

# OUR BIG BACKYARD

*Explore great places and more  
with Metro*

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New programs connect underserved communities with nature

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Major accidents don't stop  
Lloyd Daniels

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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.

Metro Council President

Tom Hughes

Metro Councilors

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Carlotta Collette, District 2  
Craig Dirksen, District 3  
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If you have a disability and need accommodations, call 503-220-2781, or call Metro’s TDD line at 503-797-1804. If you require a sign language interpreter, call at least 48 hours in advance. Activities marked with this symbol are wheelchair accessible: ♿

Bus and MAX information

503-238-RIDE (7433) or trimet.org

Stay in touch with news, stories and things to do.

oregonmetro.gov/ourbigbackyard  
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No-dogs policy

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

Wildlife think of dogs as predators and will modify their normal behaviors. In natural areas where dogs are not allowed, people see more wildlife and can get closer to it.

Seeing-eye dogs or other service animals are permitted with proper identification and cleanup materials.

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.

Like what you see?

Sign up for the print edition of the quarterly magazine, change your address or save paper by switching to a digital subscription. Email ourbigbackyard@oregonmetro.gov or call 503-797-1536.



# Nature News



Property owner George Heidgerken (left) and former Sustainability Center Director Jim Desmond shake hands after reaching an agreement that secures public access to Willamette Falls.

## NEW AGREEMENTS SECURE PUBLIC ACCESS TO WILLAMETTE FALLS

STORY BY Yuxing Zheng / PHOTOGRAPHY BY Metro staff and Mark Gamba

New agreements with a private developer and Portland General Electric have secured public access to Willamette Falls, the second most powerful waterfall in North America.

The agreements allow Metro and its partners in the Willamette Falls Legacy Project to continue moving forward with plans for a public riverwalk along the Willamette River at the former Blue Heron paper mill site in downtown Oregon City. By drawing people to Willamette Falls, the riverwalk will spur private development to transform the site into a scenic destination and a vibrant neighborhood that blends homes, shops, businesses and perhaps even a hotel or light industry.

“It will attract people not just from around the region, but it will attract people from around the country,” said Metro Councilor Carlotta Collette. “If we do it right, it might attract people from around the world.”

Site owner George Heidgerken is an engaged and committed private partner who shares the community’s vision for the property, Collette said.

“He sees the specialness of this site,” she said. “We were hoping we would get a partner like George who sees in this industrial site at the base of a waterfall what we see – a magical place that’s a game-changer for our region.”

The agreement with Falls Legacy, LLC, Heidgerken’s company, secures a 120-foot-wide waterfront easement for the riverwalk. Heidgerken also committed to pay 20 percent of the design and preliminary engineering expenses – approximately \$900,000 – and at least 20 percent of the future maintenance and operation expenses of the riverwalk.

Metro’s agreement with PGE will allow the riverwalk to be built across a portion of the utility’s dam along Willamette Falls to the spot offering the best close-up view of the falls. PGE operates a hydroelectric facility at the site.

“PGE is a proponent of economic development and working collaboratively with the communities we serve,” said Maria Pope, a senior vice president of PGE. “We recognize the importance of the beauty and history of the falls and are very supportive of the development and transformation that is envisioned.”

Both agreements were donated to Metro without cost to taxpayers.

The Willamette Falls Legacy Project is a collaboration between Metro, Oregon City, Clackamas County, and the State of Oregon and its Regional Solutions team. The project aims to create an iconic place that honors the site’s history and culture, restores habitat, drives economic development, and opens to the public the beauty and grandeur of the falls.

The project started after Blue Heron Paper Company, the previous site owners, filed for federal bankruptcy in February 2011. When the mills closed, the opportunity came to bring new life to the place that powered a booming industrial scene – and gave birth to the state.

“It’s a special place in Oregon,” said Heidgerken. “People are going to want to be there.”

Heidgerken envisions public art, fishing, kayaking, special events and waterfront shops, restaurants and homes at the mixed-use site. “The riverwalk is key for the general public to get a real feel for what goes on down there,” he said.

Project partners have completed initial planning work, culminating in Oregon City’s approval in November of the site’s master plan and land-use zone changes.

Metro, project partners, technical experts, community members and others are in the process of selecting a team to design and complete preliminary engineering work on the riverwalk. Once on board, that team is expected to take about 18 months to develop cost estimates and a plan for construction. The project partners have already secured \$10 million for schematic design, engineering and early construction.

***It will attract people not just from around the region, but it will attract people from around the country.***

–Carlotta Collette, Metro Councilor

A publicly accessible Willamette Falls will draw tourists to the first incorporated city west of the Rocky Mountains, said former Oregon City Mayor Doug Neeley. Long a sacred fishing site for Native Americans, Willamette Falls also attracted John McLoughlin, “the father of Oregon,” who established a land claim there in 1829 and built the first lumber mill.

“The falls is, in fact, the basis of the existence of the city, so it’s a tremendous piece of our history and identity that’s tied to that site,” Neeley said. “This project is phenomenal.”



# Glendoveer Fitness Trail

STORY BY *Jim Caudell* / PHOTOGRAPHY BY *Julie Cash*



Left: Metro Park Ranger Jim Caudell (left) has gotten to know many visitors, including Lloyd Daniels.

## DAILY WALKS HELP LLOYD DANIELS HEAL AFTER ACCIDENTS

Sunlight filters through 100-year old Douglas fir trees that dot the fitness trail at Glendoveer Golf and Tennis Center. Circumnavigating the two miles around the golf course, the path weaves and straightens, rises and falls.

Visitors made 156,000 trips around the trail in 2013. Mothers push children in strollers. The young and old walk in pairs, chatting as they go. Joggers plod along, lost in their music.

Those who use the trail do so almost religiously, often visiting every day and making multiple loops.

If you’ve walked the trail in the mornings, no doubt you’ve been greeted by Lloyd Daniels, 78. With his trademark brown felt hat, wide grin and warm greetings to all, Daniels has been a trail fixture since 1999. But it wasn’t until recently that I learned the inspiring, personal story behind Daniels’ daily journeys.

Early one Friday afternoon, I met Daniels for what he calls “a round.”

“I do at least two rounds every day and very often three,” he says. “I walk in the sun, the rain and the snow.”

We start out on the southwest side’s gradual descent along the driving range and wound our way through a stand of fir trees. He walks at a comfortable pace with a gait that defies easy description. It’s something between putting one foot out to feel what’s in front of you, and stumbling. It’s different, but he has perfected it, and it doesn’t slow him.

“My doctor says that because of my walking, I’m more like a 50- or 60-year-old man,” he says. “He told me a while back I could get away with walking less, but I’d have to watch what I eat, and I’m from the South and still like my eggs and ham for breakfast.”

Halfway down the west side, the trail opens up to a couple of gnarled cherry trees and small mounds of brambles. Farther down we are completely in the open, with large swaths of the green golf course tumbling toward us.

“Walking does everything for me,” Daniels says. “I feel better, eat better and sleep better.”

It’s a wonder Daniels can walk at all. Daniels suffered a shattered back and five broken vertebrae from getting run over by a car twice and getting into two motorcycle accidents. Instead of sliding into immobility, Daniels finds it hard to miss a day on the trail.

“Sometimes I think to myself ‘Ya know, I think I will give it a pass today,’ and I tell my girlfriend I’m not going to go,” he says. “But I get in my truck and inevitably find myself out here walking.”

As we leave the clearing, we come upon a Douglas fir that started growing when the United States became a nation. It was designated as a Portland Heritage Tree in 2007. With huge limbs, this special heritage tree seems to invite a good climb.

The trail soon changes again. Douglas firs share space with sequoias, cedars, vine maples and big-leaf maples, along with salmonberry, snowberry and Salal and Oregon grape.

The final stretch is uphill and akin to a storybook. In the autumn, the leaves turn gold, twisting and turning. In the spring, as if by magic, flowering trilliums decorate the ground.

We stand for a moment beneath the big-leaf maple that commands center stage at the northeast corner. Daniels stops for a moment and grabs the bicycle rack for balance as he stretches.

“After my last accident, I spent two months in the hospital,” he says. “I was put into a body cast and had to relearn to walk. I walk like this because my feet are completely numb. I walk with my eyes. I can’t look away for any length of time. Fell a couple times early on, but after 15 years I’ve gotten pretty good at it.”

It took me a moment to process this: In 15 years of walking the trail, Daniels had walked far enough to travel around the Earth on feet he couldn’t feel.

“Come on,” he says. “We have to keep movin’. This uphill stretch is one of my favorites.”

## Three questions with Georgena Moran



STORY & PHOTOGRAPHY  
BY *Julie Cash*

A Metro Nature in Neighborhoods grant is helping make Georgena Moran’s dream come true. Moran, project coordinator for Access Recreation, is creating an online map of 24 regional trails for people with disabilities. The maps, available at [accesstrails.org](https://www.accesstrails.org), come with photos and videos.

Metro last year awarded a \$25,000 grant to Access Recreation and Independent Living Resources, a Portland nonprofit that provides support services to people with disabilities. The money paid for equipment and a webmaster and photographer/videographer.

**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.

**We’re hoping the nation and the world will recognize how to be more inclusive.**

–Georgena Moran

**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.



# Conserving Nature, One Acre at a Time.

STORY BY *Kate Holleran* / PHOTOGRAPHY BY *Yuxing Zheng and Ryan Ruggiero*



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



## RESTORING TINY HEADWATER STREAMS PAYS OFF BIG

Winter is planting season in Metro natural areas. On a typical planting day, it's cool and wet, and I'm in the field before sunrise.

Whatever the weather, a planting day is a day of new beginnings. On a recent morning, we start the reforestation of the headwaters of North Abbey Creek northwest of Portland near Forest Park. The headwaters start in an upland bowl that includes Metro's newest acquisition in the Rock Creek watershed.

This 15-acre field used to be a forest – and will be again someday. By the end of our work, 20,000 native trees and shrubs will be settling into the soil waiting for the longer days and warmer weather that trigger the surge of green growth.

Headwaters are the small drainages at the uppermost end of a river system. Fed by springs and rainfall, headwaters may carry water only during winter storms and rapid snow melt. Some are so diminutive that their presence is subtle, but they are ecologically significant. Headwater streams make up most of the stream miles in a watershed, so restoring and taking care of these streams is fundamental to protecting water quality.

Even these tiniest streams attract terrestrial insects. Insects provide food for bats and birds, such as long-eared myotis bats and Swainson's thrush, and are more abundant than in the adjacent upland habitat.

The North Abbey headwater forests were cleared decades ago to create grazing land. The loss of the native trees and shrubs allowed rainwater to move like a flowing sheet over the field, delivering more water faster to the main creek. Without the forest to filter the power of the rain, our frequent winter storms resulted in incised channels and slumped stream banks that sent soil coursing down to Rock Creek and on to the Tualatin River.

Reforestation of the headwaters will slow the rush of water to the channel, reduce erosion and improve water quality.

All of that depends on getting native plants and shrubs into the ground.

When the planting crew shows up, I pull on tough rubber pants, field boots, jacket and gloves. The planting crew sorts 24 different species into groups according to where the plants will go. The species that tolerate saturated soil will be planted in the swales that are temporarily inundated with water. All the other plants get lumped as upland species destined for higher ground.

Each planter packs hundreds of plants into hip bags, throws a shovel over his shoulder and heads down to the first line of the day. Moving along the contour of the slope, the planter drives his shovel into the ground, breaks the soil open, bends, tucks a plant into the hole, closes it and moves on.

Each planter will slip a baldhip rose, red elderberry or Sitka willow into the earth and then repeat until hundreds and then thousands of plants are in place. Tomorrow, the process repeats.

The complexity of a forest takes decades to develop, but in a few years, we will begin to see a change in the hydrology and wildlife of the North Abbey headwaters. The seasonal eruption of native plants with their flowers, berries and nuts will attract pollinators. The canopy of needles and leaves will buffer the land from the pounding rain. Intertwining roots will hold the soil and store and slowly release thousands of gallons of water.

Long after I've moved on, the trees planted today will grow old and die. The future forest will already have young trees growing in the understory, ready to fill the sunny gap left where the old giants fell.

Planting is the work of patient optimists. Fortunately, there are many of us.



## TIPS FOR HOME GARDENERS

Spring is a good time to add native trees, shrubs and wildflowers to any home garden. Here are some tips to ensure your own planting season goes well:

- Plants native to the region – in these parts, that's largely the Willamette Valley – are best for birds, bees, butterflies and other wildlife. Pick ones adapted to the sun, soil and water of the spot where you plan to plant.
- "Layer" your landscape with low-growing ground covers, annuals and perennials, and medium and tall shrubs and trees. This layered approach offers attractive shelter for birds and other beneficial wildlife that can help control pests by eating them.
- Compost improves soil structure. You can make your own compost from yard trimmings and food wastes, or buy it from the nursery. Mix compost into your soil before you plant, especially if your soil has poor drainage.
- Mulch matters. Mulching retains moisture and suppresses weeds. Woodchips, bark, hazelnut shells and other items can be used as mulch for various needs. Most mulches should be spread about three inches deep.
- Well-chosen native plants and shrubs thrive without irrigation once they're established, but they will need to be watered in the warm season for the first two or three years.

## Yard, home, getting around

Turn to page 14 for a coupon good for native plants. And for gardening tips and videos, visit [oregonmetro.gov/garden](http://oregonmetro.gov/garden)

### Apply for Nature in Neighborhoods grants

Want to restore and care for nature in your community? If you have a vision for getting rid of weeds, improving water quality, creating habitat or restoring nature, a Nature in Neighborhoods restoration grant can get your idea off the ground. Fill out a simple application by April 21.

Letters of interest are also being accepted through late fall 2015 for the final round of capital grants.

Trail grants are coming in 2016.

[oregonmetro.gov/grants](http://oregonmetro.gov/grants)



# From nursery to natural area

STORY & PHOTOGRAPHY BY Yuxing Zheng



## WHAT DOES IT TAKE FOR 500,000 NATIVE PLANTS TO GO INTO THE GROUND?

They call it “the cooler.”

Tucked inside a nondescript warehouse in Industrial Northwest Portland, this large, 35-degree refrigerator served as the clearinghouse for a half million native plants that went into the ground at regional parks and natural areas this winter.

Coordinating such a large-scale operation takes years of planning and last-minute juggling. But the effort is more than worth it. Native plants occupy a crucial link in Metro’s efforts to restore wetlands, oak woodlands and other habitats, which in turn attract native fish and wildlife.

This year’s planting season is the largest ever at Metro. Voters made it possible thanks to their support for the 2013 parks and natural areas levy.

Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area in North Portland received 105,000 native plants, including Pacific willows, ninebark and red-stemmed dogwood. The site also saw 42,000 Oregon ash trees, which are adapted to spring flooding along the Columbia River and wait until summer to leaf out and grow.

“They’ll help suppress invasive reed canarygrass and provide habitat for a wide variety of wildlife,” said Jeff Merrill, a natural resources scientist at Metro who coordinated the Smith and Bybee plantings. “It adds to the overall health and diversity of the ecosystem.”

The work begins early. Planting contractor Diego Franco and one of his employees arrive at the cooler at 6:30 a.m. on a January morning to

pick up 30,000 plants, enough for about two days for his 17-member crew.

It’s still dark when the truck meets the rest of the crew at Smith and Bybee at 7:30 a.m. A morning’s worth of plants is loaded onto a trailer that an ATV hauls to the planting site.

The crew members don their muddy boots and gear. A steady stream of construction hardhats bob up and down as the men weave through the terrain on foot to meet the ATV. Once there, the crew divides up the plants, dipping the roots in water before stuffing them in the planter bags slung around their waists.

Three men fan out ahead and use scalpels to clear away grass and create patches of bare dirt. A wave of planters follows. Each one stops at a bare patch, digs a shovel into the dirt, reaches into his bag for a plant, then hunches over to stick the roots in the ground and pile the dirt back on top.

“I love it,” said Franco, whose crews first cleared invasive reed canarygrass and blackberry at the site about two years ago. “I love seeing the change from invasives to natives.”

Each crew member plants about 1,000 shrubs and trees by the end of each eight-hour day.

In some cases, it takes years for a plant to even make it into the ground at a natural area.

Some rare plants, such as camas, are first collected as seeds from Metro natural areas. Then, staff at Metro’s Native Plant Center or a contracted nursery spends a couple of years nurturing the seeds into bulbs, transplanting them into ever-

larger beds. Only when they grow big enough do the bulbs or plants get transplanted into their permanent homes.

For instance, the 42,000 ash trees that crews planted at Smith and Bybee grew out of seeds collected in summer 2013. Scholls Valley Native Nursery nurtured them for two years before harvesting them in December in preparation for planting.

The wide variety of plants is needed because of the diversity of the habitats Metro works to restore.

At Clear Creek Natural Area near Carver in February, crews planted Oregon white oak trees, Oregon grapes, snowberries and other native vegetation.

“We’re filling in an understory of shrubs to create an oak woodland area,” said Simon Apostol, a field representative at Ash Creek Forest Management, the planting contractor working at the site. “Just preserving and protecting natural spaces is good but not enough. You have to manage the land as well. It’s a key component of environmental restoration.”

***I love seeing the change from invasives to natives.***

—Diego Franco



# Restoration work transforms Maroon Ponds

STORY BY Yuxing Zheng / PHOTOGRAPHY BY Metro and Clean Water Services staff



A few miles south of Forest Grove, an emergent wetland with sedges, rushes and fallen logs allow water from nearby springs and creeks to flow into a larger pond. There, beavers and Western pond turtles gather, just a short distance from the Tualatin River.

The same spot looked much different just a year ago.

Crews in August 2014 began a transformation that included the removal of a manmade dam that held back an old pond. Tires, car batteries and asphalt were also removed as the water began to find its natural path through the property.

The work was one of the first major steps as Metro and Clean Water Services partner to restore Maroon Ponds and to bring back vital wetlands and riparian forests. Restoring places like Maroon Ponds provide value by improving water quality, enhancing habitat and protecting communities against flooding.

At Maroon Ponds, the restoration work improves water quality by filtering and cleaning water before it flows into the Tualatin River. New plantings of native trees and shrubs shade and cool the water, creating better conditions for steelhead trout and salmon.

"The big-picture goal is to restore as much of the natural function and habitat as we can," said Elaine Stewart, a senior natural resources scientist at Metro working on Maroon Ponds.

Crews in early 2014 began preparing the site for restoration, including efforts to control invasive reed canarygrass, whose roots extend in an expansive network at least 18 inches deep.

The heavy lifting occurred in August and September, when excavators and dump trucks helped restore the natural hydrology of the site. Four unused roads were also decommissioned.

"This is about restoring watershed health while supporting the Tualatin Basin's vibrant agricultural community," said Rob Emanuel, a water resources project manager at Clean Water Services.

In January, crews planted Oregon ash, snowberry, willow, red-stemmed dogwood and other native vegetation to create an understory of shrubs and trees to attract native wildlife.

"It'll provide nesting habitat for birds and more wood for the beavers," Stewart said. "Ultimately, the trees will grow and fall over, creating hiding spaces for juvenile salmon in the floodplain when the Tualatin River overtops its banks."

On a sun-drenched January morning, fog lingered as crews thinned fast-growing Douglas firs to provide for a healthy forest with more space and sunlight for Oregon white oaks and madrones.

Occasional shouts of "clear!" rang out as trees were thinned so they could better support the needs of a healthy riparian forest and also provide vital bird habitat. One man clambered two-thirds of the way up a 50-foot Douglas fir to cut off the top third to create a living snag for birds. The top fell into the nearby wetlands, creating more habitat for fish.

More work is ahead. Periodic weed treatments will keep invasive reed canarygrass in check, allowing the native plants to gain a strong foothold. In coming winters, thousands of additional trees and shrubs will be planted to restore the riparian forest and other plant communities.

The restoration work at Maroon Ponds, a Metro-owned site, is possible thanks to investments made by regional voters for parks and natural areas and by Clean Water Services, a regional public water resources utility in Washington County. The innovative partnership leverages the two agencies' combined resources to further protect clean water in the Tualatin River Watershed, reconnect floodplains and create healthy natural spaces.



## Portland to host International Trails Symposium, with free public trails fair

AS THE SUNNY DAYS BECKON, IT'S TIME TO HIT THE TRAILS

Thousands of local walkers, joggers, bicyclists and hikers already enjoy the region's extensive network of trails. It's a reputation that extends globally and, come May, international trails planners and experts will converge at the Oregon Convention Center for the 2015 International Trails Symposium.

But you don't have to be a trails expert to enjoy the symposium. **The public is invited to a free, family-friendly trails fair from noon to 5 p.m. May 17.** The public will be able to visit the booths of 30 local and a dozen international trails groups, attend workshops and watch a demonstration of trail construction.

"Walking and hiking are the most popular recreational activities in the state and in the metro region," said Mel Huie, a regional trails planner at Metro since 1988. "It's a way to connect with nature. It brings people together."

Huie attributes the region's impressive trails to community activism and government foresight.

The state produced an Oregon Bike Plan and Map in 1897, and residents advocated for more trails.

In 1903, Portland enlisted the Olmsted brothers – whose father designed Central Park in New York City – to design a regional parks and greenways system. They proposed a 40-Mile Loop to link the system. Today, the loop stretches to 140 miles.

There's still a long way to go. The regional trails system that modern-day planners outlined in 1992 calls for 1,000 miles, and 350 miles have been built.

That's not stopping people from enjoying the trails that already exist, including these popular ones:

- 1. Waterfront Park and Eastbank Esplanade:** The region's two most popular trails offer stunning views of the Portland skyline and Mount Hood as visitors make a loop along the Willamette River.
- 2. Springwater Corridor:** Enjoy a scenic, 26-mile trip from Southeast Portland to Boring through wildlife refuges, gardens, and residential and industrial neighborhoods.
- 3. Waterfront Renaissance Trail:** For a premier trail along the Columbia River, head to Vancouver and enjoy five miles of paved trails with views of the Interstate 5 and 205 bridges and Mount Hood.
- 4. Tualatin River Greenway Trail:** In the west and southwest suburbs, six miles of the Tualatin River Greenway run through portions of West Linn, Rivergrove, Durham, Tigard, Tualatin and Hillsboro.
- 5. Ice Age Tonquin Trail:** See the dramatic geologic landscape left by the historic Missoula Floods as you travel along portions of the trail in Wilsonville, Sherwood and Tualatin. When completed, the multi-use trail will be 21 miles.

For details about the trails symposium: [americantrails.org/2015](http://americantrails.org/2015)



# Discovering Nature



STORY BY Nick Christensen / PHOTOGRAPHY BY Metro and Self Enhancement, Inc. staff

## *New programs connect under-served communities with nature*

COMMUNITIES OF COLOR, LOW-INCOME RESIDENTS, REFUGEES AND IMMIGRANTS HAVE LONG FACED BARRIERS IN ACCESSING NATURE. THAT’S CHANGING.





It’s a dry, crisp morning in the Sandy River Gorge. The forest is quiet, save for the occasional drumbeat of water droplets falling off Douglas firs, pushed by a breeze, headed for the forest floor.

In the distance, a diesel engine in low gear gets closer. Soon, the yellow Mt. Hood Community College bus, windows fogged, pulls into sight and into the gates at Metro’s Oxbow Regional Park.

On this January morning, nine teens are showing up for work, part of the Youth Ecology Corps, a workforce development partnership between Metro and Mt. Hood Community College.

The participants don’t look like your stereotypical treehugging natural area superheroes. For one, they’re working on or have recently completed their GEDs.

Second, the group includes people who haven’t been exposed to nature much.

Andre Thomas is one of those people. Originally from the Phoenix area, Thomas hadn’t spent much time outdoors. He came to the Youth Ecology Corps’ parent program because he was looking for a job.

“I didn’t go outdoors at all,” Thomas said. “It was too hot.”

For years, Metro has been trying to address the vexing question: How do you get people who aren’t familiar with the outdoors to experience the parks and natural areas their community has voted to financially support?

One of the answers has come in the form of more than \$134,000 to support partnerships that connect communities of color, low-income residents and other underserved communities with nature. The money pays for programs that

break down barriers of unfamiliarity and fear by creating opportunities for outdoor recreation, career training and, well, curiosity building.

At Oxbow, Youth Ecology Corps members line around a picnic table near the Sandy River floodplain, and Metro natural resource technician Chris Hagel goes over the day’s plan.

On the table are two sets of plants: In one set, each plant is barren of leaves, just sticks, really. The other set has glossy leaves with sharp edges.

One of each set is an invasive species that will dominate the landscape if left unchecked. English holly, an invasive species, has an alternate leaf pattern, and thicker, sharper spines on the leaves.

Oregon grape, a native species and the state flower, has opposite leaves, and won’t sting quite as sharply if you brush against it. They look similar, but the holly needs to go, and the Oregon grape needs to flourish.

The corps members get in a line in the floodplain and march forth, pulling up weeds and saving the native species, learning how to manage the land and how to enjoy it.

“I figured this is good experience for a resume, and it’s good to get outdoors and learn about it,” said corps member Chase Logan. “I like that it’s quiet, and if it’s not quiet, it’s not machine noise. It’s serene. It’s a nice place to go.”

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

She points to a project where middle school students in an SEI program visited the North Abbey Creek Natural Area near Forest Park. The plan was to teach the children how bees help pollinate plants.

But for many of the 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 Multnomah Falls, North Abbey or trails, she said.

But after the SEI program with Metro, students, by a wide margin, said 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.”

Back at Oxbow, the Youth Ecology Corps participants earn \$10 an hour to pull invasive weeds from the park. They fanned out across the Sandy River floodplain, yanking Scotch broom and English ivy. It’s a never-ending effort – Scotch broom seeds can remain viable in the soil for 80 years – but persistence pays off. Areas that were once blanketed with invasive Scotch broom are returning to their natural state.

***I figured this is good experience for a resume, and it’s good to get outdoors and learn about it.***

*–Chase Logan*

As Hagel outlined the scope of the day’s work, he also said Metro would be looking at hiring one or two Youth Ecology Corps members as an entry-level natural area worker.

The job would pay \$12 an hour, Hagel said.

In the end, Metro and its partners are looking at the long-game, hoping to change outlooks, a few dozen families at a time.

“It helps build this pipeline of students who not only feel more comfortable in the environment and engaged in it, but their families will start interacting more with them in these natural resources Metro provides,” Murphy said.



# Field Guide

## COOPER MOUNTAIN NATURE PARK

STORY BY Ashley Conley

PHOTOGRAPHY BY C. Bruce Forster

On the southwest edge of Beaverton, nature flourishes. Nestled between farmland and neighborhoods and rising nearly 800 feet above the valley, Cooper Mountain Nature Park offers spectacular vistas, wildlife viewing opportunities and a plethora of habitats to explore.

Cooper Mountain's bedrock, formed from the Grand Ronde basalt flows, has been folded and uplifted over millions of years, giving rise to the mountain seen today. From the parking area, visitors can absorb a breathtaking view of the Tualatin River Valley and Chehalem Mountains. Even more outstanding nature awaits those who dive in and explore the 3.5 miles of hiking trails.

Hiking along the paths in the 230-acre park, one enters a mosaic of rare and unique habitats. Six acres of upland prairie, the rarest habitat in the Willamette Valley, is found here. Due to development and fire suppression, only seven percent of original upland prairie remains in the Willamette Valley.

Cooper Mountain's prairie retains several native grasses and wildflowers, including the white rock larkspur, which the state lists as endangered. The upland prairie here fosters the Willamette Valley's third largest population of this endemic wildflower.

Oregon white oak savannas and woodlands can also be found on the flanks of the mountain. Oak woodlands and savannas are used by more than 200 species of wildlife in the region, including several neotropical migrants such as warblers, vireos and flycatchers.

Both oak woodlands and prairies depend on fire as a critical element in their ecosystems. As such, restoration techniques at the site have involved prescribed burns to restore these rare and special natural communities. These fires mimic techniques used by native inhabitants of the Willamette Valley. The fires, for instance, “release” native oaks from fast-growing Douglas firs, which can otherwise drown the sun-loving oaks in shade.

The landscape of Cooper Mountain holds a unique and wonderful story. Put it on the list of must-see places.

### BE ON THE LOOKOUT!



WESTERN BLUEBIRD



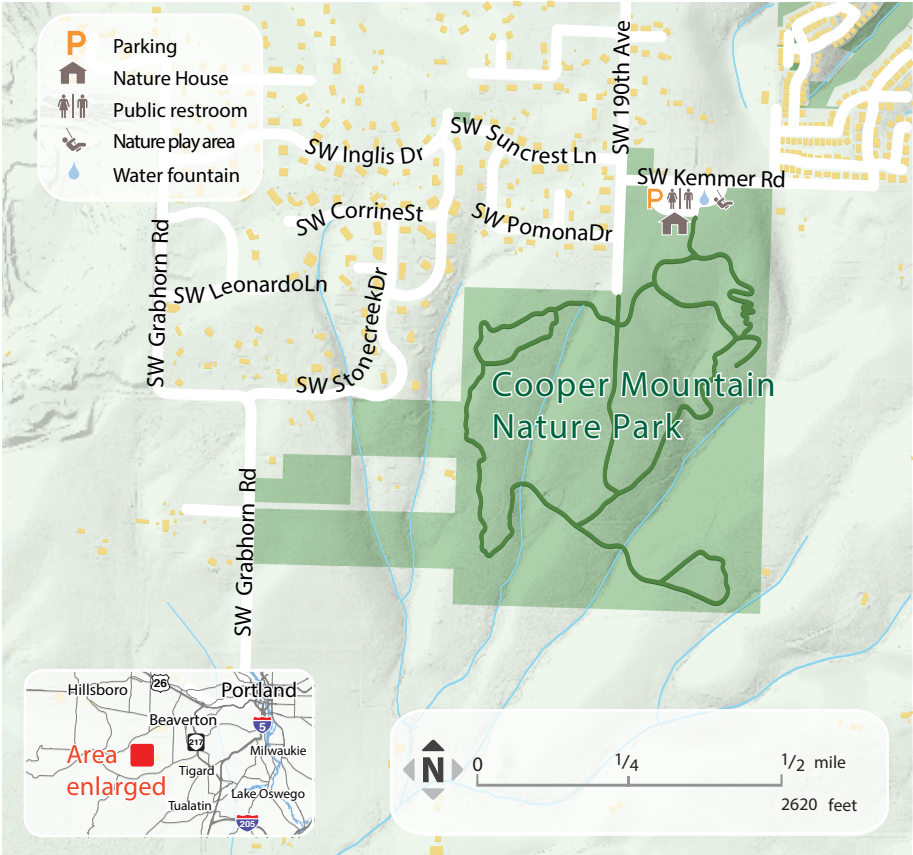
OREGON IRIS



WHITE ROCK LARKSPUR



BOBCAT



THE TUALATIN HILLS PARK & RECREATION DISTRICT PROVIDES DAY-TO-DAY MANAGEMENT.

### IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Continue exploring the outdoors with a visit to the Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge. Or stop by the nearby Cooper Mountain Vineyards to enjoy some wine. In the summer, pick berries or buy fresh produce at area farms, such as Baggenstos or Hoffman farms. Progress Ridge Townsquare is a short drive away with plenty of options for coffee, food, beer and shopping.

### SEASON BY SEASON

**SPRING:** The meadows are awash with a wide variety of wildflowers. From the violet hues of the Oregon iris to the delicate white racemes of white rock larkspur, the color spectrum of the state's finest wildflowers is well represented. As the eyes search for fragile blooms, make sure to keep the ears tuned in to the songs of resident and neotropical birds. Colorful Western bluebirds can be seen perched atop the tall grasses, while common yellowthroats sing the boundaries of their territory from elevated shrubs.

**SUMMER:** Long days and southern exposures make Cooper Mountain a great place to feel the warmth of Oregon summers. Sparkling vistas from atop the mountain offer views in all directions. Bring a picnic lunch and enjoy the breeze while you eat at the picnic tables by the Nature House. Then take a hike into the park, descending on the trails that wind through the oak

woodlands. Keep your eyes open for signs of various animals harvesting acorns in late summer.

**FALL:** Listen for the calls of the early nesting great-horned owls in late November. The males begin to vocalize in late fall in an attempt to establish their nesting territory and attract a mate. Nest sites of this nocturnal hunter can be found in tree cavities or old raptor nests, such as those used by red-tailed hawks.

**WINTER:** Because of barren deciduous trees and a wide open landscape, raptors can be seen with relative ease as they hunt for prey. Red-tailed hawks cruise over the meadows looking for voles, while the Cooper's and sharp-shinned hawks of the forest maneuver quickly through the trees in search of songbirds. Keep an eye out for rare visits by the Northern goshawk.

### COOPER MOUNTAIN NATURE PARK

18892 SW KEMMER ROAD, BEAVERTON

**DRIVING**  
From Southwest Farmington Road/Oregon 10, go south on Southwest 170th Avenue. Turn right at Southwest Rigert Road. Turn left at Southwest 175th Avenue. Make a right onto Southwest Kemmer Road. The park entrance is on the left in less than a mile.

**KNOW WHEN YOU GO**  
Open sunrise to sunset.  
No pets, please.

**AMENITIES**  
Bathrooms, nature play area, demonstration garden, new overflow parking lot, 3.5 miles of trails and a nearly 1-mile, wheelchair-accessible loop trail. The Nature House offers year-round nature classes and is available for rent by calling 503-629-6350.





# OUR COMMON GROUND



"Willamette Falls once powered our pioneer economy. Greater public access to this natural wonder has my family jumping for joy."  
- Economic Salmon



*Take a Daycation to Willamette Falls!*

For 150 years, one of the nation's largest waterfalls has been hidden from view by industry. The Willamette Falls Legacy Project will create new options for public access. But why wait? Grab a paddle and enjoy the Falls today!

## How-To:

## PADDLE THROUGH HISTORY IN OREGON CITY

- 1. All aboard.** Rent stand-up paddle boards, kayaks, and canoes from ENRG Kayaking's dock-side shop and ease upriver within minutes. [enrgkayaking.com](http://enrgkayaking.com)
- 2. History, meet prehistory.** As you glide underneath Oregon City's century-old gothic Arch Bridge, look for surfacing sturgeon, a giant fish from an ancient family. [fws.org](http://fws.org)
- 3. Soak in Willamette Falls.** Few but paddlers get this close to the nation's second largest waterfall. With redevelopment, that's about to change. [rediscoverthefalls.org](http://rediscoverthefalls.org)
- 4. Paddle back into town.** Regain your land legs with a stroll through historic downtown Oregon City, our state's original capital. [orc.org](http://orc.org)
- 5. Guilty pleasures.** Dine at the venerable Verdict Bar & Grill, located in Caufield House, Oregon's oldest commercial building still in use. [verdictbarandgrill.com](http://verdictbarandgrill.com)
- 6. All rise.** Take a joyride up Oregon City's cliffside Municipal Elevator -- North America's only "vertical street" -- and walk back along McLoughlin Promenade.

**Getting there:** Bus, bike, train, trek - you choose! Plan your trip to Oregon City with Trimet. [rtp.trimet.org](http://rtp.trimet.org)



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*3,000 square miles of parks and natural spaces, 1,250 miles of trails, 32 cities, two states, and one great idea we can all agree on.*



JOIN THE ALLIANCE AT [THEINTERTWINE.ORG](http://THEINTERTWINE.ORG)





# Get Involved



© JIM CRUCE PHOTO

## Classes and events

SAT  
04  
APR

### SPRING PLANT WALK

With the longer spring days, plants are waking up and stretching toward the sun. Take a walk with Metro naturalist Alice Froehlich to discover and learn about the diverse plants at Cooper Mountain. Take a close look at flowering plants, ferns and mosses. Along the walk, learn about basic identification skills and the natural history of common trailside plants. Meet at the Nature House.

**WHERE** Cooper Mountain Nature Park

**WHEN** 10a.m. to noon

**COST** \$10 per person

**AGES** 8 and older

**REGISTRATION REQUIRED**  
Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District,  
503-629-6350

**DIFFICULTY**



SAT  
11  
APR

### NATIVE PLANT CENTER VOLUNTEER VENTURES

Help care for rare, native plants that support regional restoration projects. Spring activities include planting bulbs and seeds and maintaining the nursery and wildflower seed beds. No experience is needed. Gloves, tools, water and snack provided. This event is wheelchair accessible with advance arrangements. See [oregonmetro.gov/calendar](https://oregonmetro.gov/calendar) for more dates

**WHERE** Native Plant Center, 2661 SW Borland Road, Tualatin

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

**COST** Free

**AGES** all ages

**REGISTRATION REQUIRED**  
or call 503-319-8292

**DIFFICULTY**



SAT  
02  
MAY

SAT  
16  
MAY

#### DIFFICULTY KEY

EASY MODERATE STRENUOUS

## Turtle walks

### FAMILY TURTLE WALK AT SMITH AND BYBEE WETLANDS

Oregon's turtles are rare, shy and hard to find, but Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area is home to one of the largest populations of Western painted turtles in Oregon. See these beautiful reptiles with the help of a Metro naturalist, who will have spotting scopes for a close look. Learn about the natural history of painted turtles and handle and examine shells of specimens found there.

### PASEO DE TORTUGAS FAMILIAR EN SMITH AND BYBEE WETLANDS

Las tortugas de Oregon son poco comunes, tímidas y difíciles de encontrar, pero Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area tiene una de las poblaciones más altas de tortugas pintadas occidentales en todo Oregon. Observa estos hermosos reptiles con la ayuda de naturalistas de Metro, quienes traerán telescopios para verlas más de cerca. Aprende un poco de historia sobre las tortugas pintadas y examina los caparazones de algunos especímenes de lugar.

SAT  
02  
MAY

**WHERE** Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area, 5300 N. Marine Drive, Portland

**WHEN** 10a.m. to noon

**COST** free

**AGES** 5 and older

**REGISTRATION REQUIRED**

**DIFFICULTY**



SÁB  
02  
MAYO

**DÓNDE** Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area, 5300 N. Marine Drive, Portland

**CUÁNDO** 1 a 3p.m.

**COSTO** gratis

**EDADES** 5 años en adelante

**REQUIERE PREINSCRIPCIÓN**

**DIFICULTAD**



SAT  
18  
APR

### SOLVE-IT FOR EARTH DAY!

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

**WHERE** Various locations

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

**COST** Free

**AGES** all ages

**REGISTRATION REQUIRED**

**DIFFICULTY**



SAT  
18  
APR

### SPRING BIRD AND WILDFLOWER WALK AT MOUNT TALBERT

The rare oak woodlands of Mount Talbert offer welcome refuge for migrating songbirds, and a revitalized oak savanna and wet prairie meadow bloom with a variety of wildflowers in the spring. Join Metro naturalist Ashley Conley on a walk to discover the beauty of this island oasis nestled between the bustling interstate and urban development.

**WHERE** Mount Talbert Nature Park

**WHEN** 10a.m. to 1p.m.

**COST** \$5 per person, children 8 to 17 free

**AGES** 8 and older

**REGISTRATION REQUIRED**  
North Clackamas Parks & Recreation District, 503-794-8092

**DIFFICULTY**







THUR  
23  
APR

SAT  
25  
APR

SAT  
02  
MAY

### BIRD LANGUAGE

A THREE-PART SERIES

Have you ever wondered what the birds talk about? Would you like to see more wildlife, such as mink, coyotes, or birds of prey? Songbirds are in constant dialogue about the whereabouts of land and aerial predators. Explore the art and science of interpreting bird movements, songs and alarm calls. Plan to attend all three classes. Detailed directions and meeting locations will be provided upon registration.

**WHERE** *Intro* Metro Regional Center, 600 NE Grand Ave., Portland (4/23); *Field classes* Cooper Mountain Nature Park (4/25 and 5/2)

**WHEN** *Intro* 6:30 to 8:30p.m.; *Field classes* 9a.m. to 1p.m.

**COST** \$50 per person

**AGES** 15 and older

**REGISTRATION REQUIRED**

**DIFFICULTY**

SUN  
10  
MAY

### MOTHER’S DAY BIRDS AND BLOOMS OF CANEMAH BLUFF

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

**WHERE** Canemah Bluff Natural Area

**WHEN** 1 to 3p.m.

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

**AGES** 6 and older

**REGISTRATION REQUIRED**

**DIFFICULTY**

FRI  
15  
MAY

SAT  
16  
MAY

SUN  
17  
MAY

### SANDY RIVER SPEY CLAVE

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

**WHERE** Oxbow Regional Park

**WHEN** 9a.m. to 4p.m.

**COST** \$5/car and \$7/bus

**AGES** all ages

**ADVANCED REGISTRATION NOT REQUIRED**

**DIFFICULTY**

SAT  
16  
MAY

### SMITH AND BYBEE WETLANDS KAYAK TOUR

Join naturalist Ashley Conley in a search for local wildlife in this urban wetland system. Alder Creek Kayak and Canoe will provide kayaks, paddles, flotation devices and instruction. Some kayaking experience recommended. Detailed information about what to bring will be provided to registered participants.

**WHERE** Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area

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

**COST** \$28 per person

**AGES** 14 and older

**REGISTRATION REQUIRED**

**DIFFICULTY**

SUN  
17  
MAY

### BIRDS OF COOPER MOUNTAIN

Spring is a great time of year to see and identify the birds of Cooper Mountain. Join Metro Naturalist Ashley Conley on a leisurely walk in search of raptors, migrants and resident songbirds. Bring binoculars or borrow a pair on-site. Meet at the Nature House.

**WHERE** Cooper Mountain Nature Park

**WHEN** 9 to 11:30a.m.

**COST** \$10 per person

**AGES** 8 and older

**REGISTRATION REQUIRED**

Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District, 503-629-6350

**DIFFICULTY**

SAT  
30  
MAY

### SMITH AND BYBEE WETLANDS CANOE AND KAYAK TOUR

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

WED  
03  
JUN

SAT  
06  
JUN

SAT  
13  
JUN

### WILDLIFE TRACKING

A THREE-PART SERIES

Through their daily travels, wildlife leave behind stories on the landscape. This three-part series kicks off with an evening lecture at a pub, covering the fundamentals of animal tracking. During two field days, participants will build skills reading and interpreting tracks and sign. Locations and directions will be sent to registered participants.

SUN  
14  
JUN

### SNEAK PEEK NATURE WALK AT MCCARTHY CREEK NATURAL AREA

Beyond Forest Park, where elk roam and salmon swim, voters have invested in a growing collection of protected natural areas. By creating forested links with the Coast Range, animals can travel across the landscape. Come learn about one of the natural areas in this wildlife corridor. The location will be provided upon registration.

SUN  
21  
JUN

### FATHER’S DAY ANIMAL TRACKING

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

**WHERE** Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area

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

**COST** \$28 per adult, \$8 per child

**AGES** 14 and older (adult rate), younger kids (ages 5-13) can be passengers in a canoe

**REGISTRATION REQUIRED**

**DIFFICULTY**

**WHERE** *Intro* Lucky Labrador Brew Pub, 915 SE Hawthorne Blvd., Portland (6/3); *Field classes* Metro Natural Areas (6/6 and 6/13)

**WHEN** *Intro* 6:30 to 8:30p.m.; *Field classes* 9:30a.m. to 2:30p.m.

**COST** \$50 per person

**AGES** 15 and older

**REGISTRATION REQUIRED**

**DIFFICULTY**

**WHERE** North Tualatin Mountains

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

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

**AGES** 12 and older

**REGISTRATION REQUIRED**

**DIFFICULTY**

**WHERE** Oxbow Regional Park

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

**COST** \$6 per person, \$11 per family; \$5/car and \$7/bus

**AGES** 8 and older

**REGISTRATION REQUIRED**

**DIFFICULTY**

## How to register

Unless otherwise noted, register and pay at [oregonmetro.gov/calendar](http://oregonmetro.gov/calendar)

Registration and payment required at least 48 hours in advance for all classes. Classes with low enrollment will be canceled. Registered participants will receive full refunds.



# Tools For Living

## You haul

When the stuff you don't want doesn't qualify for pick-up, bring it to Metro

Cleaning out the garage. Remodeling. Overhauling the yard. As the weather warms, home projects beckon. And while the results are rewarding – organized tools, more room in the kitchen or a sweet backyard hangout – these projects can leave behind stuff you don't want but can't get rid of through your garbage service.

So what to do with that cracked kiddie pool or tree stump?

### DONATE, REUSE, REPAIR

Donate old clothes, toys, art supplies and anything that's still usable. Even old countertops can have a second life.

A failing coffee grinder or flickering lamp might be easy to fix. Ask a friend for help, search for online guidance or find a repair cafe.

### DISPOSAL IS THE LAST – BUT SOMETIMES ONLY – OPTION

You've repaired. You've donated. But you still have stuff your hauler won't take. You can recycle or dispose of items at many places around the region, including two Metro facilities in Northwest Portland and Oregon City.

Metro's two facilities accept many items for recycling at no charge. They also accept yard debris, garbage and hazardous waste, with rates charged depending on the category. But before you cram everything into your car, make sure you know exactly what's accepted at what rate and how it should be prepared for drop-off to save time or even a few bucks.



### Know before you go

#### SEPARATE LIKE ITEMS

Separating out recyclables in your load can earn you a rebate. Separating other similar items, like wood or garbage, makes your drop-off easier.

#### COVER YOUR LOAD

Metro facilities charge a lower rate when you cover your load. Items that fall off during transport are dangerous and can result in a fine from police for littering.

#### HANDLE HAZARDOUS WASTE SAFELY

Items like pesticides, fluorescent bulbs or medical sharps are considered hazardous waste. Keep products sealed and secured in their original containers and dispose of them at a Metro hazardous waste facility – they're located at Metro's garbage and recycling sites but have shorter operating hours.

#### KNOW WHAT'S IN YOUR LOAD

Be prepared to describe the contents of your load at the disposal site.



### Ask Metro with a call or a click

- Get directions, rates, hours and info about how to prep your load for Metro's garbage, recycling and hazardous waste sites.
- Search Metro's database for the nearest place to donate, recycle or dispose of anything from packing peanuts to that old dishwasher.
- Take extra care with household hazardous products by heeding essential prep tips for your haul.

Talk to a friendly expert at 503-234-3000 or visit [oregonmetro.gov/toolsforliving](http://oregonmetro.gov/toolsforliving)

*Digging in to the garden this spring? Plant native plants! Find tips on page 5.*

Your family, your yard.  
Keep them both  
**healthy  
and  
safe.**





**\$5 off the  
good stuff**  
compost, native plants  
and hand-weeding tools

For a list of participating stores, visit [oregonmetro.gov/gardenshops](http://oregonmetro.gov/gardenshops).  
Limit one coupon per customer per store.  
Requires a \$20 minimum purchase  
before discount. Expires 12/31/2015.

WHERE CAN I FIND THE  
**GREENEST RED PAINT?**



Ask Metro.

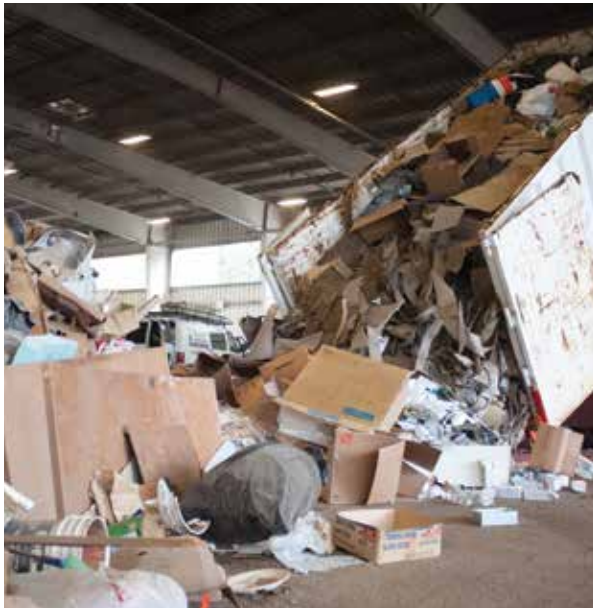
503-234-3000  
[oregonmetro.gov](http://oregonmetro.gov)



**Ask Metro** ABOUT TOOLS FOR LIVING.  
503-234-3000 [oregonmetro.gov](http://oregonmetro.gov)



# Regional Roundup



## Solid Waste Roadmap

### Metro considers ways to better use garbage as a resource

When it comes to managing waste, the Portland metro region already diverts more than 60 percent of its discarded materials into something other than landfill fodder. But the region still generates about one million tons of garbage every year, and that waste has to go somewhere to be managed responsibly.

Metro’s contracts with trucking and landfill contractors expire in 2019. That provides an opportunity to plan ahead through the Solid Waste Roadmap, a long-term effort to determine the best approaches for managing the region’s garbage and food scraps. In 2015 and early 2016, the Metro Council will likely make decisions about the region’s garbage and food scraps with a focus on protecting the public’s health and the environment, getting good value for the public’s money and other important values.

### LONG-TERM MANAGEMENT OF GARBAGE

Garbage is a resource that’s literally thrown away. It can provide energy to power homes and businesses. What makes the most sense for the region to manage garbage to get more out of this resource? Metro is currently looking at five possible technologies for managing garbage in the future and ways to recover more from what people throw away.

### FUTURE OF METRO SOUTH STATION

Metro South in Oregon City is a popular waste transfer facility that receives many types of materials from different sources. It handles garbage collected at homes and businesses as well as food waste and yard debris for composting.

It also accepts “self-haul” materials – garbage, construction debris and recyclable items brought in by individuals and small businesses – for recycling, reuse and disposal. The facility also accepts household hazardous waste, such as paint, solvents, cleaners, pesticides, fertilizers and other chemicals.

The station sits on a constrained site with limited room to grow. With no other full-service waste facilities nearby, it becomes more challenging to provide the full set of services

that customers need. Metro is considering two possible new designs for Metro South to better serve its customers.

### FOOD SCRAPS

Food is the single largest recoverable portion of the region’s waste. Although the region is making progress to divert food scraps to compost and energy production, almost a fifth of what the region currently sends to landfills – about 170,000 tons per year, enough to fill 5,000 long-haul trucks – is food.

Metro is looking at existing and potential new facilities in the Northwest that could receive and process the region’s food scraps to put them to use for homes, businesses, farms and gardens. The Metro Council might also consider new policies, incentives, and other approaches to capture greater economic and environmental value from the region’s food scraps.

*Learn more about the Solid Waste Roadmap at [oregonmetro.gov/solidwasteroadmap](http://oregonmetro.gov/solidwasteroadmap)*





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# Share (Y)our Nature and Win!

## Anne Lenzi | Cooper Mountain Nature Park

Early morning hikes have become a tradition for my family. On this particular morning in November we chose one of our favorite parks, Cooper Mountain Nature Park. We were walking along the Cooper Mountain Loop when we spotted this amazing rough-skinned newt on the trail.

- Anne Lenzi, Aloha



## SHARE (Y)OUR NATURE, WIN PRIZES

Win an annual parks pass, an overnight camping trip at Oxbow Regional Park, a tennis court session, or a round of golf for four people including cart at Glendoveer Golf and Tennis Center.

To enter, submit a photo taken at a park or natural area in the Portland metro region – your friends and family, a view of wildlife or a sunset, for example. Include a description of your experience in a 50-word caption. Where were you? What were you doing? What captured your attention?

The winner will appear in this space. By submitting a photo, you consent to Metro's future use and publication of your photo.

Send your picture and description by May 31 to:  
[ourbigbackyard@oregonmetro.gov](mailto:ourbigbackyard@oregonmetro.gov)

© Anne Lenzi



Metro | *Making a great place*

To view this publication online or find out more about Metro, please visit: [oregonmetro.gov](http://oregonmetro.gov)