

OUR BIG BACKYARD

*Explore great places and more
with Metro*

OPERATION OAK

Mapping Oregon's iconic trees helps save them for the future, while connecting us with our past – and one another.

Special oak poster inside

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HONORING BREWING PIONEERS

Brewers unite to restore the Bottler tomb

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THREE QUESTIONS

Get to know Myriam Zagarola and why she loves volunteering

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Save money, save time with these tips for families

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Rethinking bus service on Powell and Division

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If you picnic at Blue Lake or take your kids to the Oregon Zoo, enjoy symphonies at the Schnitz or auto shows at the convention center, put out your trash or drive your car – we’ve already crossed paths.

So, hello. We’re Metro – nice to meet you.

In a metropolitan area as big as Portland, we can do a lot of things better together. Join us to help the region prepare for a happy, healthy future.

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It used to be that nature wasn’t a place we went to. It was already all around us. At some point we forgot how much nature matters – but nature never forgot about us. And that’s pretty inspiring. So let’s get out there. Let’s get back into balance with the nature around us and within us. Together, let’s rediscover our big backyard.

A new era at oregonmetro.gov

Log onto Metro’s new website for attractive, useful, easy-to-find information, from timelines and online open houses to interactive maps and videos. Oregonmetro.gov is built for you to connect with the greater Portland region anytime, anywhere, from any kind of device.

Nature News



BEACHY CLEAN BROUGHTON DRAWS VISITORS

STORY BY Arashi Young / PHOTOGRAPHY BY Fred Joe and Metro staff

Hot summer days bring swarms of urban beach-goers to Broughton Beach, a sandy shore by the Columbia River. Children dig rapidly filling lagoons in the sand while young couples playfully dunk each other in the river.

Broughton is here because of a Metro effort to clean up the beach and redesign the adjacent parking lot, changing the beach from a notorious party destination into a family-friendly venue.

Formerly known as Dittlers Beach, this was "a place to bust open some cold ones along the river," according to Metro park ranger Jim Caudell. With heavy usage, the beach was often filled with trash – cleanup proved to be a Sisyphean task. Caudell said he would spend half the day filling 5-yard dump trucks to clean the beach, only to have to do it again the next day.

Last year, two major changes turned Dittlers Beach into Broughton: the renovation of the parking lot at the M. James Gleason Memorial Boat Ramp and the discovery of the BeachTech 2800 beach cleaning machine.

A new parking lot at the boat ramp next door costs \$5 to use and closes at dusk, limiting access to the beach. An older, free lot nearby was closed.

Caudell discovered the BeachTech 2800 when he traveled to Venice Beach in Los Angeles. The BeachTech cleans the sand by sifting it and retaining the larger fragments of trash. By the end of the first week of using the machine, more than 115 tons of glass, rocks and nails were pulled out of the beach.

The transformation was visible to people who visited Broughton this summer. Timothy Young, a painter, had all but given up on the beach when it was a party spot. "There used to be a lot of crime there. I just decided that this wasn't a place to be," Young said.

Young decided, almost on a whim, to find the beach again after 30 years away. When he rediscovered Broughton, he was pleasantly surprised.

"It was amazing. I was thrilled to death to see this beautiful location," he said, adding that he plans to bring more painters to Broughton.

Dawn Wilcher, a great-grandmother, watched her niece's dog while her family swam in the water. She remembered Dittlers when it was a party location and said that Broughton has grown up.

"It used to be the days of party," Wilcher said. "It's a different kind of party now."

To learn more about visiting Broughton Beach, visit oregonmetro.gov/broughton

It used to be the days of party. It's a different kind of party now.

–Dawn Wilcher

Something's Different Here

COLD BEER IN CEMETERIES?

STORY BY Arashi Young / PHOTOGRAPHY BY Julie Cash

A crowd of beer enthusiasts cruised from table to table tasting German-style brews while an accordion played polka in the background. Handlebar mustaches adorned balloons, napkins and temporary tattoos.

It was a scene that could have played out in any bar, park or Oktoberfest, but this unique beer tasting took place in the middle of Lone Fir Cemetery to celebrate the lives of pioneering brewer brothers George Frederic Bottler and George Michael Bottler.

The brothers operated City Brewery, Portland's second, and were friends with early brewers Henry Weinhard and Henry Saxer. When George Frederic Bottler died in 1865, he was buried in Lone Fir.

Intending to be buried by his side, George Michael bought the plot next to George Frederic and placed the tomb over both graves. But George Michael Bottler died while travelling abroad and was buried in Germany, leaving the tomb and the brothers' legacy to be forgotten. Over the years, the tomb has deteriorated – but only recently generated attention.

How often do you get to drink beer in the cemetery and not feel naughty about it?

–Rachel Fox

The free beer tasting was organized by two groups collaborating to raise awareness and secure \$80,000 to repair the tomb: the nonprofit Friends of Lone Fir Cemetery and the Oregon Brew Crew. As the owner and manager of Lone Fir, Metro works closely with the cemetery's supporters.

The home brewers were competing for votes to have their recipe named Boettler Bier. The winning beer will be brewed on a large scale at Hopworks Urban Brewery and served at a fundraiser Nov. 15.

Rachel Fox, a former Metro cemeteries manager and now secretary of Friends of Lone Fir, introduced the history of the tomb and the unique event. "How often do you get to drink beer in the cemetery and not feel naughty about it?" she asked the crowd.

Seven home brewers brought a total of 10 beers to be tasted, including hefeweizens, lagers, a pilsner, a maibock and helles-style beers. The beers ranged from light golden, citrus-infused brew, to deep brown amber beers that evoked flavors of bread and hazelnuts. To make her Heritage Hefe, brewer Tracey Hensley researched the ingredients the Bottler brothers would have used in the 1860's and their methods of brewing.

While most of the day was focused on the beer, the tilting tomb was never far from conversation. A caved-in corner revealed a disintegrating ceiling and blocks of brick were missing altogether.

Peri Muhich, volunteer historian and chairman of the Bottler restoration committee for the Friends group, said the event raised awareness of the tomb. People asked how they can help.

"We got a lot of people to come out who didn't know anything about it," Muhich said. "They came here for the beer, and they are learning the history."

To find out more, visit friendsoflonefircemetery.org

Infinity Loop

STORY BY Mark Davison / PHOTOGRAPHY BY Fred Joe and Nick Christensen



FROM MOUNT HOOD TO THE COAST, A SIGNATURE TRAIL EXPERIENCE

Imagine heading west from downtown Portland, by foot or bike along the Columbia River, all the way to the Oregon Coast. Then, from Tillamook, return to town by following the wild Salmonberry River.

And that’s just halfway! Now, head east through the Columbia Gorge, turning right at Hood River, up to Mount Hood and back through Estacada – still by trail – all the way to Portland.

This ambitious vision, a seamless system of big loop trails heading out from the metro region in a figure eight, is what we’re calling the Infinity Loop. The trails that comprise this vision cut through some of the most stunning scenery the Pacific Northwest has to offer and could, we hope, be an economic driver capable of drawing tourists from all over the world.

The Infinity Loop isn’t new, when broken down into its trail components. Many people have invested much time developing the Salmonberry Trail, Historic Columbia River Highway State Trail, the Cazadero Trail, the Banks-Vernonia State Trail and the Coast Trail, to name a few. The people planning, building and managing these trails deserve all the credit for creating these amazing regional tourist attractions.

What is new about the Infinity Loop, however, is the idea of combining them into the aforementioned figure eight – thus connecting many of Northwest Oregon’s iconic attractions and creating a potentially international tourist magnet.

The idea for the Infinity Loop emerged a few years ago at a meeting with Portland State University’s Ethan Seltzer. To promote the idea, Ethan talked about holding a conference in Portland in which attendees would look at a wall of screens, each projecting a live image of the loop from a hiker holding a video phone. As conference-goers looked from screen to screen,

they’d see someone on top a snow-capped Mt. Hood, another at Crown Point in the Gorge, someone sitting on a pier watching the sea lions at Astoria, another up to their knees in lapping ocean waves, and somebody deep in the steep-sided canyon of the Salmonberry River.

Hiking or biking the Infinity Loop in one hardcore trip would be one way to experience all of these sights. Tourists might also enjoy a reward system, like a series of passport stamps or an extended vacation, with stopping points in local downtowns offering a bed, great local food and, best of all, handcrafted beers that might make you want to do this loop forever.

Sound farfetched? Not to Metro, which is starting to plan the future Infinity Loop in partnership with local jurisdictions, trail advocates, land trusts, businesses, the health industry, chambers of commerce, tourism agencies, trail users and the general public. The planning process will take a few years, and building new trails like the Salmonberry Trail, or completing a trail like the Historic Columbia River Highway State Trail as well as connecting existing trails, will take many years. It’s a plan that will be developed from the “bottom up,” with working teams of trail partners, planners and citizen advocates assembled into six or seven sub-regions, using existing trail plans already approved by governments and the general public.

Once complete, the Infinity Loop will offer iconic elements that compete with the world’s great trails. But beyond our natural wonders, Northwest Oregon is also one of the few rare places that has the advocates and enthusiasm to pull off a project of this scope. It has the potential to be amazing.



Mark Davison leads Metro’s parks and natural areas planning division.

Three questions with Myriam Zagarola, volunteer



STORY & PHOTOGRAPHY BY Julie Cash

Walking down a slippery path one rainy morning, it’s crystal clear that nature is important to Metro volunteer Myriam Zagarola. “*En comunión con la naturaleza*,” she says. “In English, it means you are connected through God’s hand with nature. Communion in the Catholic Church means your soul is connected with God.”

Q: How did you first grow your connection with nature?

A: Growing up in Puerto Rico I lived on a farm. It is the reason I am very connected to nature. My grandfather had a coffee plantation. We didn’t have electricity or running water. My mother took care of our basic needs and also raised chickens and pigs for revenue. We didn’t have much but we did have what we needed. I grew up in the woods. Beginning at 5 a.m. every morning, we went into the woods to work. It was then I saw there were so many things you could do.

Q: How did you hear about Metro’s Nature University?

A: I have volunteered since my son was young. When we lived in Georgia I volunteered a lot with the local extension service as a master gardener. I also did a lot of interpretations and translations for the PTA. My son and I wanted to meet people and do the things we liked to do. Oregon is so green, clean and has so many opportunities. It made me want to know more. One day I saw an advertisement for Metro’s Nature University. It sounded very interesting, especially to me, an educational program that helps kids for me it is very important. I knew it would be a good way to learn about the local plants and places. Coming from Georgia, the rain was very unusual for me. I learned that it doesn’t matter if it’s raining. You go out and in less than a half hour you are acclimated. You don’t even notice the rain.

... it was very satisfying that I could pass this knowledge to the children and make a difference.

–Myriam Zagarola

Q: What did you learn or experience?

A: When I started volunteering it was very satisfying that I could pass this knowledge to the children and make a difference. Children of elementary age, they are like a sponge. It’s a good time in their lives to teach nature. Volunteering for Metro was a great opportunity for me. These kids, after all, are going to be the future. They will pass down this knowledge. These kids will be parents and grandparents and pass on this knowledge generation to generation. For me that was the most rewarding thing to do that I had a little bit of influence on the future.

Conserving Nature, One Acre at a Time.

STORY BY *Kate Holleran* / PHOTOGRAPHY BY *Julie Cash*



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



RESTORING JOHNSON CREEK IN THREE NOT-SO-SIMPLE STEPS

Look at those rootwads! My eyes had just caught a glimpse of a large deck of logs with the rootwads still attached. I immediately started thinking about how to acquire those logs. Large pieces of down wood with root wads are one of the essential habitat features in our streams – think of them as part of the furniture of great salmon habitat.

A healthy stream system has riparian areas with trees of many sizes, including some big old ones that will fall into and get caught up along the streambank, creating shelter for insects, salmon and other native fish and wildlife. Most of the urbanizing streams in the metro area have lost those large trees to farming, development and other land use changes.

Books have been written about how to restore our streams, and distilling the best science comes down to thinking about stream restoration as a three-legged stool. The first and most important leg is to protect and connect the existing good habitat. The next leg is to restore natural processes that shape habitat, and the third leg is to create habitat features in streams and their floodplains.

Johnson Creek, in east Multnomah County, is one of the streams where Metro and our partners are focusing our stream restoration efforts. Research has shown that the watershed's health suffers from isolated floodplains, lack of plantings along the banks and low levels of large wood. Since 1995, Metro has acquired more than three miles along Johnson Creek and its tributaries, creating new natural areas and helping to connect habitat with other protected lands – remember leg number one: protect and connect.

We've planted tens of thousands of trees and shrubs as part of our effort to restore the habitat-forming processes along the stream. The young trees will be large old trees that eventually fall into the stream and become fish habitat. There is leg two: restore ecological processes.

And this summer, I was part of a team creating large wood jams along about a mile of stream in the upper Johnson Creek watershed – leg three: create habitat. Research about Johnson Creek has suggested that thousands of large pieces of wood existed in the riparian forest and in the stream prior to development. Our project is just a small start to adding that important furniture back into the system.

Creating fish habitat along a stream bank is messy. It starts with an engineered design, and then moves into the art phase as work begins to fit the engineered plan into the natural world. To create large wood jams, you need a lot of big logs with their roots attached, and large equipment like excavators and dump trucks to move them around. The gritty work includes dragging logs to the stream and excavating holes along the stream bank to bury wood and boulders – which will slow and push flood waters back up onto the flood plain as well as help create the shaded alcoves for salmon to shelter in.

These types of stream restoration projects have to be done in a narrow period of time, and in the driest part of the year to reduce negative impacts to water quality, fish and wildlife. Typically, the words *delicate* and *excavator* aren't paired. However, in stream restoration there is no other way to describe the contractor's work of gently placing wood and rock along a stream bank to create a natural looking and fully functional log jam. Ecologist + engineer + fish biologist + excavator operator + humility = improved fish habitat.

Protecting and connecting habitats and restoring natural functions within a watershed give us the best long-term return for watershed health. Those actions take time, and as we work on those opportunities, the log jams help provide an immediate pulse of good spaces for our native wildlife.



Nature University

Every year thousands of children and adults visit Metro's parks and natural areas for outdoor education programs led by our volunteer naturalists.

If you enjoy working with children, love nature, and have time to commit to support Metro's programming, become a volunteer naturalist by attending Nature University. No special experience is required. At Nature University, you receive the training needed to become a qualified and confident Metro volunteer naturalist.

Training focuses on principles of place-based education, naturalist interpretation skills and time-honored techniques of nature observation. Nature University students learn about effective outdoor education teaching techniques and the natural history of our region.

Nature University is a nine-month commitment that includes once-a-week training sessions from late winter through early spring, as well as one summer and one fall training session. Students are expected to attend every training session. Graduates assist with programming April through early November and are required to provide a minimum of 40 hours leading outdoor education programs within the first year. Training and programming take place during regular business hours. There is some homework between class meetings.

ENROLLING IN THE CLASS OF 2015

More information and application materials are available at oregonmetro.gov/natureuniversity

You may also send email to Sandra.jamison@oregonmetro.gov or call 503.972.8543. Completed applications must be received by Nov. 7, 2014.



What do you like to do outdoors, and how can nature support your family and community?

Hundreds of people weighed in this summer as Metro's nature values booth traveled the region. But there's still time to help shape the future of regional parks, natural areas and nature programs. Visit oregonmetro.gov/nature

Field Guide

OXBOW REGIONAL PARK

STORY BY *Dan Daly*

PHOTOGRAPHY BY *C. Bruce Forster and Fred Joe*

A river flows, glassy green and silent along a cliff carved by a winter flood, then slows and chatters along gravel and sand bars bright with flecks of mica. Here, in 1,000 acres of river, forest and ridge, you're sheltered from the rush of life in one of Oregon's extraordinary places, Oxbow Regional Park on the wild and scenic Sandy River.

Oxbow's human history dates back millennia, to the native people who fished and gathered here since time immemorial. Place names in the park today hearken back to early settlers, whose homesteads, bootlegging and failed attempts at building a sawmill gave way to a Multnomah County park in 1963. In 1994, recognizing the regional draw of the park, the county transferred it to Metro.

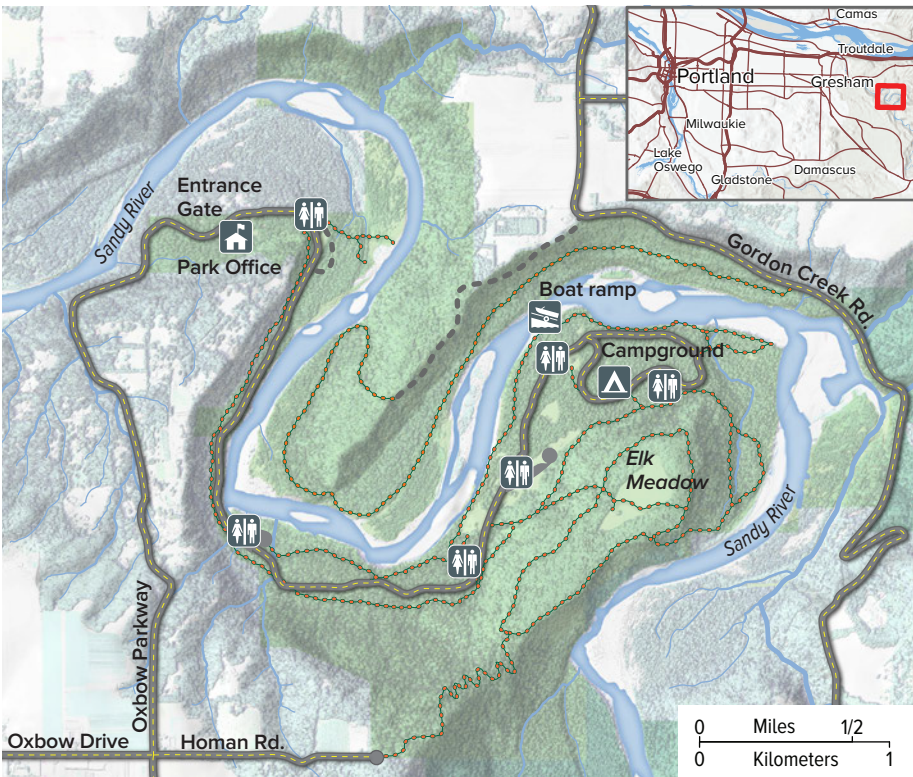
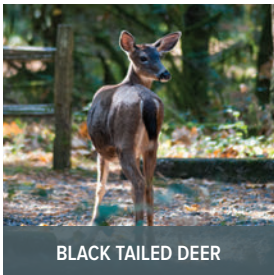
Change comes to Oxbow on nature's timetable. Follow the water upstream to the glaciers and snowfields of Mount Hood, where eruptions sent massive flows of sand and gravel into the valleys below, burying the forest beneath 60 feet of sand more than two centuries ago. Today people barbeque, camp and ride horses on top of this buried forest, evidenced only by the ancient dead tree trunks that line the river banks.

An ancient forest towers above the river, but even it changes. In 2009 a microburst threw massive living trees to the ground like match sticks, bringing sunshine to parts of the forest floor that hadn't seen the light for centuries. Change also comes by human hands. Funding from Metro's parks and natural areas levy, approved by the voters in 2013, has allowed for critical side channel habitat to be restored, giving threatened salmon and steelhead fingerlings a place to hide and feed on their way to the ocean.

Wildlife thrives in the park, and people come from around the region to find and follow their footprints in the sand. Oxbow and protected lands around it offer an ideal home for large animals like elk, black bear and cougar. From mountain biking to riding the rapids, Oxbow has something for everyone, all year long.

To find out what's happening now, visit oregonmetro.gov/oxbow

BE ON THE LOOKOUT!



OXBOW REGIONAL PARK

3010 SE OXBOW PKWY, GRESHAM

DRIVING

From Portland or Gresham, head east on Division Street until it branches at Oxbow Drive, near 302nd Avenue. Veer right onto Oxbow Drive, turning left on Oxbow Parkway. Head down the canyon, into the park.

KNOW WHEN YOU GO

Oxbow is open sunrise to sunset. *No dogs allowed.*

AMENITIES

Bathrooms, picnic areas and shelters, boat launch, camping (tent, pull-through, ADA accessible), playgrounds, pedestrian/equestrian and bike trails, nature programs, summer campfire shows.

IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Coming from Portland, historic Troutdale offers small town charm with art galleries, restaurants, a farmers market and seasonal fairs. On the way to Oxbow, u-pick blueberry and Christmas tree farms are woven into the countryside. McMenamins Edgefield is a great stop for lunch or to make a night of it. With lodging, a movie theater, winery, brewery, concert venue and spa, Edgefield can turn a walk in the park into a mini vacation.

SEASON BY SEASON

SPRING: The ancient forest comes alive. Osprey return to repair their nests, and do battle with the bald eagles that work to steal their every catch. Ferns of all shapes and sizes unfurl their glowing green fronds. Rufus hummingbirds flit from bloom to bloom, and hikers join the Swainson's thrush in a springtime banquet of salmon and huckleberries. Seek the wildflowers of the forest floor, like wild ginger, Menzies' larkspur, star-flower and fairy slipper orchid.

SUMMER: Reserve a campsite and catch a campfire show in the evening. Come out for a day of hiking and river play. To escape the weekend crowds, simply hit the trail and leave the masses at river's edge. Float in an inner tube or launch a boat. Reserve a group picnic shelter for a work meeting, family reunion or wedding. Ride on horseback down alder ridge by parking at the equestrian trailhead. Listen for the metronome-like toots of the pygmy owl, which are active in the daytime. Deer abound.

FALL: As fresh rains recharge the rivers flow, Chinook salmon return to their natal river to begin their ancient spawning ritual. Attend the Salmon Homecoming event where naturalists lead participants to the fish. You won't be alone. Salmon draw in bald eagles, black bears and mink that leave clear tracks in the wet sand as they search for the carcasses of fish that have spawned. Fishermen do well with the Coho headed upstream and mushrooms are popping out of the ground.

WINTER: When winter rains swell the Sandy, the river is at full strength. Climb from the river bottom to the park's highest point (Equestrian Trailhead), and you will traverse over 13 million years of Oregon's finest geological strata, best seen when the summer foliage is down. Winter steelhead brave the currents, and lucky fishermen are rewarded with more than cold fingers and stellar scenery. Roosevelt elk are sometimes seen at dusk on the floodplain across from Trail Marker B.



THE INTERTWINE

Is Our Common Ground

A vision. A mission. A geographic location. The Intertwine is what we call our parks, trails, and natural areas. It's a redefinition of where we live based on the belief that a life more intertwined with nature makes us happier, healthier, and wealthier. The Intertwine is one great idea that can bring us all together.



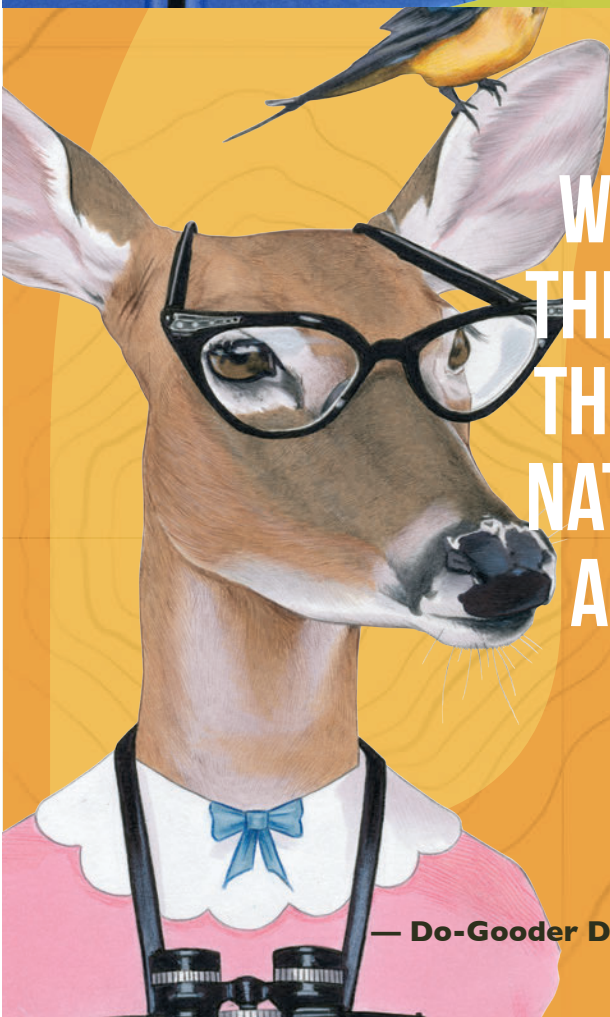
IT'S WHERE
NATURAL
AREAS,
BIOSWALES,
AND ECO ROOFS
CLEAN OUR
WATER, SOIL,
AND AIR.

— Engineering Beaver, Multnomah County



IT'S
HOW WE
SPUR JOB
CREATION,
BUILD EQUITY,
AND LEAVE
A LASTING
LEGACY.

— Economic Salmon, Clackamas County



IT'S WHERE
WE CONSERVE
THE LAND THAT
THOUSANDS OF
NATIVE PLANTS
AND ANIMALS
CALL HOME.

— Do-Gooder Doe, Washington County



IT'S WHERE
WE RUN AND
SWIM, BIKE
AND HIKE,
PADDLE AND
PLAY HOWEVER
WE LIKE.

— Recreation Duck, Clark County

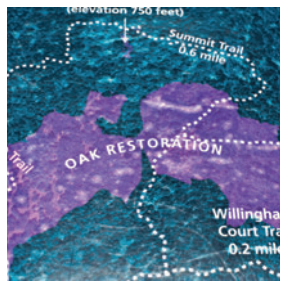


LEARN MORE AT THEINTERTWINE.ORG



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Operation Oak



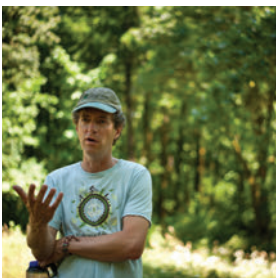
Sequoia Breck (left) spent much of her summer mapping the region's oak trees, along with fellow crew leader Savahna Jackson (right, with backpack) and project partner Ted Labbe. Their work was an important step for the Intertwine Alliance Oak Mapping Work Group – a 23-member partnership of agencies, park districts, nonprofits and others sharing resources to better manage and conserve the north Willamette Valley's threatened Oregon white oak ecosystems. Funding is provided by Metro, the Oregon Department of Forestry, the Oregon Wildlife Heritage Foundation and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

STORY BY D.K. Row / PHOTOGRAPHY BY Fred Joe

A conservation effort plants roots

MAPPING OREGON'S ICONIC TREES HELPS SAVE THEM FOR THE FUTURE, WHILE CONNECTING US WITH OUR PAST – AND ONE ANOTHER.

It's sweaty hot – 90 degrees hot – as the July afternoon blazes sunny radiance at Mount Talbert Nature Park in Clackamas. Coolly, Savahna Jackson and Sequoia Breck gaze upward at the tall white oak trees looming over them.



Slowly, they approach one, as if encountering something beautiful and mysterious for the first time. Then Jackson and Breck begin a duet they’ll conduct many times throughout the day: Breck gently places a global positioning system device on the tree’s broad trunk, like a doctor listening to a patient’s heart, while Jackson receives then inputs information about the tree on her iPhone several paces away.

Jackson and Breck are mapping white oak trees at Mount Talbert Nature Park. Their diligent work this July afternoon serves a large project bringing together several core elements of Metro’s nature work: protecting fragile habitats, collaborating with partners, fostering community, and honoring culture and history.

I’m so happy to help restore part of the culture of our tribes and to help the public while I’m doing it.

–Savahna Jackson, Klamath Modoc Indian

The young women – both work for the Native American Youth and Family Center or NAYA – oversee about 100 volunteers who’ve committed weeks of their personal time to help map endangered white oak trees across the greater Portland region, including at Metro sites like Cooper Mountain Nature Park, Canemah Bluff Natural Area and Mount Talbert.

Known as the Regional Oak Mapping Project, this effort is produced and overseen by a group of partners, including Metro, the Intertwine Alliance and Kingfisher Ecological Services. The goal is simple: to create a baseline map of how much white oak remains in the region.

“This is the only native oak to this part of the state,” says Lori Hennings, a senior natural resource scientist at Metro who is co-leading the effort. “But no one has managed to create an aggregate map of Oregon white oak.”

There are urgent reasons to pursue such an expansive project right now.

Oregon white oak habitats were once plentiful in the region and even thrived in abundance from

California to British Columbia. But urbanization, farming and other factors began to suppress the white oak. Today, in the Willamette Valley, upland prairie and oak savanna habitats have been reduced to single-digit percentages of their historical range.

“The clock is ticking,” says Ted Labbe, a biologist from Kingfisher Ecological Services co-leading the project with Hennings.

This work has consequences beyond the white oak itself. As the trees have declined, so have the plants and animals that rely on them: the Western gray squirrel, white-breasted nuthatch, Fender’s blue butterfly and many more. A fragile ecosystem – many generations in the making – is threatened.

Oaks have been at the forefront of Metro’s natural areas work. Fueled by two voter-approved bond measures, Metro has protected more than 13,000 acres of land on behalf of the region, including some of the best remaining oak habitats. From Graham Oaks in Wilsonville to the Willamette Narrows in West Linn, restoration projects are helping oaks make a comeback on this land.

But, in an urban region, preserving oaks is difficult. Gone are the days when it was simple to plan fires that would manage faster-growing species like the Douglas-fir, which deprive oaks of sunlight and water. Fire-resistant oaks survived the burn, while their competitors did not.

Three years ago, Hennings and Labbe began to create a high-quality map of the white oak that could be used as the basis for conservation and restoration efforts. With financial support from Metro and grants to bolster their project, they began by collecting and compiling existing GIS-based oak maps. Hennings then led a team that developed the project’s own fine-scale map.

A Metro Nature in Neighborhoods grant supports the current stage, which dispatches volunteers to verify and refine the traditional maps. Professional field surveys will then fill in gaps and add more detail.

The two leaders describe public involvement as the project’s soul, because of the potential to create passionate stewards among the public and develop a partnership with the Native American community.

Native Americans studiously cultivated the white oak widely for generations. That careful shepherding is why the project teamed up with NAYA, which creates opportunities for Native Americans through partnerships, programs and advocacy. Jackson and Breck were hand-picked and hired through NAYA to help manage volunteers, who conducted most of the field work during the summer.

Jackson, 22, and Breck, 19, are from the Portland area and plan to complete college. Both pursued the white oak project because of its connection to nature and the chance to engage their inner science nerd. They also saw an opportunity to learn leadership skills that would benefit them – and the public – in the future.

“I’m so happy to help restore part of the culture of our tribes and to help the public while I’m doing it,” says Jackson, a Klamath Modoc Indian.

“We’re doing something significant in terms of educating the public about the environment and to remind them to value the habitat we all share,” says Breck, a Siletz Indian.

Back at Mount Talbert, an afternoon of mapping trees is complete. The air is still thick and the temperature is climbing a few ticks. As Jackson, Breck and Labbe walk back to the parking lot, they survey the trees and land around them, including an area that was recently restored through a controlled fire.

“We’re trying to do a lot here,” says Labbe, taking in the breadth of this quiet piece of heaven not far from the city. “We’re trying to bring native people into the fold as well as create job opportunities for them. And we’re trying to help save the white oak.”

Nature grants could help you, too

Want to teach people about nature, create community partnerships or foster leaders to connect people with water quality, fish and wildlife habitat in the Portland metropolitan area? Do you need funding to make your idea a reality? Learn about Metro’s Nature in Neighborhoods conservation education grants and apply by January oregonmetro.gov/grants

Get Involved

Salmon Homecoming at Oxbow

PHOTOGRAPHY BY Fred Joe and Julie Cash

SAT
18
OCT

SUN
19
OCT

Nothing says “Pacific Northwest” like the annual return from the ocean of salmon, fighting upstream to spawn and die in the rivers of their birth. In October, witness this ancient, iconic phenomenon at Oxbow Regional Park along the Sandy River, one of the nation’s designated Wild and Scenic rivers. During the annual Salmon Homecoming, naturalists are on hand at Oxbow to help you see the salmon and explore other aspects of the park’s 1,000 acres of old growth forest, hiking and equestrian trails and river beaches. Take the chill off around the campfire. Hot drinks provided.

Learn more oregonmetro.gov/oxbow



SAT
18
OCT

VIEW SALMON

Join naturalists at the river’s edge; they’ll help you spot spawning salmon and tell you about the salmon’s behavior and life cycle. Borrow a pair of polarized fish-viewing glasses onsite. The trail to salmon viewing is unpaved and fairly level.

SUN
19
OCT

WHERE Oxbow Regional Park

WHEN 11a.m. to 4p.m.

COST \$5/car \$7/bus

AGES all ages

REGISTER

No registration necessary

DIFFICULTY



SAT
18
OCT

CAMPFIRE AND HOT DRINKS

Enjoy a cup of hot chocolate or cider, around the campfire. Guaranteed to take the chill off and lift your spirits for a walk in the autumn woods.

SUN
19
OCT

WHERE Oxbow Regional Park

WHEN 11a.m. to 4p.m.

COST \$5/car \$7/bus

AGES all ages

REGISTER

No registration necessary

DIFFICULTY



SAT
18
OCT

EXPLORE A SALMON RESTORATION SITE

How do young salmon find food and refuge from floods and predators? Join Bill Weiler from the Sandy River Basin Watershed Council to learn the science behind a side channel restoration project at Oxbow’s Happy Creek. Restoring habitat lost in a 1960’s road building project, this year’s work creates deep pools, bubbling riffles and hiding places for Chinook, coho and steelhead salmon. Learn the characteristics of good habitat and tips on native plants and salmon friendly practices you can incorporate into your life.

WHERE Oxbow Regional Park

WHEN 2 to 4p.m.
Meet at Alder Shelter
(group picnic area A) at 1:45 p.m.

COST \$5/car \$7/bus

AGES 8 and older

REGISTER

No registration necessary

DIFFICULTY



SUN
19
OCT

IDENTIFY MUSHROOMS

Celebrate the abundance of fall by exploring the incredible diversity of fungi in Oxbow’s ancient forest. In this beginners class learn the basics of mushrooms and other fungi and how to go about identifying this complicated group of strange and fascinating life forms. This hands on introduction will get you started identifying mushrooms and deepen your appreciation of the amazing variety of shapes, colors, textures and smells that make these life forms so intriguing.

WHERE Oxbow Regional Park

WHEN 2 to 4p.m.
Meet at Alder Shelter
(group picnic area A) at 1:45 p.m.

COST \$5/car \$7/bus

AGES 10 and older

REGISTER

No registration necessary

DIFFICULTY



Advanced registration required. No pets.

DIFFICULTY KEY

EASY MODERATE STRENUOUS

Classes and events

WED
22
OCT

DIGGING DEEP INTO FUNGI
A TWO-PART SERIES

Join naturalist Alice Froehlich for an in-depth look at the magical, mystical world of fungus. This two part class will start with an evening class that focuses on the natural history, the second class will take place in the field collecting and identifying our local mushrooms. Directions to the field class will be given to registered participants.



WHERE Intro Metro Regional Center, 600 NE Grand Ave., Portland (10/22); Field class location TBD (10/26)

WHEN Intro 6 to 8:30p.m.
Field class 10:30a.m. to 2:30p.m.

COST \$20 per person

AGES 15 and older

REGISTER oregonmetro.gov/calendar

DIFFICULTY

SUN
26
OCT

CRAFTING CORDAGE FROM PLANTS

Join naturalist Ashley Conley in an exploration of the beautiful white oak woodland and prairies of Graham Oaks in Autumn. After walking the trails, learn how to make natural rope cordage out of some of the Pacific Northwest’s native plants.



WHERE Graham Oaks Nature Park

WHEN 10:30a.m. to 1p.m.

COST \$6 per person, \$11 per family

AGES 8 and older

REGISTER oregonmetro.gov/calendar

DIFFICULTY

SAT
25
OCT

MON
10
NOV

LET’S TALK TRASH FILM CONTEST GALA



This event will feature finalist films from the Let’s Talk Trash Film Contest, a contest engaging local filmmakers in developing short films about garbage.

Attendees at the gala will choose the winning film which will receive a \$500 prize. (Film submissions are due Oct. 12.) More information is available at oregonmetro.gov/filmcontest

WHERE Whitsell Auditorium, Portland Art Museum, 1219 SW Park Ave.

WHEN 7p.m.

COST Free

AGES All ages

REGISTER No registration necessary

DIFFICULTY

SAT
15
NOV

SCOUTERS MOUNTAIN NATURE HIKE

Spend this crisp Autumn morning exploring Metro’s newest nature park. A naturalist will guide you along the forested trails atop this extinct lava dome in the East Buttes complex. We will search for wildlife signs on the slopes of the butte and learn about the native plants and trees that grow along the trails.

WHERE Scouters Mountain Nature Park

WHEN 10a.m. to noon

COST \$6 per person, \$11 per family

AGES All ages

REGISTER oregonmetro.gov/calendar

DIFFICULTY

WED
29
OCT

WILDLIFE TRACKING
A THREE-PART SERIES

Through their daily travels, wildlife leave behind myriad stories on the landscape. Learn how to unravel the mystery and interpret the clues left behind! Fundamentals of tracking will be covered during the evening lecture. Track and sign interpretation will be practiced in the field. Directions and locations will be sent to registered participants.



WHERE Intro SE Portland Pub (10/29); Field class Metro Natural Area (11/2) (11/9)

WHEN Intro 6:30 to 8:30p.m.
Field class 9:30a.m. to 2:30p.m.

COST \$50 per person

AGES 15 and older

REGISTER oregonmetro.gov/calendar

DIFFICULTY

SUN
02
NOV

SUN
09
NOV

SUN
23
NOV

THANKSGIVING WALK AT OXBOW PARK

Enjoy and celebrate the gifts of nature at Oxbow Regional Park with Metro naturalist Dan Daly, Deerdance School’s Terry Kem and others. Walk along the Sandy River as you focus on opening your senses and noticing how wildlife respond to the changing season. Afterwards, gather around the campfire to hear the “Thanksgiving Address” passed down by the Iroquois Nation. Hot drinks provided. Bring a sack lunch.

WHERE Oxbow Regional Park

WHEN 10:30a.m. to 12:30p.m. Meet at Group Picnic Area A at 10:15a.m.

COST \$5/car \$7/bus

AGES All ages

REGISTER oregonmetro.gov/calendar

DIFFICULTY

SUN
02
NOV

MUSHROOMS FOR BEGINNERS AT MT. TALBERT

Join naturalist Alice Froehlich for an exploration of the fungi at Mt. Talbert. The basics of fungi will be discussed along with how to identify this complicated group of strange and fascinating life forms that grow in an amazing variety of shapes, colors, textures and smells. Edibles will be discussed but this is not a wild edibles collecting trip.

WHERE Mount Talbert Nature Park

WHEN 10:30a.m. to 1p.m.

COST \$6 per person, \$11 per family

AGES 10 and older

REGISTER oregonmetro.gov/calendar

DIFFICULTY

SUN
21
DEC

WINTER SOLSTICE AT THE LANDFILL

Winter solstice marks the shortest day of the year and is followed by the gradual return of the light. Come celebrate the end and beginning of this cycle by walking the prairie and ash forest at the St. John’s Landfill. This landscape hosts a spectacular array of song birds, waterfowl, raptors, and mammals that live along the Columbia Slough.

WHERE St. John’s Landfill

WHEN 10:30a.m. to 12:30p.m.

COST \$6 per person, \$11 per family

AGES All ages

REGISTER oregonmetro.gov/calendar

DIFFICULTY

Destination Guide

Key



RESTROOMS



PLAYGROUND



PICNIC FACILITIES



WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE



TRAILS



CLASSES
EVENTS
VOLUNTEER



CAMPING



1

BLUE LAKE REGIONAL PARK

oregonmetro.gov/bluelake

VISIT: 20500 NE Marine Dr., Fairview

COST: \$5 per car, \$7 per bus (free with annual pass)

Whether you're looking for serious exercise or a lazy day on the water, a kid-friendly romp or a grownup picnic, you'll find it at Blue Lake Regional Park in Fairview. Rent a paddle boat or canoe, cast a line or go for a swim in the park's namesake, a natural lake fed by underground springs. You can also explore a nature-themed playground, a 'sprayground,' a discovery garden, sports facilities and a wetland with a viewing platform and trail. Don't miss the disc golf course!



2

BROUGHTON BEACH

oregonmetro.gov/broughton

VISIT: 4356 NE Marine Drive, Portland

COST: \$5 per car, \$7 per bus (free with annual pass)

Swimsuit season is over, but this is still a great time to head to one of Portland's best urban beaches. Across from Portland International Airport, Broughton Beach provides a clean, safe, sandy place to play along the Columbia River. You can enjoy walking, beachcombing, picnicking and more. On a clear day, you have a great view of Mount Hood – bring your camera.



3

CANEMAH BLUFF NATURAL AREA

oregonmetro.gov/canemah

VISIT: 815 Fourth Ave., Oregon City

Canemah Bluff Natural Area is a perfect place to gaze at the Willamette River below, marvel at oak trees overhead, photograph colorful spring wildflowers and learn about this historic area in Oregon City. Start your journey at Canemah Neighborhood Children's Park, where you'll find picnic tables, a playground, a basketball court and restrooms. Continue into the natural area, following more than a mile of unpaved trails through a mosaic of habitats. Birders can spot chipping sparrows, red-breasted sapsuckers, white-breasted nuthatches, orange-crowned warblers, hawks and eagles.



4

COOPER MTN. NATURE PARK

oregonmetro.gov/coopermountain

VISIT: 18892 SW Kemmer Rd., Beaverton

Hike, jog, watch wildlife or simply enjoy views of the Chehalem Mountains and Tualatin Valley at Cooper Mountain Nature Park, just south of Beaverton. More than three miles of trails pass through forests, prairies and oak woodlands. If you are quiet and lucky, you might catch a glimpse of rare animals such as Northern red-legged frogs and Western gray squirrels. Young visitors can explore a nature-inspired playground, and adventurers with wheelchairs can enjoy a three-fourths-mile loop trail.



5

GLENDOVEER GOLF COURSE & FITNESS TRAIL

oregonmetro.gov/glendoveer

VISIT: 14015 NE Glisan St., Portland

TEE TIME: playglendoveer.com or 503.253.7507

In the mood for golf, tennis, jogging or a stroll? Make a beeline for Glendoveer Golf Course and Fitness Trail – a hub of sports and community in outer Northeast Portland. Beginners often start with the relatively flat, par-71 west course; experienced players take on hills and bunkers at the par-73 east course. A covered driving range is heated during colder months. Reserve one of four indoor tennis courts, sign up for lessons – or enjoy the two-mile fitness trail. Whichever sport you choose, refuel at the Ringside Steakhouse.



6

GRAHAM OAKS NATURE PARK

oregonmetro.gov/grahamoaks

VISIT: 11825 SW Wilsonville Rd., Wilsonville

Ride your bike through a restored oak woodland, stroll through a conifer forest and spot birds from a wetland overlook at Graham Oaks Nature Park in Wilsonville, where three miles of trails let you choose your adventure. Watch for native wildlife such as white-breasted nuthatches, Western bluebirds, orange-crowned warblers and Western gray squirrels. Five plazas make ideal spots to rest, reflect and learn about Graham Oaks' history, from Kalapuyan tribes who gathered food to the family that farmed the land. Explore beyond the park on the regional Ice Age Tonquin Trail.



7

HOWELL TERRITORIAL PARK

oregonmetro.gov/howell

VISIT: 13901 NW Howell Park Rd., Portland

Visit a piece of Oregon's past, nestled among farms on Sauvie Island. The region's natural and cultural history come together in one serene setting at Howell Territorial Park. Bring a picnic to enjoy under the shelter, bring binoculars to watch for birds that flock to the park's wetlands, bring a basket to pick apples from the pioneer orchard. Learn about Sauvie Island and the families who shaped it, and relax in the shade of an authentically restored 1850s farmhouse. Howell also makes a great place for a wedding.



8

MASON HILL PARK

oregonmetro.gov/masonhill

VISIT: NW Johnson Rd at intersection with Munson Rd., Portland

Mason Hill Park provides a scenic wayside for cyclists exploring the rolling hills beyond Forest Park, in western Multnomah County. Home to a one-room schoolhouse from 1891 to 1944, the park still feels light years removed from modern life. Lollygag in the shade, take in spectacular views of the Tualatin Valley and eat a picnic lunch under the shelter, which has the original school bell mounted on top. If you come by car, be prepared to park in a narrow roadside spot.



9

MOUNT TALBERT NATURE PARK

oregonmetro.gov/mounttalbert

VISIT: 10695 SE Mather Rd., Clackamas

A forested oasis towers above busy roads, shopping centers and neighborhoods in Clackamas. Slip into Mount Talbert Nature Park to explore the four-mile trail network, check out the views and enjoy a picnic. Keep your eye out for deer, Western gray squirrels, pileated and hairy woodpeckers, white-breasted nuthatches and Western tanagers. Mount Talbert is the largest in a string of extinct volcanoes and lava domes that stretch across the east side of the region.



oregonmetro.gov/oxbow

COST: \$5 per car, \$7 per bus (free with annual pass)

Oxbow Regional Park provides a perfect launch point for swimming, kayaking, rafting or fishing in the majestic Sandy River Gorge. When you've had enough water, explore 15 miles of trails through Oxbow's ancient forests. Reserve a camping spot for the night, and gather around the fire for summertime nature activities and music. You might bump into mink, beavers, raccoons, fox, deer, osprey, songbirds, elk, black bears or cougars. Every fall, nature puts on one of its greatest shows: salmon return to their spawning grounds to lay their last eggs, before dying in the waters where they were born.



oregonmetro.gov/scoutersmountain

Lodge Rds, Happy Valley

Rising above Happy Valley, Scouters Mountain Nature Park offers a lovely vantage point to admire Mount Hood – and slip into a shady forest. Climb the steep, fir-lined road to the parking lot. From there, you can walk a loop trail or enjoy lunch under a handsome picnic shelter. If you ever visited the Boy Scouts lodge that used to stand here, you might recognize salvaged pieces. Although the land is now a public park, its spirit of adventure remains.



oregonmetro.gov/smithandbybee

Surrounded by warehouses and port terminals in North Portland, Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area is one of the region's best-kept secrets. Take the Interlakes Trail or go by canoe or kayak to explore one of America's largest urban wetlands. Either way, you might find beavers, river otters, black-tailed deer, osprey, bald eagles and Western painted turtles. You'll also find a water control structure that is restoring this network of sloughs, wetlands and forests.



oregonmetro.gov/boats

VISIT: 22300 NE Marine Dr., Fairview

With six launching lanes on the Columbia River, Chinook Landing is one of Oregon's largest public boating facilities. The park offers picnic and viewing areas, wetland and wildlife habitat, disabled-accessible docks, an archery range, restrooms and a seasonal river patrol station.

VISIT: NE 43rd Ave. & NE Marine Dr., Portland

Minutes from downtown Portland, the Gleason boat ramp provides a convenient public launch on the Columbia River. Recently upgraded amenities include extra launch lanes, boarding docks, restrooms, single-car parking, river maps and a river patrol office.

VISIT: Burlington Ferry & Sauvie Island Rds., Portland

Enjoy the quiet waters and wildlife of the Multnomah Channel. Recent improvements include a new launch ramp, parking lot, accessible restrooms, lighting and native landscaping.



Tools For Living

School savings

From notebooks to shoes, back-to-school shopping can be half the fun of a new year. But those purchases can add up. Check out these easy ways to protect your pocketbook.

When kids are clamoring for new stuff, Metro waste reduction educator Kimberly Taylor says talking about the cost and impact of those purchases may ease the urge to buy and inspire reuse and other creative solutions.

"Many middle school students care about doing something positive for the environment, like saving the rainforest or protecting tigers," Taylor says. "Talking about how what they buy affects those issues gives kids a chance to have an impact on whatever they feel passionate about – and save a few bucks, too."

Of course, supplies eventually do run out – or wear out – and shoes and coats are outgrown. And hey, who doesn't love a new fall sweater? When school leads to shopping, these tips can help you save money and resources.

- Inventory what you have at home before you make your shopping list.
- Check thrift stores for reusable supplies such as binders and backpacks.
- Consider a refurbished computer, tablet or phone over a new one. They often cost less, and some come with a warranty when purchased from the manufacturer.
- Choose products with sustainable or recycled content, such as paper with a higher percentage of post-consumer materials or pencils made with sustainably harvested wood. Avoid packaging when you can.
- Thrift and vintage-clothing stores give quality, one-of-a-kind fashions a second life and help maximize the clothing budget.



SCHOOL SCHEDULES CAN ALSO DEMAND EXPERT LUNCH-PACKING...

- Packing lunches in reusable containers with reusable utensils and napkins means you don't need to pay for disposable ones.
- Our region's excellent tap water is a bargain in a reusable bottle.



... AND TRANSPORTATION STRATEGIZING.

- Use Metro's online tool to explore safe routes for walking or biking to school.
- Portland public high-schoolers can ride TriMet at reduced fares.

Find helpful, straight-up information about living here at oregonmetro.gov/toolsforliving

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oregonmetro.gov



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Regional Roundup

Eastside transit

THE 4-DIVISION AND 9-POWELL ARE SOME OF TRIMET'S BUSIEST BUS LINES – AND METRO IS STUDYING HOW TO MAKE THEM BETTER.

The project is designed to bring faster, more reliable transit to the thousands of people who ride the 4-Division and 9-Powell. Most people, so far, say they want to see a bus route that runs along Powell Boulevard in inner Southeast Portland, switching over to Division Street in outer Southeast.

The most important thing people want, Metro staff say, is a quicker trip. Any changes should complement other road users, creating a balanced system that includes freight, motor vehicles, transit, bicycles and pedestrians.

In the end, a committee that includes community members, elected officials and agency heads will review community input and technical analysis to create a transit project that benefits riders and the communities that are served, project leaders say.



But what's life like now on the 4-Division and 9-Powell, and what do riders really think about the potential for better transit in their area? Tag along on a virtual trip.

Learn more about eastside transit options and give your input at oregonmetro.gov/powelldivision



Community stakeholders offer feedback on a study of transit in Portland.



82ND AND DIVISION

Michael Moore is waiting for a bus to take him home after a run to the grocery store.

"They need bigger capacity buses, so you don't have to stand," said Moore. "They need to fit in more people. There isn't room for people to get on and get off."



92ND AND DIVISION

At 94th Avenue, where the I-205 Bike Path and MAX Green Line cross Division, the road is 5 lanes and has traffic whizzing by at 45 mph. A flashing beacon signal warns pedestrians:

"Cross with caution! Vehicles may not stop!"



122ND AND DIVISION

Mary Davis is on her way to a class at the Portland Community College Cascades Campus in North Portland. It's a long bus ride, but it saves money.

"I can ride anywhere for \$26 a month," says Davis, referring to TriMet's honored citizen monthly pass. "I can't own a car for that."

12TH AND DIVISION

To the east, paving crews are busy on a \$13 million project to rebuild what was a 4-lane boulevard into a tree- and bioswale-lined street. Brightly-painted buildings host coffee shops, beer stores and bars full of 20-somethings. A young woman bikes up to three people waiting for a bus.

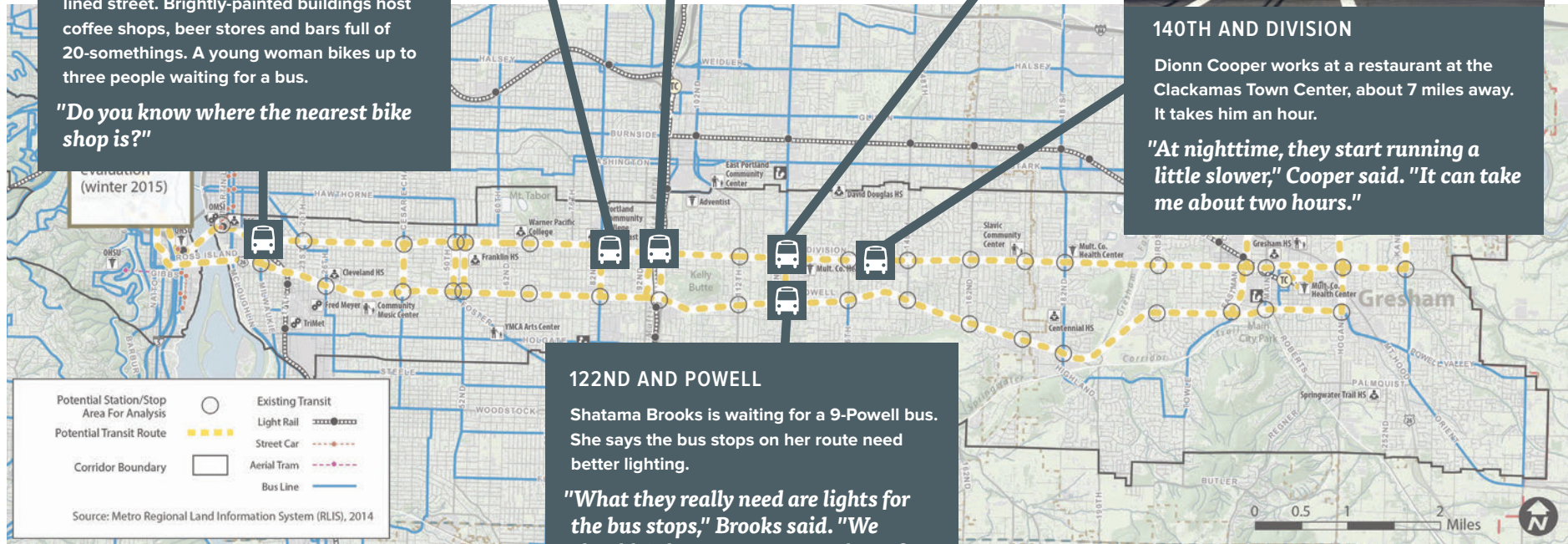
"Do you know where the nearest bike shop is?"



140TH AND DIVISION

Dionn Cooper works at a restaurant at the Clackamas Town Center, about 7 miles away. It takes him an hour.

"At nighttime, they start running a little slower," Cooper said. "It can take me about two hours."



122ND AND POWELL

Shatama Brooks is waiting for a 9-Powell bus. She says the bus stops on her route need better lighting.

"What they really need are lights for the bus stops," Brooks said. "We shouldn't have to wave our phone for the driver to see us at night."



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Share (Y)our Nature and Win!

Len Otto | Oxbow Regional Park

My wife and I love Oxbow Regional Park - every year we buy the annual pass and use it probably 250 times. We walk there every chance we get. Recently, we went for an early Sunday morning walk both for the exercise and to try out a new lens I had just purchased. The color of the salmonberry has always been a favorite. The shot of the unfurling salmonberry bloom with a water droplet about to fall was the first shot ever with my new lens. I was delighted, and even more delighted when I got home and looked at it on my computer screen. I could not have hoped for better. Oxbow never fails us.

- Len Otto, from Boring



SHARE (Y)OUR NATURE, WIN PRIZES

Win tickets to the Oregon Zoo by submitting a photo taken at a park or natural area – your friends and family, a slice of wildlife or a beautiful sunset, for example. Include a description of your experience, in 100 word caption. Where were you? What were you doing? What captured your attention? The winner will appear in this space.

Send your picture and description to:
ourbigbackyard@oregonmetro.gov

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