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Submit questions or comments

Ellen Wyoming
503-797-1894
ellen.wyoming@oregonmetro.gov



Nature in your neighborhood

New grant will restore site of future Tualatin River boat launch

Good news | In March 2014, Metro acquired a 1.6-acre parcel on the Tualatin River near the intersection of Southwest Farmington and Southwest River roads south of Hillsboro. The new property, the top one outlined above in red, sits next to two other parcels that Metro owns.

Future recreation | The combined area will provide a future launch site for canoes, kayaks and other nonmotorized boats to access the Tualatin River. The area will also include parking, restrooms, benches and picnic tables.

The boat launch will provide easy access to the Tualatin River, along which paddlers can spot blue herons, belted kingfishers and other wildlife. The project will complete the first part of the Tualatin River Water Trail, which calls for river access points every five miles.

Work in progress | Restoration and cleanup work is underway at the site thanks to a \$176,000 grant from the Oregon Coalition Brownfields Cleanup Fund received in July 2014.

In March 2014, Metro reached an agreement on cleanup efforts with the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality. The agreement also limits Metro's liability for the environmental conditions at the property.

Crews have removed two buildings previously on the site and are testing for contaminated soil or groundwater. Any contaminated soil will be removed.

What's ahead | Cleanup work will continue in 2015. Invasive weeds will be removed and replaced with native plants. Construction of the boat launch is scheduled to begin in 2016.