



Summer / 2015

# OUR BIG BACKYARD

*Explore great places and more  
with Metro*

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10 years of Nature in Neighborhoods  
grants make their mark

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Metro | *Making a great place*

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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

Shirley Craddick, District 1  
Carlotta Collette, District 2  
Craig Dirksen, District 3  
Kathryn Harrington, District 4  
Sam Chase, District 5  
Bob Stacey, District 6

Auditor

Brian Evans



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  
facebook.com/oregonmetro  
twitter.com/oregonmetro

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 503-797-1545.

On the cover: Will Decker helps out during a work day at the Milwaukie Presbyterian Church, which received a \$7,800 Nature in Neighborhoods grant in 2009 to restore 3.5 acres of wetlands on Kellogg Lake. Will and other volunteers removed invasive vegetation and replanted the area with native trees and shrubs to create a refuge for wildlife and people.





## Graham Oaks | Explore Restore Create

**SAT., JULY 11, NOON TO 5 P.M.**

11825 SW Wilsonville Road, Wilsonville  
Free admission! Walk, bike or ride the bus for a special gift.

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

## Blue Lake | International Food Festival

**SAT., SEPT. 5, 11 A.M. TO 5 P.M.**

21224 NE Blue Lake Road, Fairview  
Free walk or bike-in admission. \$5/car, \$7/bus for parking.

Help shape the future of Blue Lake:  
[oregonmetro.gov/bluelake](http://oregonmetro.gov/bluelake)



Metro | Making a great place

# Nature News

## Something's Different Here

STORY BY *George Winborn* / PHOTOGRAPHY BY *Chris Woo*



### NEW ENTRYWAY, RESTROOMS AT BLUE LAKE

A new entryway now greets visitors to Blue Lake Regional Park.

With 300,000 annual visitors, Blue Lake is Metro’s most popular park. Some 15,000 visitors pass through the entrance every summer weekend day. The new three-lane entrance will make it easier for visitors to enter quickly and to start enjoying the park.

Metro partnered with the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality to shift the new entrance away from antiquated dry wells, which handled stormwater runoff. New bioswales help to protect water quality.

Money from the 2013 parks and natural areas levy also will provide for new restrooms, renovations of the wetlands trail and improvements to make all picnic areas accessible to wheelchairs.

### RINGSIDE RE-OPENS AT GLENDOVEER

Grabbing a bite to eat at Glendoveer Golf and Tennis Center is now more relaxing and enjoyable after renovations to the RingSide Grill restaurant.

RingSide paid for the majority of the \$1-million renovation to improve wheelchair accessibility and boost sustainability. New windows, lighting, electrical, plumbing, appliances and HVAC make the restaurant at Glendoveer far more energy efficient. The renovations also provide for more indoor and outdoor seating.

### WATCH MACBETH AT LONE FIR CEMETERY

Can’t make it to Scotland this summer? How about watching the Scottish play Macbeth in Lone Fir Cemetery one summer night instead?

See Portland Actors Ensemble perform this quintessential Shakespeare play contemplating life, death, power and fame set among the Lone Fir tombstones at twilight.

The show runs June 18 to July 25. Performances are free to the public.

The group’s previous play at Lone Fir, Hamlet, set records for the number of people attending an ensemble show, director Matt Pavik said. The group is aiming to attract 500 to 700 people to each show this summer.

To accommodate the large audience, the play will take place in the center of the cemetery among “great ‘graveyard’-feeling images – spooky trees, mossy headstones,” Pavik said.

For dates, times and more information about the performances, visit [portlandactors.com](http://portlandactors.com) or call 503-467-6573.

### Three questions with Judy BlueHorse Skelton



STORY & PHOTOGRAPHY  
BY *Julie Cash*

Judy BlueHorse Skelton is Nez Perce and Cherokee and has a long history of sharing cultural connections with Native American students. A senior instructor at Portland State University’s Indigenous Nations Studies, she is also a well-known herbalist and author.

Metro, as part of prairie restoration efforts, invited the Native American community to help identify the plants that originally inhabited several of these voter-protected properties. BlueHorse Skelton and her students have started to help identify and collect plants, and have conversations about ways to once again incorporate Native traditions into the urban landscape for food, medicines and ceremonies.

**Q:** *What are first foods?*

**A:** First foods are staples of native culture, spirituality, medicine and overall well-being. They are camas, wapato, berries and roots – considered the women’s foods, which means women collect, tend to them and are responsible for maintaining their health. Salmon, lamprey and game are the men’s foods. We all eat all the foods but have different responsibilities caring for them. First foods are really medicine; eating them is extremely healthy. Early research at the University of Arizona shows they are full of antioxidants, are immune enhancing and have anti-inflammatory qualities.

**Q:** *How do Native Americans care for them?*

**A:** We are taught that the plants are our relatives. What they call sustainability today is the way natives lived while planning for the future. Natives have a sophisticated but low-impact, low-tech approach to our food system – land management practices that can be sustained forever. We revisited places in balance with seasons and weather patterns, not nomadic but very much with intention and connection to place. Our way of living allows the land to refresh itself, not exhausting any one place or thing. There is tremendous interest today in these low-tech ideas.

**Q:** *What is your connection to first foods?*

**A:** It’s a spiritual sense of place, responsibility to care for the plant world – Native American elders who were here before us. This is an incredibly dynamic time, very active. My students and I are reclaiming the urban landscape for food, medicine and ceremony. At all times we respect the ways of our elders, following how foods were gathered and prepared. What has happened to the land happened to the people. As we heal the land, we are healing ourselves. Whether we call it sacred law or natural law, we can feel it. Nature is a healer. There is another dimension of this reconnection to place, when we get on the land and feel the memory. We can feel them remembering us. We recognize sacred is right beneath our feet, even if it’s paved, our elders are there reconnecting us to the land.



# Conserving Nature, One Acre at a Time.

STORY BY *Kate Holleran* / PHOTOGRAPHY BY *C. Bruce Forster and Ryan Jones*



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.



## HABITAT CONNECTIONS PLAY ESSENTIAL ROLE IN RESTORATION

On a sunny day in the spring, I walked across a field south of Forest Grove and looked west toward the Tualatin River, then east toward the tree line of Chehalem Ridge Natural Area.

Standing on the edge of one of Metro's newest natural areas in the Wapato Lake basin, my eyes explored the opportunities to help wildlife move west to the Coast Range or east toward the Willamette River.

Movement is essential to life. Corridors connecting wild places help wildlife move between habitats. Scruffy-appearing natural spaces are the highways of biodiversity movement that facilitate exchanges of genetic diversity between populations, a fundamental process for keeping our landscapes wild with native species.

To conservation scientists, biodiversity corridors simply refer to areas where an animal feels safe enough to move through a landscape.

Landscape permeability – science-speak for how easy it is for wildlife to move through corridors and across a landscape – is a factor I think about when designing restoration projects.

Pollinators such as beetles, bees, butterflies and birds move from one flower to another in search of nectar, incidentally pollinating our farm fields, prairies and forests. Natural areas, hedgerows and uncultivated field edges allow pollinators to feed, breed and move to new refuges.

Larger animals such as coyotes, squirrels and black-tailed deer also use biodiversity corridors. And animals not often seen, such as the usually nocturnal bobcat, move through habitat connections to reach new territory.

Bobcats are solitary and generally do not share ranges. Young bobcats must move to new territory or try to push out older cats. This year's young, born in the spring, will disperse in the fall, searching for habitats rich in rabbits and rodents, their primary prey.

The bobcats I've seen at Chehalem Ridge likely use corridors to move to new areas. They may travel west from Chehalem Ridge through headwater streams, natural areas and rough edges of cultivated fields until connecting to Metro's natural areas along the Tualatin River. Keeping this native cat and other wildlife in our region requires maintaining and adding connections.

Restoration work is done in the context of the health of native plants and animals at an individual site and their interactions with the larger landscape. Biodiversity connections are the social networks of the wild world, essential paths through which wildlife moves, finds mates for breeding, communicates its presence and establishes new home ranges. Effective restoration means thinking about connections at multiple scales, and between and among habitats.

How does that type of restoration thinking get applied in the real world? In the natural areas connecting Chehalem Ridge to the Tualatin River floodplain, we are increasing the amount of native habitat available by planting trees and shrubs to expand the width of riparian areas.

At natural areas where farming continues, we soften the abrupt edge between cultivated and wild spaces with more native plants. We take down or create breaks in fences not needed for public safety or other management needs.

Failing or undersized culverts are removed or replaced with larger ones that allow small animals to safely migrate back and forth under roads. We add in down dead wood, creating the small-scale corridors that rodents, reptiles and amphibians use as pathways across the forest floor.

You can help wildlife move through your neighborhood, too. Wildlife lives in all of our communities, including urban landscapes. Do you know where the biodiversity connections are across and through your neighborhood?



## Nature University

### VOLUNTEER AS A NATURALIST

If you love nature and enjoy working with children, consider becoming a volunteer naturalist by attending Nature University.

Nature University is a free training course that teaches new volunteers time-honored techniques of nature observation, principles of place-based education and skills to lead Metro's environmental education programs at parks and natural areas.

Volunteer naturalists learn about effective teaching techniques, common wildlife and plants, and the ecology of wetlands and ancient forests.

Nature University classes meet during the day on Tuesdays, February through early April 2016. Graduates become official volunteer naturalists and help lead nature-based programs on a weekly basis in the spring and fall and at least twice a month during the summer.

**Learn more** about Nature University by attending an information session.

**OCTOBER 9, 2015**  
Information session, 10 to 11:30a.m.  
Location TBD.

**OCTOBER 21, 2015**  
Information session, 6 to 7:30p.m.  
Location TBD.

**NOVEMBER 15, 2015**  
Applications due.

**FEBRUARY 2016**  
Classes start.

**APRIL 2016**  
Students shadow field trips and then start leading programs.

**JUNE 2016**  
Summer programs start.

**SEPTEMBER 2016**  
Field trip training begins, and students start leading field trips.

**NOVEMBER 2016**  
Field trips wrap up.

For more information and to apply, visit [oregonmetro.gov/volunteer](http://oregonmetro.gov/volunteer)





# From landfill to prairie

STORY BY Yuxing Zheng / PHOTOGRAPHY BY Metro staff



## ST. JOHNS PRAIRIE BLOSSOMS AT FORMER LANDFILL

Can a landfill ever become a community asset and natural attraction?

Metro is hoping to find out in North Portland. For more than 50 years, garbage from the Portland area arrived at the St. Johns Landfill. The landfill closed in 1991 after receiving about 14 million tons of trash.

Now, the landfill – technically part of Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area – is finding new life as St. Johns Prairie. A years-long effort is underway to transform the 240-acre site into a prairie full of native plants to attract Western meadowlarks, streaked horned larks, Western painted turtles and other wildlife.

The overall plan for the site includes building a public trail with views of Mount Hood along the eastern and northern edges of the prairie to connect Chimney Park in the south to Bybee and Smith lakes in the north. For now, the landfill remains closed to the public and continues to be actively monitored.

One of the first steps in the prairie’s restoration began last November with the seeding of 17 acres. This spring, sedges, camas, yarrow, daisies, different types of buttercups and dozens of other types of native plants blossomed.

“I chose a list of plants so that something will be blooming from spring to early fall,” said Elaine Stewart, a Metro senior natural resources scientist who is leading restoration efforts at the prairie. “There will be lots of nectar and pollen, and the flowers will emerge at different times of year.”

The wildflowers attract insects and pollinators and, in turn, birds and wildlife that feed on them. In particular, Stewart hopes to attract Western meadowlarks and streaked horned larks.

“The Western meadowlark is the state bird, and it’s almost gone from this part of the valley,” she said. “Hopefully with the new and improved habitat, we’ll see them.”

In recent years, employees at the landfill have maintained the newly created habitat for

streaked horned larks. They have also used 2-D and 3-D lark decoys and a recorded loop of calls to attract the birds. The larks, which nest nearby in Rivergate, have visited the site but haven’t stayed to nest, said Therese Mitchell, a landfill and environmental specialist.

“One day when monitoring, while the vocal attraction was playing and the 3-D decoys were out, I saw one streaked horned lark running around the sound system box and jumping up at the decoy closest to the sound system box,” Mitchell said. “Amazing! I don’t know if the lark was trying to fight with the decoy or woo it.”

The decoys have also attracted their host of predators, including curious coyotes and juvenile bald eagles that chomped at the wooden decoys.

Restoration work at a former landfill comes with unique challenges. For instance, a network of pipes that allows for the safe control of methane and other landfill gases crisscrosses the prairie.

A protective plastic cap covering the landfill sits about a foot and a half below the surface, meaning trees and tall plants with extensive roots are largely out of the picture.

On top of the plastic cover sits a layer of sand and a layer of top soil. The sand and soil, along with the site’s gently sloping hills, ensure water drains quickly in order to minimize the chances of water interacting with the garbage and causing contamination. But those features also cause the soil to dry out quickly, which can make it more difficult for plants to grow.

But the challenges are easily outweighed by the benefits. Restoring St. Johns Prairie continues the transformation of the landfill from a public liability to a community asset, said Paul Vandenberg, principal planner for the landfill.

“We’re continuing to reclaim the landscape through environmental monitoring, habitat restoration and the construction of trails that will allow the public to experience the site again,” he said.



## Oxbow Regional Park plays host to unique birthday party

STORY BY Yuxing Zheng / PHOTO COURTESY OF Ben Jacob

MOST CHILDREN CELEBRATING THEIR BIRTHDAY REQUEST THE LATEST TOYS OR PARTIES AT PLAYHOUSES OR POOLS.

**Not Powell Jacob.** The Troutdale boy celebrated his sixth birthday last fall with a volunteer party at Oxbow Regional Park. He invited about 15 friends and classmates to help pick up litter around the park for two hours. And in lieu of gifts, Powell asked for contributions to the Oregon Food Bank.

The guests enjoyed the unique party, said Audra Norris-Jacob, Powell’s mother.

“They felt like it was a meaningful activity and a refreshing change to the sort of inflatable jump-around kind of birthday parties that are all about consumerism,” she said. “All of the kids really enjoyed having some exposure to a different outdoor activity and actually doing something good for the community. I think it was well-received by the community, and I would encourage any parent to do this.”

The family regularly picks up litter whenever they’re at a park or beach, she said. “That’s just something that’s very important that we ingrained in him, to take care of the environment and to not litter,” she said.

It was one of these trips to the beach last year that inspired Powell to come up with the idea for his birthday party.

“I was at the beach, and I asked ‘Can I have a trash pickup for my birthday?’” said Powell, a first grader at Lewis and Clark Montessori Charter School in Damascus. “And my mom said yes, so I chose to do that.”

Picking up litter “felt good,” he said, and it was important work “so that nature can grow.”

Of course, picking up litter requires first finding it.

“The kids and their parent helpers were able to find enough litter to feel like they made a real contribution,” said Ben Jacob, Powell’s father. “But I think all of us, especially the parents, were impressed by how clean the park already was.”

Powell raised \$177 for the Oregon Food Bank at his party. Powell personally delivered the money to the food bank and toured the facilities to see how it handles and packages food.

“It would be outstanding if Powell’s litter-pickup birthday party inspires at least one other child to host a service project on their birthday,” Jacob said.



Powell Jacob, 6, (left) with friend Zac Flier





## THE INTER TWINE



# 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.



## TAKE A DAYCATION TO TUALATIN HILLS



**TUALATIN HILLS**  
PARK & RECREATION DISTRICT

**TIME:** 3-5 hours

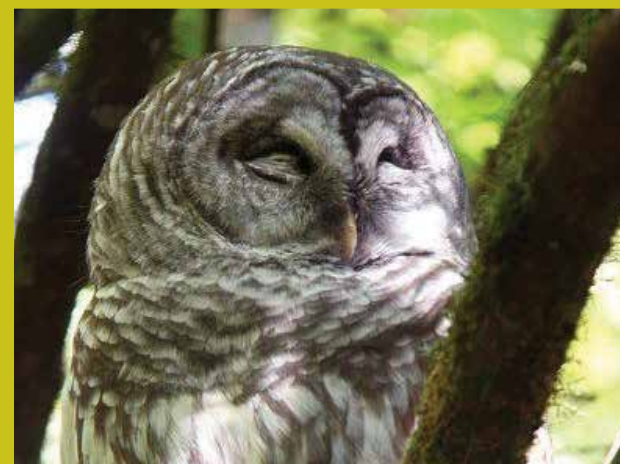
**COST:** Free, plus food & drink

**ADVENTUROUSNESS:** Easy

Go wild on the west side with a walk through tranquil woods and wetlands in Tualatin Hills Nature Park. After your stroll, enjoy lunch or dinner in downtown Beaverton. Both are a few steps from the MAX light rail and close to downtown Portland.

- 1 Disembark.** Exit the the MAX train at the Merlo Road station, and head toward the west end of the platform (away from downtown Portland).
- 2 Get walking.** Turn left, cross the train tracks, and amble to the start of the Oak Trail. It's level and paved all the way to the Nature Center.
- 3 Choose an adventure.** At the first fork, head right to follow the Creek Trail, which explores the west side of the park. Or continue left to the Nature Center, with interactive exhibits that are especially fun for children. Pick up a map, use the restrooms, visit the nature store, or borrow a wheelchair.
- 4 Keep a sharp eye.** You're in the heart of suburban Beaverton, yet wildlife abounds: coyotes, deer, beavers, owls and many other birds are often spotted.
- 5 Satisfy your munchies.** Return to the MAX through the park, and board any westbound train to get your lunch or dinner in downtown Beaverton, just three stops away at Beaverton Central Station.

Tualatin Hills Nature Park is managed by Intertwine partner Tualatin Hills Park and Recreation District. For more info, visit [www.thprd.org](http://www.thprd.org).



### Beaverton Central MAX Station



### WHERE TO EAT

#### DECARLI RESTAURANT

4545 SW Watson Ave | [DecarliRestaurant.com](http://DecarliRestaurant.com)  
Walk four blocks south on Watson. A local, seasonal take on Italian cuisine. Dinner only; for lunch, visit sister restaurant Watson Hall at 12655 SW 1st St.

#### BEAVERTON BAKERY

12375 SW Broadway St | [BeavertonBakery.com](http://BeavertonBakery.com)  
Walk south on Watson to Broadway and turn left. Pastries, cakes and coffee until late afternoon every day.

#### DU KUH BEE

12590 SW 1st St | 503-643-5388  
Walk five blocks south on Watson to 1st Street. Warm up with hand-made dumplings and noodles at this no-frills Korean/Chinese restaurant. Opens 4 p.m.

### GETTING THERE

**BY TRANSIT** Plan your trip to "Tualatin Hills Nature Park Trailhead" at [trimet.org](http://trimet.org). The train ride takes about 30 minutes from downtown Portland.

**BY CAR** Get driving directions to the Tualatin Hills Nature Park at [maps.google.com](http://maps.google.com). The Park is about a 20-minute drive from downtown Portland.

**BY BIKE** Bicycling is allowed on paved trails inside the Nature Park (though not on dirt or gravel trails). Take your bike on the MAX, or ride all the way. You can plan a combined bike/transit trip at [ride.trimet.org](http://ride.trimet.org).



LEARN MORE AT [THEINTERTWINE.ORG](http://THEINTERTWINE.ORG)

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



# Nature in Neighborhoods



Community members enjoy a spring bird walk at April Hill Park organized by Jill Gaddis (in blue hat).

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY Metro staff and courtesy of Josh Northcutt

## 10 years of grants bring nature closer to home

Anywhere you stand in the greater Portland metro region, chances are you won't need to venture far to discover a slice of nature.

Over the past 10 years, Metro's Nature in Neighborhoods grants have helped to acquire land, restore habitat and streams, connect residents to nature, transform neighborhoods, promote equity, develop the next generation of nature enthusiasts – and more.

The grants are made possible thanks to voter investments. Nature in Neighborhoods grants support partnerships so that neighborhood groups, nonprofits, government agencies and others can boost access and improve nature close to home.

On the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the grants, we revisit four recipients to see the difference the grants made in their neighborhoods.

### A PARK FOR PEOPLE AND NATURE

A trail, boardwalk and nature-viewing platform are coming soon to April Hill Park, thanks in part to an \$83,000 grant in 2013. The transformation is designed to protect sensitive habitat while inviting people to enjoy the sights and sounds of this Southwest Portland gem, from chorus frogs and long-toed salamanders to rough-skinned newts and dozens of bird species.

Jill Gaddis, who leads Friends of April Hill Park, reflects on her journey since moving to the neighborhood nearly two decades ago:



JILL GADDIS

*"We'd walk down to the creek and see that it's incised terribly, with a lot of debris. And then we would see these trails, really damaging the natural area. A few people would go in with their kids and say, 'This is where the bugs are,' but most people were afraid to go beyond the trees. They'd think the park ends right there.*

*As I tell everyone, they don't realize how lucky we are to have this park. It's right in the center of the neighborhood. We have a developed area where you can play and roughhouse. Then we have this wonderful, natural area that you can go into and just be at peace. It's been abused, but I think it's savable.*

*A lot of people say, 'Oh, this is going to take too long.' I think, pick something you have a passion for and go for it. It does take time – but so does learning to knit. To do anything takes a while."*



## FUTURE LEADERS

The Center for Diversity & the Environment received a \$100,000 grant in 2014 for its Environment 2042 Leadership Program. Named after the year in which people of color are projected to become the majority in the United States, the program develops leaders who will make the environmental movement more diverse and equitable.

Rob Nathan, director of digital engagement at Northwest Earth Institute, is in the first group of participants:



ROB NATHAN

*“It has helped me frame the frustrations I’ve experienced in a productive manner. I can better articulate and deconstruct racial inequities and divisions of power. It has also allowed me to feel empowered to address those inequities. By creating this strong network of folks who work in the movement, we can all work together to support each other to advance equity.*

*My organization has been around for 20 years. We’re building an equity policy right now as a response to me pushing equity as a priority. I initiated this push as a direct result of the leadership training that came from the program. I’ve also been able to step up as a leadership chair for the Environmental Professionals of Color group.*

*That would not be happening if I hadn’t taken part in this program. I’m really glad that Metro made the investment so that when we say we’re building capacity, we’re investing in the people who will eventually be the decision makers.”*

## A SENSE OF PLACE

In 2010, the Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership and Wilderness International Youth Conservation Corps applied separately for grants to restore Meldrum Bar Park on the Willamette River.

Metro introduced the two groups, who formed a partnership and jointly won a \$15,000 grant in 2010 and a \$23,000 grant in 2013.

Bethany Wray, director of Wilderness International:



JOSH NORTHCUTT, a former student and current team lead for Wilderness International, hard at work at Meldrum Bar Park.

*“We are able to each use our strengths to make a team that’s bigger and better. Wilderness International has experience on the ground. We’re there on a weekly basis to bring in high schoolers from the (Clackamas County) juvenile department. (The estuary partnership) helps coordinate volunteer events to bring in 30 to 50 adults as well as elementary students for field trips.*

*Bringing in kids on a weekly basis is great, allowing us to not just pull weeds but to teach new skills through educational and job experiences.*

*The funding from Metro helps make this happen. This experience helps our at-risk youths develop a sense of place. Now they are familiar with the wildlife and plant species. This helps them connect, gives them an appreciation for other projects and makes them want to care for their surroundings.*

*We’ve had students who’ve vandalized fences or property. Now that they see the effort needed [to clean it up], they don’t do it again.”*



VIRGINIA GARCIA CORNELIUS WELLNESS CENTER

## A RIBBON OF GREEN

With the help of a \$322,000 grant in 2011, the Virginia Garcia Cornelius Wellness Center transformed a crumbling alley into an inviting, block-long community green space. English and Spanish interpretive signs, created in partnership with Clean Water Services, teach visitors about the center’s bioswales and water-saving features.

The green alley has created a space for community, says Gil Muñoz, CEO at Virginia Garcia Memorial Health Center:

*“We are thrilled with the outcome. The community now enjoys a serene space where trees and native plants are flourishing. The space connects to a green plaza and teaching gardens filled with seasonal vegetables, herbs, fruit trees, bushes and a grape arbor.*

*We see community members coming to stroll the green alley and sit on the benches on the weekends, children playing games on the green plaza and families walking through the lush gardens. The green alley is the entrance to the primary care and dental clinics, so our patients enjoy it when they visit.”*

## UNA FRANJA VERDE

El centro de salud Virginia Garcia Cornelius Wellness Center utilizó una aportación de \$322,000 otorgada por Metro en el año 2011 para transformar un callejón deteriorado en un atractivo sendero comunitario con zonas verdes y carteles en inglés y español. Los carteles se diseñaron con la colaboración de Clean Water Services para explicar los beneficios de bio-canales de filtración e instalaciones para ahorro de agua del lugar.

Gil Muñoz, Gerente General de Virginia Garcia Memorial Health Center, explica cómo el proyecto ha creado un espacio de encuentro comunitario:

*“Estamos emocionadísimos con el resultado del proyecto, hoy la comunidad goza de un espacio tranquilo donde crecen árboles y plantas nativas. El sendero conecta con una plaza ecológica y jardines de enseñanza llenos de vegetales y hierbas de temporada, árboles frutales y un emparrado de uvas.*

*Los fines de semana observamos a personas de la comunidad caminando por el sendero o descansando en los bancos, niños jugando en la plaza ecológica y familias paseando por los jardines. El sendero verde es la entrada principal a las clínicas de salud primaria y dental, así que nuestros pacientes lo disfrutan cuando vienen a consulta.”*



# Field Guide

## BLUE LAKE REGIONAL PARK

STORY BY Annie West

PHOTOGRAPHY BY C. Bruce Forster and Metro staff

With the Columbia River to the north and the park’s namesake to the south, Blue Lake Regional Park offers 185 acres in a natural greenway that provides a calm, quiet retreat from city life for birds, wildlife – and people.

One mile west of the Sandy River Delta, Blue Lake is a natural lake fed by underground springs. Before 1939, when a levee was installed along Northeast Marine Drive, natural wetlands connected Blue Lake and the Columbia River, allowing fish and wildlife to move with ease.

Today, Blue Lake is home to a self-sustaining population of bluegill, black crappie and largemouth bass. Anglers can try their luck along a fishing pier at the park.

Reclaimed wetlands in the park provide habitat for native wildlife, including beavers, river otters and Northern red-legged frogs, which are listed by the state as a sensitive species that’s under threat. The park’s many walking paths allow an opportunity to see wildlife and experience nature without disturbing the delicate ecosystem.

Long before the area’s current inhabitants, the south shore of the Columbia River was home to Nichaqwli (neeCHAHKlee) Village, as documented in the diaries of Meriwether Lewis and William Clark. Carved cedar house posts and canoe-shaped benches offer visitors a glimpse of the Chinook village that once thrived here.

Today, Blue Lake continues to serve as a gathering place. Children play at the water spray ground, families fish from the pier and disc golfers play the 18-hole course. Osprey circle above looking for fish, coyotes hunt for squirrels and beavers build lodges on the lakeshore.

On a clear day, Mount Hood is framed by the shores of the lake, providing spectacular views and a visual reminder of the wild landscape surrounding the placidity of Blue Lake.

For more information, visit [oregonmetro.gov/bluelake](http://oregonmetro.gov/bluelake)

Turn to pages 3 and 14 for details about Blue Lake events.



**BLUE LAKE REGIONAL PARK**

**21224 NE BLUE LAKE ROAD, FAIRVIEW**

**DRIVING**  
From Interstate 84, take exit 14 and go north on Fairview Parkway. Turn right on Northeast Sandy Boulevard, left on Northeast 223rd Avenue and left onto Northeast Blue Lake Road.

**KNOW WHEN YOU GO**  
Open 8 a.m. to sunset. No pets, please. Mostly wheelchair accessible. \$5/car, \$7/bus. Free with annual pass.

**AMENITIES**  
Four playgrounds/nature play areas, paddle boat and canoe rentals, swim beach, splash pad, 18-hole disc golf course, ballfields, horseshoe pits, basketball and volleyball courts, fishing pier, Discovery Garden, free picnic areas. To reserve picnic shelters or the Lake House, call 503-665-4995 option 0.

## IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

The adjacent Chinook Landing Marine Park offers boat ramps on the Columbia River, an archery range and wildlife habitats. Grab a bite and a pint at McMenamins Edgefield. In historic Troutdale, visit shops, museums, galleries and restaurants. Continue exploring nature with a visit to the Sandy River Delta Recreation Area, Glenn Otto Community Park, or the Dabney and Lewis and Clark state recreation areas.

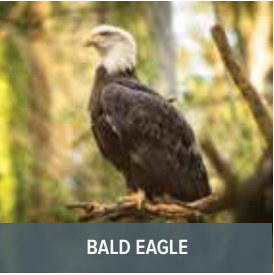
## SEASON BY SEASON

**SUMMER:** Come out for a picnic, swim or a round of disc golf. Pack a lunch and pedal the Marine Drive Trail to Blue Lake. When you arrive, jump in the lake for a cooling swim, rent a canoe or walk through the wetlands in search of blue and green herons, basking turtles and other native wildlife. Look for osprey and bald eagles – occasionally with a slippery silver fish in their talons – flying between the Columbia River and Blue Lake. The park offers fields for soccer, kickball and softball, three volleyball courts and horseshoe pits. Children can splash around at the water spray ground.

**FALL:** Larger animals return as the crowds retreat. Deer graze from branches, and squirrels collect and bury their acorns for the winter. Disc golfers challenge their skills against the autumn breezes and many come to enjoy cooler, quieter picnics, soccer games and family gatherings amid the autumn colors.

**WINTER:** Wildlife comes out of the woodwork. Watch red-tailed hawks swoop from trees in search of their next meal. Identify them by their dark heads, light breasts and dark belly bands, best seen when they are in flight. Flocks of Canada geese browse in the fields as bald eagles soar above. The park offers more than two miles of paved and gravel paths for walking and jogging. Or enjoy a day of quiet fishing.

**SPRING:** Nearly 100 Kwanzan cherry trees burst into vibrant pink blossoms. Listen to the wetlands come alive as frogs come out of hibernation and ducks and geese begin preparing their nests for babies later in the season. Get your fishing gear and take advantage of the annual trout stocking in April and May. Bring the kids to build forts in the nature play area, which features natural elements such as logs, sand and stones.







# Destination Guide

### Key

- RESTROOMS
- PICNIC FACILITIES
- TRAILS
- CLASSES, EVENTS, VOLUNTEER
- PLAYGROUND
- CAMPING
- WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE
- COST  
\$5/car, \$7/bus  
(free with annual pass)

1

**BLUE LAKE REGIONAL PARK**  
Enjoy a fun game of disc golf, or explore a nature-themed playground, a discovery garden, sports facilities and a wetland with a viewing platform and trail.

2

**BROUGHTON BEACH**  
Head to one of Portland’s best urban beaches and enjoy a picnic, beachcombing, or a stroll along the Columbia River.

3

**CANEMAH BLUFF NATURAL AREA**  
Gaze at the Willamette River below, marvel at oak trees overhead, hike and admire colorful spring wildflowers.

4

**COOPER MTN. NATURE PARK**  
Hike or jog more than three miles of trails, watch wildlife or enjoy views of the Chehalem Mountains and Tualatin Valley.

5

**GLENDOVEER GOLF COURSE & FITNESS TRAIL**  
TEE TIME: [playglendoveer.com](http://playglendoveer.com)  
Play a game of golf, footgolf or indoor tennis, or enjoy a scenic stroll on the two-mile fitness course.

6

**GRAHAM OAKS NATURE PARK**  
Ride bikes through a restored oak woodland, stroll through a conifer forest and spot birds from a wetland overlook.

7

**HOWELL TERRITORIAL PARK**  
Watch for birds that flock to the park’s wetlands, enjoy a picnic, and explore a piece of the region’s natural and cultural history.

8

**MASON HILL PARK**  
At this charming, one-acre park, bicycle through the rolling hills beyond Forest Park, take in spectacular views of the Tualatin Valley and picnic under the shelter.

9

**MOUNT TALBERT NATURE PARK**  
Slip into the forested oasis to explore four miles of trails, enjoy gorgeous views, and keep an eye out for deer, pileated and hairy woodpeckers, white-breasted nuthatches and Western tanagers.

10

**OXBOW REGIONAL PARK**  
Explore 15 miles of trails through ancient forests, camp year-round or find the perfect adventure on the Sandy River.

11

**SCOUTERS MTN. NATURE PARK**  
Climb the steep, fir-lined road to the top of this extinct lava dome to enjoy unrivaled views of Mount Hood.

12

**SMITH AND BYBEE WETLANDS NATURAL AREA**  
Take the Interlakes Trail or go by canoe or kayak to explore one of America’s largest urban wetlands while spotting beavers, river otters, black-tailed deer, osprey, bald eagles and turtles.

### Boat Ramps | [oregonmetro.gov/boats](http://oregonmetro.gov/boats)

Launch boats into the Columbia River at Chinook Landing or Gleason, or into Multnomah Channel at Sauvie Island.

- 13

**CHINOOK LANDING MARINE PARK**
- 14

**M. JAMES GLEASON MEMORIAL BOAT RAMP**
- 15

**SAUVIE ISLAND BOAT RAMP**

For more information about each destination, visit [oregonmetro.gov/parks](http://oregonmetro.gov/parks)





# Get Involved

## Naturalist in the Park

PHOTOGRAPH BY Metro Staff

Sundays this summer, join a naturalist for free tours of the region’s nature parks. Guided walks will introduce participants to the local plants and animals that inhabit the parks. Tours will leave promptly from the parking area of each park.

### Graham Oaks

SUN 28 JUN

SUN 26 JUL

SUN 23 AUG

DIFFICULTY



### Scouters Mtn.

SUN 05 JUL

SUN 02 AUG

SUN 06 SEPT

DIFFICULTY



### Smith and Bybee

SUN 12 JUL

SUN 16 AUG

SUN 30 AUG

DIFFICULTY



### Mount Talbert

SUN 19 JUL

SUN 09 AUG

DIFFICULTY



### Cooper Mountain

SUN 20 SEPT

DIFFICULTY





**WHERE** various locations, see details below

**WHEN** 10a.m. to noon and 1 to 3p.m.

**COST** free

**AGES** all ages

**REGISTRATION**  
**NOT REQUIRED**



## GATHER AROUND THE CAMPFIRE AT OXBOW

Meet around the campfire for stories and old-fashioned entertainment while camping at Oxbow Regional Park. Enjoy live music on Friday nights and captivating nature presentations and storytellers on Saturday nights. Campfire shows are only open to overnight campers; day use ends at sunset when the park gates are locked. Programs are held in the amphitheater in the campground unless otherwise stated and are free for Oxbow campers. To learn more and to reserve a campsite, visit: [oregonmetro.gov/oxbow](https://oregonmetro.gov/oxbow)

**WHERE** Oxbow campground amphitheater

**WHEN** 8:30p.m. (6/26 to 7/18); 8p.m. (7/24 to 9/5); unless otherwise noted

**COST** free

**AGES** all ages

**OVERNIGHT CAMPERS ONLY**

FRI 26 JUN

RICK MEYERS’ OLD TIME MUSIC SHOW

SAT 27 JUN

PACIFIC NORTHWEST BIRDS OF PREY

FRI 03 JUL

OLD-TIME MUSIC WITH DAVE AND WILL ELLIOTT

SAT 04 JUL

STORIES FROM THE FAR EAST WITH ALTON CHUNG

FRI 10 JUL

THE ROOTS OF AMERICAN MUSIC WITH DAVE MULLANY

SAT 11 JUL

GUMBO OF STORIES WITH YVONNE ANSELM

FRI 17 JUL

MUSIC BY GREEN TAMBOURINE

SAT 18 JUL

SALMON STORIES, BEAR TALES AND THE LEGEND OF THE SWALLOWING MONSTER

FRI 24 JUL

MUSIC BY INNISFREE

SAT 25 JUL

LEARN ABOUT NATURE’S CAMPING SPICES

FRI 31 JUL

MISSISSIPPI BLUES WITH STEVE CHESEBOROUGH

SAT 01 AUG

LEARN ABOUT THE AMAZING NIGHTLIFE OF BATS

FRI 07 AUG

MUSIC BY PROMISE THE MOON

SAT 08 AUG

FINDING YOUR WAY AMONG THE STARS WITH ROSE CITY ASTRONOMERS  
Group Picnic Area A, 9 to 10:30p.m.

FRI 14 AUG

MUSIC BY FOLK CITY DUO

SAT 15 AUG

NATIVE AMERICAN STORIES WITH ED EDMO

FRI 21 AUG

MUSIC BY DAVE ORLEANS, THE EARTHSINGER

SAT 22 AUG

JUBA THIS & JUBA THAT WITH STORYTELLER CHETTER GALLOWAY

FRI 28 AUG

MUSIC BY STILLWAY AND BONHAM

SAT 29 AUG

BEARS! WITH STORYTELLER LINDA HUNTER

FRI 04 SEPT

MUSIC BY LUKAS BORSTEN

SAT 05 SEPT

OREGON SHADOW THEATRE PRESENTS JACK AND THE DRAGON  
8:30p.m.

### DIFFICULTY KEY



EASY



MODERATE



STRENUOUS





## Classes and events

FRI  
10  
JUL

FRI  
24  
JUL

**Families in the Field**  
**POLLINATORS OF GRAHAM OAKS NATURE PARK**

Explore the wonders of an oak woodland through the eyes of a pollinator and your child. Join naturalist Jenna Kulluson for a hands-on program for the whole family. Have fun discovering the natural world while learning about the important roles that butterflies, hummingbirds, beetles and bees play in this habitat. Target age is 3 to 5 year olds, though all children are welcome with guardian. 

WHERE Graham Oaks Nature Park

WHEN 10 to 11:30a.m.

COST \$11 per family per day

AGES 3 to 5 accompanied by guardian

REGISTRATION REQUIRED


DIFFICULTY   

FRI  
17  
JUL

FRI  
31  
JUL

FRI  
07  
AUG

**SUNSET WALKS**

As the sun begins its descent in the sky, many animals go out to forage for one last meal. At the same time, nocturnal animals begin to wake and move across the landscape. Join a naturalist on a hike to explore the magical space between day and night. 




WHERE Smith and Bybee Wetlands (7/17 and 7/31); Graham Oaks Nature Park (8/7)

WHEN 7 to 9p.m.

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

AGES all ages

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

DIFFICULTY   

SUN  
19  
JUL

**FANNO CREEK TRAIL WALK**

The Fanno Creek Greenway Trail is a jewel that is more than 40 years in the making. This trail follows Fanno Creek from the Tualatin River through Tigard and Beaverton to Garden Home. Join naturalist Alice Froehlich for a guided walk along the trail to listen to the birds, smell the flowers and learn about the trail's history.

WHERE Fanno Creek Trail, meeting location TBA

WHEN 9:30a.m. to 12:30p.m.

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

AGES 12 and older

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

DIFFICULTY   

SAT  
25  
JUL

**STORIES IN THE STONES ON MOUNT TALBERT**

Join naturalist Dan Daly and explore the rugged beauty of this unique lava dome as you wander through a white oak woodland in summer. Mount Talbert is part of a series of cinder cones and shield volcanoes that began bubbling up almost 3 million years ago. Participants gain a basic understanding of the incredible geology in this region.

WHERE Mount Talbert Nature Park




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

COST \$5 per person, ages 8 to 17 free

AGES 8 and older

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

North Clackamas Parks & Recreation District, 503-794-8092

DIFFICULTY   

SAT  
01  
AUG

**INTRODUCTION TO THE LANGUAGE OF BIRDS**

As they feed, nest and raise their young, birds relay messages about when it's safe and where predators are prowling. Walk the edge of Bybee Lake with naturalist Dan Daly to learn how to interpret what the birds are saying. This wetland habitat is great for tracking animals, and we will look for signs of the predators that hunt there.




WHERE St. Johns Prairie

WHEN 9 to 11:30a.m.

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

AGES 8 and older

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

DIFFICULTY   

SUN  
02  
AUG

**ROCK CREEK TRAIL WALK**

The Rock Creek Trail goes through a lush scenic greenway at the foot of the West Hills. Join naturalist Alice Froehlich for a guided walk to learn about the natural history along the trail. Walkers will enjoy the native trees and shrubs and views of the creek and meadows.




WHERE Rock Creek Trail, meeting location TBA

WHEN 9:30a.m. to 12:30p.m.

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

AGES 12 and older

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

DIFFICULTY   

FRI  
14  
AUG

FRI  
21  
AUG

**Families in the Field**  
**SCOUTERS MOUNTAIN NATURE PARK**

Explore the rich diversity of this extinct cinder cone with your child. On Aug. 14, meet other families and play nature games. On Aug. 21, dive into the hidden secrets of the forested slopes of the volcano to search for signs of animals that live on the mountain. Target age is 6 to 10 year olds, though all children are welcome with guardian.



WHERE Scouters Mountain Nature Park

WHEN 10a.m. to noon

COST \$11 per family per day

AGES 6 to 10 accompanied by guardian

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

DIFFICULTY   

SUN  
13  
SEPT

**STAYIN' ALIVE: SURVIVAL FIRES**

You're lost. Storm clouds are gathering as night descends. Could you light a fire in the soggy woods? Join naturalist Dan Daly in this family oriented class to learn how to light a one-match fire in the toughest conditions. Participants use knives during class, and the safe conduct of young children is the responsibility of their guardians.




WHERE Oxbow Regional Park

WHEN 11a.m. to 2p.m.

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

AGES 4 and older

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

DIFFICULTY   

SAT  
11  
JUL

SAT  
25  
JUL

SAT  
08  
AUG

SAT  
22  
AUG

SAT  
12  
SEP

SAT  
26  
SEP

**SUMMER VOLUNTEER VENTURES**

Help care for rare native plants that support regional restoration projects. Summer activities include harvesting and cleaning seeds and maintaining plant beds. No experience is needed. Gloves, tools, water and snack provided. This event is wheelchair accessible with advance arrangements. 

Registration required

[oregonmetro.gov/calendar](https://oregonmetro.gov/calendar) or call 503-319-8292

WHERE Native Plant Center, 2661 SW Borland Road, Tualatin

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

COST free

AGES all ages

DIFFICULTY   

## How to register

Unless otherwise noted, register and pay at [oregonmetro.gov/calendar](https://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. For more information: Becky Hill, 503-972-8550.



# Tools For Living



## Metro's updated regional map will help you Bike There!

If you can get there, you can get there by bike. Metro's newly updated Bike There! map helps you find the safest, most comfortable and most direct routes. The 9th edition is durable and waterproof, perfect for those damp days.

Since 1982, the Bike There! map has helped residents and visitors pedal around the greater Portland and Vancouver region. The new map:

- features more routes than ever – more than 1,000 miles of on-street bike routes plus 550 miles of off-street trails in communities in every part of the region.
- identifies types of routes, such as bike lanes on busy streets, low-traffic neighborhood streets and separated trails, in downtown Portland and 55 other local cities.

Whether you're navigating a commute to work, a Sunday ride in the countryside or a short trip to the store, Metro's extensive regional map helps you get there.

The new Bike There! map is now available at area bike shops and outdoor retailers for \$6, or view it for free at [oregonmetro.gov/bikethere](http://oregonmetro.gov/bikethere)

## SHOW US HOW YOU



Post your best photos of life on two wheels to your Instagram.

Use #bikethere2015 for a chance to win one of many sweet bike-related prizes.

Contest runs 7/1 to 7/31

Learn more at [oregonmetro.gov/bikethere](http://oregonmetro.gov/bikethere)



## Free family programs at Metro's gardens



Find gardening advice and kid-friendly fun this summer

### BACKYARD MAKEOVER EXHIBIT AT THE OREGON ZOO

Enjoy family activities in a wildlife-friendly garden and learn how to cultivate a habitat in your backyard with help from Oregon State University Master Gardeners™. Kids can dig in a worm bin and play games. Activity books and crayons are available when the exhibit is staffed.

10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays through August

### DROP-IN FAMILY FUN AT THE BLUE LAKE DISCOVERY GARDEN

Gather ideas to make your yard safe and fun for kids, songbirds, lakes and streams. Visitors of all ages can explore an active worm bin, dig for "fossils," rub and sniff plants, and see what wildlife have to say about pesticide-free gardening. Come for the garden and stay to enjoy the park's many activities.

1 to 5 p.m. Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays through August

Programs free with park or zoo admission. Find more information at [oregonmetro.gov/garden](http://oregonmetro.gov/garden)



One free gallon of **MetroPaint** when you purchase a gallon of equal or greater value

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# Regional Roundup

## Challenges, opportunities cross at Southeast 82nd and Division

STORY BY Craig Beebe / PHOTOGRAPHY BY Kevin Mealy and Justin Sherrill

Intersections are generally straightforward places. Roads cross. People pass through on their way to someplace else.

Some intersections are more than physical infrastructure, though. They are where the past and future cross, where cultures and opportunities meet.

One such intersection is Southeast 82nd Avenue and Division Street in Portland. Several regional and local plans and policies are connecting with grassroots vision to make this one of the region's most interesting crossings.



### THE FUTURE OF TRANSIT ON POWELL-DIVISION

The intersection is one of the region's busiest transit hubs; 3,400 people get on and off the 4 Division Street and the 72 82nd Avenue bus lines every weekday. A half-mile south, the 9 Powell bus line carries thousands more riders daily. But buses get stuck in traffic and are often packed during rush hour. For an area where commuters depend on transit, the current system is not as reliable or frequent as anyone would like.

Metro is leading the Powell-Division Transit and Development Project to help serve this demand through the region's first bus rapid transit line. As soon as 2020, faster and more reliable bus rapid transit vehicles could pass through this intersection every few minutes, providing connections to downtown Portland and Gresham. This summer, the project's steering committee will select a final route for the project.



### JADE DISTRICT

Since the 1990s, Oregon's largest concentration of Asian Americans has settled in the neighborhood around the intersection. Now, the neighborhood is turning that trend into an identity: the Jade District. The Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon, with support from the Portland Development Commission, is helping the neighborhood improve prosperity by building on the diversity that has come to define it. The Jade District has sponsored community events like night markets and festivals that attract people from throughout the region, developed branding to unite the district, supported entrepreneurs' efforts to start and grow businesses, and advocated for safer streets and sidewalks in commercial and residential areas.



### PCC SOUTHEAST CAMPUS

Portland Community College recognized the neighborhood's potential more than a decade ago when it established its first classes in the area. Last year it took its investment to another level, elevating its Southeast Center to full campus status and building several new buildings. This spring, Metro's Regional Travel Options program worked with the college to help students and employees at PCC Southeast discover ways to get around without having to drive alone – saving money and space on congested roadways and parking lots and helping everyone be a little healthier.



### TRANSIT-ORIENTED INVESTMENTS

The former Banner Furniture store on the southwest corner of the intersection has sat vacant for more than a year. This spring, Metro's Transit-Oriented Development Program – which invests in places for people to live and work near major transit lines – purchased the property. The program will begin looking for developers to turn the location into a mixed-use hub that serves the neighborhood's diversity and takes advantage of future bus rapid transit passing by the intersection. In the short term, Metro is working with Jade District leaders to use the space as a temporary community center, which opened May 7.

*Learn more about the possibilities ahead at [oregonmetro.gov/82Division](http://oregonmetro.gov/82Division)*





Metro

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Portland, OR 97232-2736

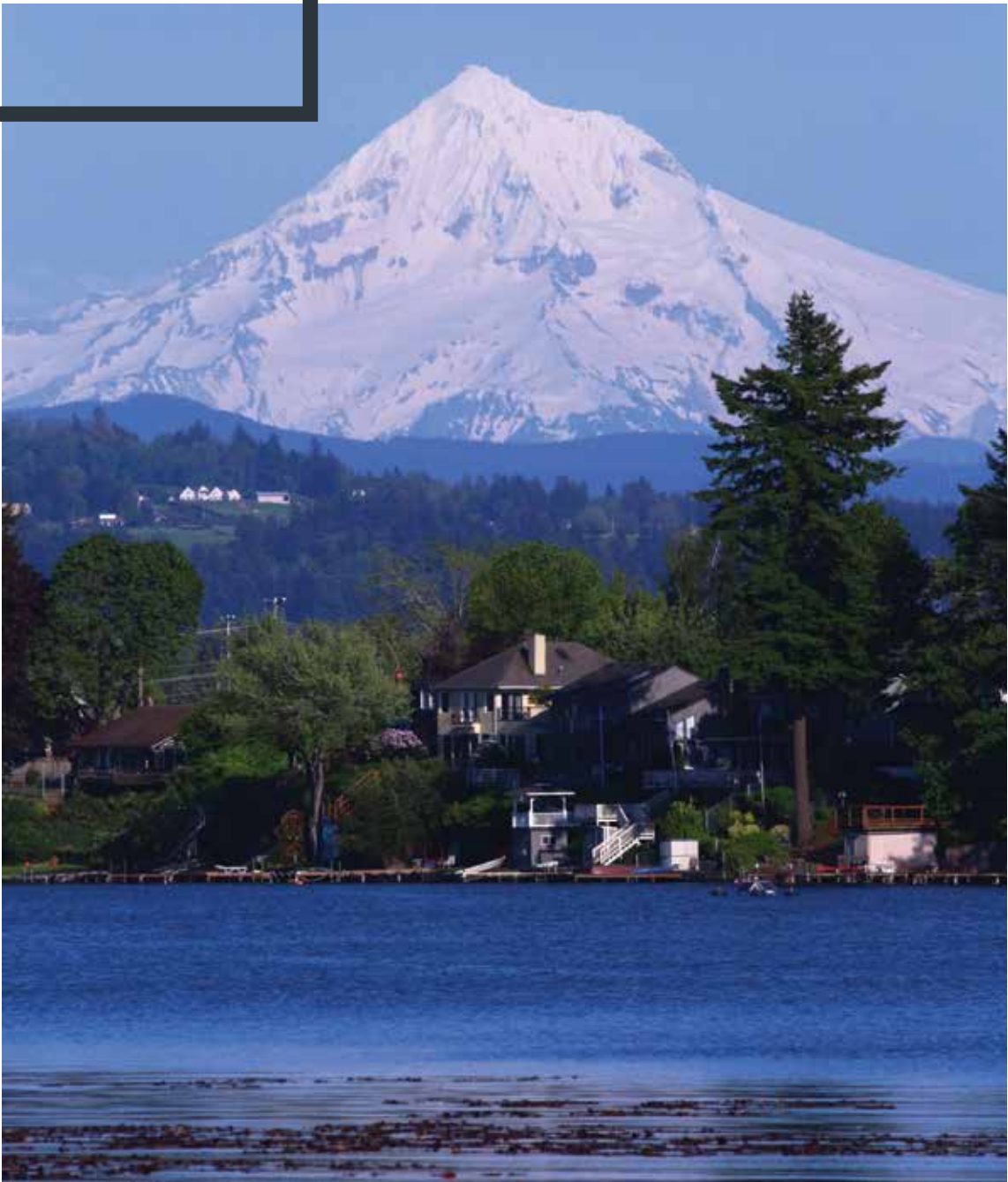
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# Share (Y)our Nature and Win!

**Yi-Ling W. Yong | Blue Lake Regional Park**

My husband and I had an enjoyable and relaxing afternoon at Blue Lake Regional Park. We were paddling on the lake and walking along the lake and simply appreciated the view of Mount Hood and the natural environment!

- Yi-Ling W. Yong, Beaverton



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. One entry per person per contest, please.

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

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