

# Metro Parks and Nature Field Guide

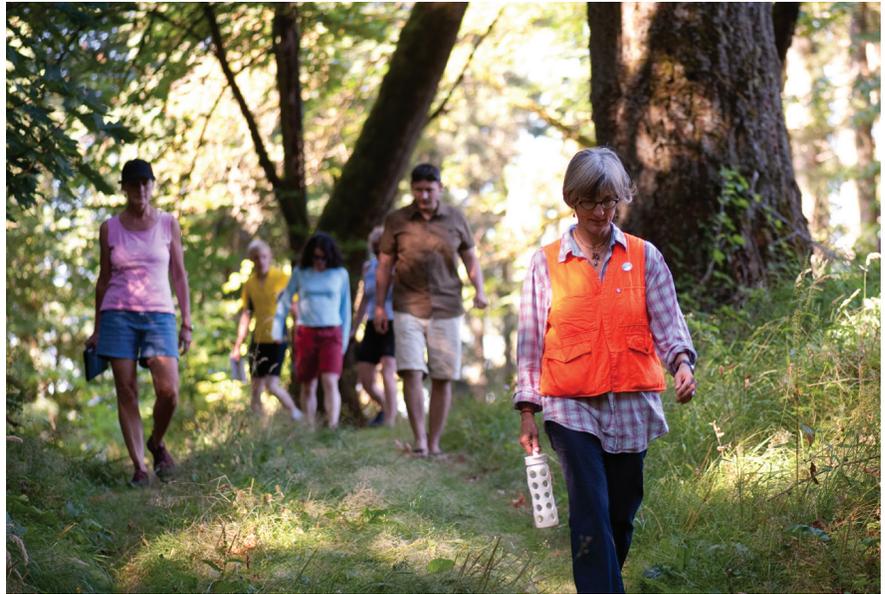
## SCOUTERS MOUNTAIN NATURE PARK

STORY BY *Alice Froehlich*

PHOTOGRAPH BY *Kim Nguyen*

Fir trees sway overhead and songbirds chirp as you travel up the narrow road to Scouters Mountain, creating a pervasive feeling of deep, sheltering woods. Near the top of the road, a plateau offers stunning views of Mt. Hood on clear days. After you visit, you'll see why thousands of Boy Scouts made this journey over the years to camp and explore here; Scouters feels like a very special place. If you look closely at the picnic shelter at the top of the park, you will spot salvaged beams from the legendary Chief Obie Lodge — the site of many weddings, community events and summer camps before it closed in 2004.

Rising more than 700 feet above the growing communities of Happy Valley and Pleasant Valley, Scouters Mountain gives you an opportunity to explore an extinct lava dome. Like other buttes in the area, this forested

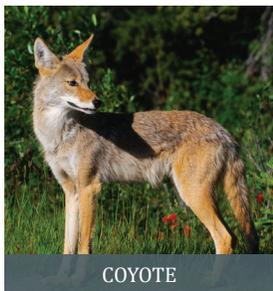


cinder cone is part of the Boring Lava Field that formed millions of years ago. Metro acquired this site in 2011 and, spent three years restoring its 100 acres of mature Douglas fir, big leaf maple and Oregon white oak forest to make way for the region's newest nature park. About half of the forest includes trees more than a century old, with some that have grown here for more than 220 years. Metro has removed invasive weeds from the mountain's northern slopes

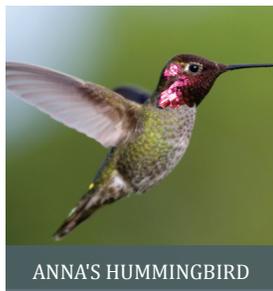
and planted some 30,000 native trees and shrubs. The forest will continue to be monitored for years to come.

Restoration efforts have helped create an amazing new nature park to explore, as well as habitat for sensitive species such as migratory birds. Listen for their calls as you hike the park's twisting trails, taking you past huge Douglas firs. After your walk, enjoy a snack and take in views of the valley and surrounding mountains.

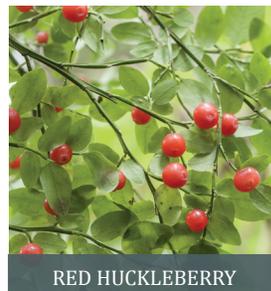
## BE ON THE LOOKOUT!



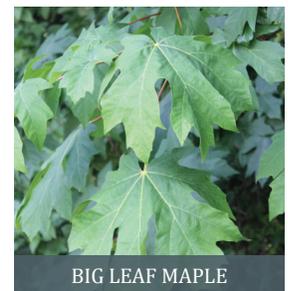
COYOTE



ANNA'S HUMMINGBIRD



RED HUCKLEBERRY



BIG LEAF MAPLE

# SCOUTERS MOUNTAIN NATURE PARK

SE BOYSCOUT LODGE ROAD AND SE 145TH AVENUE, HAPPY VALLEY  
[oregonmetro.gov/scouters](http://oregonmetro.gov/scouters)

## DRIVING

Scouters Mountain is perched at the top of Boy Scouts Lodge Road in Happy Valley, just off SE 145th Avenue.

## KNOW WHEN YOU GO

Open sunrise to sunset. *No dogs or alcohol, please.*

## AMENITIES

Majestic views of Mt. Hood. Hiking trails, parking, restrooms and a reservable picnic shelter.

## RESERVATIONS

Call 503-665-4995 option 0 or email [MetroPicnicReservations@oregonmetro.gov](mailto:MetroPicnicReservations@oregonmetro.gov)

## METRO PARKS AND NATURE

Whether you're in the mood for a short hike or a weekend camping trip, a boat ride or a picnic, Metro has a destination for you. You'll share the landscape with salmon swimming in restored streams, birds streaking across the sky and giant, old oak trees towering overhead. Thanks to voters, you can explore 17,000 acres of parks, trails and natural areas across the Portland metropolitan region.

If you picnic at Blue Lake or take your kids to the Oregon Zoo, enjoy symphonies at the Schnitz or auto shows at the convention center, put out your trash or drive your car – we've already crossed paths. *So, hello. We're Metro – nice to meet you.*

## Metro Council President

Tom Hughes

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Sam Chase, District 5  
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## Auditor

Brian Evans



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## SEASON BY SEASON

**SPRING:** Spring invites fresh, vibrant green growth in the understory plants; look for blooming trilliums and wood violet flowers. With the warmer weather and longer days, the songbirds return from their winter locations; keep an eye out for warblers and other songbirds eating bugs and foraging in the new tree foliage.

**SUMMER:** When the Portland area dries out and heats up, the shade of the forest can be a perfect break. With the clear summer days, you can see all the way to the Columbia River and into Washington — truly a breathtaking sight. While you are taking it all in, keep an eye out for nesting birds raising their young.

**FALL:** The fall rains bring mushrooms, a very important part of a healthy forest. See how many types you can find growing on the forest floor and out of the trunks of trees. As the leaves fall, look for bird nests left over from the summer and check out the snags for evidence of woodpeckers.

**WINTER:** In the winter, the fog and mist hang in the tall trees and create a cozy forest feel. Listen for the energetic trill of the Pacific wren, which spends most of its time on the forest floor among the sword ferns. If you're lucky, you can catch a glimpse of this little brown bird hopping about. While your eyes are on the forest floor, don't forget to look for banana slugs and deer tracks.