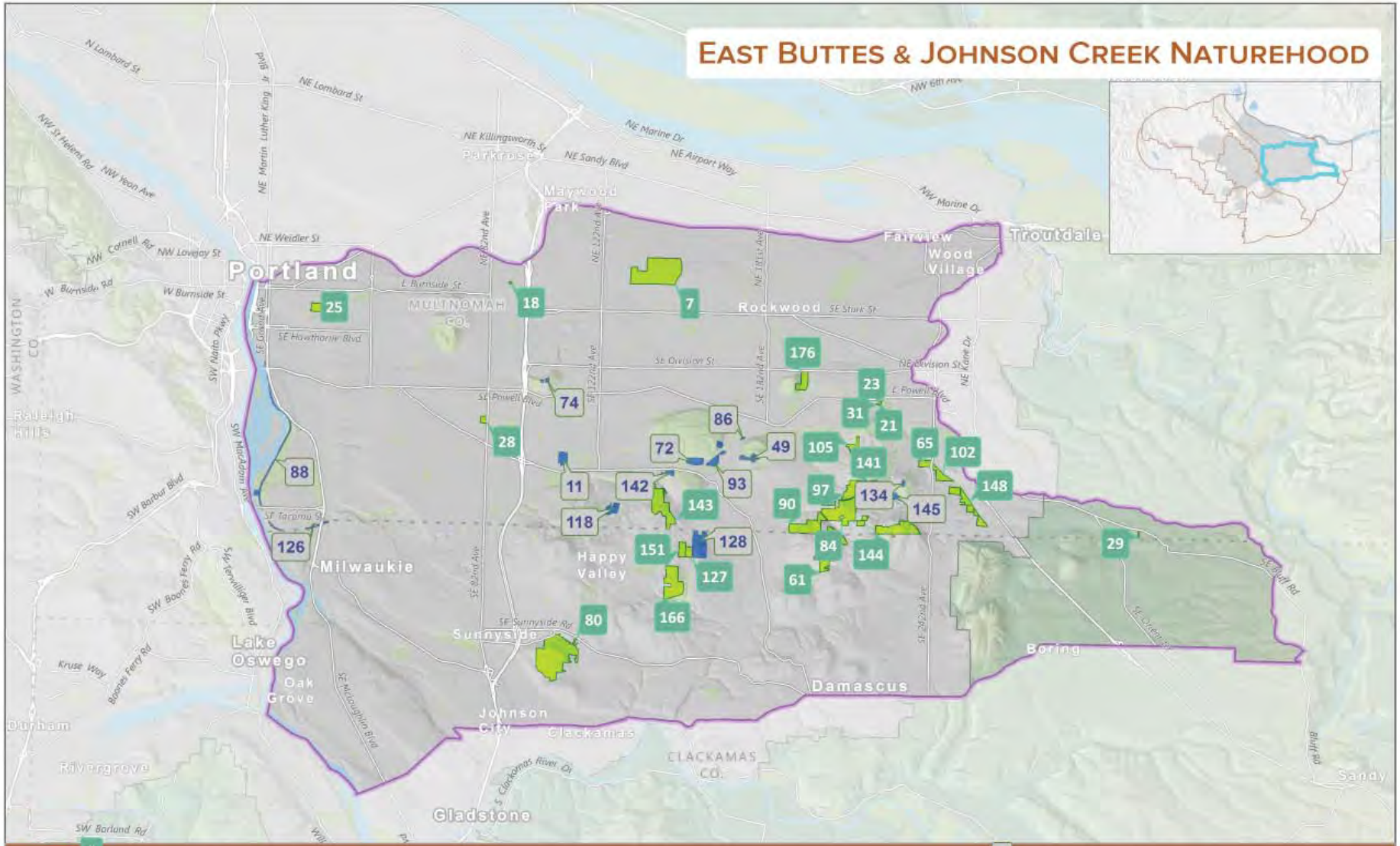
Johnson Creek passes through Gresham, Happy Valley, Milwaukie and Portland as it flows 26 miles from its headwaters near the Sandy River to its meeting point with the Willamette. It once hosted many native fish, which might thrive once again with partners collaborating to protect and restore habitat. Metro's patchwork of natural areas along Johnson Creek includes clusters of land near Gresham.

Acres: 1,725

Access considerations: Metro is working with the City of Gresham to explore opportunities for expanding public access at Gabbert Hill in the East Buttes, which could include formalizing existing use trails and installing a trailhead.

Key partnerships: City of Damascus, City of Gresham, City of Portland, East Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District, Johnson Creek Council, North Clackamas Parks & Recreation District

Regional context: The area south of Butler Road provides particularly important wildlife habitat and connectivity. Metro continues working to connect parcels. Johnson Creek represents a multi-partner success story with three major elements: enhancing the Springwater Trail, acquiring land and restoring a creek corridor. Illegal use is straining staff capacity and threatening natural resources in some places. High neighbor demand led to interim strategies to plan and accommodate use. Partners' capacity limits efforts in some areas.



Managed by Metro

7) Glendoveer Golf Course
18) Brainard Cemetery
21) Escobar Cemetery
23) Gresham Pioneer Cemetery
25) Lone Fir Pioneer Cemetery
28) Multnomah Park Cemetery
29) Pleasant Home Cemetery
31) White Birch Cemetery
61) East Bliss Butte
65) Hogan Road
80) Mount Talbert
84) Towle Butte
90) West Bliss Butte
97) Gabbert Hill
102) Ambleside
105) Chastain Creek NA
127) Upper Mitchell Creek NA
141) Gabbert Hill East
143) Buttes Natural Area
144) Sunshine Butte
148) Upper Johnson Creek
151) Upper Mitchell Creek West
166) Scouters Mountain Nature Park
176) Grant Butte Wetlands

Managed by partner

11) Beggars-Tick Wildlife Refuge
49) Jenne Butte
72) Powell Butte Nature Park
74) Kelly Butte NA
86) Springwater Trail East
88) Springwater Trail
93) Schweitzer Restoration Area
118) Campfire Properties
126) Johnson Creek Park
128) Upper Mitchell Creek East
134) Hogan Butte North
142) Gilbert Ridge NA
145) Hogan Butte

EAST BUTTES AND JOHNSON CREEK NATUREHOOD HIGHLIGHTS

GABBERT HILL NATURAL AREA

Located adjacent to the Gabbert Butte neighborhood three miles from downtown Gresham, mature forests cover the steep hillsides of Gabbert Hill Natural Area and protect Butler Creek and other tributaries of Johnson Creek. An access road to a City of Gresham water storage facility and existing informal trails cross the property, established by local users over time. The site may one day connect to the nearby Gresham Butte and existing Saddle Trail.

Acres: 100

Public use: Metro is working with the City of Gresham to develop a full master plan for the management of Gabbert Hill, which may include formalizing existing use trails and installing a trailhead to welcome more users. Public access will be carefully balanced with the need to protect the site's important natural resources and accommodate service to Gresham's municipal water storage facility.

Key partnerships: City of Gresham

Regional context: Gabbert Hill is one of nine extinct volcanic domes comprising the East Buttes, a formation that extends from Gresham south to the Clackamas River. Together the buttes form a broad migratory corridor of native ecosystems that support a wide diversity of wildlife.

Gabbert Hill Natural Area

GLENDOVEER GOLF COURSE

Glendoveer Golf Course provides challenging play for every level, with two 18-hole courses operated by a contractor. This recreation destination, located in an underserved area of outer Northeast Portland, also features footgolf, tennis courts and a restaurant. Along the perimeter, a two-mile fitness trail draws joggers and walkers to the natural setting.

Acres: 230

Public use: Glendoveer's perimeter trail receives more than 150,000 users annually.

Key partnerships: This facility is privately operated, except for the fitness trail and natural areas maintained by Metro.

Regional context: Glendoveer competes with five other publicly owned and operated golf courses in the region. Golf rounds have decreased over the last few years; the trail and tennis facilities draw more users. The facility serves as a meeting place for neighborhood civic functions. Multiple capital improvements have been recently completed to help renovate a number of aging facilities at the property.

Glendoveer perimeter trail

Glendoveer Golf Course

MOUNT TALBERT NATURE PARK

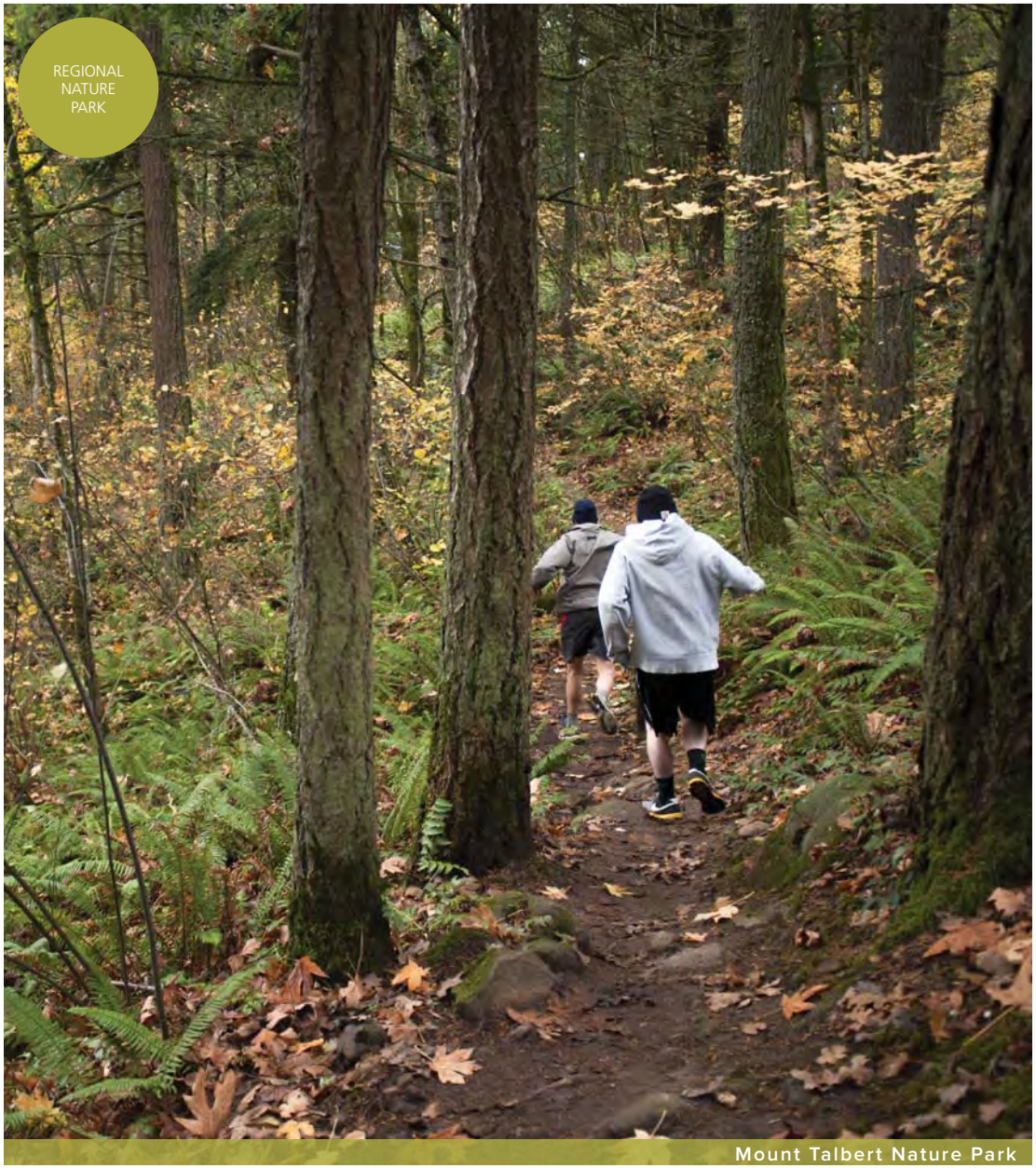
Perched on top of a former lava dome, surrounded by suburban neighborhoods and shopping centers, Mount Talbert Nature Park provides a forested oasis and a four-mile trail network. Visitors might encounter deer, Western gray squirrels, pileated and hairy woodpeckers, white-breasted nuthatches and Western tanager. Mount Talbert is a legacy of Metro's Natural Areas Program; land was purchased with the first voter-approved bond measure and developed with the second.

Acres: 220

Public use: Mount Talbert Nature Park receives approximately 33,000 visitors annually. There are several access points for people entering the park on foot from nearby neighborhoods.

Key partnerships: North Clackamas Parks & Recreation District operates the park.

Regional context: Mount Talbert is the largest of a group of extinct lava domes that stretch from Portland's Rocky Butte southward to the Clackamas River. The future 17-mile Mount Scott-Scouters Mountain loop trail will connect to Mount Talbert.



Mount Talbert Nature Park

SCOUTERS MOUNTAIN NATURE PARK

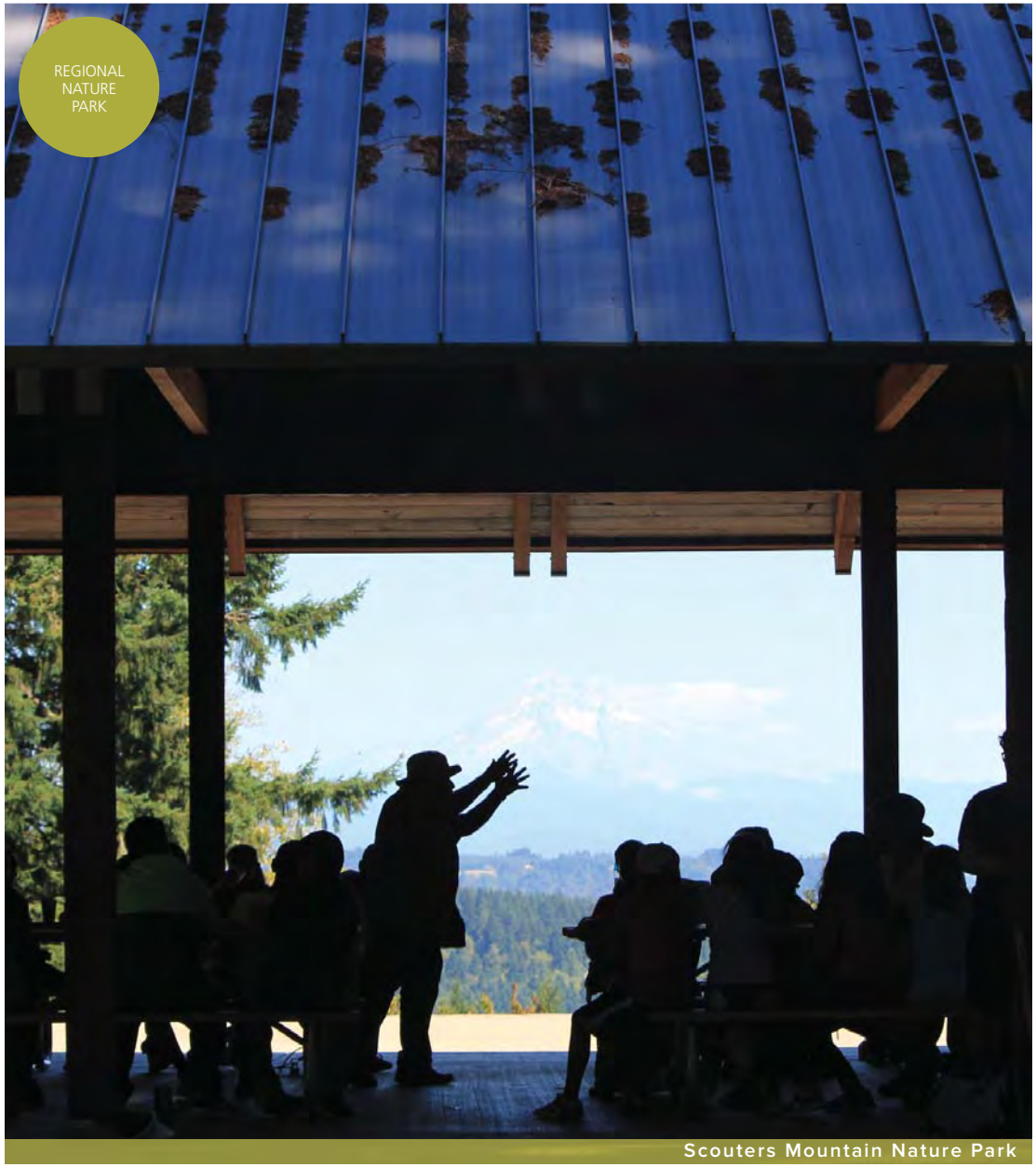
Minutes from Happy Valley neighborhoods, a steep road lined with fir trees leads to the new Scouters Mountain Nature Park. The site opened to the public in 2013, and visitors can now enjoy a picnic shelter, restrooms, a loop trail and parking. On clear days, the top of the butte offers views of Mount Hood. This natural area is part of the East Buttes network of ancient lava domes.

Acres: 100

Public use: Visitor counts are not yet available. Scouters Mountain reflects the lowest level of development within the nature park category.

Key partnerships: The City of Happy Valley and North Clackamas Parks & Recreation District are key partners.

Regional context: Scouters Mountain Nature Park is surrounded by suburban neighborhoods; the community has long advocated for its protection. Metro continues to protect land in the East Buttes area through the 2006 bond measure.



Scouters Mountain Nature Park

GREATER WILLAMETTE NARROWS NATUREHOOD

Transformation is underway at Newell Creek Canyon, a 300-acre swath of protected scenery and wildlife habitat. Historically, oak woodlands, prairie and old-growth Douglas fir forests covered this naturehood. Metro has protected land along Newell Creek, which supports native Coho salmon, cutthroat trout and steelhead. More recently, efforts expanded to Abernethy Creek, a Willamette River tributary with cedar, fir, maple and alder trees along its banks. Despite nearby development, this is the largest undeveloped natural area on the region's south side. With the land in protection, Metro is engaged in a planning process to balance Newell's development into both a nature park and habitat preserve.

To the west and further south, the Willamette River flows through a stretch of steep cliffs and rocky islands called the Willamette Narrows. Upland bluffs offer trees, huge basalt rocks and river views, while lower portions offer river access. Minutes from town, the area can feel untouched and remote. Metro land along the river, including several small islands, is home to deer, coyote, frogs, osprey, owls, heron and songbirds – as well as woodlands, upland prairies and an unusual wetland called a fen. This naturehood also includes Canemah Bluff Natural Area, which overlooks the Willamette River in Oregon City.

Acres: 1,494

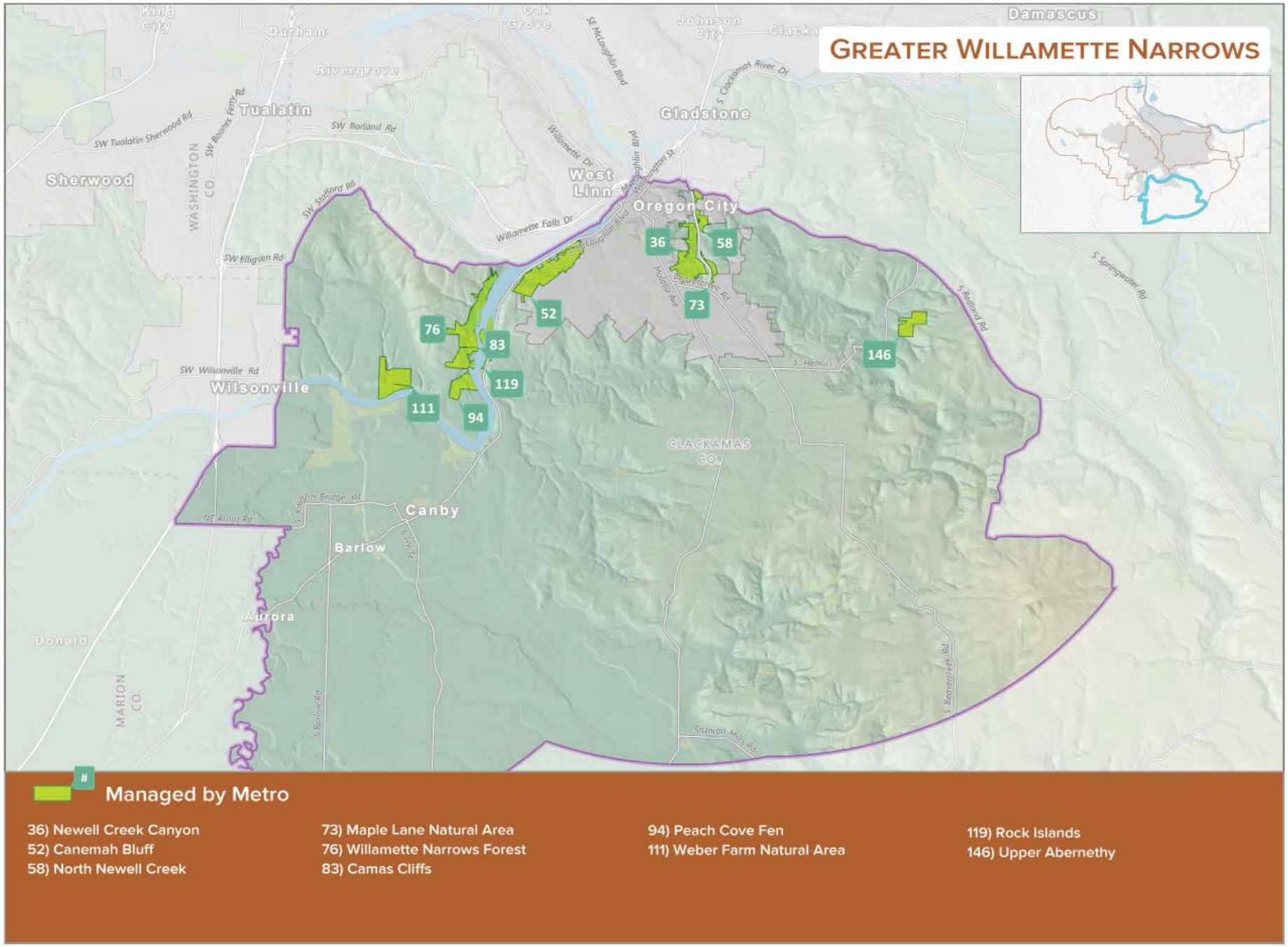
Access considerations: Neighbors have used Canemah for years. In 2011, Metro developed an interim plan to protect natural resources and minimize impacts. Today, the site is formally open as a natural area but could support a nature park in the future.

The Weber Farm Natural Area, which is leased to a farmer, could offer a challenging but enjoyable walk to the Canby Ferry below. Metro's remaining land in the area, which features sensitive and rare habitats, is suitable for habitat preserves.

Key partnerships: Canemah Cemetery Association, Canemah Neighborhood Association, Clackamas Community College, City of Oregon City, City of Portland, Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, Greater Oregon City Council, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Oregon Parks and Recreation, Oregon Enhancement Board, Sabin-Shellenberg Professional Technical Center (North Clackamas School District facility), SOLV

Regional context: Willamette Narrows is probably the single most important part of the region for conserving oak woodlands, which have declined dramatically in the Willamette Valley. Limited physical access to these sites poses a significant challenge for any potential public use, and islands in the Willamette River present a management challenge for illegal use.

Highway 213 runs through portions of the area where Metro is working to protect habitat. Along with the Willamette Narrows area, Canemah Bluff Natural Area is part of a regionally important site for oak and prairie.


GREATER WILLAMETTE NARROWS
King City
Durham
Oak Grove
Johnson City
Damascus
Rivergrove
Tualatin
Gladstone
Sherwood
West Linn
Oregon City
Wilsonville
Canby
Barlow
Aurora
Donald
WASHINGTON CO.
CLACKAMAS CO.
MARION CO.
SW Tualatin Sherwood Rd
SW Borland Rd
SW Boones Ferry Rd
SW Stafford Rd
SW Elligsen Rd
SW Wilsonville Rd
Willamette Falls Dr
Willamette Dr
SE McLoughlin Blvd
Molalla Ave
S Clackamas River Dr
S Springwater Rd
S Redland Rd
S Henrici Rd
S Beavercreek Rd
Salmon Mills Rd
S Barlow Rd
NE Aurora Rd
36
58
73
52
76
83
119
111
94
146
Managed by Metro
36) Newell Creek Canyon
52) Canemah Bluff
58) North Newell Creek
73) Maple Lane Natural Area
76) Willamette Narrows Forest
83) Camas Cliffs
94) Peach Cove Fen
111) Weber Farm Natural Area
119) Rock Islands
146) Upper Abernethy

NATUREHOOD HIGHLIGHTS

CANEMAH BLUFF NATURAL AREA

Formed by ancient lava flows and carved by the force of the Missoula floods, Canemah Bluff overlooks the Willamette River in Oregon City. Metro began protecting land here in 1996 and assembled a natural area piece by piece. Visitors enter through Oregon City's Canemah Neighborhood Park, then use unpaved trails to explore rare Oregon white oak and Pacific madrone trees, as well as Douglas fir, maple and alder.

Acres: 270

Public use: An overlook on the bluff is under construction, and will incorporate exposed bedrock to preserve the unique geology of the site. The overlook will provide increased safety and improved visitor experience. Metro is also improving trail segments to increase universal access and reduce natural resource impacts.

Key partnerships: Canemah Cemetery Association, Canemah Neighborhood Association, City of Oregon City, Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde

Regional context: Along with the Willamette Narrows area across the river, Canemah Bluff Natural Area is part of a regionally important site for oak woodlands and prairie habitat.

Canemah Bluff Natural Area

NEWELL CREEK CANYON NATURAL AREA

Surrounded by Oregon City neighborhoods and Clackamas Community College, Newell Creek Canyon has a loyal following in the community. The natural area provides spectacular scenery and wildlife habitat – from its namesake creek to groves of Western red cedar trees, from deer to red-legged frogs. Newell Creek also has faced challenges, including illegal encampments, littering and unauthorized trails. During 2014 and 2015, Metro worked with the community to plan for the future, including continued habitat restoration, trail improvements and a formal day-use area.

Acres: 230

Public use: Metro is working with the community to determine how it can best enhance visitor experience and transform the canyon into a restored natural area with safe trail access, education and recreation opportunities. The process will shape the landscape of Newell Creek Canyon for decades to come, creating a major destination in the Greater Willamette Narrows area.

Key partnerships: City of Oregon City, Clackamas Community College, Clackamas County Social Services, Clackamas Soil & Water Conservation District, Greater Oregon City Council, Oregon City Trails Alliance, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Oregon Parks and Recreation, Oregon Enhancement Board

Regional context: Newell Creek Canyon Natural Area was a success story of the 1995 bond, with a large block of habitat for wildlife and potential to support a regional trail. Since then, illegal use has increased management challenges and costs. Appropriate public use may help deter illegal camping that is damaging natural resources. Highway 213 runs through portions of the area where Metro is working to protect habitat.

Newell Creek Canyon Natural Area

WILLAMETTE FALLS RIVERWALK

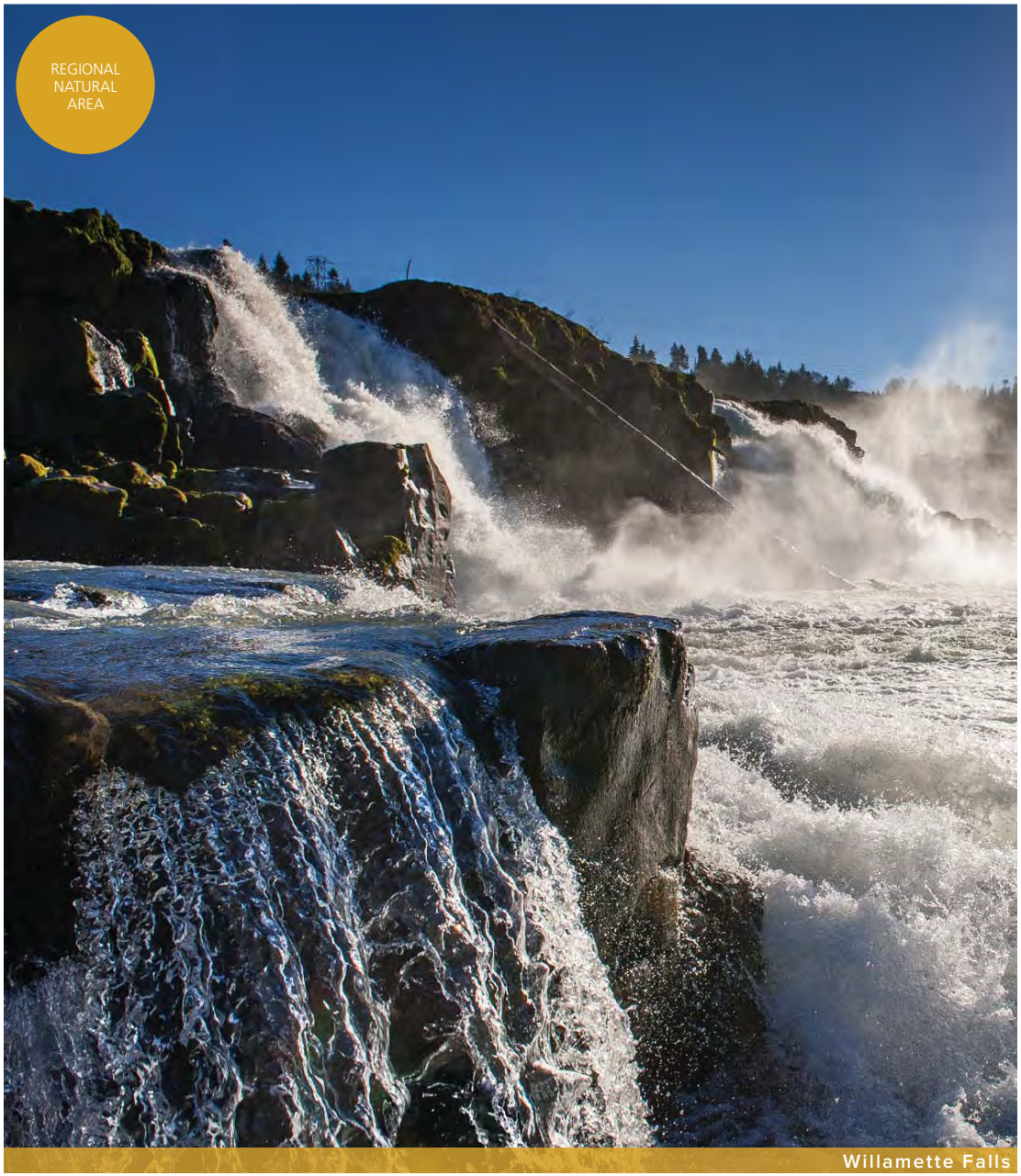
In downtown Oregon City, the awe-inspiring beauty of Willamette Falls has been closed to the public for more than 150 years. But this historical and cultural treasure is on the path to being rediscovered, thanks in part to a partnership among Metro, Oregon City, Clackamas County and the State of Oregon. A public riverwalk is the key element of the visitor experience envisioned by the Willamette Falls Legacy Project team and community members. When built, the riverwalk will give the public a front-row view of the falls while protecting water quality and the species that depend on clean water. Metro is playing a lead role in the development of the riverwalk.

Acres: 10

Public use: The riverwalk will provide the primary public access to the larger Willamette Falls site, with protected views of intact natural habitats along the river and falls.

Key partnerships: City of Oregon City, Clackamas County, State of Oregon

Regional context: In addition to providing exceptional public access along the river and falls, the riverwalk project is rooted in three other core values: historic and cultural interpretation, economic redevelopment and healthy habitat. The riverwalk is envisioned as being a catalyst for a much larger transformation for the site: a thriving, connected downtown anchor, with room for housing, public spaces, habitat restoration, education and employment.



Willamette Falls

LOWER TUALATIN NATUREHOOD

A signature destination on the edge of Beaverton, Cooper Mountain Nature Park draws visitors from across the region to explore high-quality oak and prairie habitat. Elsewhere in the Lower Tualatin River Naturehood, Metro's holdings along Fanno Creek play an important role in partners' efforts to conserve this major urban tributary to the Tualatin.

Further south, Metro is enhancing water quality and floodplain health and providing future trail connections in the Stafford Basin triangle between Lake Oswego, West Linn and Tualatin. A natural area north of Interstate 205 expands a wildlife corridor along Wilson Creek, a tributary of the Tualatin River. Metro's remaining land in the area is a forest nestled along Pecan Creek, where restoration work has helped remove invasive species.

Acres: 512

Access considerations: Cooper Mountain Nature Park receives tens of thousands of visitors each year. Metro has secured rights to build part of the Fanno Creek Greenway Trail, which is about half built and eventually will traverse 15 miles through Beaverton, Tigard, Durham and Tualatin. Trail and community advocates have proposed creating the Stafford Trail, which would cut though the area from the Tualatin River near Stafford Road south to the Willamette River.

Key partnerships: City of Lake Oswego, City of Tigard, City of West Linn, Clean Water Services, Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District

Regional context: Cooper Mountain Nature Park provides the primary access in this naturehood. Acquisition in Stafford Basin is in the early stages; future opportunities will depend on what land is protected. Existing holdings provide anchors of habitat in an area with an uncertain future.

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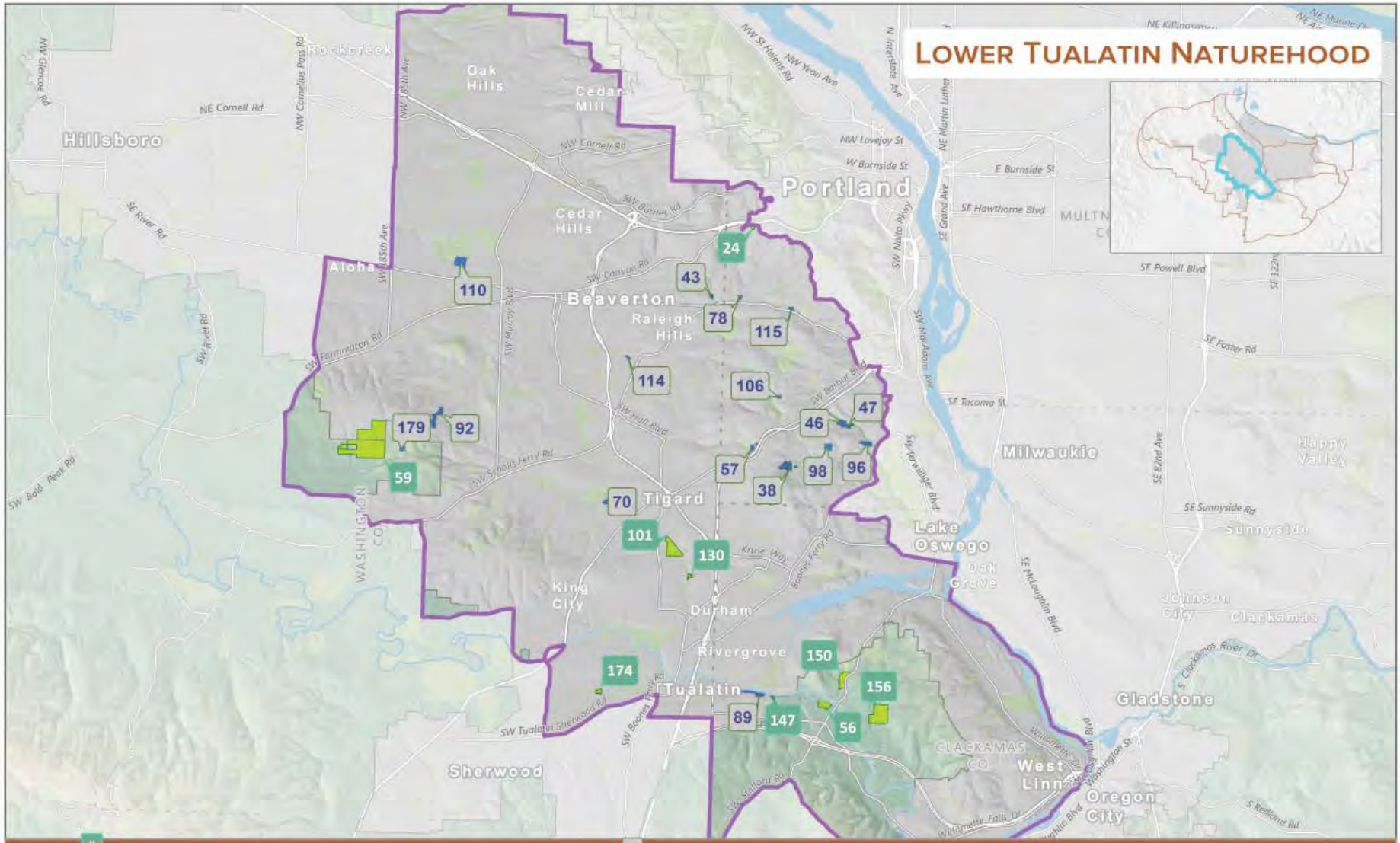


Managed by Metro

24) Jones Cemetery
56) Wankers Corner Field Station
59) Cooper Mountain Nature Park
101) Brown Natural Area
130) Bonita Natural Area
147) Tualatin River Access 1
150) Pecan Creek
156) Wilson Creek Natural Area
174) Pascuzzi Pond

Managed by partner

38) Loll Wildwood Natural Area
43) Raleighwood Wetlands
46) Foley Balmer Natural Area
47) Jensen Natural Area
57) Ash Creek Natural Area
70) Woodard Park
78) Fanno Creek Natural Area #1
89) Brown's Ferry Park
92) Morrison Woods Natural Area
96) Tryon Creek State Natural Area #2
98) Maricara NA
106) Woods Memorial Natural Area
110) Tualatin Hills Nature Park
114) Fanno Creek Trail
115) Fanno Creek Natural Area #2
179) Winkelman Park Addition

LOWER TUALATIN NATUREHOOD HIGHLIGHTS

COOPER MOUNTAIN NATURE PARK

Nestled on the southern edge of Beaverton, Cooper Mountain Nature Park offers spectacular views of the Tualatin River Valley. Three-and-a-half miles of trails take visitors through forest, prairie and oak woodlands. These habitats are home to rare and endangered species, including the pale larkspur wildflower and the elusive Northern red-legged frog. Cooper Mountain was protected, restored and opened through Metro's two voter-approved bond measures.

Acres: 230

Public use: 80,000 visitors per year

Key partnerships: Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District operates the active components of the park, including the trailhead and trails, a nature play area and a sustainably designed nature house that hosts classes and community events. Metro manages the natural resources at the park.

Other partners include Beaverton School District, site stewards and Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue.

Regional context: Cooper Mountain Nature Park serves surrounding neighborhoods in the Beaverton area, but also functions as a regional destination. The rare oak savanna habitat found here is one of the best remaining examples in the Willamette Valley. Cooper Mountain Nature Park may someday connect with the Westside Trail, tying into the region's trail system.

Cooper Mountain Nature Park

MID-TUALATIN NATUREHOOD

Flowing from the Chehalem Mountains, multiple streams that feed the Tualatin River provide significant wildlife habitat and safeguard water quality. Though it traverses urban areas of Sherwood, Cedar Creek supports many fish. Chicken Creek provides wetland, riparian and upland habitat for migratory birds, endangered fish and other wildlife. And, nestled in forests of fir, maple, alder and cedar trees, Baker Creek is home to sensitive wildlife such as Northern red-legged frogs.

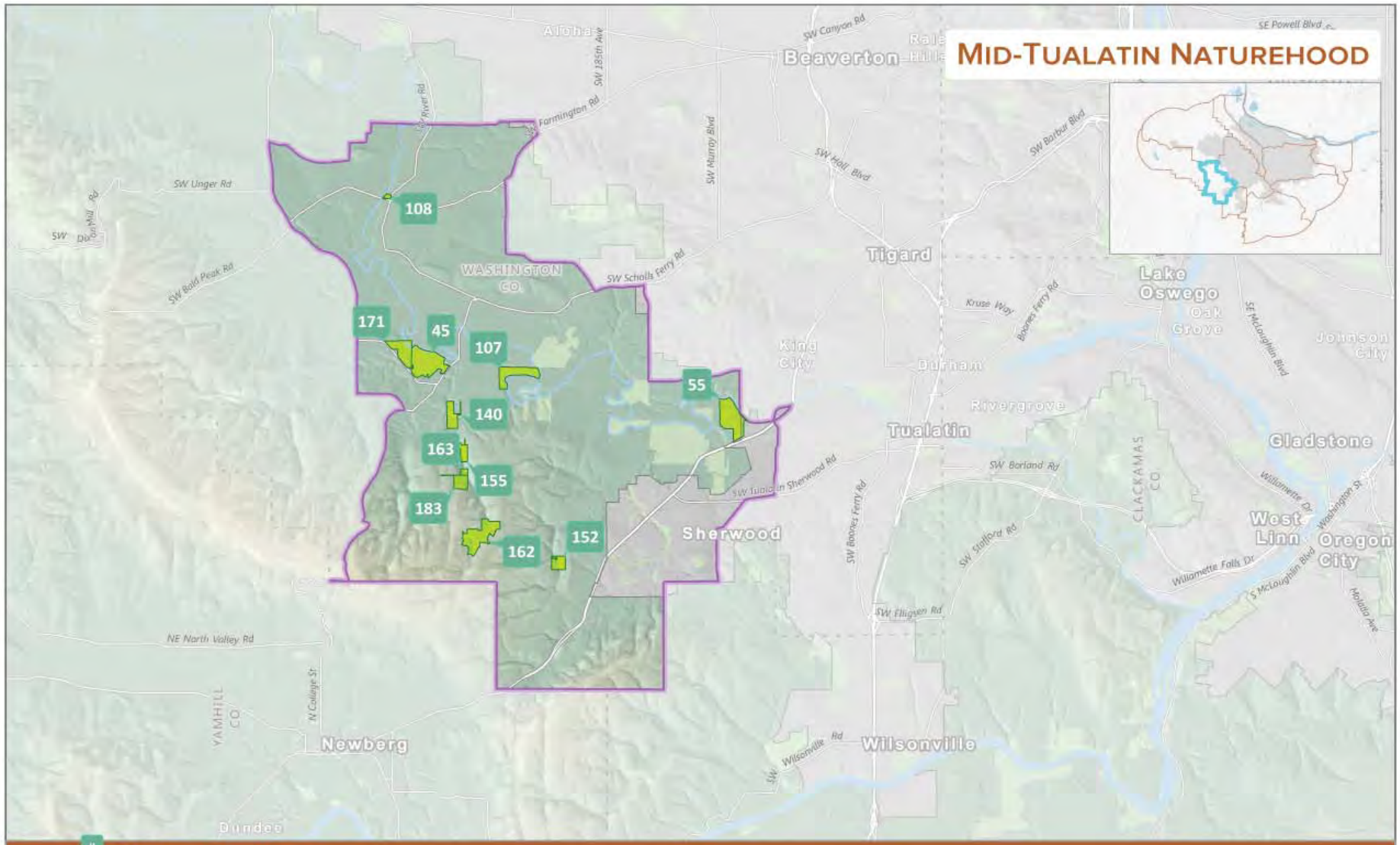
The Tualatin River supports an abundance of fish and wildlife. Washington County's only river is also important to human health – it provides drinking water to 200,000 homes and businesses. Metro's protected lands include potential river access points and property next to the Tualatin River Wildlife Refuge. At Quamash Prairie, restoration has transformed a farm field into a wetland with thousands of native trees, shrubs and plants.

Acres: 810

Access considerations: Public access is not a primary focus in this area due to the goal of improving water quality. However, visitors will soon be able to enter the Tualatin River from a paddle-access boat launch at Farmington Natural Area, completing the first section of the Tualatin River Trail. Natural areas or nature parks could be supported at four additional sites: Quamash Prairie, Rivers Bend Prairie, Heritage Pine and Baker Creek. Water access would be a significant feature.

Key partnerships: City of Tualatin, Clean Water Services, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Tualatin Riverkeepers, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Regional context: Multiple sites protect Tualatin River water quality and wildlife through riparian, floodplain, forest and prairie restoration and provide potential river access. Future opportunities will depend on what land Metro can protect.



Managed by Metro

45) Quamash Prairie
55) Heritage Pine Natural Area
107) River's Bend Prairie
108) Farmington Natural Area
140) Baker Heaton Confluence
152) Upper Chicken Creek
155) Middle Baker Creek
162) Baker Creek Canyon
163) Baker Creek Woods Conservation Easement
171) Quamash Prairie II
183) Baker Creek Woods

MID-TUALATIN NATUREHOOD HIGHLIGHTS

FARMINGTON BOAT LAUNCH AND NATURAL AREA

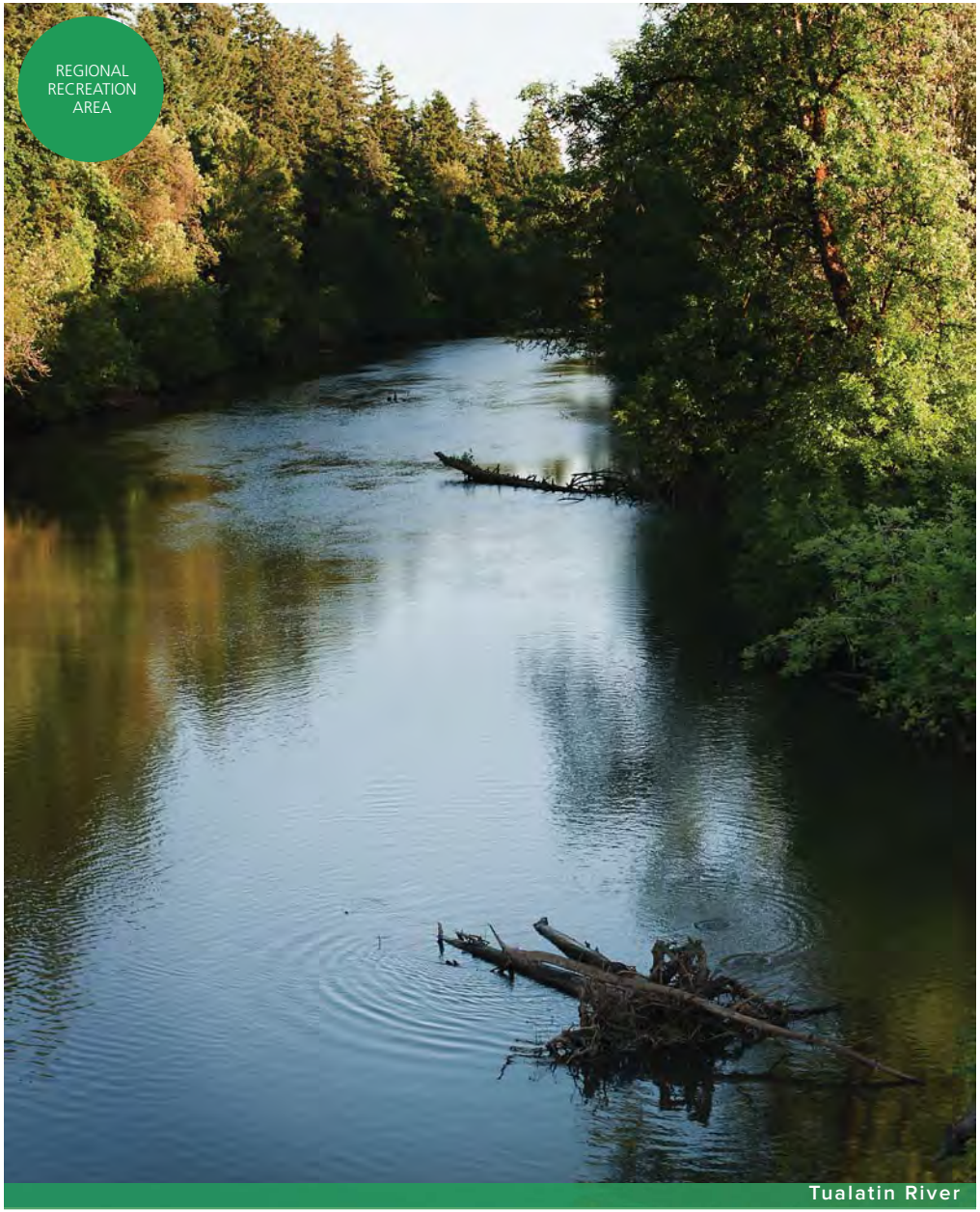
Beginning in late 2016, people can launch their kayaks or canoes on the Tualatin River from a new access point at Metro's Farmington Road Natural Area. Visitors might spot blue heron or belted kingfishers overhead while they enjoy a picnic before heading to the water. And, just as exciting, they'll no longer need to travel 10 miles from one boat launch to the next. Metro's voter-protected natural area helps complete the vision for a connected Tualatin River Water Trail, while supporting clean water and protecting wildlife habitat.

Acres: 6.3

Public use: In addition to the launch site, public use amenities at the Farmington Natural Area will include basic restrooms, a parking lot and picnic tables. The site is slated to open to public use in late 2016.

Key partnerships: Army Corps of Engineers, City of Hillsboro, Clean Water Services, State of Oregon, Tualatin River Council, Tualatin Riverkeepers, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Washington County

Regional context: Opening a new launch will help realize the long-held vision for a Tualatin River Water Trail that connects communities and creates opportunities for people to enjoy the river. The new launch will be the only one within the 10-plus mile stretch between Rood Bridge in Hillsboro and Eagle Landing in Washington County.



Tualatin River

SANDY RIVER NATUREHOOD

Metro is leaving its mark on a 12.5-mile stretch of the Sandy River Gorge, where the river winds its way through 800-foot-high basalt and sandstone canyons. At 800 acres, Oxbow Regional Park is a major destination in the Sandy River naturehood, a place where visitors can enjoy river access and old-growth forest.

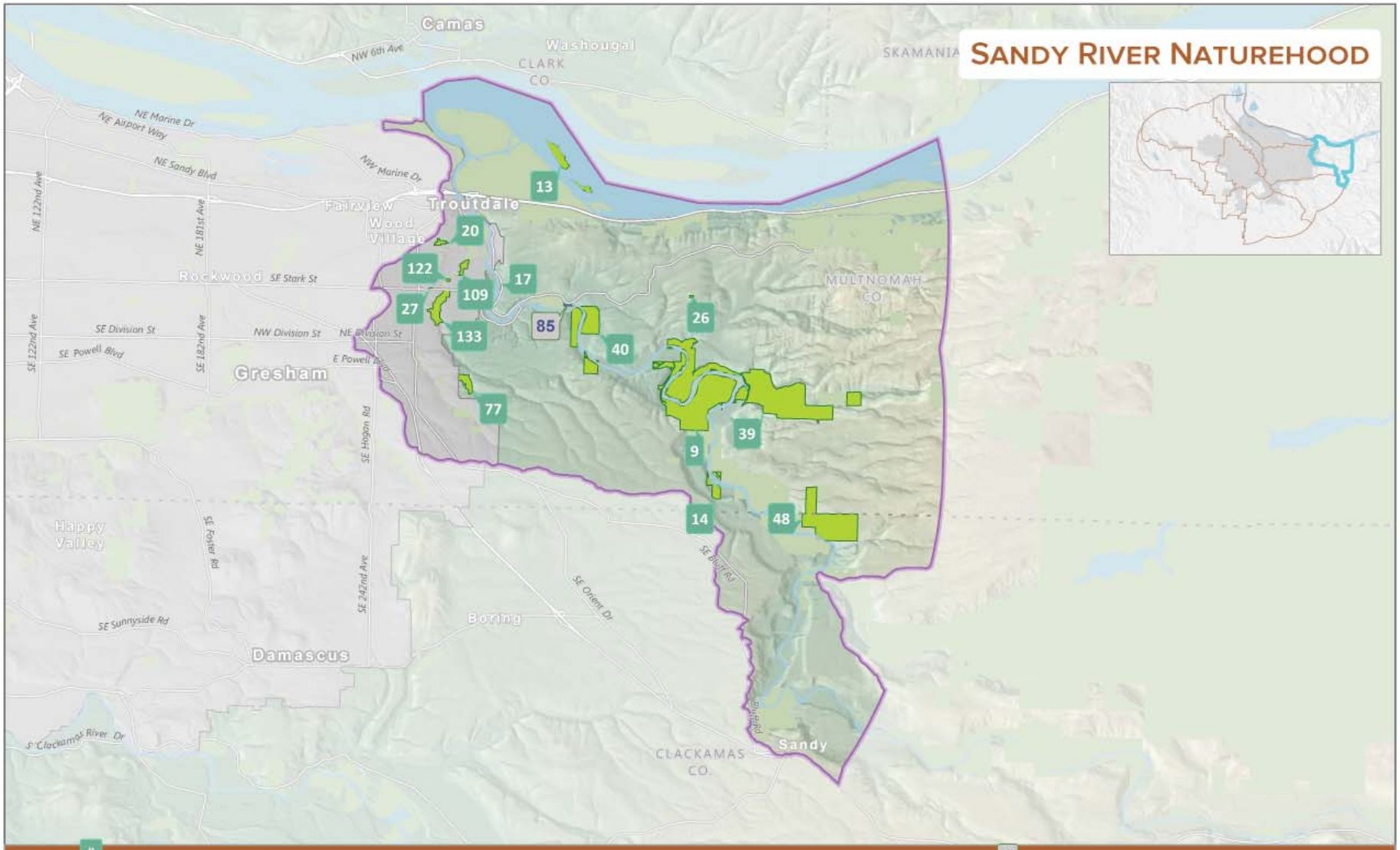
Protected Sandy River tributaries also provide healthy habitat for native salmon and steelhead and a wildlife corridor for bear and elk traveling the 55-mile path from Mount Hood to the Columbia River. For example, Beaver Creek flows through rural, residential and commercial neighborhoods as well as the Mt. Hood Community College campus. Further east, protected land on Buck and Gordon creeks forms a connection with Oxbow Regional Park. This part of the lower Columbia River also includes the 50-acre Gary Island and the 15-acre Flagg Island. These islands help to provide habitat for fish, deer and other species.

Acres: 2,080

Access considerations: The City of Troutdale has developed a park and nature trail at the Beaver Creek site using local share funds from Metro's 2006 bond. Metro and partners have made significant progress completing a trail in the Sandy River Delta area where the Sandy and Columbia rivers meet. The partially built Beaver Creek Canyon Trail, which is part of the 40-Mile Loop, will pass near Beaver Creek Natural Area. A greenway is envisioned to connect the trail to Oxbow Regional Park.

Key partnerships: Bureau of Land Management, City of Portland, City of Troutdale, East Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District, Mt. Hood Community College, Multnomah County, Portland General Electric, Sandy River Basin Partners, Sandy River Connections Working Group, The Nature Conservancy, Western Rivers Conservancy

Regional context: The Sandy is one of the most important salmon refuges in the lower Columbia River. Partners, including the Bureau of Land Management and Western Rivers Conservancy, have also protected hundreds of acres of habitat in this area.



Managed by Metro

9) Oxbow Regional Park
13) Gary and Flagg Islands
14) Indian John Island
17) Sandy River Shore A,B,C
20) Douglass Cemetery
26) Mountain View Corbett Cemetery
27) Mountain View Stark Cemetery
39) Buck and Gordon Creeks
40) Springdale Natural Area
48) Chinquapin Bluffs Natural Area
77) Arrow Creek Conservation Easement
109) North Beaver Creek Greenway
122) Beaver Creek Woods
133) South Beaver Creek Greenway

Managed by partner

85) Dabney State Recreation Area #1

SANDY RIVER NATUREHOOD HIGHLIGHTS

OXBOW REGIONAL PARK

Nestled in the wild and scenic Sandy River Gorge, Oxbow Regional Park offers rare access to many of the region's natural wonders and provides a variety of unique recreational opportunities. The river draws swimmers, rafters, kayakers and anglers. Fifteen miles of trails invite you to explore an ancient forest with centuries-old trees and ridges and ravines carved by volcanic and glacial flows. Campfire programs are popular with overnight campers at Oxbow.

Acres: 800

Public use: Oxbow Regional Park attracts an average of 230,000 visitors per year. Fifty-seven sites are available for overnight camping.

Key partnerships: Partners include the Sandy River Basin Council, and Bureau of Land Management and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, who own land within the park.

A variety of recreational groups and schools visit Oxbow regularly.

Regional context: At the far east side of the region, Oxbow is Metro's most remote nature park. It offers one of only four public access points in the Sandy River Gorge. Every fall, people come to experience the miracle of the salmon returning to their spawning grounds to lay their last eggs before perishing in the waters where they were born. Visitors are willing to drive long distances because of the beautiful scenery and the unique recreational and wildlife viewing opportunities. Levy and grant funds are improving camping opportunities as well as renovating a playground at the park.

Oxbow Regional Park

TONQUIN NATUREHOOD

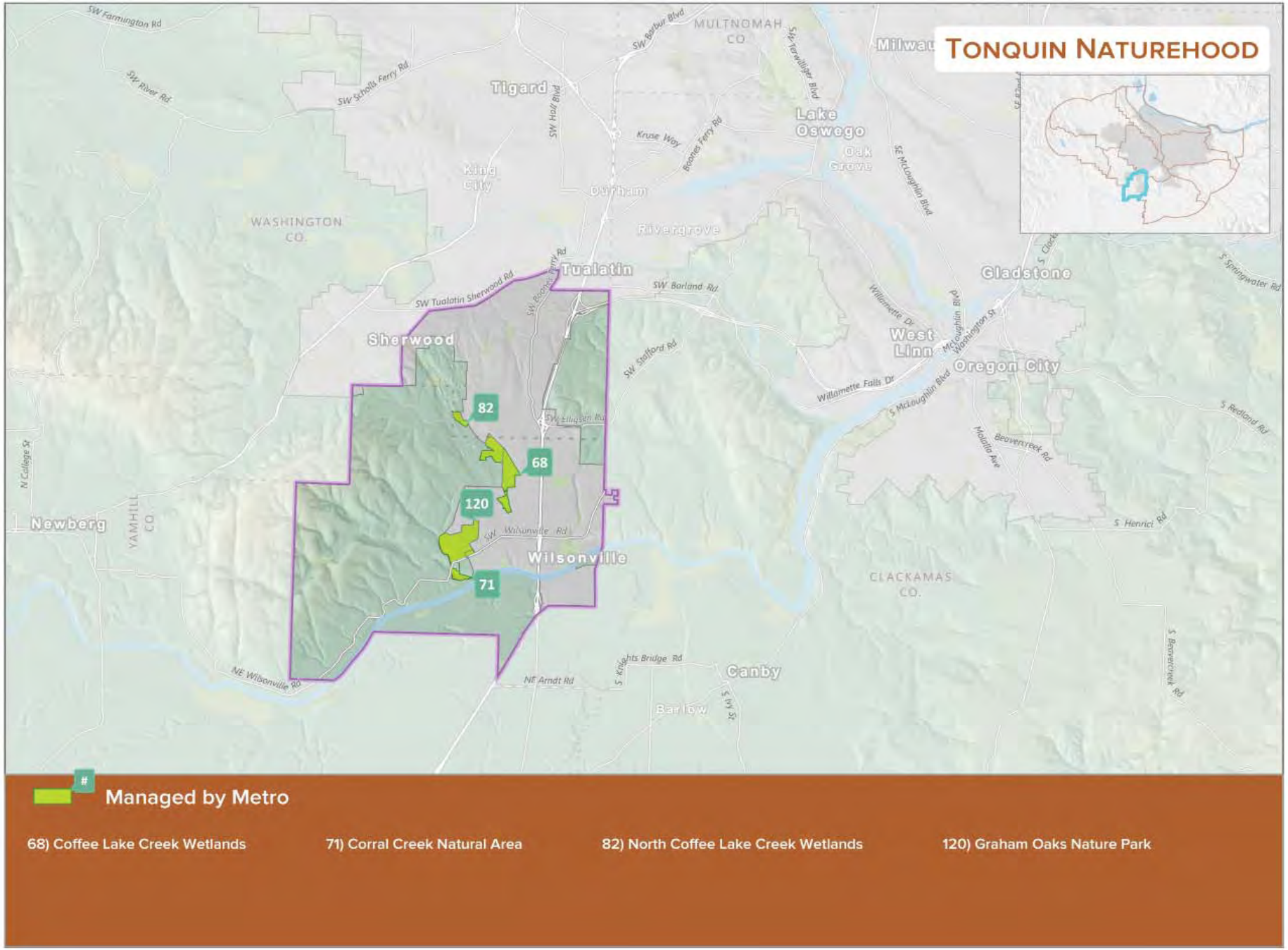
Unique geologic features left by ancient floods shaped the Tonquin geologic area near Wilsonville, Sherwood and Tualatin. Protecting rocky outcrops that frame these former lake bottoms provides rich, complex wildlife habitat and preserves rare geologic features. Metro developed Graham Oaks Nature Park, which includes 1.5 miles of the Ice Age Tonquin Trail. Further north, 165 acres of rich Coffee Creek bottomlands will allow for an expansion of the regional trail.

Acres: 538

Access considerations: Any additional access is likely to be concentrated around the Ice Age Tonquin Trail, which will connect the Willamette and Tualatin rivers and the cities of Sherwood, Tualatin and Wilsonville.

Key partnerships: City of Sherwood, City of Tigard, City of Tualatin, City of Wilsonville, The Wetlands Conservancy, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Regional context: This area combines rapid growth with several areas included in future urban reserves. Ongoing floodplain restoration is partially dependent on future acquisition of key linkage properties. Development of the Ice Age Tonquin Trail, which weaves through this target area, offers opportunities to support important wildlife corridors while improving the regional trails system.


TONQUIN NATUREHOOD
Tigard
Lake Oswego
King City
Durham
Rivergrove
WASHINGTON CO.
MULTNOMAH CO.
Tualatin
Sherwood
Gladstone
West Linn
Oregon City
Newberg
YAMHILL CO.
Wilsonville
CLACKAMAS CO.
Canby
Barlow
82
68
120
71
Managed by Metro
68) Coffee Lake Creek Wetlands
71) Corral Creek Natural Area
82) North Coffee Lake Creek Wetlands
120) Graham Oaks Nature Park

TONQUIN NATUREHOOD HIGHLIGHTS

GRAHAM OAKS NATURE PARK

Once home to the Kalapuya Indian tribe, and later homesteaded by pioneers, Graham Oaks is one of several major nature parks protected, restored and opened in the last decade through voter investments in the region. Visitors can explore more than three miles of trails, traversing a restored oak woodland, a wetland and a conifer forest. The nature park also features sustainable design and construction.

Acres: 250

Public use: Graham Oaks Nature Park receives approximately 63,000 visitors a year.

Key partnerships: The West Linn-Wilsonville School District operates two schools and an environmental education center next door to Graham Oaks Nature Park, and students regularly use Graham Oaks as a learning laboratory. The City of Wilsonville worked closely with Metro during park design and construction.

Volunteer site stewards help care for the nature park.

Regional context: Graham Oaks Nature Park serves busy residential communities in the heart of Wilsonville. A 1.5-mile section of the future 22-mile Ice Age Tonquin Trail winds its way through the nature park and provides a safe route to school for nearby neighborhoods.

Graham Oaks Nature Park

TUALATIN MOUNTAINS NATUREHOOD

A forested ridge stretching from the coast range to the Portland metropolitan area defines the Tualatin Mountains naturehood. It divides the lowlands of the Willamette and Columbia Rivers from the Tualatin Valley. Forest Park, owned and managed by the City of Portland, stretches nearly eight miles along the northeast slope of the Tualatin Mountains, covering 5,000 acres and earning distinction as the nation's largest natural urban forest reserve. Visitors can explore 70 miles of trails and see an abundance of wildlife. There are opportunities to provide a buffer for wildlife and improve visitors' experience at this signature park. Metro has protected trailheads, surrounding land and "missing" pieces in the park.

North of Forest Park, Metro has protected four sites collectively known as the North Tualatin Mountains, which help protect large blocks of upland forest and vital corridors between Forest Park and the Coast Range for native fish and wildlife.

Acres: 1,919

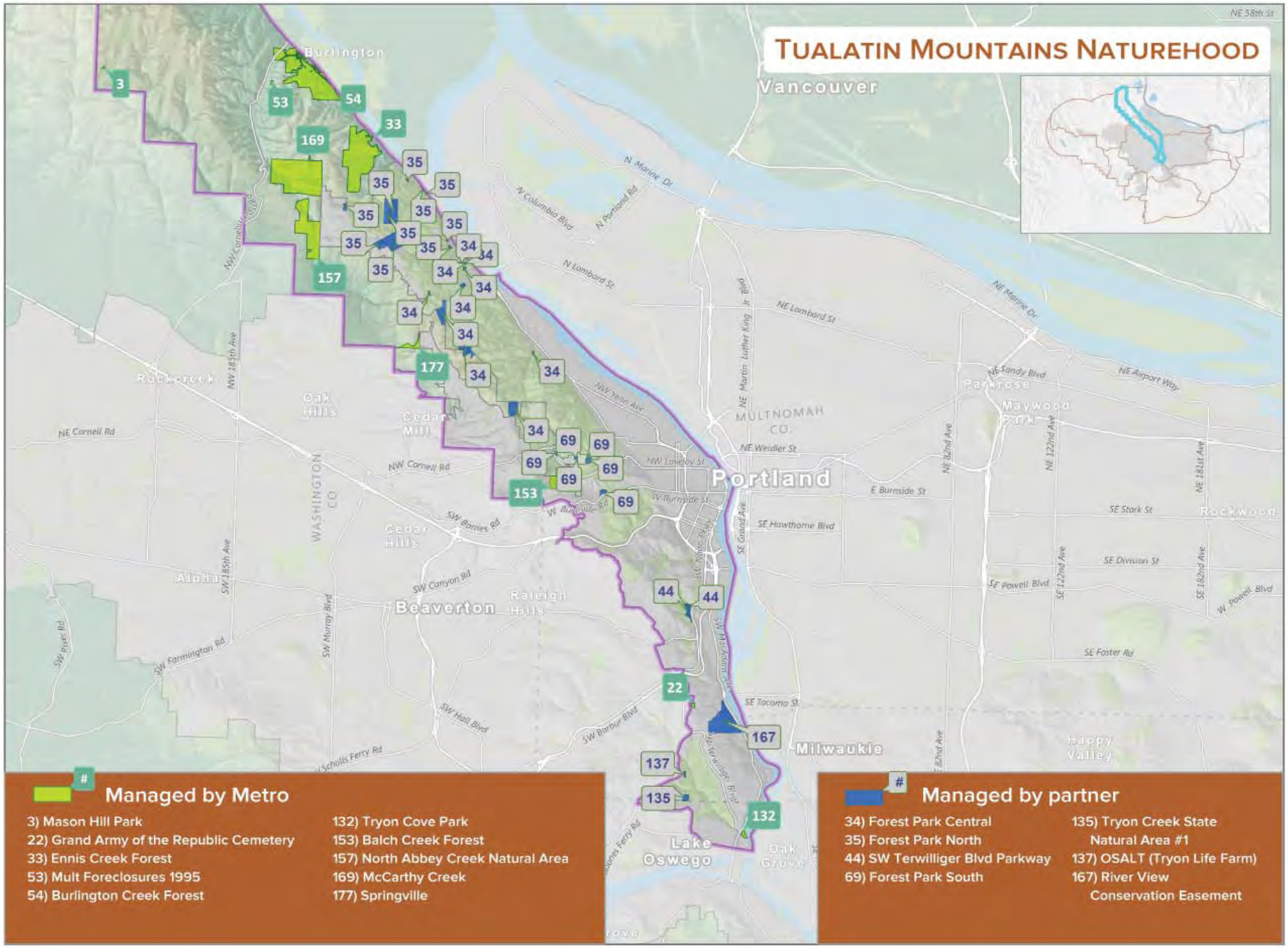
Access considerations: In the North Tualatin Mountains, Metro engaged in a planning process to identify formal access for hikers, horseback riders and cyclists on portions of the Burlington Creek Forest and McCarthy Creek Forest sites, while maintaining low access at Ennis Creek Forest and North Abbey Creek Forest to protect sensitive habitat.

Key partnerships: Audubon Society of Portland, City of Portland, Forest Park Conservancy, West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District

Regional context: This area serves as a regional icon for upland forest and connects to the Coast Range.

High demand for use and partner funding shortages present challenges. The large size of Metro's properties affords opportunities to accommodate a wide variety of uses.

Some Metro sites are already managed by the City of Portland as part of Forest Park.



Managed by Metro

3) Mason Hill Park
22) Grand Army of the Republic Cemetery
33) Ennis Creek Forest
53) Mult Foreclosures 1995
54) Burlington Creek Forest
132) Tryon Cove Park
153) Balch Creek Forest
157) North Abbey Creek Natural Area
169) McCarthy Creek
177) Springville

Managed by partner

34) Forest Park Central
35) Forest Park North
44) SW Terwilliger Blvd Parkway
69) Forest Park South
135) Tryon Creek State Natural Area #1
137) OSALT (Tryon Life Farm)
167) River View Conservation Easement

TUALATIN MOUNTAINS NATUREHOOD HIGHLIGHTS

NORTH TUALATIN MOUNTAINS

North of Forest Park, old logging roads weave through clusters of Douglas fir trees and other upland forest habitat. Drawing on two voter-approved bond measures, Metro has protected four sites collectively known as the North Tualatin Mountains: Burlington Creek Forest, McCarthy Creek Forest, Ennis Creek Forest and North Abbey Creek Forest natural areas. Metro is actively restoring this former timber land to a diverse native habitat, and a community planning effort completed in 2016 lays the groundwork to begin inviting people to connect with nature here by hiking, off-road cycling and more.

Acres: 1,300

Public use: After more than a year of engaging community members, Metro is recommending that two of the four sites in the North Tualatin Mountains be opened for public access, to include a mix of hiking and off-road cycling trails. Access will be focused at the Burlington Creek site and parts of the McCarthy Creek site, two areas with former logging roads. All four sites will continue to be restored to protect and enhance wildlife habitat and water quality.

Key partnerships: Many stakeholders have been involved in the planning process, including neighbors, technical experts, conservation groups, outdoor education groups, public agencies, schools and others.

Regional context: The four properties that collectively make up the Tualatin Mountains naturehood help knit together vital corridors between Forest Park and the Coast Range for native fish and wildlife to access larger areas of habitat in the region.

Tualatin Mountains

MASON HILL PARK

Beyond Forest Park in western Multnomah County, Mason Hill provides a scenic wayside for cyclists exploring the rolling hills. Visitors come for the scenic picnic area and spectacular views of the Tualatin Valley. The namesake for this small pocket park was a pioneer school established here in 1891; the original school bell is mounted on the picnic shelter. The park is dedicated to the Oregon pioneer residents of the area.

Acres: 1

Public use: Most visitors live nearby or stop during bicycle rides; there is no off-street parking, but cars sometimes park along the edge of the road.

Key partnerships: The Jacobs Foundation helped establish and dedicate the park, along with other community members and Multnomah County.

Regional context: Because much of the region's west hills area is rural, Mason Hill is one of the only traditional "urban" neighborhood parks. The only facilities consist of a covered picnic area and an outhouse. Recent improvements were completed to the park's signage, fencing and site furnishings.

Mason Hill Park

UPPER TUALATIN NATUREHOOD

Chehalem Ridge Natural Area rises above the small town of Gaston, an iconic symbol of the region's investments in protecting nature. But it is far from an island in western Washington County, where Metro has protected and restored significant landscapes.

Metro's holdings at Wapato Lake and Gales Creek provide important connections to Chehalem Ridge. Every winter, rich floodplains along Gales Creek and the upper Tualatin River provide habitat for waterfowl and store floodwater. Upland areas help plants and wildlife connect with Chehalem, and floodplains stretch toward the Tualatin National Wildlife Refuge. The threatened Nelson's checkermallow thrives in wet prairies; Oregon white oak and ash line streams. Near Forest Grove, native habitat enhances the setting for an adjacent trail.

Acres: 2,477

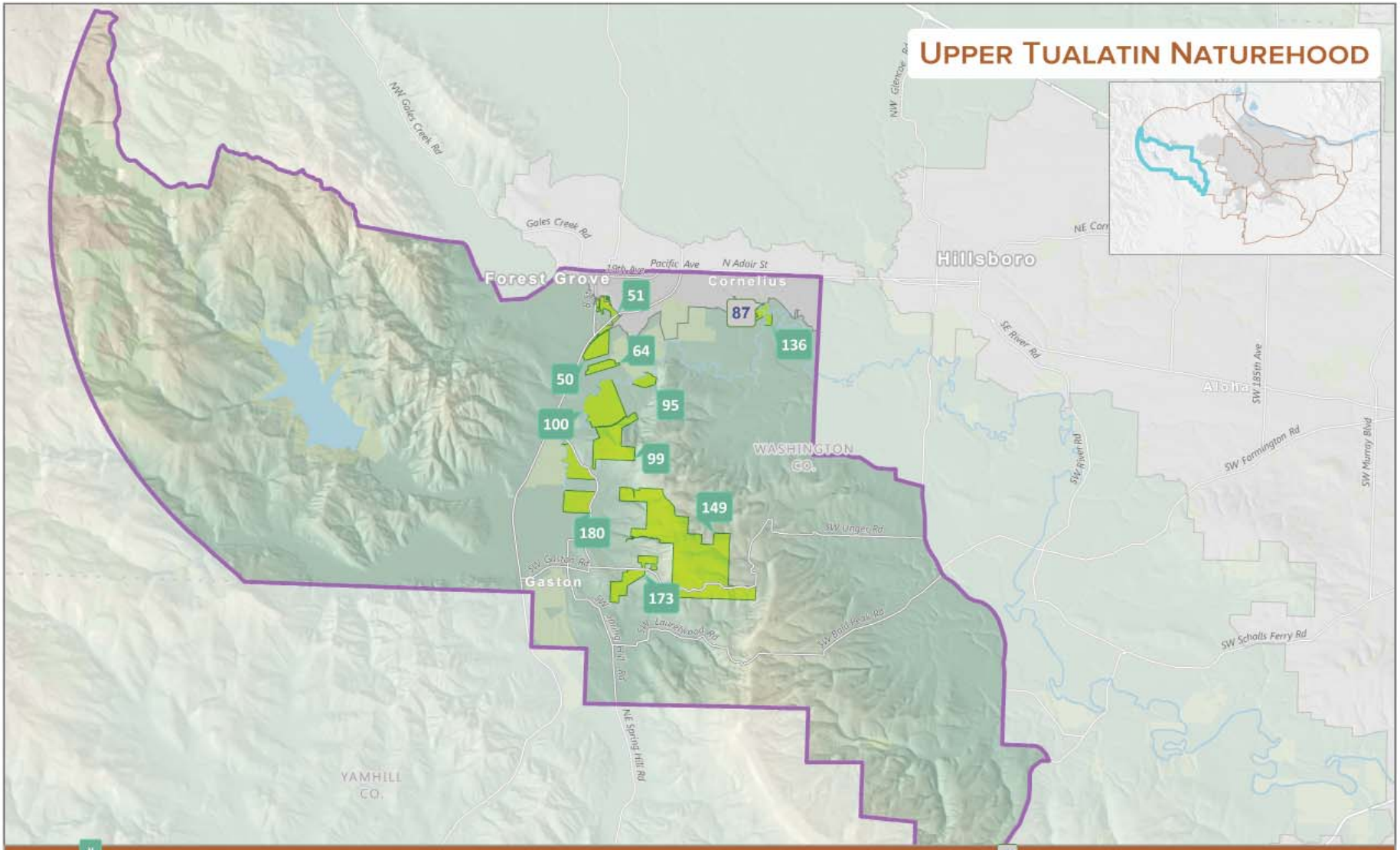
Access considerations: Chehalem Ridge Natural Area could offer recreational uses that are limited or unavailable elsewhere, such as mountain biking or horseback riding. A planning process is underway for access opportunities, drawing on extensive outreach to partners and community members.

Other portions of Metro's holdings in the area are better suited to habitat preserves.

Key partnerships: City of Forest Grove, City of Gaston, Clean Water Services, Gaston School District, Natural Resource Conservation Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Regional context: Staff have discovered regionally significant wildlife and several oak groves at Chehalem Ridge Natural Area , which someday could connect both people and animals with the Wapato unit of the Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is developing the Wapato Unit of the Tualatin Refuge here. Metro supports these efforts, and is collaborating to build connections to Chehalem Ridge Natural Area.



Managed by Metro

50) Carpenter Creek North
51) Gales Forest Grove
64) Carpenter Creek South
95) Maroon Ponds
99) Fern Hill Forest
100) Penstemon Prairie
136) Kings Bend
149) Chehalem Ridge Natural Area
173) Wapato View
180) Spring Hill Wetlands

Managed by partner

87) Steamboat Park

NATUREHOOD HIGHLIGHTS

CHEHALEM RIDGE NATURAL AREA

Perched above Gaston, forested Chehalem Ridge Natural Area overlooks Tualatin Valley farmland and five Cascade peaks. It is the largest property Metro has bought. On a tour, you might spot deer tracks or visit a beaver pond. You'll see a rare oak-madrone woodland and streams that flow to the Tualatin River. A focus on restoration has jump-started the transformation from a young Douglas-fir timber crop to an old-growth forest that will support diverse wildlife and clean water. Metro is now beginning to engage the community in a plan that will continue to nurture habitat while preparing to welcome visitors, too.

Acres: 1,230

Public use: Chehalem Ridge Natural Area could offer recreational uses that are limited or unavailable elsewhere, such as mountain biking or horseback riding.

Key partnerships: City of Forest Grove, City of Gaston, Gaston School District, Trust for Public Land

Regional context: Metro science staff have discovered regionally significant wildlife and several oak groves on the site, which someday could connect both people and animals with the Wapato unit of the Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge.

Chehalem Ridge Natural Area

REGIONAL TRAILS

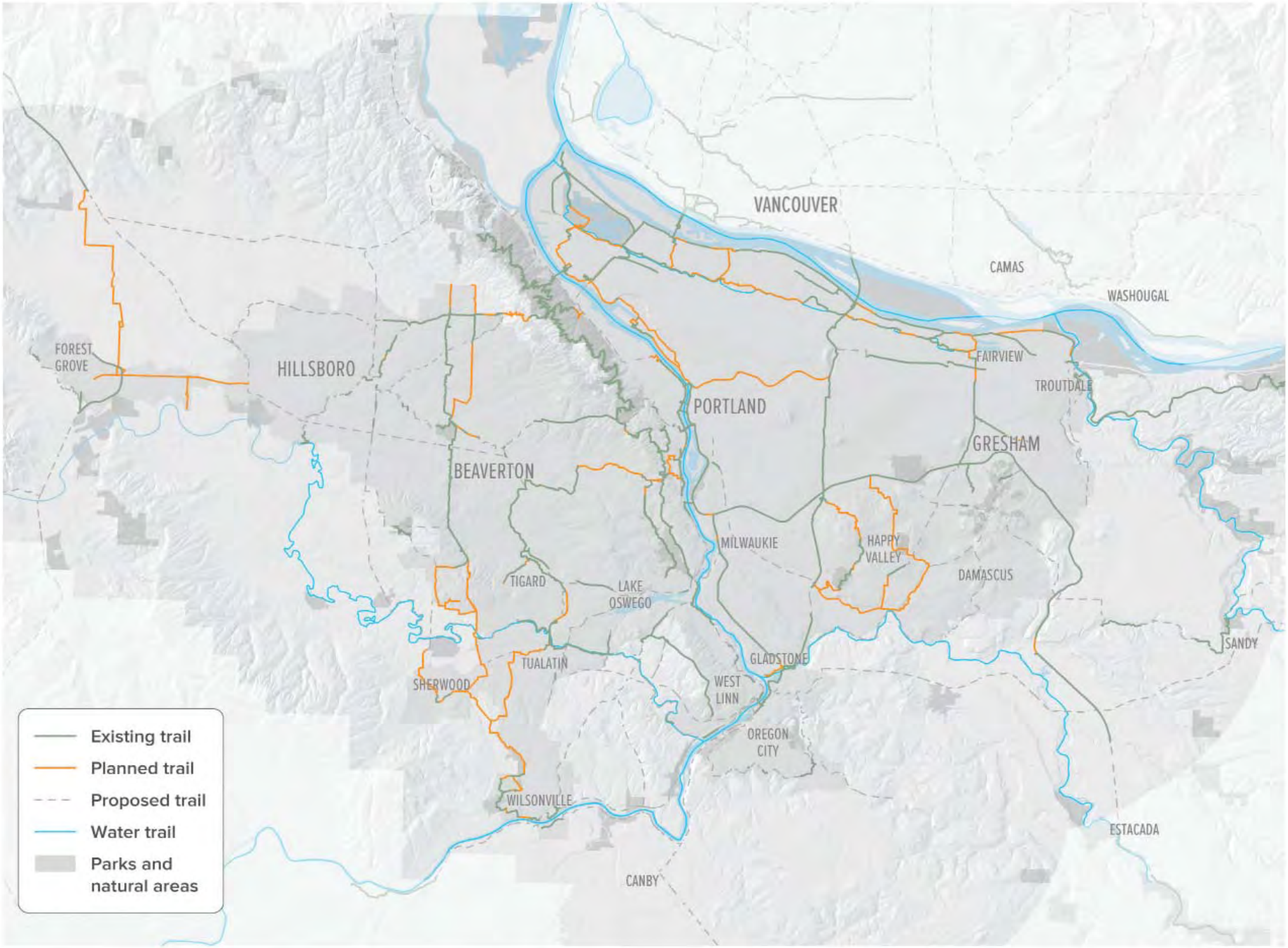
Metro typically doesn't own or maintain regional trails, but the agency's leadership has made many of those trails possible. Metro has fostered regional partnerships for long-range trail planning, spearheaded the development of a regional trails plan and map, and provided and secured funding for design, engineering and construction. Through its two natural areas bond measures, Metro has also built 11 miles of local trails at three large nature parks and secured the rights to build many more miles of trail.

Metro dedicates resources from the land acquisition program to closing trail gaps and working with groups such as the 40-Mile Loop Land Trust and The Intertwine Alliance. This investment has put Metro in the forefront of the effort to plan and build a model regional trail system.

Acquiring rights to close trail gaps can be deceptively difficult. The transaction cost for an easement is generally low, but filling a gap often requires agreements with many individual landowners and takes just as much staff time, planning and paperwork as any other deal. And, eventually, filling the gap requires extensive planning and collaboration with partners. In some cases, Metro owns the underlying land or trail easement even though local partners build and manage the trail. The Springwater Trail is a good example: Metro owns easements on a three-mile stretch along the Willamette River, a soon-to-be-built section through the Sellwood neighborhood and the Three Bridges area in Southeast Portland, but the City of Portland handles construction and maintenance.

The map shows existing and planned trails in the region. While Metro has not played a direct role in all of them, Metro supports trail projects throughout the region by convening trail planners, providing technical support to projects, and using 2006 bond funds for trail easement acquisition and trail construction.

The trails described in detail here reflect projects where Metro has played a major role.


VANCOUVER
CAMAS
WASHOUGAL
FAIRVIEW
TROUTDALE
FOREST GROVE
HILLSBORO
PORTLAND
GRESHAM
BEAVERTON
MILWAUKIE
HAPPY VALLEY
DAMASCUS
TIGARD
LAKE OSWEGO
SANDY
GLADSTONE
TUALATIN
SHERWOOD
WEST LINN
OREGON CITY
WILSONVILLE
ESTACADA
CANBY
Existing trail
Planned trail
Proposed trail
Water trail
Parks and natural areas

CAZADERO TRAIL

One hundred years ago, trains chugged along Deep Creek, transporting timber from Cascade forests to the Portland riverfront. Nature lovers can soon traverse a four-mile stretch of that journey between Boring and Barton by foot, bike or horseback. The former rail line is being reinvented as the Cazadero Trail, an extension of the Springwater Trail. Metro helped fund development of Boring Station Trailhead on the north, and purchased land for a trailhead on the south, in Barton.

Public use: The Cazadero Trail runs from Boring south to Barton. Someday, it could extend beyond Barton through Eagle Creek, Estacada and the Faraday, Cazadero and Promontory Park areas on up the Clackamas River corridor, eventually connecting to Mount Hood and the Pacific Crest Trail.

Key partnerships: Clackamas County Parks, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Oregon Parks and Recreation

Regional context: Metro's Deep Creek and Cazadero Trail target areas are intertwined, with the trail focusing on access and Deep Creek focusing on habitat.

Oregon Parks and Recreation recently constructed the trail from Boring to the north fork of Deep Creek. The Cazadero Trail will someday connect to Sandy via the new Tickle Creek Trail.

Cazadero Trail

COLUMBIA SLOUGH TRAIL

The Columbia Slough begins in Fairview and meanders west for 19 miles to Kelley Point Park, where it empties into the Willamette River. The trail passes along beautiful natural features and provides opportunities to spot wildlife. Half of the Columbia Slough Trail through this area is built and being used. Completed sections include multi-use paths and pedestrian-only paths. Approximately three-fourths of the completed trail will provide bicycle access. Future sections will connect to Metro's Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area and Blue Lake Regional Park.

Public use: 200,000 trips in 2015. When complete, the Columbia Slough Trail will connect to a network of existing and proposed regional trails. It will link people to nature, jobs, schools and transit. Canoe launches are located at Kelley Point Park and Whitaker Ponds Natural Area.

Key partnerships: 40-Mile Loop Land Trust, City of Gresham, City of Portland, Columbia Slough Council, Multnomah County Drainage District, Port of Portland

Regional context: The Columbia Slough Trail is part of the northern portion of the 40-Mile Loop trail network (which is actually closer to 140 miles) and connects to the I-205 Trail and Peninsula Crossing Trail.

Columbia Slough Trail

FANNO CREEK TRAIL

The Fanno Creek Trail will traverse 15 miles, weaving through Tualatin, Durham, Tigard and Beaverton, and ending at the shores of the Willamette River in Southwest Portland. The trail, which is a little more than half built, will connect to schools, parks and other community destinations. Metro's purchases have helped to secure rights to build portions of the trail, and to restore water quality and protect wildlife habitat in this developed portion of the Tualatin River . Great blue heron and groves of Oregon ash trees are just a few of the things to see on the trail.

Public use: 460,000 trips in 2015. The trail serves as a commuter and recreational trail. Numerous community parks are along or near the trail, including Greenway Park, Cook Park and Dirksen Nature Park, community centers and golf courses.

Key partnerships: City of Beaverton, City of Durham, City of Portland, City of Tigard, City of Tualatin, Clean Water Services, Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District, Tualatin Riverkeepers, Washington County

Regional context: Other jurisdictions manage trail and recreation uses on some Metro-owned land. The trail is mostly complete in Beaverton, about half complete in Tigard and partially complete in Portland. In Tualatin, the trail connects to the future 22-mile Ice Age Tonquin Trail and the Tualatin River Greenway.

Fanno Creek Greenway

GRESHAM-FAIRVIEW TRAIL

The Gresham-Fairview Trail provides a north-south connection between the Springwater and Marine Drive trails, linking neighborhoods, schools, businesses, parks and natural areas along the way. Most of the trail has been built, and Metro is collaborating with Gresham and Fairview to help finish the job by securing rights to build a missing northern section that will connect to Blue Lake Regional Park. The trail will improve commuting and recreation options.

Public use: 100,000 trips in 2015. This trail serves as a major north-south commuter and recreational trail, connecting to multiple neighborhoods and light rail.

Key partnerships: City of Fairview, City of Gresham

Regional context: Metro regional flexible funds, a Congressional appropriation and a state transportation grant helped build a bike/pedestrian bridge over Powell Boulevard. The trail connects to light rail and five other regional trails.

Gresham-Fairview Trail

Gresham-Fairview Trail

MARINE DRIVE TRAIL

The Marine Drive Trail is a 20-mile section of the 40-Mile Loop trail system that extends from Kelly Point Park at the confluence of the Columbia and Willamette rivers to Troutdale. The bike path features stunning views of Mt. Hood. It connects five major Metro sites: Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area, the Expo Center, M. James Gleason Memorial Boat Ramp, Blue Lake Regional Park and Chinook Landing Marine Park. Metro recently built a three-quarter mile trail segment in Blue Lake Regional Park. In addition, Metro recently acquired several trail easements to help close four remaining gaps.

Public use: 350,000 trips in 2015. The trail provides recreation and off-street commuting options. There is also a connection from the trail to Portland International Airport.

Key partnerships: 40-Mile Loop Land Trust, City of Fairview, City of Gresham, City of Portland, City of Troutdale, Multnomah County, Multnomah County Drainage District, Port of Portland

Regional context: The 40-Mile Loop system is actually closer to 140 miles; this trail makes up the northern portion and connects to the Sandy River.

Marine Drive Trail

PENINSULA CROSSING TRAIL

Open since 1998, this recreation and commuting trail serves a highly populated urban area in North Portland. It connects schools, businesses and shopping areas to homes and apartments – and connects Willamette Boulevard bike lanes to Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area, the Columbia Slough and Marine Drive Trail.

Public use: 150,000 trips in 2015. Trail users can access three bus lines. The University of Portland and Roosevelt High School's running teams and other students use the trail. A diversity of ethnic groups, income levels, and ages also use the trail.

Key partnerships: 40-Mile Loop Land Trust, City of Portland

Regional context: The trail is owned and maintained by the City of Portland and is part of the 40-Mile Loop trail system.

Peninsula Crossing Trail

Peninsula Crossing Trailhead

ROCK CREEK TRAIL

Residents in this growing part of the region will soon be able to enjoy an 8-mile trail that stretches across Hillsboro and Bethany. The developing trail meanders along scenic Rock Creek. Metro has protected land along the creek and continues to help the City of Hillsboro secure rights to build the trail. The Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District recently built missing sections within its district, including a connection to Portland Community College's Rock Creek campus.

Public use: 190,000 trips in 2015. From the Tualatin River at Rood Bridge Park in Hillsboro, this trail parallels Rock Creek and heads northeast through Hillsboro, eventually connecting to the Westside Trail in Bethany. Several segments are complete. Metro has acquired property for the trail under the 1995 and 2006 bond measures.

Key partnerships: City of Hillsboro, Clean Water Services, Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District, Washington County

Regional context: The greenway connects Hillsboro with employment areas, Orenco, Amber Glenn, Tanasbourne, the Westside Trail, the Tualatin River, Bethany and Portland Community College's Rock Creek campus.

Rock Creek Trail

Rock Creek Trail

SPRINGWATER TRAIL

The region's premier trail, the Springwater Trail serves three cities, two counties and the community of Boring. The trail links to schools, the region's central business and industrial districts, and dense residential areas. Trail users can explore Oaks Bottom Wildlife Refuge, Powell Butte, Sellwood Riverfront Park, Johnson Creek and Gresham's Main City Park. Metro purchased rights to build a three-mile section along the Willamette River, and recently filled part of a prominent gap in the Sellwood neighborhood. The City of Portland plans to build another three-quarter mile segment of the trail to partially close the Sellwood gap.

Public use: 1.2 million trips in 2015. The trail is built on a former railroad bed and is flat, which makes it popular with seniors and those less able to navigate hills.

Key partnerships: 40-Mile Loop Land Trust, City of Gresham, City of Milwaukie, City of Portland, Clackamas County,

Regional context: While Metro owns fee and trail easements in certain sections, the trail is mostly owned by the City of Portland. Portland, Gresham and Clackamas County maintain the trail. The trail connects to the Milwaukie light-rail line's Tacoma Street station.

Springwater Trail

Springwater Trail Three Bridges

ICE AGE TONQUIN TRAIL

The Ice Age Tonquin Trail will connect the Willamette and Tualatin rivers and the cities of Wilsonville, Sherwood and Tualatin. Metro completed a master plan in 2012 with the local partners that will build and maintain the trail. This 22-mile pathway traverses a landscape with visible marks from ancient floods that shaped the region. The trail will connect neighborhoods, schools, town centers, transit and natural areas, including Metro's Graham Oaks Nature Park.

Public use: 200,000 trips in 2015. The Ice Age Tonquin Trail will serve commuters and recreational users. Connections to surrounding homes and businesses will make this a highly used trail.

Key partnerships: City of Sherwood, City of Tualatin, City of Wilsonville, The Wetlands Conservancy, Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge, Washington County

Regional context: Portions of the Ice Age Tonquin Trail are built in Metro's Graham Oaks Nature Park, the Villebois community, Tualatin Community Park, and Stella Olsen Park in Sherwood. When completed, the trail will connect to three other regional trails and possibly to Champoeg State Park over the proposed French Prairie Bridge in Wilsonville.

Ice Age Tonquin Trail

Ice Age Tonquin Trail

TROLLEY TRAIL

A former streetcar line has been transformed into an urban trail between Milwaukie and Gladstone, with a connection to Oregon City. The Trolley Trail is adjacent to residences, businesses, shops, schools and parks. It connects with Park Street Station along the new Milwaukie light-rail line.

Public use: 140,000 trips in 2015. Thousands of people are using the trail for commuting and recreation.

Key partnerships: City of Gladstone, City of Milwaukie, Friends of the Trolley Trail, North Clackamas Parks & Recreation District, TriMet

Regional context: The trail is owned and operated primarily by North Clackamas Parks & Recreation District and the City of Gladstone. The City of Milwaukie is building a new section of the trail along Southeast 17th Avenue that will connect Milwaukie Riverfront Park with the Springwater Trail.

Trolley Trail

TUALATIN RIVER WATER TRAIL AND TUALATIN RIVER GREENWAY TRAIL

Someday, people will be able to explore the Tualatin River by boat, bike or foot on two sister trails: a greenway trail along the banks and a water trail in the river itself. Metro has acquired six sites along the river that could serve both trails. Partners have completed the six-mile stretch of the greenway trail from Browns Ferry Park to Cook Park, and developed nine launch sites for the 40-mile water trail. A new segment of the greenway trail passes through the heart of Tualatin. The popular Ki-a-kuts Bridge connects pedestrians from Tualatin Community Park with Tigard's Cook Park and Durham City Park.

Public use: 490,000 trips in 2015. Metro is developing a new launch site at Farmington Natural Area, which will be open to the public in 2017. It will be the only launch site along a 10-mile stretch of river. Existing launch sites are at Rood Bridge Park, Eagle Landing, 99W Bridge, Jurgens Park, Cook Park, Tualatin Community Park, Browns Ferry Park and River Grove Boat Ramp.

Key partnerships: City of Hillsboro, City of Tigard, City of Tualatin, City of West Linn, Clean Water Services, Tualatin Riverkeepers, Washington County

Regional context: The water trail and the greenway trail will connect to the future Westside Trail and Ice Age Tonquin Trail where those two trails meet at the Tualatin River and to the Fanno Creek Trail in Durham. The greenway trail will provide access to Brown's Ferry Park, Tualatin Community Park, Cook Park, Durham Park, Jurgens Park and the Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge.

Tualatin River Water Trail

WESTSIDE TRAIL

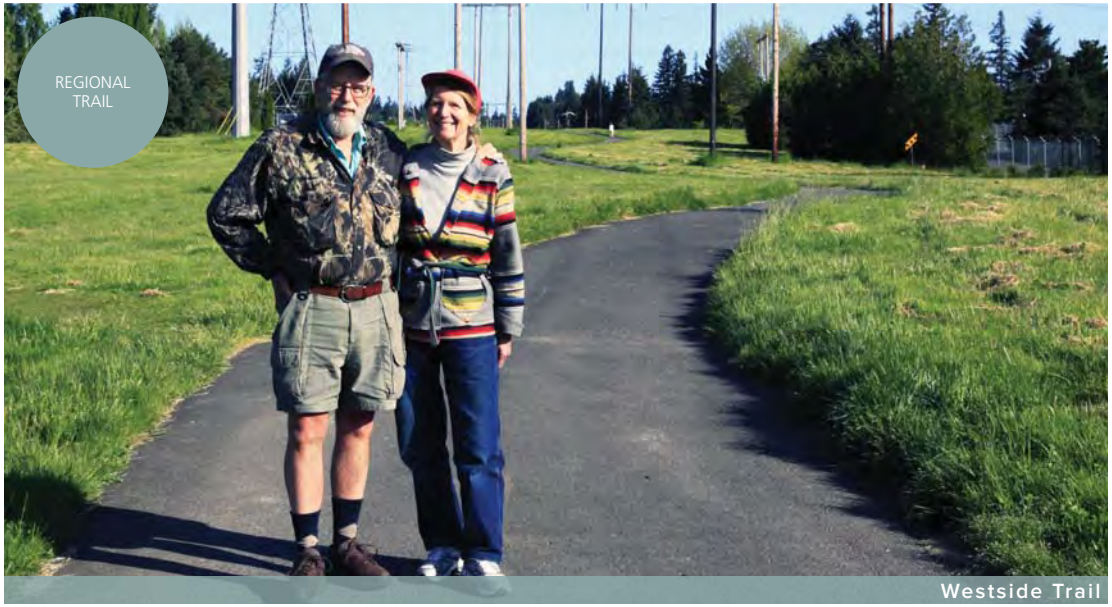
The partially built Westside Trail follows a power line corridor along a north-south path through eastern Washington County. When complete, it will serve thousands of residents and scores of businesses, shops and schools along its 26-mile route. The trail connects with many regional and neighborhood parks, including the Tualatin Hills Nature Park, King City Park and Forest Park. It will also meet up with eight other regional trails.

Public use: 130,000 trips in 2015. Some of the trail is challenging for accessibility due to steep grades, but partners are committed to making it accessible for all levels of users. It is anticipated that the trail will serve as a major commuter and safe-routes-to-school corridor.

Key partnerships: Bonneville Power Administration, City of King City, City of Portland, City of Tigard, Multnomah County, Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District, Washington County

Regional context: Several sections have already been built or are being designed to be built by Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District. Metro and agency partners completed a master plan in 2013 that includes strategies for creating a pollinator corridor along the trail.

Westside Trail



Westside Trail

WILLAMETTE RIVER GREENWAY TRAIL

The partially-completed Willamette River Greenway trail system has two main sections. The northern section provides a scenic, riverside connection between thriving neighborhoods in North Portland, Swan Island, University of Portland, the central city and major regional recreational facilities. The southern section creates a water trail and greenway corridor south of Portland to the cities of Lake Oswego, West Linn and Wilsonville with access to parks on the shores of the Willamette.

Public use: It is anticipated that the northern part of the Willamette River Greenway Trail will serve tens of thousands of commuters and recreational users, including the ten thousand employees at Swan Island as well as those in the Lloyd and Lower Albina districts.

Metro is leading the development of a public riverwalk at Willamette Falls in Oregon City, a multi-jurisdictional project that will close a key trail gap in the regional system.

Key partnerships: 40-Mile Loop Land Trust, City of Lake Oswego, City of Milwaukie, City of Oregon City, City of Portland, City of West Linn, City of Wilsonville, NpGREENWAY

Willamette River Greenway Trail

Regional context: Built segments of the greenway trail offer users a high-quality nature experience in Portland, Lake Oswego, Milwaukie, West Linn, Oregon City and Wilsonville. Metro has acquired property and property rights for additional trail segments to close critical gaps in the system.

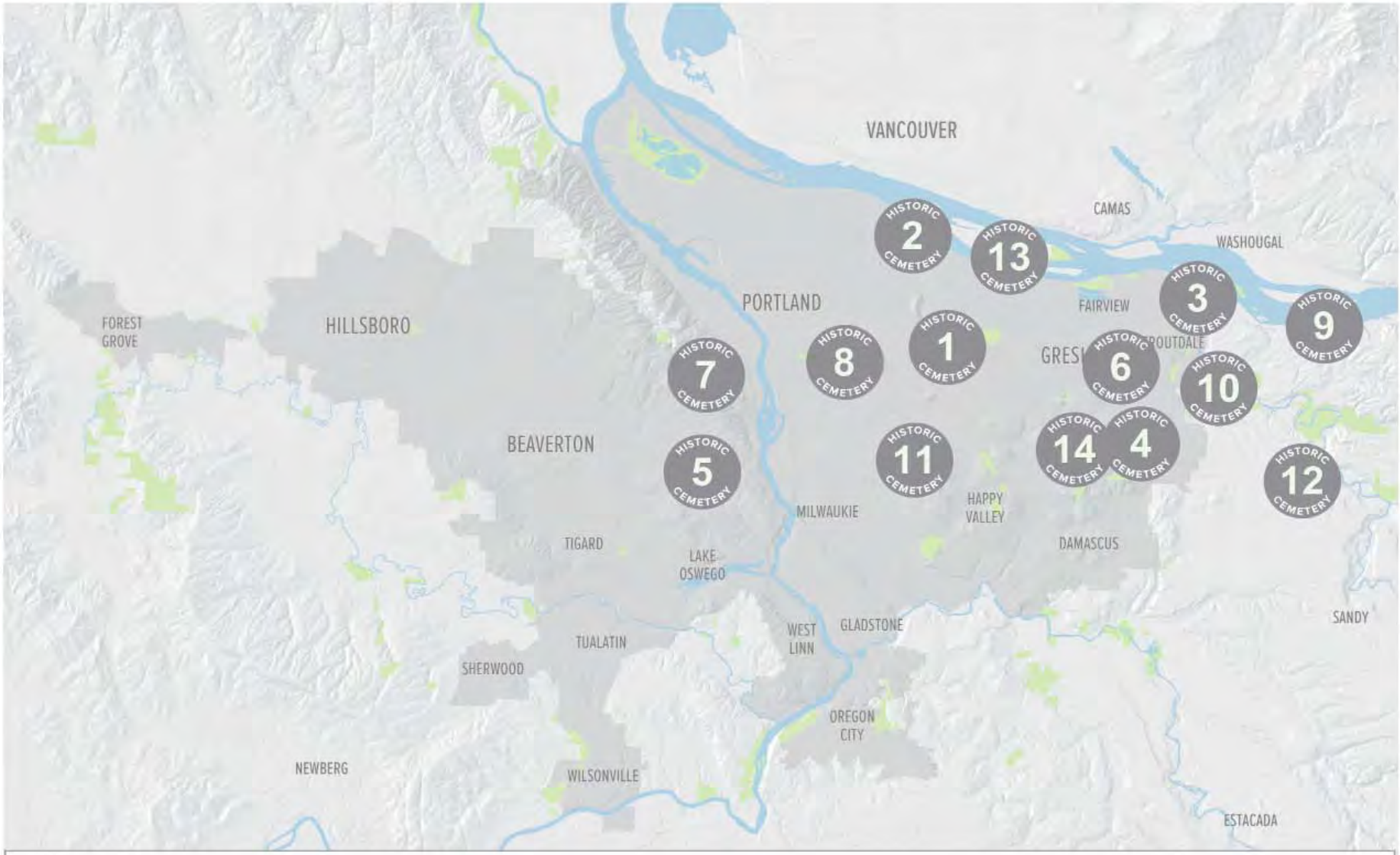
Willamette riparian area

Willamette Narrows Natural Area

HISTORIC CEMETERIES

Metro's 14 historic cemeteries encompass a total of 66 acres and are managed as active facilities, offering scenic tranquility and a unique glimpse into the history of the region. Most were established during the early homesteading period, between 1850 and 1870. The cemeteries are open to visitors and provide opportunities for picnicking and contemplation in a natural setting. The stewardship of these special places is taken very seriously, and some have active volunteer groups that plan events and help with maintenance. Each Halloween, more than 1,000 people participate in a community event at Lone Fir Cemetery. Cemeteries can play a part in trail planning, too, providing a peaceful segment for a regional trail.

METRO HISTORIC CEMETERIES	ACRES	NATUREHOOD
Brainard Cemetery	1.1 acres	East Buttes and Johnson Creek
Columbia Pioneer Cemetery	2.4 acres	Columbia River and Willamette Lowlands
Douglass Cemetery	9.1 acres	Sandy River
Escobar Cemetery	0.5 acres	East Buttes and Johnson Creek
Grand Army of the Republic Cemetery	2.0 acres	Tualatin Mountains
Gresham Pioneer Cemetery	2.0 acres	East Buttes and Johnson Creek
Jones Cemetery	3.25 acres	Lower Tualatin
Lone Fir Cemetery	30.5 acres	East Buttes and Johnson Creek
Mountain View Cemetery – Corbett	2.0 acres	Sandy River
Mountain View Cemetery – Stark	0.75 acres	Sandy River
Multnomah Park Cemetery	9.25 acres	East Buttes and Johnson Creek
Pleasant Home Cemetery	2.0 acres	East Buttes and Johnson Creek
Powell Grove Cemetery	0.5 acres	Columbia River and Willamette Lowlands



Historic cemetery

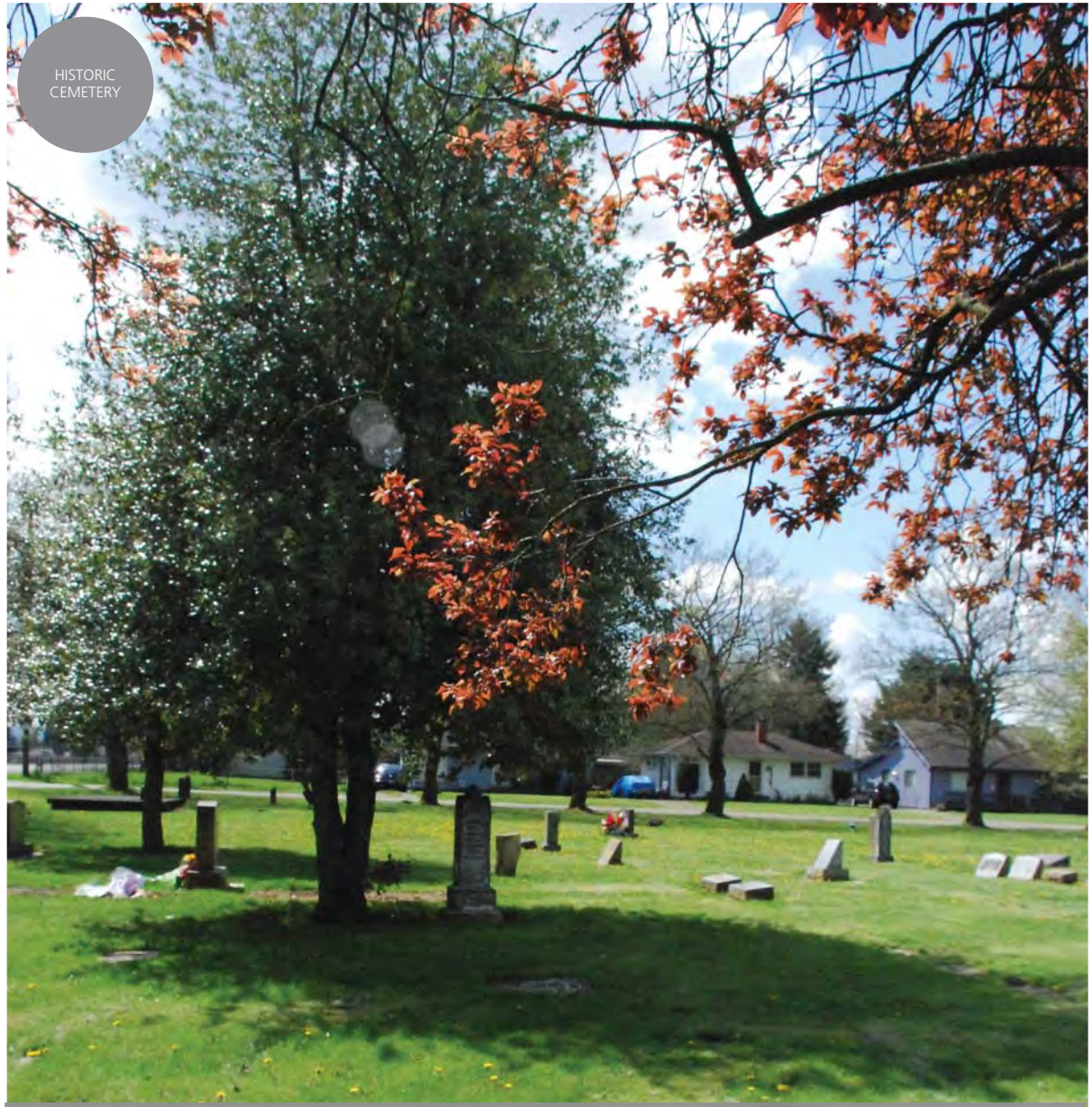
1) Brainard Cemetery
2) Columbia Pioneer Cemetery
3) Douglass Cemetery
4) Escobar Cemetery
5) Grand Army of the Republic Cemetery
6) Gresham Pioneer Cemetery
7) Jones Cemetery
8) Lone Fir Pioneer Cemetery
9) Mountain View Corbett Cemetery
10) Mountain View Stark Cemetery
11) Multnomah Park Cemetery
12) Pleasant Home Cemetery
13) Powell Grove Cemetery
14) White Birch Cemetery

BRAINARD CEMETERY

Set high on a crest near the intersection of Northeast Glisan Street and Northeast 90th Avenue, Brainard Cemetery is an open, airy property, full of sun on pleasant days. Situated across from Multnomah University, this cemetery boasts views of Rocky Butte Natural Area and Mount St. Helens to the north. With the feel of a neighborhood park, the property appears tidy and welcoming to nearby residents.

Acres: 1.1 acres

Key facts: Established in 1867. There are no internal roads; all access and parking for this site is accommodated on public streets surrounding the property on the east, south and west boundaries. The cemetery serves several Slavic and Southeast Asian communities.



Brainard Cemetery

COLUMBIA PIONEER CEMETERY

Located on the northeast side of Portland, this property is fairly small, but has a significant number of burial spaces available, and has potential for infill casket and cremation opportunities. Although the site is located at a busy intersection, cemetery visitors feel as though they're in a quiet neighborhood park. Area residents enjoy this green space for sunning and other passive recreation.

Acres: 2.4 acres

Key facts: Established in 1877. This site has no defined paved roads or parking; however, there is a "U" shaped grass drive with access to Northeast Sandy Boulevard. Most visitor parking routes are through the adjacent neighborhood to the east, with access to the site from Northeast 99th Avenue. The cemetery is frequently used by neighbors who want a place to relax or enjoy a picnic; it serves as the only "park" for the area, with the next closest open space at the Grotto.

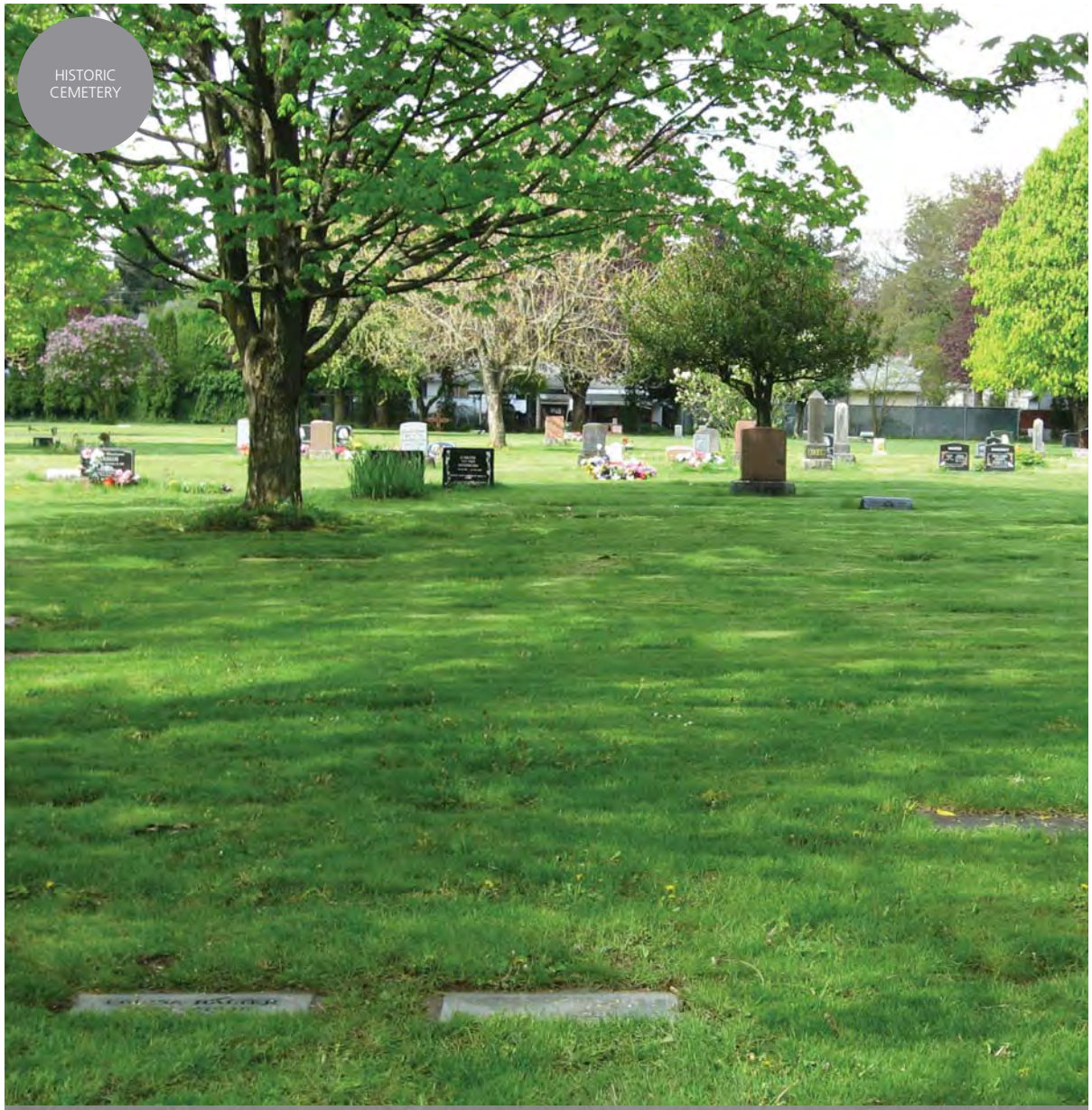
Columbia Pioneer Cemetery

DOUGLASS CEMETERY

Located in central Troutdale, this property has more available land for future development than any other Metro cemetery. Surrounded by quiet neighborhoods, it features large swaths of open lawn. A prominent grove of Douglas fir trees in the middle separates the old and newer sections. This grove instills a woodland feel and provides shelter for visitors to pause and reflect on their loved ones. Neighbors use the cemetery as a quiet respite to picnic and reflect. There is a small Jewish section in Block 10.

Acres: 9.1 acres

Key facts: Established in 1914. Douglass Cemetery is surrounded by dense residential housing developments and a church to the north end of the property. The nearest main roadways are Cherry Park Blvd. and Troutdale Road. There is a network of internal roads, which can accommodate all parking for services.



Douglass Cemetery

ESCOBAR CEMETERY

Escobar Cemetery is nestled in a corner where Johnson Creek intersects with the Springwater Trail, the southeast segment of the 40-Mile Loop. The cemetery is highly visible from the corridor and receives visits from trail users pausing to rest. Often one sees families taking a break at Escobar, stopping to sit, reflect and learn about history. While not large in size, the cemetery is a pleasant park-like space that benefits from its orientation to the trail and the adjacent Gresham Cemetery.

Acres: 0.5 acres

Key facts: Established in 1914. This site has no road access or parking. Visitors share the one-lane dirt access road with Gresham Cemetery to the north, which is also used for parking for small processional events. Larger events overflow into a church parking lot to the north or a school parking lot to the west.

Escobar Cemetery

Escobar Cemetery

GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC CEMETERY

Grand Army of the Republic Cemetery appears as a large clearing in the woods, on a hillside in Southwest Portland. The cemetery is primarily a single, large, open lawn area that slopes to the north, with graves laid out in a formal, semi-circular pattern that harkens back to Victorian times. The property is adjacent to River View and Greenwood Hills cemeteries, and very near Beth Israel and Ahavai Sholom cemeteries.

Acres: 2.0 acres

Key facts: Fourteen Civil War veterans formed the Grand Army Cemetery Association and purchased the cemetery in 1882. The Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War subsequently took over management and administration. This site has no defined paved roads or parking; however, there is a network of gravel drives throughout the site. Visitors park on the paved drive separating this cemetery from Greenwood Hills Cemetery.

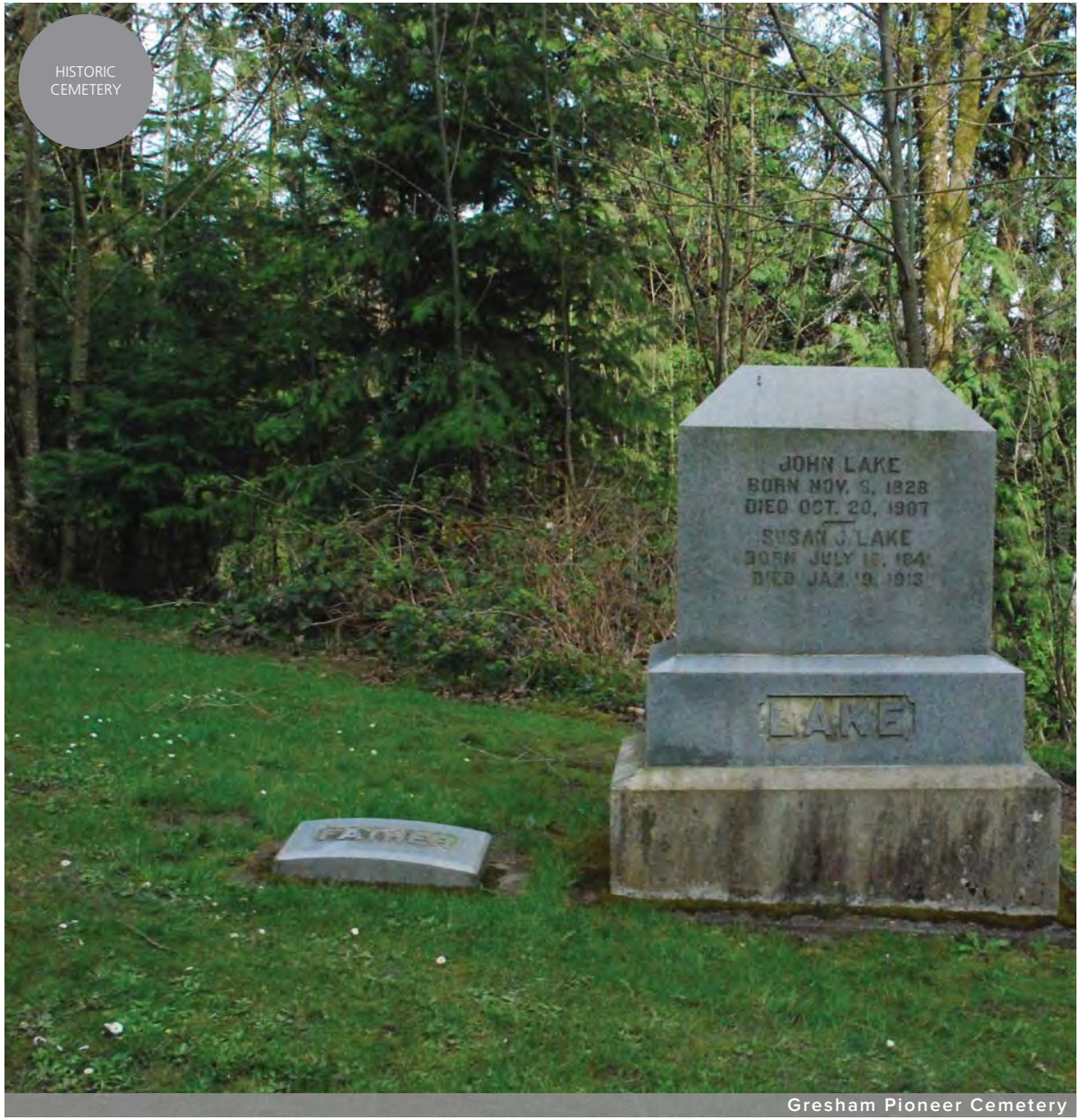
Grand Army of the Republic Cemetery

GRESHAM PIONEER CEMETERY

Gresham Pioneer Cemetery is perched above the banks of Johnson Creek at the edge of town. Its natural setting and mature vegetation help create a peaceful, intimate feel throughout the property.

Acres: 2.0 acres

Key facts: Established in 1851. This site has a one-lane dirt access road on the north side of the property which is also used for maintenance and parking for small processional events. Larger events overflow in the church parking lot to the north and the school parking lot to the west. Miyo Iwakoshi, believed to be the first Japanese person to live in Oregon, is interred here.



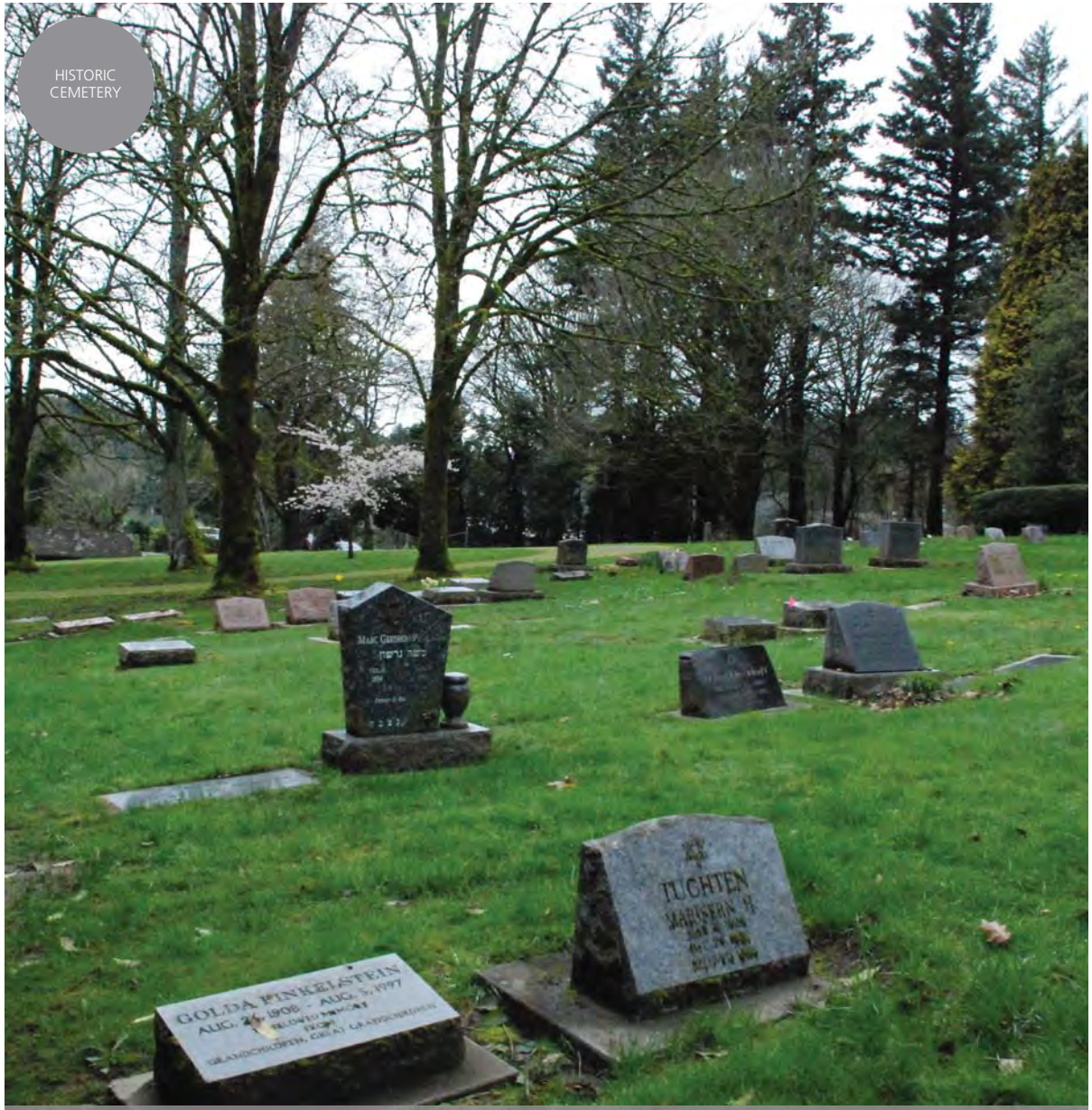
Gresham Pioneer Cemetery

JONES CEMETERY

Tucked away in the Sylvan area, near the intersection of Southwest Scholls Ferry Road and Highway 26, Jones Cemetery has the feel of a secret garden. The northern portion provides a dense canopy of mature deciduous and conifer trees, and the south area opens into a lawn and a central park planted with dogwood trees. The Chehalem Mountains are visible to the southwest. Families seeking an intimate final resting place in this part of the Portland metropolitan area often gravitate to Jones Cemetery. The cemetery services members of the Jewish community, specifically the Havurah Shalom. There has also been a recent influx of Romanian burials due to a large Romanian church nearby.

Acres: 3.25 acres

Key facts: Established in 1854. There is one internal loop road that accommodates most processional parking. However, for large services, the parking lot of an adjacent church is used.



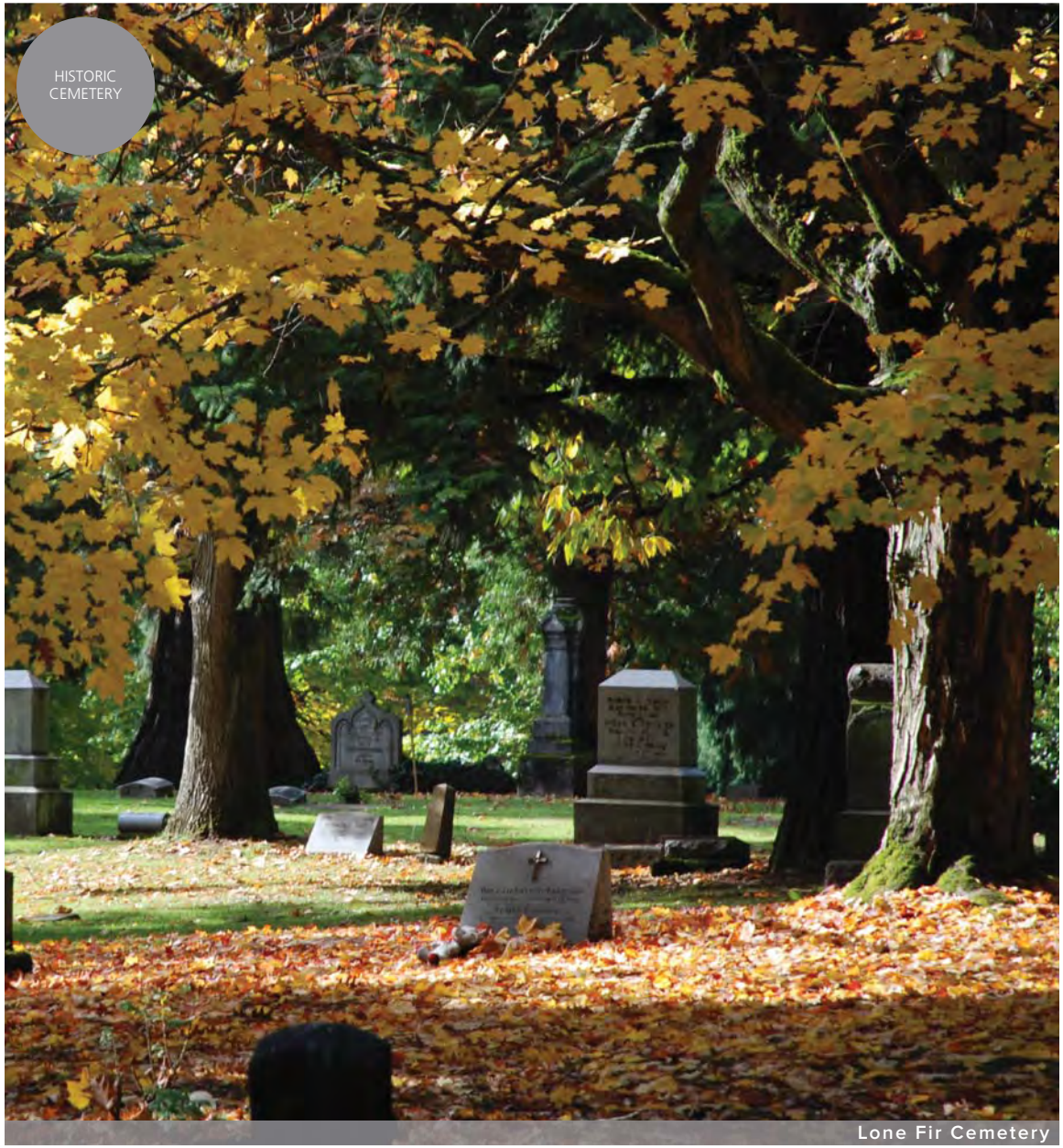
Jones Cemetery

LONE FIR CEMETERY

Lone Fir Cemetery is often referred to as one of Portland's richest outdoor history museums and botanic gardens. The cemetery reads like a good book, telling the story of the many eras of settlement and development of the Portland area. This 30-acre property also acts as a valuable arboretum and contains a wide variety of coniferous and deciduous trees and shrubs of notable sizes, species and histories. Nestled into an active neighborhood in close-in Southeast Portland, the cemetery provides a venue for historical and cultural events, as well as much-needed park space for visitors and area residents.

Acres: 30.5 acres

Key facts: Established in 1855. The Chestnut Grove Memorial Garden opened within Lone Fir in 2013, providing an option for the increasing number of people who choose to be cremated. A heritage and memorial garden is planned for the early Chinese workers and Hawthorne Asylum patients buried here, who will be honored at the garden site now known as Block 14. There is a network of internal roads, and all parking for services can be accommodated internally. There is also ample street parking in the surrounding neighborhood. National Geographic recently named Lone Fir one of the world's must-see cemeteries.



Lone Fir Cemetery

MOUNTAIN VIEW CEMETERY – CORBETT

This rural cemetery is set atop a small hill overlooking the many fruit and vegetable farms, vineyards and orchards off of Southeast Smith Road, just south of Corbett. While surveying breathtaking views of Mount Hood to the east and the Washington Cascades to the north, visitors can envision what this intimate cemetery looked like when it was first established.

Acres: 2.0 acres

Key facts: Established in 1880. This site has no internal roadways or parking. People access the cemetery from a small roadway that connects Southeast Smith and Evans roads; this small access road also provides parking, but it is steep and suffers from rainwater runoff. The cemetery is surrounded by agriculture on all sides.

Mountain View Cemetery

Mountain View Cemetery

MOUNTAIN VIEW CEMETERY – STARK

This cemetery is situated on a bluff along Southeast Stark Street, the historic east-west route connecting the Sandy River to Southeast Portland. Located just north of Mt. Hood Community College, the property is surrounded by mature Douglas fir trees and provides neighborhood residents a quiet park area for passive recreation.

Acres: 0.75 acres

Key facts: Established in 1886. There are no internal paved roads or parking areas. A short road enters the site from the southwest corner.

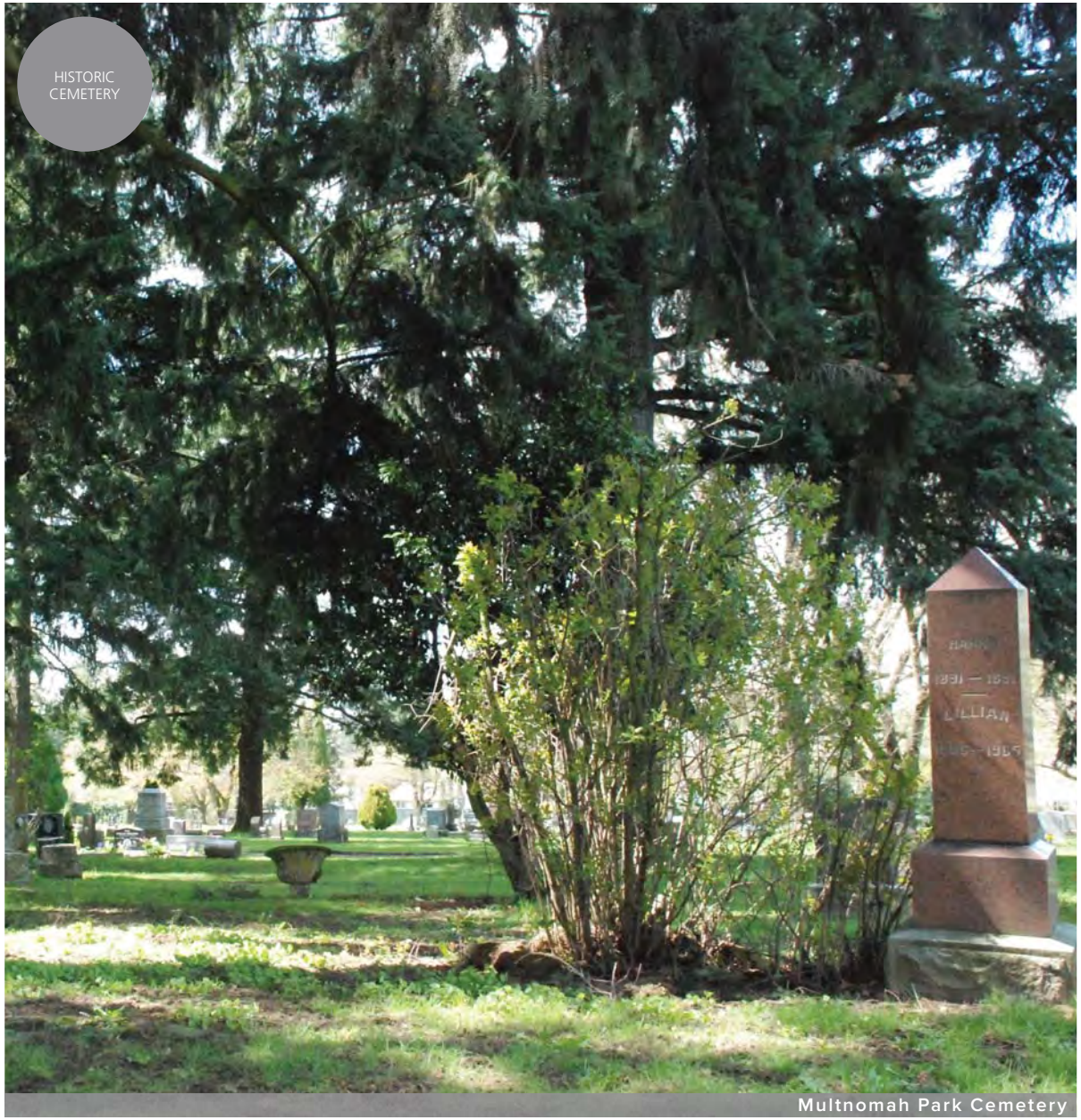
Mountain View Cemetery

MULTNOMAH PARK CEMETERY

Multnomah Park Cemetery was founded by O.P. Lent, who settled the historic Lents neighborhood. This property provides important greenspace in a busy urban area in Southeast Portland. It is located along Holgate Boulevard, at Southeast 82nd Avenue.

Acres: 9.25 acres

Key facts: Established in 1888. There is a network of internal roads, and all parking for services can be accommodated internally.



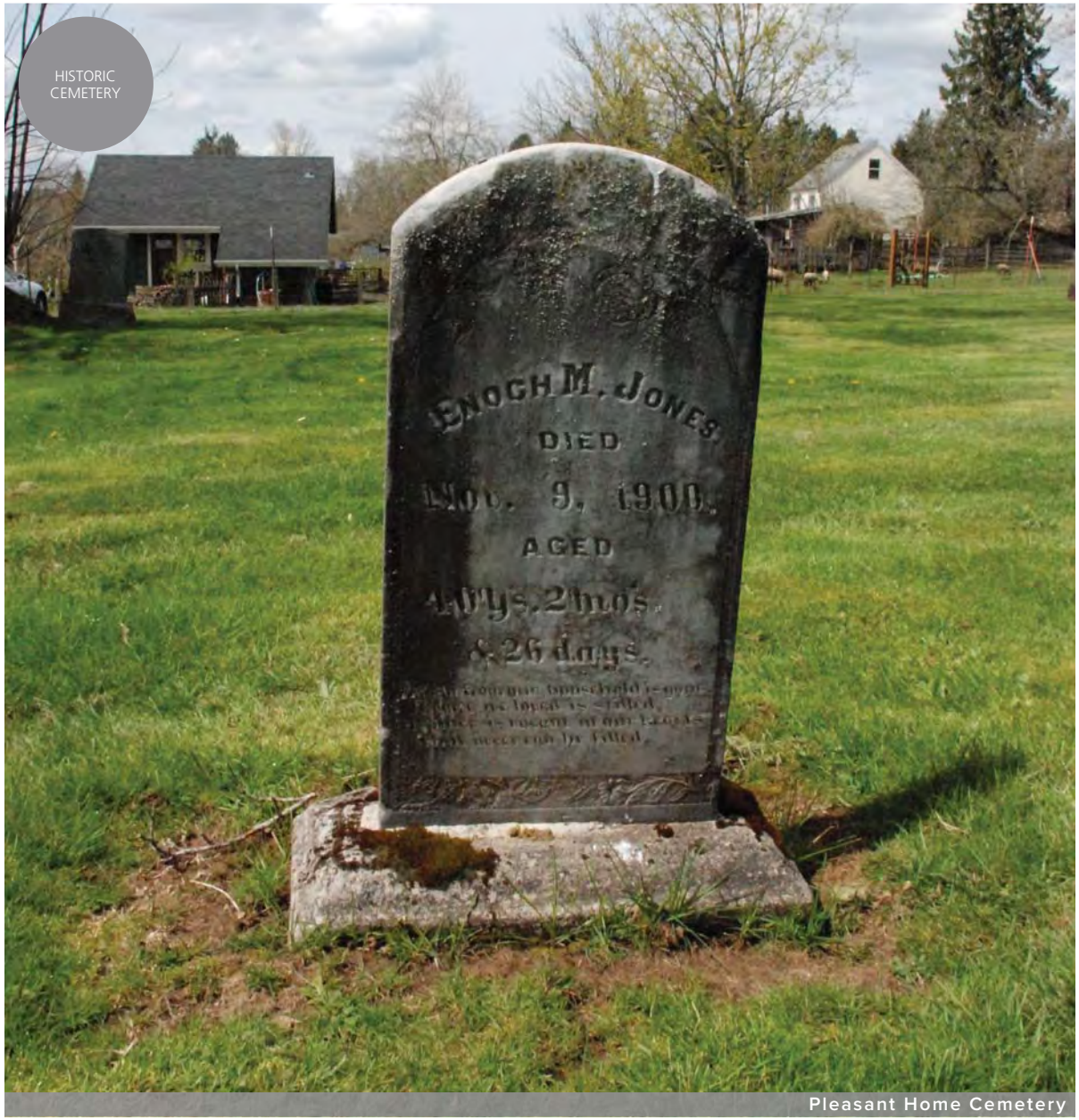
Multnomah Park Cemetery

PLEASANT HOME CEMETERY

This rural cemetery provides a pastoral setting for the families it serves, reminiscent of the pioneer era when it was established. Located at the intersection of two early thoroughfares in Gresham, it is adjacent to a church with small farms and clusters of rural housing nearby. While the north end is open and provides space for burial plots, the south end of the property slopes to Johnson Creek, providing visitors the opportunity to cool off under a rich riparian canopy.

Acres: 2.0 acres

Key facts: Established in 1884. This site has no internal roadways or parking. All parking is shared with an adjacent church lot to the north.



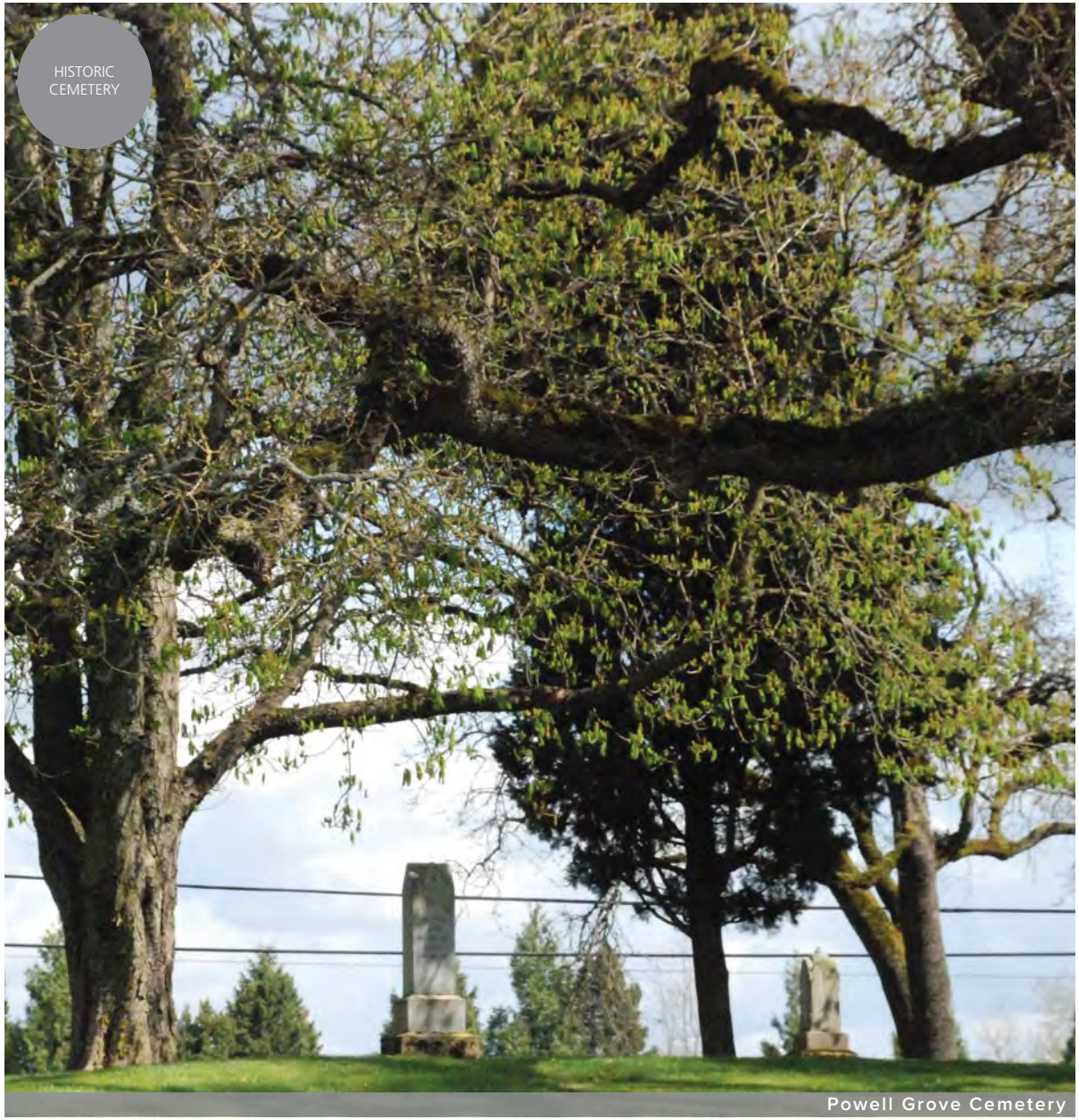
Pleasant Home Cemetery

POWELL GROVE CEMETERY

Similar to other Metro historic cemeteries, Powell Grove is located along an historic route – in this case, Northeast Sandy Boulevard at the intersection with busy 122nd Avenue. Today, the cemetery appears as a small remnant landscape in the middle of a traffic circle at the intersection of these two busy roads. While somewhat challenging to access, it provides the final resting places for the Powell and Reynolds families, who settled the Parkrose area of Portland.

Acres: 0.5 acres

Key facts: Established in 1848. There are no internal paved roads or parking areas. Parking and access are available on the north side of the site, within the Northeast Sandy Boulevard right-of-way. The site is surrounded by major public roadways.



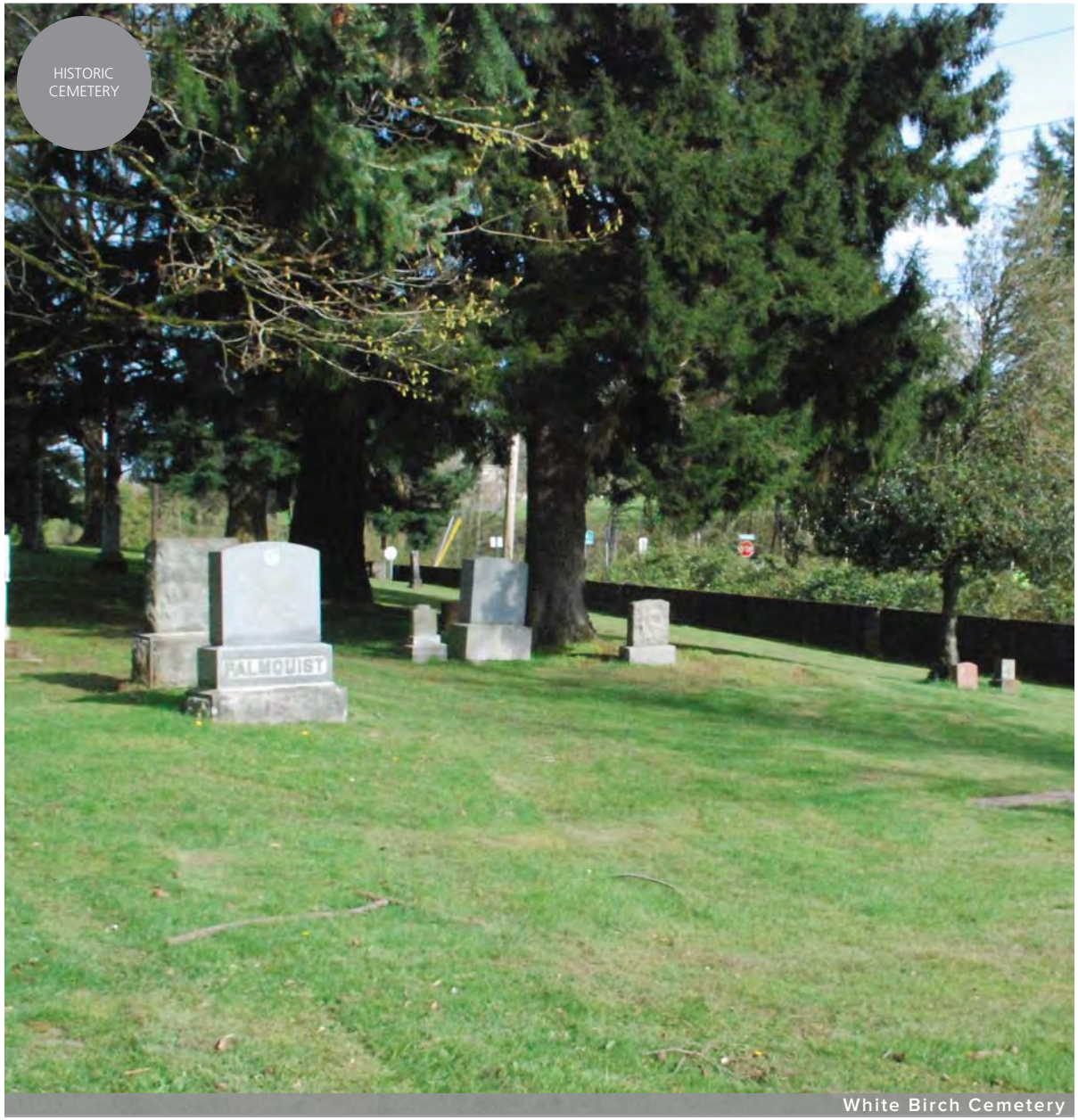
Powell Grove Cemetery

WHITE BIRCH CEMETERY

White Birch Cemetery, one of three adjacent historic properties in west Gresham, features a number of early Japanese interments and several beautiful, historic headstones. Located between the Springwater Trail and West Gresham Elementary School, this small cemetery is visible from and easily accessed from Southwest Walters Drive. Similar to the adjacent Gresham Pioneer and Escobar Cemeteries, this property presents an intimate burial choice for families in the area.

Acres: 0.5 acres

Key facts: Established in 1888. This site has no road access or parking. Visitor and processional parking is shared with the school to the north.



White Birch Cemetery

CHAPTER 5: TRENDS

POPULATION GROWTH
DEMOGRAPHIC DIVERSITY
OBESITY AND HEALTH
A CHANGING PLANET
INVESTING IN METRO PARKS AND NATURE

POPULATION GROWTH

As the world and the greater Portland region changes, Metro Parks and Nature must adapt to serve the community, stay relevant and sustain strong support.

Our population is growing in both numbers and diversity. Health challenges are on the rise. Climate change threatens the natural systems that Oregonians have worked so hard to protect. And funding for this work will decline significantly without sustained investment.

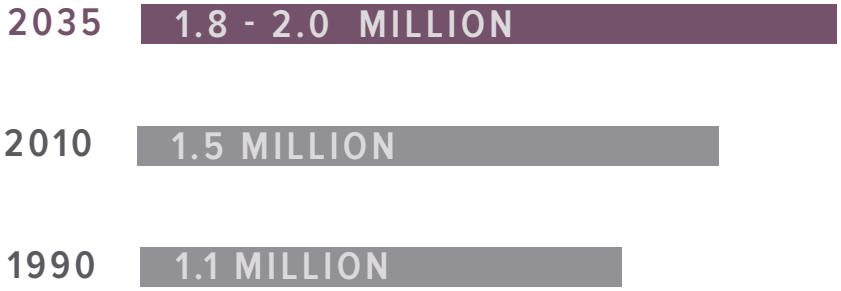
These trends underscore the importance of clean water, healthy wildlife habitat and connections with nature, informing strategies for the future of Metro's Parks and Nature system. More people are being born in the greater Portland area, and moving here. Metro takes a lead role in forecasting this growth and strategizing where newcomers will live and work, and how they'll get from place to place.

Metro's most recent Urban Growth Report predicted an additional 600,000 residents in the seven-county area between 2015 and 2035 – the equivalent of adding the city of Portland's population to the region. This projection, which was vetted by a panel of economists and demographers, is consistent with the region's past growth.

Population forecasts inform not only Metro, but also local jurisdictions, community organizations and businesses as they consider new policies, investments and actions to maintain the region's quality of life and promote prosperity.

As the population grows, so does the need to preserve natural resources, link communities with trails and provide places where people can connect with nature.

PAST GROWTH - FUTURE FORECAST



Source: *Metro Urban Growth Report: Investing in Our Cities 2015-2035*

DEMOGRAPHIC DIVERSITY

As Oregon's population gets bigger, it is also getting more diverse.

Latino residents accounted for 12 percent of Oregon's population in 2010, up from 8 percent a decade earlier. The Asian population increased by 41 percent during the same period, and the city of Portland's nonwhite population increased from 25 percent to 28 percent.

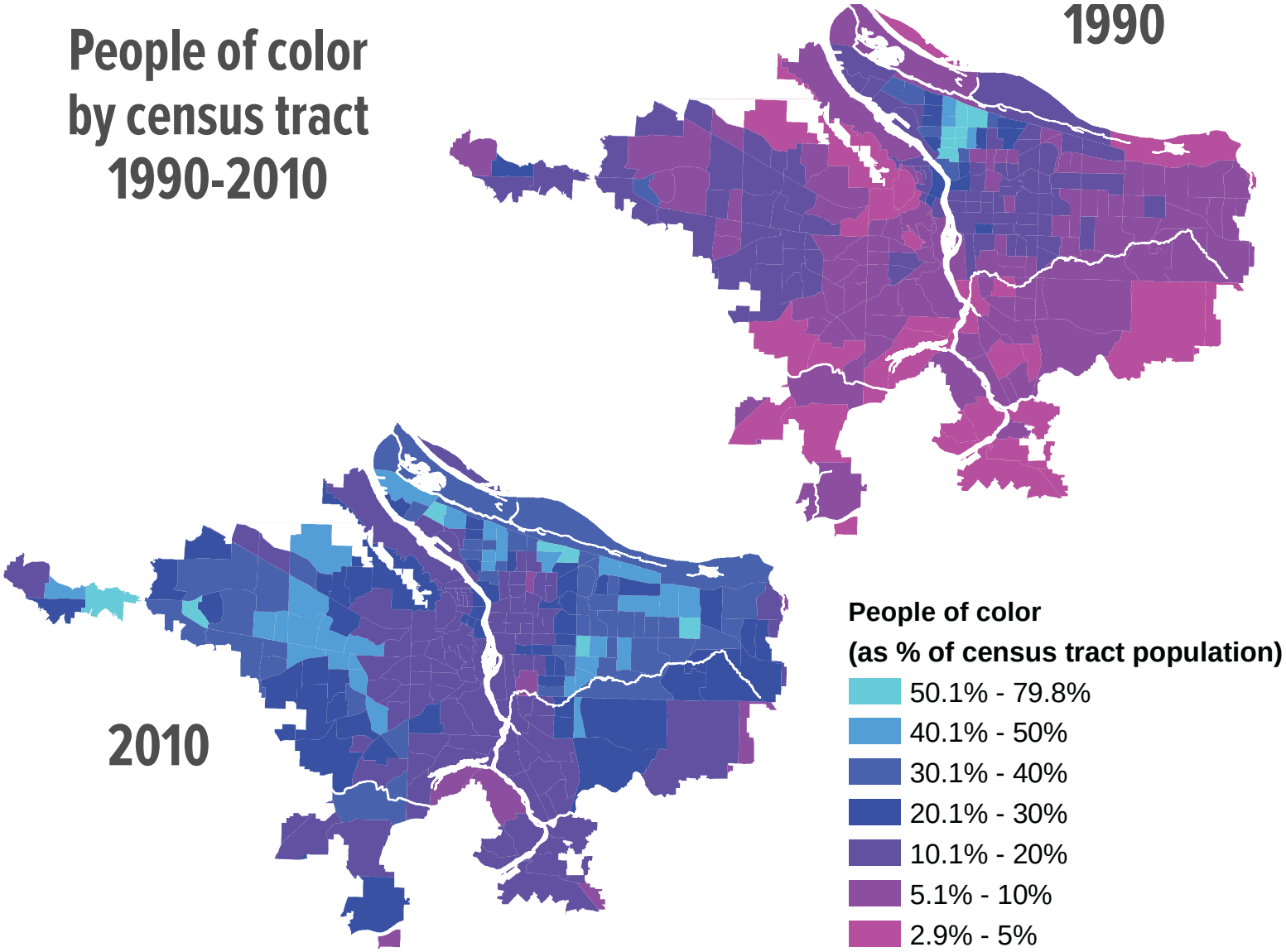
It is critical to understand the barriers to outdoor recreation for different ethnic and racial groups – and to determine how Metro can best provide experiences that meet their needs.

Research shows that, in general, people of color are less likely than white people in the United States to spend time on outdoor recreation. As a result, many residents of the greater Portland region miss out on the health, social and other benefits of protecting nature.

People of color are more likely to spend time in nature when park providers do some concrete things: keep destinations clean, well-maintained and safe from crime, provide more free-of-charge recreation opportunities and expand facilities.

Oregonians are also getting older, and that too has implications for how people want to experience nature. In 2011, just over 14 percent of Oregon's total population was 65 or older. That number will increase dramatically as baby boomers continue to enter retirement age, with Oregon's senior citizen population increasing more rapidly than the national average. In 2020, Oregon will be home to 48 percent more elderly people than it was a decade before.

People of color by census tract 1990-2010



With careful planning, Parks and Nature can play a vital role in addressing the health and economic challenges of an aging population. Metro should consider what kind of trails older people will need, what kind of parks will inspire them to get outdoors and what programming might appeal to them.

Baby boomers place more importance on trails and parks close to home. Over a third of Oregon boomers and pre-boomers volunteer in their communities. And walking is the top activity for Oregonians in every age group over 40.

As big as the baby boomer generation is, millennials ultimately will make up an even larger share of the population. Inspiring this generation is critical to the long-term success of Metro Parks and Nature.

Research has shown that people who do not participate in outdoor recreation when they're young are less likely to participate in those activities as adults. Child advocacy expert Richard Louv directly links the lack of nature in the lives of today's wired generation – he calls it nature-deficit – to some of the most disturbing childhood trends, such as the rises in obesity, attention disorders and depression.

Across Oregon, rural children spend the most time outdoors, followed by urban children and then suburban children. Almost all parents felt it was a priority for their child to dedicate more time to outdoor activities.

By giving Oregon's young people opportunities to experience nature, Metro can not only improve public health and well-being, but also help secure future stewardship and investments.

OBESITY AND HEALTH

Across all age groups, people are sitting more and moving less – and gaining weight.

More than one-third of adults in the United States are obese. Being significantly overweight is a key indicator of public health because it significantly increases the risk for many diseases, lowers life expectancy and lowers overall quality of life.

The prevalence of hiking and urban trails in Oregon is associated with higher rates of physical activity, indicating that parks and nature have the power to make a difference. People cite two main constraints to participating in recreation programs: high cost and lack of information, both factors that Metro can address.

A CHANGING PLANET

Population growth plays out in the natural world as well as the human world. More people translate to more development, which chips away at wetlands, prairies and forests – compromising our ecosystem and the plants, animals and natural communities that depend on it.

Another major threat is invasive species. When plants and animals move beyond their natural ranges, they degrade and destroy important habitats. Native species can reach dangerously low numbers and, eventually, disappear. Sometimes this happens because one species directly wipes out another. Other times, the relationship is more subtle; ecological processes and natural habitats change, making it difficult for native species to thrive.

History shows that it is cheaper and more effective to prevent water pollution and species declines in the first place, rather than cleaning up polluted streams and rebuilding dwindling populations.

Climate change increases the urgency of protecting and restoring the natural environment. Over the last century, the average temperature in the Pacific Northwest has increased by 1.5 degrees Fahrenheit. Snowpack has been lost in the Cascades, and the timing and volume of stream flows have shifted. Habitat and migration patterns are changing. And so is the range where you can find insects, birds, trees and flowering plants.

As much as we know about climate change, there's also a lot we don't know. How quickly will it progress? What's the cumulative impact on our landscape?

It will be important for Metro to adapt its Parks and Nature strategy as more is learned about changes in the human and natural worlds, drawing on The Intertwine Alliance's Regional Conservation Strategy as a starting point. That will require Metro to effectively engage the community in the economic, legal and social benefits of nature.

INVESTING IN METRO PARKS AND NATURE

Voter investments have formed a strong foundation for Metro Parks and Nature, and made this department a strategic priority in Metro's budget. However, significant challenges face Metro in the near future.

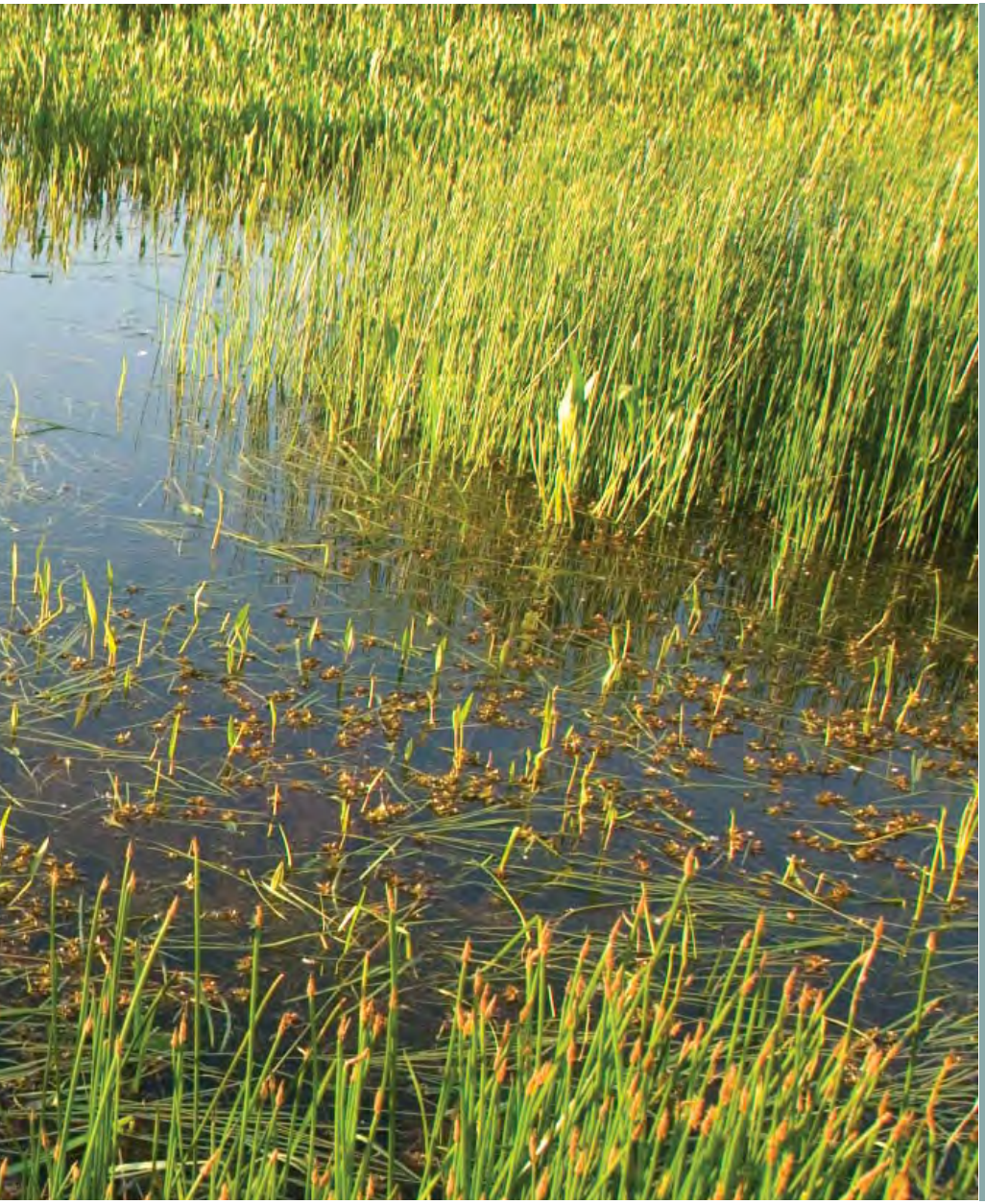
In Metro's general fund, which pays for many primary programs and support services, costs continue to rise faster than revenues. The general fund supports a portion of Metro's Parks and Nature work as well as many other departments, from Human Resources and Communications to Planning and Development and the Oregon Zoo. The general fund comes primarily from charges for services, grants, property taxes, construction excise tax, and excise taxes on Metro's facilities and services.

Meanwhile, the $10 million per year raised by the parks and natural areas local option levy will expire on June 30, 2018. Without renewing this funding or replacing it through another source, Parks and Nature operations will be dramatically reduced. The levy supports natural area restoration and maintenance, natural area improvements for visitors, park maintenance and improvements, volunteer and nature education programs, and community grants.

Finally, Metro's Natural Areas Bond – the fuel for land acquisition and capital projects – is on track to be fully spent by 2020. Local governments are nearly finished investing their share of the bond measure, and the final round of Nature in Neighborhoods Capital Grants is slated for 2016.

Understanding and planning for future funding sources will be essential as Metro's Parks and Nature team maps out strategies and finds ways to put them on the ground.

Blue Sky from Pacific Power
PACIFIC POWER



CHAPTER 6: MISSION CRITICAL STRATEGIES

MISSION CRITICAL STRATEGIES

As the greater Portland region continues to grow, Metro's Parks and Nature Department will play a critical role in protecting the natural environment and serving the people who treasure it.

The system plan outlines strategies that provide a roadmap for improving on successful places and programs, developing new and innovative approaches, and strengthening relationships with partners. Each strategy lays out not only what Metro Parks and Nature will do, but also how. What does success look like? And what are the most important actions to get started?

Five mission critical strategies come first, because they are the highest priorities for advancing Metro's Parks and Nature work on behalf of the region. Some mission critical strategies are threaded through many program areas, while others describe distinct efforts. The common thread: Each mission critical strategy is deeply embedded in Metro's Parks and Nature mission. These strategies deserve extra resources and scrutiny.

The remaining strategies – which represent a large, important body of work – are organized by five broad categories that guide Metro's portfolio going forward.

NO.	MISSION CRITICAL STRATEGY
1	Use science to guide Metro's Parks and Nature portfolio.
2	Ensure that Metro Parks and Nature programs and facilities support the needs of underserved communities, including communities of color, low-income communities and young people.
3	Develop a stable, long-term funding source to support Metro's Parks and Nature portfolio.
4	Ensure that parks, trails, natural areas and cemeteries managed by Metro are knit together into an integrated system.
5	Diversify the businesses and people who do contracted work for Metro Parks and Nature.

FOUNDATIONAL STATEMENT	NO.	STRATEGY
MISSION CRITICAL STRATEGIES	STRATEGY 1	Use science to guide Metro's Parks and Nature portfolio
	STRATEGY 2	Ensure that Metro Parks and Nature programs and facilities support the needs of underserved communities, including communities of color, low-income communities and young people.
	STRATEGY 3	Develop a stable, long-term funding source to support Metro's Parks and Nature portfolio.
	STRATEGY 4	Ensure that parks, trails, natural areas and cemeteries managed by Metro are knit together into an integrated system.
	STRATEGY 5	Diversify the businesses and people who do contracted work for Metro Parks and Nature.
PROTECT AND CONSERVE NATURE	STRATEGY 1	Protect significant landscapes through land acquisition and restoration.
	STRATEGY 2	Lead regional efforts to protect and manage significant landscapes beyond Metro's portfolio.
	STRATEGY 3	Incorporate climate resilience and adaptation into Metro's work.
CREATE AND MAINTAIN GREAT PLACES	STRATEGY 1	Develop and operate welcoming places that include our region's diverse communities.
	STRATEGY 2	Provide diverse, high-quality visitor experiences through a system of safe, secure and well-maintained parks, trails, natural areas and cemeteries.
	STRATEGY 3	Position the historic cemeteries program to meet the needs of the region in the future.
CONNECT PEOPLE TO NATURE	STRATEGY 1	Provide diverse and meaningful volunteer and learning opportunities.
	STRATEGY 2	Build public awareness and trust through a strategic communications program.
	STRATEGY 3	Increase the capacity of communities of color and other underserved communities to be conservation leaders.
SUPPORT COMMUNITY ASPIRATIONS	STRATEGY 1	Fund grant programs that support communities' connection to nature.
	STRATEGY 2	Develop a wide range of relationships and partnerships in communities that have limited access to nature.
LEAD EFFORTS TO CONNECT THE REGIONAL TRAILS SYSTEM	STRATEGY 1	Work collaboratively to complete the planned and proposed regional trails network.
	STRATEGY 2	Improve the diversity of the region's trail experiences through strategic planning, local partnerships and investment.
	STRATEGY 3	Prioritize trails planning and development projects that connect communities, particularly communities of color and low-income populations, to nature.

USE SCIENCE TO GUIDE METRO'S PARKS AND NATURE PORTFOLIO.

MISSION CRITICAL STRATEGY 1

The foundation of Metro's parks and nature system is a science-based approach to protecting water quality, wildlife habitat and opportunities for people to enjoy nature. Conservation science runs through the entire program, providing the context to make decisions about priorities and investments. By focusing on science, Metro also creates unique destinations where visitors can experience and appreciate Oregon's natural treasures.

Outcomes

- Water quality and fish and wildlife habitat are protected and improved throughout the region.
- Projects and programs are guided by the best available science.

Key actions

- Using science as a guide, plan for the long term protection of natural areas through a variety of strategies.
- Continue to develop and refine best management practices across the portfolio.
- Share what we learn with partners to advance conservation science in the region.

ENSURE THAT METRO PARKS AND NATURE PROGRAMS AND FACILITIES SUPPORT THE NEEDS OF UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES, INCLUDING COMMUNITIES OF COLOR, LOW-INCOME COMMUNITIES AND YOUNG PEOPLE.

MISSION CRITICAL STRATEGY 2

Metro is committed to ensuring that all our region's diverse communities benefit from investments in protecting water quality, wildlife habitat and opportunities to enjoy nature. Buying outdoor gear or driving a long way to reach a park can be barriers. Plus, for some communities, limited or negative experience spending time outdoors creates feelings of fear or discomfort. Metro works collaboratively with underserved communities to acknowledge, address and begin overcoming these historical disparities.

Outcomes

- People visiting Metro parks and natural areas increasingly reflect the demographics of the region.
- Park visitors and program participants from underserved communities report that they feel welcome and included in park planning, design, and department services and programs.

Key actions

- Continue funding for the Partners in Nature program, which establishes partnerships to develop unique, culturally specific programming.
- Implement results from the Connect with Nature program, which engages underserved communities in planning welcoming parks and natural areas.
- Increase partnerships with community-based organizations to provide internships for youth from communities of color and other underserved communities, including programs that help these young people learn about and gain access to career pathways related to parks and nature.
- Continue existing methods and create new opportunities for formal and informal engagement with youth, communities of color and low-income communities in planning efforts and program development.
- Lead region-wide efforts with The Intertwine Alliance and others to ensure communities of color have access to parks, trails and natural areas. Engage public agencies and non-profit organizations in these efforts.

DEVELOP A STABLE, LONG-TERM FUNDING SOURCE TO SUPPORT METRO'S PARKS AND NATURE PORTFOLIO.

MISSION CRITICAL STRATEGY 3

Reliable, stable and long-term funding is critical to Metro's ability to protect water quality, wildlife habitat and opportunities for people to enjoy nature. Inconsistent funding will erode Metro's ability to plan for future investments, consistently protect and maintain natural areas, and ensure the long-term health of the places voters have protected. While revenues such as entry fees and facility rentals may support developed parks, they are not available for natural areas – making region-wide fees or taxes the most viable option.

Outcomes

- The local option levy is renewed, and operations and maintenance funding is secured for FY 2019-2024.

Key actions

- Refer a renewal of the local option levy to the ballot prior to its expiration on June 30, 2018.
- Following renewal of the local option levy, convene a study to consider long-term funding solutions.
- Determine a funding source for implementation of significant capital programs such as closing regional trail gaps, protecting significant landscapes and providing additional public access to Metro sites.

ENSURE THAT PARKS, TRAILS, NATURAL AREAS AND CEMETERIES MANAGED BY METRO ARE KNIT TOGETHER INTO AN INTEGRATED SYSTEM.

MISSION CRITICAL STRATEGY 4

In the next three years, Metro will open several new sites for access to nature. Most are in parts of the region where Metro's on-the-ground presence has been focused primarily on natural areas restoration. In addition, with parks, trails, natural areas and cemeteries now housed in the same department, opportunities to serve the public and manage assets at the system scale will require new, comprehensive approaches.

Outcomes

- Metro has a professionally managed regional system, using best management practices where they exist and developing new ones to serve the unique system in the greater Portland metropolitan area.
- Metro's parks and natural areas reinforce strong community park systems, helping to build an integrated regional network.

Key actions

- Develop an operational plan that incorporates new parks, existing nature parks, and recreation areas, as well as natural areas, land management and restoration.
- Develop comprehensive capital improvement plan, repair and replacement plan, and asset management system for entire portfolio.
- Evaluate user fees to consider equity and ensure a consistent approach across Metro's system.

DIVERSIFY THE BUSINESSES AND PEOPLE WHO DO CONTRACTED WORK FOR METRO PARKS AND NATURE.

MISSION CRITICAL STRATEGY 5

Metro routinely solicits services from the professional community to support its Parks and Nature work, including restoration, land management, park development and other key program areas. Building capacity in new partners and contractors – including firms registered as Minority, Women and Emerging Small Businesses – generates jobs and economic benefits for traditionally underrepresented communities. Diversifying business relationships also helps develop environmental stewardship and build trust.

Outcomes

- Historically underrepresented partners and contractors feel connected to Metro's parks and natural areas and see the value for their members.
- The demographics of Metro's partners and contractors begin to change to better reflect the overall makeup of the region's population.
- Metro's Parks and Nature Department meets and exceeds agency goals for Minority, Women and Emerging Small Business participation in contracting.

Key actions

- Provide education sessions to inform contractors and partners about Metro's services and Metro's mission. Provide tools and information to support contractors and partners in developing proposals for Metro's contracts.
- Continue to enhance departmental contracting practices to prioritize Minority, Women and Emerging Small Business participation.

PARTNERSHIP CONNECTS STUDENTS WITH NATURE

While it may not seem like that big of a deal to go for a walk in the woods, many young people in the greater Portland area never have that opportunity. For them, nature can be an intimidating place, said Jackie Murphy, a career development manager at Self Enhancement, Inc.

As part of a collaboration with Metro, middle school students from SEI visited North Abbey Creek Natural Area near Forest Park to learn how bees help pollinate plants. But for many children, this was primed to be their first exposure to bees that didn't involve a stinger.

"They think bees will attack," Murphy said. "There are some misconceptions of what's out in the environment. It's just not something they see in their day-to-day neighborhood. They think, 'I don't like it because it's gross or nasty.'"

A lot of that, Murphy said, is simply because of lack of exposure. Residents without cars aren't likely to explore places like North Abbey or Multnomah Falls, she said.

SEI and Metro worked together in 2014 to develop nature lessons, projects and field excursions for hundreds of the young people served by SEI – one of several new Partners in Nature collaborations that Metro has developed to engage underserved communities. Based in North Portland, SEI supports at-risk urban youths through a charter school, summer and after-school programming, and family support services.

After completing the program with Metro, students said by a wide margin that they felt more comfortable in nature. About a third said they'd be interested in exploring careers tied to natural resources and the environment.

"In natural resource and environmental jobs, a low percentage of people of color are employed in those areas," Murphy said. "With this relationship with Metro, exposing kids early on, they're gaining interest, and we can connect their interest in an area they can explore and pursue into college and a career."

CHAPTER 7: STRATEGIES | PROTECT AND CONSERVE NATURE

STRATEGIES | PROTECT AND CONSERVE NATURE

Metro Parks and Nature protects and manages natural areas for their ecological value and the benefits they provide to the people and economy of the greater Portland region. Bond measures approved by voters in 1995 and 2006 have allowed Metro to purchase regionally significant wildlife habitat for public protection, while a 2013 levy has expanded the Parks and Nature team's ability to care for and restore the landscape. Continued land acquisition and restoration is central to preserving high-quality wildlife habitat and access to nature close to home. With regional projections showing continued population growth over the next 20 years and beyond, natural resource protection must keep pace.

NO.	STRATEGY
1	Protect significant landscapes through land acquisition and restoration.
2	Lead regional efforts to protect and manage significant landscapes beyond Metro's portfolio.
3	Incorporate climate resilience and adaptation into Metro's work.

PROTECT AND CONNECT SIGNIFICANT LANDSCAPES THROUGH LAND ACQUISITION AND RESTORATION.

Buying and restoring high-quality land is essential to protecting water quality, wildlife habitat and opportunities for people to enjoy nature – both at individual sites and at a regional scale. Ecological value will remain a high priority for future acquisition decisions as Metro balances other factors, particularly for properties where public access is important.

Outcomes

- Water quality and wildlife habitat are protected and improved throughout the region.
- Metro natural areas and parks support native plants, animals and habitats that improve ecological health and diversity.
- Metro sites serve as regional anchors for a connected network of protected land – an essential ingredient for promoting healthy, high-quality populations of native plants, animals and habitats that extend to surrounding property.

Key actions

- Continue implementation of the 2006 Natural Areas Bond and 2013 Parks and Natural Areas Levy work plans.
- As Metro completes the 2006 bond program, work with the Metro Council and partners to develop plans for continuing land acquisition. The long-term approach should be based on the Regional Conservation Strategy and include a focus on connecting natural areas.
- Restore high-priority habitat as defined by federal, state and regional conservation plans.
- Work with regional partners to define measures and benchmarks to evaluate Metro's portfolio.

LEAD REGIONAL EFFORTS TO PROTECT AND MANAGE SIGNIFICANT LANDSCAPES BEYOND METRO'S PORTFOLIO.

PROTECT AND CONSERVE NATURE STRATEGY 2

Metro serves the region by leading and participating in collaborative efforts to conserve and enhance our community's ecological health. Protecting water quality and wildlife habitat, along with farm and forestland, are key drivers of regional land use. Metro's role bridging land use and transportation planning and natural areas conservation means that Metro is uniquely positioned to convene across audiences and interests. This work ensures that strategies are addressing the most important places and habitats in the region and that regulatory and programmatic approaches work hand in hand in achieving the desired regional outcomes.

Outcomes

- Improvements will be measured in ecological health indicators such as water quality, wildlife and pollinator habitat, and increased resilience and adaptation to a changing climate.
- Effective, lasting partnerships will be developed around important topics such as invasive species control, water quality protection, wildlife habitat conservation, urban natural areas, urban access to nature, community engagement and secure funding streams for improving ecosystem health.
- Increases will be demonstrated in acres of land conserved, connectivity among protected landscapes, shade along waterways, community support for wildlife-friendly landscaping, and other metrics.
- Many diverse organizations in our community work together and feel their actions are valued as they implement the Regional Conservation Strategy, support planning and development of new nature parks and fill gaps in the regional trails system.

Key actions

- Convene regional discussions through The Intertwine Alliance about land conservation and the relationship between habitat protection and urban natural areas.
- Dedicate Metro staff time toward partnerships, regional collaboration and demonstration projects.
- Support habitat conservation, restoration and nature education in local communities through Nature in Neighborhoods grants or other programs.
- Provide direct staff support to help maintain partnerships; Metro staff also serves as organizers and key anchor members in working groups and watershed councils.
- Continue to monitor local government compliance with Title 13, including encouraging local governments to promote nature-friendly and low-impact development practices and other non-regulatory activities such as investing in habitat conservation and restoration activities.
- Continue to play an ongoing role as regional coordinator for data related to natural resources in the region such as rivers, streams, wetlands, floodplains, habitats of concern, tree canopy, and other natural resources.
- Support peer-reviewed, academic research that advances the conservation goals in the Regional Conservation Strategy.

INCORPORATE CLIMATE RESILIENCE AND ADAPTATION INTO METRO'S WORK.

PROTECT AND CONSERVE NATURE STRATEGY 3

Habitat loss, invasive species and climate change pose a major threat to the plants, animals and natural communities that support and enrich human life. By nurturing a resilient, adaptable ecosystem, Metro's Parks and Nature work can help prepare the greater Portland region for the future. Making a difference requires four important steps: Help robust populations of native plants and animals thrive within healthy habitats. Connect those healthy habitats, creating wildlife "corridors" that support native plants and animals during climate change. Integrate climate change into planning efforts. And lastly, learn from changes on the ground and adapt Metro's approach accordingly.

Outcomes

- Local populations of native plant and animal species are stable or increasing, and can adapt to changing conditions without human assistance.
- Climate change plays a role in strategic and conservation planning, informing strategies to promote resilience and adaptation.

Key actions

- Work with the conservation and academic community to develop a tool to assess habitat connectivity and identify priority areas for linking natural area anchor sites.
- Work with government, nonprofit and academic partners to develop conservation science that predicts the likely effects of climate change on our ecosystem and informs strategies to help our community prepare.
- Incorporate climate change concepts in land acquisition, restoration and management practices.
- Incorporate climate change resiliency into restoration plans for native habitats in Metro's portfolio.

MULTNOMAH CHANNEL MARSH PROJECT BOOSTS ACCESS TO CRUCIAL HABITAT FOR JUVENILE SALMON

As winter storms replenish the region's waterways, juvenile salmon will find one more place to grow and thrive. A years-long project is restoring native wetlands at Metro's Multnomah Channel Marsh, a narrow area of more than 300 acres wedged between Highway 30 and the channel, just across from Sauvie Island.

The project made it easier for juvenile Chinook and coho salmon, steelhead and cutthroat trout, and Pacific and brook lamprey to swim into the marsh. Improved connections are important because the marsh's slower waters provide crucial habitat with abundant food and fewer predators, boosting the health of young salmon before their journey to the ocean.

In October 2014, crews breached two 100-foot-wide sections of the earthen berm along the channel, creating openings that will allow salmon to enter the marsh when the water level rises.

Workers also removed three culverts under the property's sole road, replacing them with a 27-foot-wide bridge to allow fish and wildlife easier passage through the wetlands.

"A lot of the work we've done out here is to get water back to some semblance of what it used to be here," Curt Zonick, a senior natural resources scientist at Metro. "What we've done is to try to get water back onto the site, and then get it moving through the site."

A partnership between Metro and Ducks Unlimited, the project is made possible in part by the region's 2013 parks and natural areas levy. Multnomah Channel restoration also has benefitted from $240,000 in grants from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board and Ducks Unlimited.

On an autumn morning in 2014, bald eagles perched on trees across the channel as egrets, blue herons and other birds soared across the quiet landscape, occasionally landing in the wetlands to fish. Northern red-legged frogs, which previously crowded into two small beaver ponds, now lay their egg through more than 100 acres of the restored wetland.

CHAPTER 8: STRATEGIES | CREATE AND MAINTAIN GREAT PLACES

STRATEGIES | CREATE AND MAINTAIN GREAT PLACES

Metro creates opportunities to enjoy nature at parks, trails and other outdoor destinations, as well as volunteer and education programs. With nature at its heart, this portfolio is designed to complement the facilities and experiences offered by fellow park providers across the greater Portland region.

NO.	DESCRIPTION
1	Develop and operate welcoming places that include our region's diverse communities
2	Provide diverse, high-quality visitor experiences through a system of safe, secure and well-maintained parks, trails, natural areas and cemeteries.
3	Position the historic cemeteries program to meet the needs of the region in the future.

DEVELOP AND OPERATE WELCOMING PLACES THAT INCLUDE OUR REGION'S DIVERSE COMMUNITIES.

CREATE AND MAINTAIN GREAT PLACES STRATEGY 1

People come to Metro destinations to connect with nature, whether that means hiking, having a picnic, watching wildlife, bicycling, fishing or camping. In many cases, visitors get to enjoy these activities in some of the region's most pristine, ecologically intact places. Acquisition, planning, development and operations should support meaningful experiences for visitors from a variety of cultures, while also protecting natural resources. By understanding a site's landscape and cultural history, Metro can better plan for the future in a culturally sensitive manner. Involving a broad cross section of the public and community-based organizations in designing and developing outdoor destinations can generate creative solutions, build connections and forge strong partnerships for the future.

Outcomes

- Park designs reflect local communities' diversity, history and culture.
- Metro's Parks and natural areas provide exceptional opportunities to connect with nature.
- Metro's nature parks attract a broad and diverse group of visitors.
- Communities feel engaged and actively participate in designing Metro nature parks.

Key actions

- Plan, develop and operate great parks and natural areas that are welcoming and inclusive.
- Develop processes to assess the cultural significance of sites undergoing access planning and incorporate this information in the design of existing and future facilities.
- Develop and refine public engagement approaches to work cooperatively with community groups.
- Review opportunities for new recreation options that meet existing needs, emerging trends, and help to provide universal access.

PROVIDE DIVERSE, HIGH-QUALITY VISITOR EXPERIENCES THROUGH A SYSTEM OF SAFE, SECURE AND WELL-MAINTAINED PARKS, TRAILS, NATURAL AREAS AND CEMETERIES.

CREATE AND MAINTAIN GREAT PLACES STRATEGY 2

By providing unique and high-quality nature destinations, Metro can enrich visitors' experiences and deepen their connections with nature, recreation and culture. Planning for visitors includes identifying potential audiences, considering their preferences, motivations and expectations, and projecting and predicting trends. Developing visitor services and safety standards is vital to evaluating strengths and weaknesses in the field and adapting Metro's program for the future.

Outcomes

- Metro promotes safety and security of visitors, program participants and staff consistently across all sites.
- Metro sites attract people, effectively engage them during their visit and inspire them to deepen their relationship with Metro Parks and Nature.
- Metro sites and facilities are accessible to a broad spectrum of residents and visitors.
- Metro parks and natural areas have well-maintained infrastructure, nature education and interpretation, native plants and trees, and wildlife habitat.
- Metro sites are clean, safe and well-maintained.

Key actions

- Continue investments in improving visitor experiences at existing destinations, and expanding or opening destinations that have been slated for formal public access.
- Develop a consistent approach to evaluating the strengths and weaknesses of Metro's visitor services programs, providing the foundation to ensure a safe, secure and high-quality experience.
- Develop a complete asset inventory and maintenance program across parks, trails, natural areas and cemeteries to ensure a consistent approach at the regional scale.
- Develop and implement an interpretive plan as part of the master planning process for all new nature parks.

POSITION THE HISTORIC CEMETERIES PROGRAM TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THE REGION IN THE FUTURE.

CREATE AND MAINTAIN GREAT PLACES STRATEGY 3

Metro's historic cemeteries program manages 14 properties in Multnomah County, at the intersection of the past and present. Once simple, unplanned burial grounds, Metro's historic cemeteries have evolved into park-like spaces reflecting the character of the region. Today, much like in the mid-19th century, city dwellers find respite in the unlikely confines of cemeteries. The program faces both challenges and opportunities, from changing burial preferences to declining inventory and extensive deferred maintenance. Addressing these needs will ensure that Metro's historic cemeteries program is positioned to meet the region's needs in the future.

Outcomes

- Metro cemeteries are a valued part of their local communities.
- Communities develop a sense of ownership and stewardship of their local cemeteries.
- Metro cemetery programs are sustainable, in terms of both operations and long-term capital maintenance.

Key actions

- Review and update Cemetery Operations Assessment and Financial Planning Report.
- Ensure that long-term capital planning incorporates cemeteries.
- Develop a stewardship and engagement plan that promotes Metro cemeteries as community spaces.

VISITOR IMPROVEMENTS, HABITAT GO HAND-IN-HAND AT KILLIN WETLANDS

For years, devoted birders in the Portland metro region have headed to an area about two miles west of Banks in search of the prized American bitterns and soras.

But with no formal public access to Metro's Killin Wetlands Natural Area, birders often park on the side of Northwest Cedar Canyon Road and set up their scopes on the roadway.

Not for long. Metro is moving forward with a plan to improve safety by opening up public access to a portion of the 590-acre site, while also restoring habitat and allowing farming to continue on another portion of the property.

Community members and partners attended two open houses in the winter and spring of 2015. Many of the features they requested, such as trails and viewing stations, are included in the access plan.

Killin Wetlands improvements are designed to maintain a light touch on the landscape and habitat. The site includes significant wetlands and a very rare example of Willamette Valley scrub-shrub marsh habitat.

The Audubon Society has designated the site as an Important Bird Area. The site also supports an abundance of rare plants and animals, including Geyer willows and the state-sensitive Northern red-legged frog. Beavers, ducks and the occasional elk also call the place home.

"I'm very excited about the new access," said Stefan Schlick, a Hillsboro resident and a birder involved with the Audubon Society of Portland who helped shape the access project.

THE
WAVES
ALL
DAY
LONG

CHAPTER 9: STRATEGIES | CONNECT PEOPLE TO NATURE

STRATEGIES | CONNECT PEOPLE TO NATURE

Metro is committed to deepening people's relationship with nature, whether that means becoming a regular at a Metro nature park or learning about the importance of stewardship. Volunteer and education programming, communications efforts and partnerships all play essential roles. Metro prioritizes engagement with communities that traditionally have lacked opportunities to connect with nature.

NO.	STRATEGY
1	Provide diverse and meaningful volunteer and learning opportunities
2	Build public awareness and trust through a strategic communications program.
3	Increase the capacity of communities of color and other underserved communities to be conservation leaders.

PROVIDE DIVERSE AND MEANINGFUL VOLUNTEER AND LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES.

CONNECT PEOPLE TO NATURE STRATEGY 1

Metro Parks and Nature offers two major programming channels: volunteer opportunities and nature education. Volunteer programs are designed to build community relationships, foster stewardship at Metro sites and get work done on the ground. The program is designed to benefit both Metro and its volunteers – and supports the Parks and Nature mission. Metro's nature programming focuses on improving environmental literacy and building conservation leadership.

Outcomes

- Volunteers complement, integrate and enhance Metro programs.
- Volunteers meet needs in historically underserved communities within Metro service areas.
- Through Metro programs and regional partnerships, Metro helps improve environmental literacy among residents.
- Conservation education program participants have greater knowledge of the relationship between people and nature.
- Participation increases in Metro's volunteer and education activities

Key actions

- Integrate volunteer and education programs with project and program work across Metro's Parks and Nature portfolio.
- Leverage the Oregon Zoo's education center to integrate messages and engage audiences in conservation.
- Continue to align Metro's conservation education grant funding with regional and Metro strategies, including the Oregon Environmental Literacy Plan, Next Generation Science Standards, STEM school partnerships and Metro's Environmental Literacy Framework.
- Develop partnerships with community-based organizations to deliver culturally relevant and culturally responsive conservation education curriculum and programs.
- Offer a spectrum of volunteer and nature education programs to individuals and groups at key Metro destinations that engage a range of people, from first-time visitors to experts looking for a deeper nature immersion.

BUILD PUBLIC AWARENESS AND TRUST THROUGH A STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS PROGRAM.

CONNECT PEOPLE TO NATURE STRATEGY 2

Engaging people in Metro's Parks and Nature portfolio is critical to the region's long-term success caring for nature – and the public's opportunities to enjoy it. With strategic investments, Metro can raise awareness, bring more visitors to Metro destinations, meaningfully engage diverse audiences, create a cohesive identity and strengthen partnerships. The general public doesn't distinguish between natural areas and parks, or levy investments and bond investments. People connect with places and the values they represent, such as spending time with family, keeping our air and water clean, and creating a great place to call home.

Outcomes

- More people know and support Metro's Parks and Nature work.
- More people visit Metro Parks and Nature destinations.
- The audience engaged in Metro's Parks and Nature work reflects community demographics.

Key actions

- Implement an updated visual identity that unifies the look and feel of Metro Parks and Nature, better connecting it with Metro as a whole.
- Build the audience for compelling, transparent storytelling about Metro's Parks and Nature work through print and digital channels, including Our Big Backyard magazine and Metro News.
- Invest in place-based engagement, bringing together communities to plan, enjoy and celebrate voter-protected land near them.
- Develop a Parks and Nature engagement strategy that integrates communications, programming and visitor services activities.
- Ensure that every significant outreach and engagement project addresses the needs of underserved communities, including people of color, low-income residents and limited-English speakers.

INCREASE THE CAPACITY OF COMMUNITIES OF COLOR AND OTHER UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES TO BE CONSERVATION LEADERS.

CONNECT PEOPLE TO NATURE STRATEGY 3

The region will continue to urbanize and become more racially and ethnically diverse in the future. By 2043, no single ethnic group will constitute a majority of the U.S. population. People of color tend to face more barriers to outdoor recreation, meaning they participate at lower rates – and receive fewer of nature's social, emotional, physical, economic and community benefits. Nature's impact on everyday life underscores the importance of engaging communities of color in conversations about conservation, ecology, stewardship and recreation.

Outcomes

- Long-term relationships are developed to engage individuals, groups and organizations in exploring what work can be done together and documenting the challenges that lie ahead.
- Local groups have the capacity and support to directly manage programs that benefit their members and serve communities of color and other historically disadvantaged populations.

Key actions

- Create opportunities for partnerships with local communities and community-based organizations about conservation, ecology, and stewardship activities and programs.
- Identify programs and strategies that have been successful to engage and attract communities of color to Metro venues and share these learnings with other partners and park providers.
- Place a high priority on funding programs and strategies that build capacity within communities of color and other historically disadvantaged groups and among organizations that directly serve them.

MEET NANG DUNN, DISTANCE RUNNER AND COOPER MOUNTAIN FAN

Like many runners, Nang Dunn loves to connect with nature and stay in shape – an impressive feat with three kids. Unlike most runners, she also has a higher goal: supporting children and families in her native Laos.

This Beaverton resident lived in a re-education camp before moving to the United States with her family when she was 12. Now an accomplished ultra-marathoner, she stitched together her passion and her past by founding the VillageRun Foundation.

Hosting 5K races raises money to build and refurbish schools, provide school supplies and educate people about human trafficking. In 2013, Dunn and two other women ran a 125-mile relay across Laos to fuel this work and promote running as a sport.

Here in Oregon, forested trails and rural vistas at Cooper Mountain Nature Park provide a backdrop for training.

Q. When and why did you start running?
A. I've always been active in sports – usually team sports – but after the birth of my second child, it was so hard to get everything together to continue to play on a team. I decided to start running because I could put my kids in a stroller and head out the door to be active.

Q. Where did the idea come from, to run across Laos?
A. The idea was sparked in 2011 when my parents and I took our first trip back to Laos after leaving 27 years earlier. There were some memories from my childhood in the re-education camp, and planning the run and doing it helped me find some closure and to move forward. It was also a good goal for running. I wanted to push beyond the marathon and into the ultra-marathon.

Q. How is it to train at Cooper Mountain?
A. Training at Cooper Mountain is great! The trail loops allowed me to set up aid stations for myself so I could train for long distances. Cooper Mountain is close enough to home that I can run there from my house. I love being out there and just feeling the energy of nature without having to travel far. We are truly blessed to have something like this in our backyard.

Oregon
OUTH

CHAPTER 10: STRATEGIES | SUPPORT COMMUNITY ASPIRATIONS

STRATEGIES | SUPPORT COMMUNITY ASPIRATIONS

Metro's Parks and Nature team brings together a wide variety of stakeholders and community members to achieve local, regional and state goals. By serving as a resource and convener, Metro helps expand partners' collective knowledge and capacity to accomplish individual and shared objectives. Benefits go beyond nature; this work also supports local communities' economic and social vitality.

NO.	STRATEGY
1	Fund grant programs that support communities' connection to nature.
2	Develop a wide range of relationships and partnerships in communities that have limited access to nature.

FUND GRANT PROGRAMS THAT SUPPORT COMMUNITIES' CONNECTION TO NATURE.

SUPPORT COMMUNITY ASPIRATIONS STRATEGY 1

Access to nature close to home is a fundamental value of this region. Challenges such as transportation, time, income and capacity limit access to nature for many communities across the greater Portland area. Metro has long played a key role in providing resources to local communities to support parks, trails, natural areas and outdoor education opportunities close to home. Metro's Nature in Neighborhoods grants programs support communities in providing access to nature, with an emphasis on underserved communities such as people of color and people with low incomes.

Outcomes

- Community organizations, particularly communities of color and other underserved groups, submit competitive grant proposals.
- Awarded grants expand the regional network of parks, trails and natural areas.
- Local scale wildlife habitat improves in communities across the region.

Key actions

- Provide technical assistance and support to grant applicants, with an emphasis on reaching out to underserved communities and their representatives.
- Continue to provide a variety of grant programs that are responsive to community needs and support Metro in achieving the conservation and equity goals of the Parks and Nature Department.
- Support partnerships by facilitating habitat restoration and nature education on lands not owned by Metro through Nature in Neighborhoods grants or other funding mechanisms.
- Place a high priority on funding qualified grant applications submitted by organizations that directly serve communities of color and other disadvantaged groups.

DEVELOP A WIDE RANGE OF RELATIONSHIPS AND PARTNERSHIPS IN COMMUNITIES THAT HAVE LIMITED ACCESS TO NATURE.

SUPPORT COMMUNITY ASPIRATIONS STRATEGY 2

Community members in some parts of the region lack good access to nature, because there are few parks and natural areas nearby – and limited transportation options. Metro will work with community representatives to identify and develop ways to improve access, inform community members and encourage use of parks and natural areas.

Outcomes

- Residents and communities learn about and take advantage of enhanced opportunities to enjoy nature.
- Metro coordinates with partners in the greater Portland region to help implement or advocate for culturally specific strategies to improve access to nature.
- Metro regularly works with representatives of community groups to inform people about opportunities to enjoy nature and encourage participation.

Key actions

- Identify and reach out to specific community groups that historically have had limited access to parks and natural areas.
- Identify sources of access limitation, such as distance to parks or natural areas, lack of transit, bicycle or pedestrian connections, and lack of awareness of Metro nature destinations and programs.
- Work with Metro's Equity Strategy Advisory Committee and local community groups to identify culturally specific solutions to improving access and awareness.

METRO GRANT HELPS OAK GROVE RESIDENTS SHAPE SUSTAINABLE LIGHT RAIL STATION

Oak Grove resident Chips Janger is obsessed with bringing nature back to his community in unincorporated Clackamas County. While many people might have made an effort to plant some trees, Janger went big and took on the Park Avenue light rail station – a transit stop unlike any other, at the end of TriMet's new Orange Line.

With four ecosystems and seven planting zones, a net-zero energy consumption parking garage powered by 144 solar panels and a stormwater treatment system, the station is poised to be a model for integrating habitats in development. The project received a big boost from a $350,000 Metro Nature in Neighborhoods grant awarded in 2010.

"We had two great partners on this project: Metro and TriMet," Janger said. "Not only did we create the most interesting, habitat-friendly station – the greenest station perhaps in the U.S. – but we also get to use it as an example for the redevelopment of McLoughlin Boulevard."

Metro Councilor Carlotta Collette, whose district includes the station, remembers speaking

to Janger in 2008 after he expressed an interest in integrating nature into new development in Oak Grove.

"Chips and I started talking and he said, 'We want to build something that integrates habitat.' I was almost joking and said, 'There's about to be a concrete park-and-ride, so you have this incredible opportunity.'"

Knowing he had community connections, TriMet officials reached out to Janger to help involve local residents more in the project.

"We said yes, we could do that. However, we want something that integrates habitat," Janger said. "We wanted to take the most degraded area in Oak Grove and tear out the asphalt and tear out the cement and bring the forest back."

TriMet had concerns about the cost, he said, "so, we sat down with Metro and started talking about a Nature in Neighborhoods grant."

Nature in Neighborhoods grants support innovative projects that protect, restore and engage people in nature close to home. The grants are available thanks to voter support for Metro's 2006 natural areas bond measure and the 2013 parks and natural areas levy.

For the Oak Grove station, TriMet chipped in federal money to provide matching funds for the Nature in Neighborhoods grant. But it was working with Janger and his neighbors that transformed the project, said Jeb Doran, a landscape architect and the urban design lead for TriMet on the Park Avenue Station.

"Being involved in the grant gave them a tool to infuse their community values into all the phases of the project," Doran said.

Janger didn't just advocate for the Park Avenue station to reflect the natural landscape. He did the landscaping – with 200 of his neighbors. Officials at TriMet had never seen this type of community participation.

Collette said she feels fortunate to have Janger in her district. "Not only did he change one station itself, but in the process, he changed people's perspective of what Oak Grove is. There is a sense in Oak Grove that we can do big, important things."

CHAPTER 11: STRATEGIES | CONVENE, PLAN AND BUILD A REGIONAL TRAIL SYSTEM

STRATEGIES | REGIONAL TRAILS

Bringing together many partners, Metro plays a lead role in planning and building a connected system of regional trails that becomes more than the sum of its parts. The trail system has linked communities that make up the greater Portland region, but many gaps remain, forcing runners, walkers, cyclists and other visitors onto public streets. Trails play a critical role in the region's active transportation networks. Filling gaps – large and small – will connect more people with the trail system, meet transportation and recreation needs, and provide access to nature. A visionary trail system connects with people and places, and influences the development, restoration and use of surrounding land.

Metro's overarching goal is to build the regional trail network collaboratively, increasing overall access and connectivity across the greater Portland area. Metro also aspires to build on the strengths of its trail program to increase the region's capacity for forward-thinking, innovative and inclusive trail planning and design.

COMPLETE AND PROMOTE A WORLD-CLASS TRAIL SYSTEM THROUGH STRATEGIC PLANNING, LOCAL PARTNERSHIPS AND INVESTMENT.

REGIONAL TRAILS STRATEGY 1

As convener, planner, advocate and provider, Metro influences the types of trails that are designed and implemented throughout the region. Approximately 350 miles of trail have been built across the Metro region to date, toward an ambition of 1,000 miles imagined in the 2008 Bi-State Regional Trails System Plan. Completing construction of the remaining sections of the planned and proposed regional trail network is estimated to provide additional trail access to 250,000 people on foot and 339,000 on bicycle, bringing multiple social, health and economic benefits.

To build a system that responds to community needs and becomes a recognized world-class asset, it is important to assess trail offerings from visitors' perspectives – whether they're looking for exercise, transportation, nature or a beautiful view. Ensuring that trail users feel safe is a central outcome.

Outcomes

- The Metro trail system is a trail tourism destination and seamlessly connects the region's community to nature via a world class trail system.
- Metro and partners design and build a regional trail system that offers a unique diversity of experiences, from natural areas to waterways and horse riding to off-road cycling.
- The trail system is accessible to people of all abilities.
- Experiences offered by the trail system reflect desires and needs voiced by community members.
- Regional trails are safe and users feel secure traveling along them.

Key actions

- Implement trail designs that offer a wide range of trail experiences to connect people to nature, improve transportation options and make trails accessible to the entire community.
- Coordinate regional trail planning with Metro's Regional Transportation Plan and Active Transportation Plan.
- Develop new funding sources for local match on trail grants and continuing the trail easement acquisition program beyond the completion of the 2006 Bond.
- Work with partners to prioritize investments of federal, state and local funds towards completion of the regional trail system.
- Work with partners to reassess how well the regional trail system is serving community needs and respond to changing preferences.
- Develop criteria and approach for evaluating the trail user experience, for consistent use across the region.

DEVELOP TRAIL PROJECTS THAT IMPROVE ACCESS, SERVE UNDERREPRESENTED COMMUNITY NEEDS AND CATALYZE ADDITIONAL INVESTMENT IN THE REGIONAL TRAIL SYSTEM.

REGIONAL TRAILS STRATEGY 2

Metro is committed to improving trail access and resulting health and community outcomes across the region. The traditional approach to prioritizing trail planning, while effective at growing the network, is often based on "project readiness." This model has the potential to result in inequitable or unbalanced investments that serve some communities and not others. Many communities in our region may not have the resources to champion and advance trail work on the ground. As a result, vital trail segments key to unlocking the network may go unnoticed, and some communities miss out on the many social, economic and health benefits of living and working near trails. As a regional leader, it is Metro's responsibility to ensure that the regional network serves all communities.

Residents have consistently identified hiking and walking as two of the top recreational activities in the state. Diverse trail types and experiences provide opportunities for people to experience nature. Through Metro's role as a trail planner and convener, improving trails in underserved communities provides an opportunity for Metro to address historic nature deficits in areas lacking parks, trails or natural areas.

Outcomes

- Metro and partners provide technical resources to build regional trails that directly benefit underserved areas and communities.
- Metro grant-making resources support trail investments in underserved areas and communities.
- Trail planning processes directly involve, and reflect the input of, residents from traditionally underserved areas and communities.
- Trail projects provide access to nature, supporting Metro's broader efforts to improve community health.
- Underserved communities have increased opportunities to enjoy nature through a more connected trail network.

Key actions

- Identify the investments required to expand the regional trail network in underserved areas. Conduct a health impact assessment to evaluate the distribution of potential health outcomes associated with completion of the planned and proposed regional network.
- Provide technical assistance that targets underserved communities, including planning workshops and grant-writing support.
- Assist small cities with trail planning and development projects.
- Work with local governments, trail advocates and planners to identify owners and operators for regional system gaps that directly benefit underserved communities.
- Direct resources to acquire property and easements in underserved areas.
- Invite new trail partners to the table through strategic and intentional outreach.
- Work with partners and community members during planning and design to meet local access needs.

PURSUE LEGISLATIVE CHANGES TO FACILITATE TRAIL PROJECTS TO REMOVE FUNDING AND PERMITTING BARRIERS TO TRAIL DEVELOPMENT.

REGIONAL TRAILS STRATEGY 3

Metro, local governments and other partners have been very successful in completing trail projects. However, there are opportunities to reduce the time it takes to complete projects, lower their cost, and improve grant proposals. Metro can provide leadership by coordinating the efforts to streamline trail projects in the region.

Outcomes

- Public investment is leveraged to extend and improve trail projects.
- Regulatory system supports aspirational trail development.
- Trail construction costs are proportional with associated design and permitting costs.

Key actions

- Advocate to change the way trail development is regulated, alleviating the burden of stringent land use regulations and associated planning costs.
- Work with congressional delegations and federal agencies to reduce the burden of trail design, engineering and building regulations on project cost.
- Develop a funding source for providing local match for Metro when applying for state and federal grants.
- Advocate for local jurisdictions to require trail development or trail access as a condition of land use development approval when developing in or near a planned trail corridor.

NO.	STRATEGY
1	Complete and promote a world-class trail system through strategic planning, local partnerships and investment.
2	Develop trail projects that improve access, serve underrepresented community needs and catalyze additional investment in the regional trail system.
3	Pursue legislative changes to facilitate trail projects to remove funding and permitting barriers to trail development.

MEET GEORGENA MORAN, TRAIL LOVER AND ADVOCATE

If you're hiking or biking in the greater Portland area, you might spot Georgena Moran with a smile on her face and an iPad rigged to her wheelchair. This nifty contraption could empower a whole generation of people with disabilities to explore trails that – until now – felt out of reach.

Moran is the force behind Access Recreation, an interactive map showcasing regional trails for people of all abilities. A grant from Metro footed the bill for equipment, a webmaster, a photographer and videographer to bring her vision to life.

Like many hikes, Moran's project brings moments of discovery along the way – and deep satisfaction at the end. "The more people we touch," she says, "the better."

Q. Where did you get the idea to create trail maps for people with disabilities?
A. I was looking for a backcountry trail to hike as a power chair user. It was hard to find trail information for people of all abilities. As I looked into possibilities, I found that local agencies were unable to promote (Americans with Disabilities Act) access, citing legal problems, mostly liability. I brought federal, state and local park agencies together to answer: How do we provide information? An opportunity to experience a new trail never before accessible to a person with a disability is amazing.

Q. Why are these maps important?
A. A major obstacle is there are so many different people with different types of disabilities. A trail is usable in a different manner from person to person. By 2012, we had developed guidelines that trail agencies could use. Imagine all the trails out there – 2 percent are ADA accessible. Sometimes it's because of a minor obstacle. If you can see what the obstacle might be, you can plan for it.

Fourteen agencies picked their prime trails, and I'm going to share them with the world. We are creating something that's so innovative. We're hoping the nation and the world will recognize how to be more inclusive and to use some of these techniques, because they are so simple and cost very little with no liability. By the end of mapping the 24th trail in June 2016, this product is going to be exceptional.

Q. What impact did the grant have on your project?
A. It helped us buy the crucial equipment, an iPad, and helped me create a new invention for my wheelchair. It attaches to the seat of the chair, extending over my lap, so I can drive with my right hand and take pictures with my left. It makes for a steady shot, which is difficult. It's all about fun and love for the project, thus the sheer amount of hours we are putting into it. The more people, we touch the better.

CHAPTER 12: CONCLUSION AND NEXT STEPS

CONCLUSION AND NEXT STEPS

Metro's system of parks, trails, natural areas and cemeteries is the manifestation of a quarter century of commitment, action and investment by the region's residents, elected officials and communities. It is a remarkable achievement, particularly given the progress that has been made in a relatively short period of time. However, recognizing this achievement does not signify that the work is done. The system plan sets the course for the next 25 years of Metro's Parks and Nature program.

The system plan is a natural evolution and a critical step in Metro's 25-year journey as a parks provider. It is a major milestone, and it also represents the beginning of a new phase. The system plan does not address every issue or opportunity that Metro faces in its Parks and Nature programs, but it does provide a framework for continuing to invest in and enhance Metro's system through a set of specific strategies and actions.

Strategies and actions identified here set out an ambitious work program that will come to life over the next five years. By the end of 2016, Metro's Parks and Nature Department will develop a detailed implementation plan, including roles, responsibilities, actions - and tools to evaluate this work. Focusing on conservation science, securing long-term funding, developing and operating welcoming and inclusive parks and incorporating equity across the Parks and Nature portfolio are key to the long-term success of the program. Just as a diverse group of partners helped Metro get to this point, the body of work laid out in the system plan will require the continued partnership of local governments, residents and community organizations.

The system plan focuses on Metro's portfolio of parks, trails, natural areas and cemeteries, while reaffirming Metro's role as a key player and convener in the larger regional system collectively owned and managed by all of the jurisdictions across the greater Portland area. This planning process reaffirms Metro's historic role in planning for parks and natural areas across the region, while emphasizing Metro's increasing role as a distinct operator and setting the stage for continued conversations and progress in a growing and changing region.