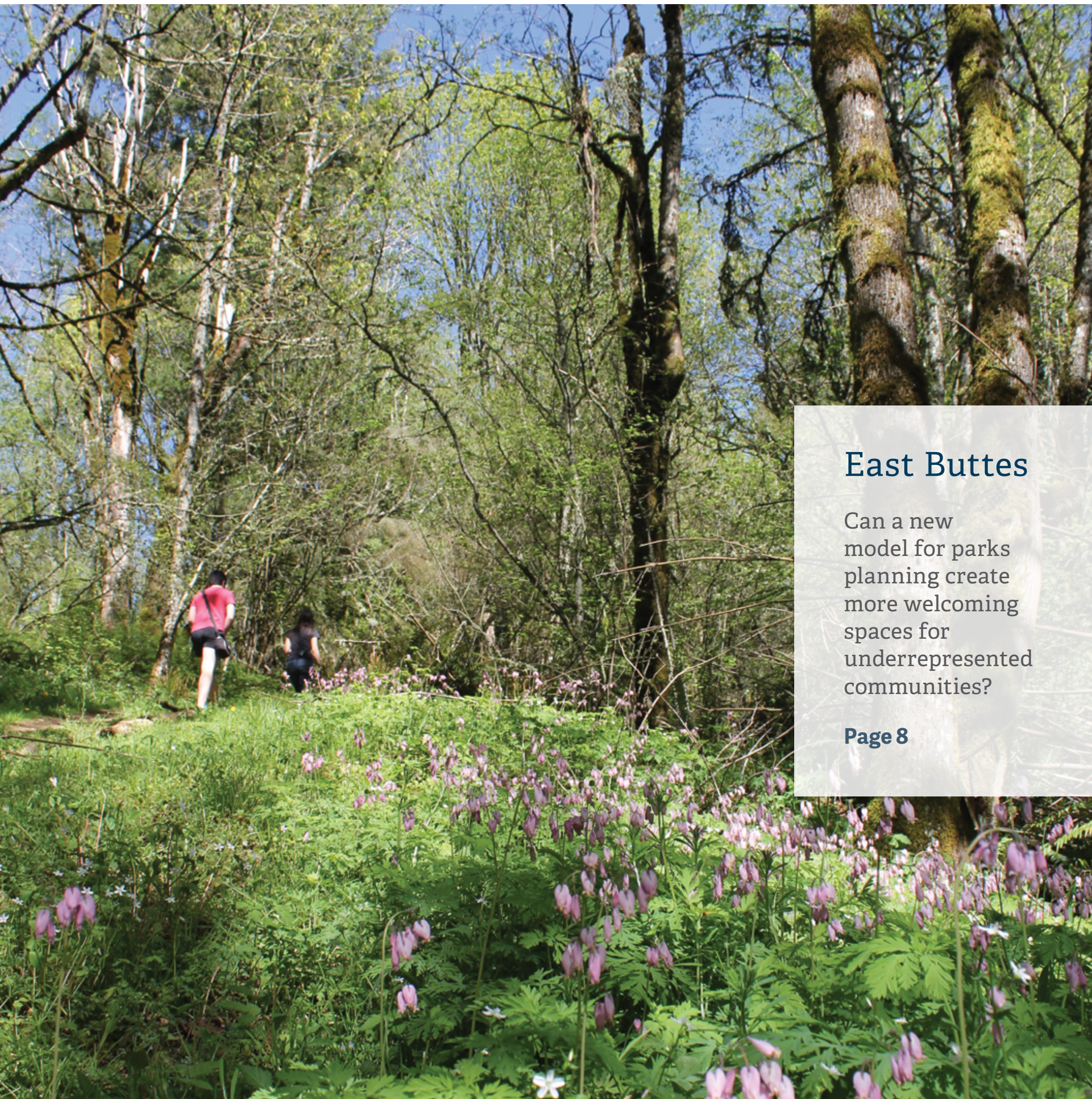


Our Big Backyard



Metro

Summer 2016



East Buttes

Can a new model for parks planning create more welcoming spaces for underrepresented communities?

Page 8

6

Graham Oaks

Graham Oaks Nature Park provides prime habitat for pollinators — and for students to learn

12

Get involved

Sign up for classes and events

15

Regional roundup

Transportation snapshot

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Parks and nature news 2

Intertwine 7

East Buttes 8

Field guide 11

Get involved 12

Tools for living 14

Regional roundup 15

Share your nature 16

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/parksandnaturenews
- facebook.com/oregonmetro
- twitter.com/oregonmetro

Dogs policy

To protect plants, wildlife and people, Metro does not allow pets at most regional parks and natural areas. Pets can damage sensitive habitat and threaten wildlife the region has worked to protect. In natural areas where dogs are not allowed, people see more wildlife and get closer to it. Seeing-eye dogs or other service animals are allowed. Please bring cleanup materials.



Photography by Catherine Moore

Around Valentine’s Day, the sixth annual “Peace, Love and Pancakes” event brought together 193 students and 40 adults from Springwater Environmental Sciences School to mulch and plant 1,000 native plants at Metro’s Clear Creek Natural Area, a 520-acre site near Carver. The school, which is next to the natural area, also celebrated the love by serving heart-shaped pancakes to volunteers. Some of the students participating in the event have been visiting the site since the annual event started.



Nature University

Photography by John Sheehan

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 the 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 once a week, February through early April 2017. Graduates become volunteer naturalists and are encouraged to help lead nature-based programs on a weekly basis in the spring and fall and at least twice a month during the summer.

Fill out an online application and attend an information session Oct. 18, Nov. 3 or 16.

Applications are due Nov. 13.

February 2017 classes start

April 2017 students shadow field trips and then start leading programs

June 2017 summer programs start

September 2017 fall field trip trainings and leading field trips

November 2017 fall field trips wrap up

If you are interested in joining the Nature University class of 2017, email sandra.jamison@oregonmetro.gov to be notified when the application is available.

For more information, visit oregonmetro.gov/volunteer

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.



Hall Creek restoration invites Beaverton community, nature

Story by Brandi Boyett

Photography by Joshua Manus

A stretch of Hall Creek in downtown Beaverton has been given new life.

Beaverton, with the help of property owners, local agencies and a \$354,000 Metro Nature in Neighborhoods grant, has restored 650 feet of what was once considered the dirtiest part of Hall Creek.

The section, which runs between Southwest 114th and 117th streets, between the MAX line, a car dealership and other shops, had become increasingly overgrown with invasive plants, and a nearby trail through the trees led to safety concerns.

The improvements made to Hall Creek will restore the stream’s health, improve water quality, reduce flooding and increase safety for community members using the bordering trail.

“It’s a terrific opportunity to connect people with the streams of their neighborhood,” said Dave Waffle, a member of the Tualatin River Watershed Council and assistant finance director at the city of Beaverton. “It’s also a prototype of the high-quality improvements that we can make in the habitat of the streams in downtown Beaverton, to turn these streams into an asset and be part of the revitalization of the community.”

At the ribbon-cutting ceremony April 9, Beaverton Mayor Denny Doyle said that over the last eight years, city officials heard from more than 10,000 residents asking for more trails between parks, more greenspaces, and improvements and restoration of natural areas.

“So a little more than 650 feet of Hall Creek has been improved, and that’s an understatement,” Doyle said.

The creek itself was realigned. Instead of running straight through and flooding neighboring parking lots and businesses, it meanders, with log jams added to provide habitat for fish, a filter vault and a new trash grate before Hall Creek joins Beaverton Creek.

While invasive plants were removed, more than 8,000 native shrubs and trees were planted. Many of these are right along the creek’s banks to further help with flood control by absorbing and holding excess water. The plants also provide shade, allowing fish to thrive in cooler waters.

As the creek was rerouted, a surprising number of fish and wildlife were found there. Dace and stickleback fish and lamprey were spotted in the creek, which amazed wildlife biologists, Waffle said.

“Finding a lamprey this far upriver in the basin... was just incredible,” he said.

Beside the creek, the trail was rebuilt, bringing it closer to the creek and opening it up to more light and visibility to improve safety. The trail included a boardwalk overlook and was made with pervious concrete, which will further help with water absorption.

“We did things on this project that cost us more,” such as using sustainable materials, said project manager Debbie Martisak of the Beaverton Public Works department, “and it was for the right reasons.”

The best thing about the project, Martisak said, was the community involvement and reclaiming the area as part of the community.

Enjoy summer fun at Blue Lake

Story by George Winborn

Photography courtesy of Oregon State University Extension Service

This summer, young people from across the area can enjoy free activities at Blue Lake Regional Park.

The Blue Lake Young Rangers, a group of east Multnomah County youths formed in partnership between Metro, 4-H and the Oregon State University Extension Service, will lead hikes and nature education walks through the park.

The group launched last summer at Blue Lake with the goal of empowering youths to educate the public about the value of natural spaces.

Last year’s group featured 15 youths from six east county schools, said Lupine DeSnyder, a volunteer coordinator at Metro Parks and Nature who is working with the group.

The group studied and explored what makes Blue Lake a unique place in the region. Their research is helping Metro understand the barriers to participation at the park, such as a lack of transportation access, while also helping diversify communications efforts through creating an age-appropriate Young Rangers manual to help engage youths across the park.

Blue Lake Young Rangers programming is open and free to all during Blue Lake Summer Fun Days. The Fun Days occur 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from June 28 to Aug. 11.



The Fun Days feature nature games, arts and crafts, hikes, sports and more. Kids will also get the opportunity to become Blue Lake Junior Rangers through uncovering the natural aspects of the park. Free lunches will be served at 11:30 a.m. in partnership with the Reynolds School District Summer Lunch program.

All visitors to Blue Lake from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesdays through Thursdays from June 28 to Aug. 11 will enjoy free parking.

Blue Lake is located at 21224 NE Blue Lake Road in Fairview. To learn more: visit oregonmetro.gov/bluelake call 503-813-7505 email lupine.desnyder@oregonmetro.gov

Turn to pages 12 and 13 to learn more about the Blue Lake Nature and Culture Festival Sept. 17 and Free Parks Days.

4 questions with Maria Caballero Rubio

Story by Ellen Wyoming DeLoy Photography and translation by Sofia Basto



Maria Caballero Rubio is the executive director of Centro Cultural de Washington County, a nonprofit based in Cornelius. Centro Cultural provides education, economic development, cultural exchange and community-building for Latino and immigrant communities in Washington County. Centro Cultural is helping Metro connect with community members to plan for a future nature park at Chehalem Ridge. The organization also received a Metro Nature in Neighborhoods grant in 2014 for conservation education.

Q. *What is your favorite place in nature?*

A. My favorite place to experience nature is in vineyards, orchards and fields. I was influenced from a young age. As a family of 13, we would be out at 5 a.m. before it got too hot to harvest crops and later to plant, weed and prune grapevines and other fruit-bearing plants. The smell of rain on the dry ground, watching plants grow and fruit ripen in the warmth of the late morning sun instilled a strong connection to the earth. Harvesting as a family provided me with a sense of contributing to our family’s well-being and a sense that I can always return.

Q. *How do you define leadership?*

A. Service and teaching. Leadership is about teaching others to serve with passion, equity and humility. I believe leaders have a responsibility to train and teach the next generation to be leaders. I want to give others leadership roles they are ready for and keep working with them to build up their abilities and confidence.

Q. *How does working with Metro fit with your goals for Centro Cultural?*

A. Working with Metro helps integrate my community with the greater society, a major goal for the organization. They already feel a connection to the earth, and working on parks and nature projects with Metro helps make a connection to jobs related to nature and sustainability. Working with Metro has helped us as an organization to become more cognizant of wasting natural resources, and environmental sustainability has become part of our ethos.

Q. *What are you most excited about for the future?*

A. In a big-picture sense, continuing to see the Latino community in Washington County integrate more in the greater community. Supporting our students through education, after-school programs and professional experiences. Continuing to grow parent leadership and citizen classes. Our partnerships with Metro, Intel and others are helping expose people to activities at many levels, including government. Having our community feel that they belong is very exciting.

4 preguntas con Maria Caballero Rubio

Artículo de Ellen Wyoming DeLoy

Fotografía y traducción de Sofia Basto

Maria Caballero Rubio es la directora ejecutiva del Centro Cultural de Washington County, una organización sin ánimo de lucro con sede en Cornelius que proporciona educación, desarrollo económico, intercambio cultural y fortalecimiento de comunidades latinas e inmigrantes en Washington County. Actualmente, Centro Cultural le ayuda a Metro a conectarse con miembros de la comunidad para planificar un futuro parque natural en Chehalem Ridge. La organización también recibió un fondo Nature in Neighborhoods de Metro en el año 2014 para la educación en conservación ambiental.

P. *¿Cuál es su lugar favorito en la naturaleza?*

R. Mis lugares favoritos para experimentar la naturaleza son los viñedos, los huertos y los campos. Esto se debe a que desde muy joven, junto con mi familia de 13 personas, salíamos a las cinco de la mañana antes de que calentara mucho el día para cosechar, sembrar, desmalezar y podar viñas y otros árboles frutales. El aroma de la lluvia sobre el suelo seco, ver las plantas crecer y las frutas madurar con el calor del sol al final de la mañana me inculcó una fuerte conexión con la tierra. Cosechar en familia me proporcionó un sentido de poder contribuir al bienestar de mi familia, y de saber que siempre podré volver.

P. *¿Cómo definiría la palabra liderazgo?*

R. Servicio y enseñanza. El liderazgo se trata de enseñar a otros a servir con pasión, equidad y humildad. Yo considero que los líderes tienen la responsabilidad de entrenar y enseñar a otras generaciones a ser líderes. Quiero dar a otras personas puestos de liderazgo para los que se sientan preparados, y continuar fomentando sus habilidades y confianza en sí mismos.

P. *¿De qué manera cree que trabajar con Metro sirve para cumplir sus metas para Centro Cultural?*

R. Trabajar con Metro ayuda a que mi comunidad se integre con el resto de la sociedad, lo cual es una meta importante para nuestra organización. Ellos de por sí ya tienen una conexión con la tierra, y trabajar en proyectos de parques y naturaleza de Metro los ayuda a conectarse con empleos de ámbito ambiental y de sostenibilidad. Trabajar con Metro nos ha hecho más conscientes como organización de no malgastar recursos naturales, y la sostenibilidad ambiental se ha convertido en parte de nuestros valores.

P. *¿Qué es lo que más le entusiasma del futuro?*

R. En general, continuar observando la integración de la comunidad latina del condado de Washington con el resto de la comunidad; apoyar a nuestros estudiantes por medio de la educación, de programas extracurriculares y de experiencias profesionales; continuar desarrollando clases para el liderazgo de padres de familia y para obtener la ciudadanía. Nuestra alianza con Metro, Intel y otras organizaciones permiten que personas de nuestra comunidad adquieran experiencias en múltiples planos, hasta en el de gobierno. Nos emociona mucho cuando nuestra comunidad desarrolla un sentido de pertenencia.

Wildflowers, pollinators thrive thanks to new restoration method

Story by Elaine Stewart

Photography by Elaine Stewart, Curt Zonick, Ryan Jones, C. Bruce Forster



On a lovely spring morning, I had the privilege to stroll through West Bliss Butte, a 74-acre natural area in Gresham where Metro is improving habitat.

It was a fallow field for many years. When we established habitat goals for the site, we decided that we wanted it to be upland forest, woven seamlessly into the woods to the east and south, which are also publicly owned.

Had we been doing this project 10 years ago, we probably would have planted the majority of the site with trees, and we would have sprayed the competing grasses from time to time to reduce the competition for water. It's a tried and true way to establish a forest.

The parks and natural areas levy that voters passed in 2013 provides us with opportunities to innovate new ways to provide wildlife habitat. For example, what would happen if we sprayed out the grass in the first place and installed native wildflowers and grasses? And then planted native vegetation, but with very few trees and lots of shrubs. The science tells us that those amazing old-growth firs grew in conditions with plenty of light and very low tree density.

What if we plant them that way in the first place, instead of coming back to thin them in another 10 years, and 10 years after that? What if we have abundant food for pollinators and plentiful shrubs to provide fruit, seeds and other food for wildlife along the way?



Clockwise from left: Elaine Stewart is a senior natural resources scientist at Metro who feels privileged to care for prairies, wetlands and forests throughout the region. Pink clarkia and yellow madia wildflowers bloom at West Bliss Butte. The nectar and pollen of a madia flower attract a bee. Madia and purple gilia flowers bloom next to a forest at West Bliss Butte.

Well, that's what we did at West Bliss Butte, and we are watching to see how well it works. We cleaned up the thick, non-native grasses and seeded a variety of wildflowers and a few native grasses. We planted with more than 95 percent shrubs and just enough trees to grow a bunch of big, "wolf-y" firs.

On that spring morning, the flowers were in bloom, and pollinators were everywhere. When I paused, I could hear the buzz of bees all around me. At least six kinds of bees and three kinds of butterflies were feeding on the flowers. And yes, the woody plants were there, too. For now, the wildflowers provide nectar and pollen. Shrubs like red-flowering currant will provide nectar and pollen, too, when they grow up.

Do we still have weeds to manage? Yes, and a lot of them. But for the most part, they aren't grasses, and they are not taking much moisture from the woody plants.

Will we have lower maintenance costs? I think so. I can't wait for a few more years when I can get my pencil out and see if this is just as economical as the "old way." I think it has more habitat value in the short term; now we just need to confirm whether it can provide the results in the long term.

Resources for your backyard

Pollinators need help. Just as parks providers are providing better habitat for them in natural areas, you can supply habitat in your own

yard. Pollinators need places to nest and native flowering plants that bloom throughout the growing season.

Why native plants? Because the area's pollinators evolved with them and can make the best use of native flowers and shrubs. Most native bees nest in the ground, so a little bit of bare ground in your garden is good for them. Unlike honeybees, native bees don't need to have water set out for them.

There are great local resources to help home gardeners provide pollinator habitat:

Metro's tips for native plants, including a handy guide to plants native to the Willamette Valley: oregonmetro.gov/nativeplants

The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation's garden guide: xerces.org/gardens

The West Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District's Meadowscaping Handbook was published in spring 2016 for urban gardeners in the Pacific Northwest: wmswcd.org/programs/pacific-northwest-urban-meadowscaping/

Residents in some parts of the metro region can sign up for the Backyard Habitat Certification Program: backyardhabitats.org

Be on the lookout

You can view native wildflowers at many Metro parks and natural areas. Next time you visit, be on the lookout for some of these native wildflowers:



Cooper Mountain Nature Park. Best viewed in May and June.



Cooper Mountain Nature Park. Best viewed in June.



Canemah Bluff and Mount Talbert nature parks. Best viewed in April and May.



Graham Oaks Nature Park. Best viewed all summer.



Graham Oaks provides prime habitat for pollinators – and for students to learn

Story and photography by Brandi Boyett



Early on a spring morning, first-grade students filed out from Boones Ferry Primary School for a field trip to the greenspace they visit monthly. But for these students, it doesn’t take a bus to get there – Graham Oaks Nature Park is located right next to their school.

Because the school and nature park are so close, Metro and the West Linn-Wilsonville School District have partnered to use Graham Oaks as an educational environment for the students, where they can explore and participate in service learning projects regularly.

“We’ve been doing stuff throughout the year,” said Bonnie Shoffner, volunteer coordinator for Metro Parks and Nature. “At our last monthly field trip, they planted native shrubs in a hedgerow for pollinators.”

On this visit, the students, teachers and parent-helpers were giving those pollinators houses.

“Mason bees typically would be in hollow stems of bushes and trees,” Shoffner said. “But because they need a little help, people put wooden boxes out with holes in them.”

Luckily for the bees, local Cub Scout leader Daniel Carter and his troop built dozens of mason bee boxes for use throughout Metro sites. Luckier still, Carol Clark, who keeps mason bees on her property near Oregon City, read about the houses and was inspired to



donate bee boards with sleeping mason bees already in them.

“Even though with our habitat, we probably have native bees that will come, this will increase the likelihood that the houses will be occupied,” Shoffner said.

As the kids got into groups, the adults nailed the boards and boxes to snags near the hedgerow. The bee homes were fastened facing east, to be warmed by the morning sun. The students also learned about the life cycle of plants and sang a song to remember the parts of insects.

Rachael Romanouk, 7, has high hopes for the bees.

“They might be cute! I love cute things,” she said. Rachael was also pleased to hear that mason bees rarely sting.

Graham Oaks provides an excellent learning opportunity for the students, and they benefit from participating in restoration projects at the park, said Bob Carlson, director of the West Linn-Wilsonville School District’s Center for Research in Environmental Sciences and Technologies, which is next to the park.

“The school district really appreciates the partnership and sees it as a really valuable thing,” Carlson said.

New signs promote Sandy River safety

By George Winborn

Photography by Rod Wojtanik



New signs along the Sandy River at Oxbow Regional Park will help visitors better understand the hazards of the cold water in this nationally designated Wild and Scenic river.

The Sandy River’s fast-moving currents are fast and unpredictable. Even shallow water can sweep people off their feet quickly and into the current. The river contains unpredictable drops in depth from one step to the next. Its bottom is covered in slippery rocks, so please avoid running on the rocks.

For more tips on water safety or to plan a float trip along the Sandy River, visit oregonmetro.gov/oxbow



Basalt columns grace entrances to Lone Fir

By George Winborn

Photography by Emma Williams

Basalt columns now grace two entrances to Lone Fir Cemetery, thanks to the Friends of Lone Fir Cemetery and Metro.

During the late 1800s and early 1900s, Lone Fir had two entrances, each flanked by basalt columns, said Wendy Palmer, vice chair of the Friends of Lone Fir Cemetery board. The columns on Southeast 20th Avenue still exist, but only the bases remained of the columns on Southeast 26th Avenue.

After Halloween 2014, the board decided to pursue the project, which was recommended as part of a site survey Metro conducted several years earlier.

Matthew Goddard of Poetry in Stone was selected to hand-craft the columns. Goddard recommended using Corbett basalt as the region’s best building stone for architectural uses. Its classic grey-blue color will weather gracefully to match the present columns on Southeast 20th Avenue. The third entrance in the northeast part of the cemetery does not have basalt columns.

Community members are invited to attend a formal dedication ceremony July 16. To learn more, visit friendsoflonefircemetery.org

theintertwine.org



Over 3,000 miles of parks,
trails and natural areas
in the palm of your hand



Cooper Mountain Nature Park / © C. Bruce Forster



The Intertwine is a **PLACE** to explore and discover the wonders of nature in the Portland-Vancouver Metro Area.

The Intertwine is an **ALLIANCE** of partners working to ensure nature is our common ground—a treasure shared by all—now and into the future.

And now The Intertwine is a reimagined **MOBILE** and **DESKTOP** experience.

theintertwine.org is seriously enhancing your ability to explore the Portland-Vancouver Metro Area with an integrated map that serves up all of the region's parks, natural areas, wildlife refuges and trails in one place.

A robust events calendar will keep you in the know about all the great opportunities to recreate and educate on The Intertwine. **The experience begins July 2016!**





East Buttes

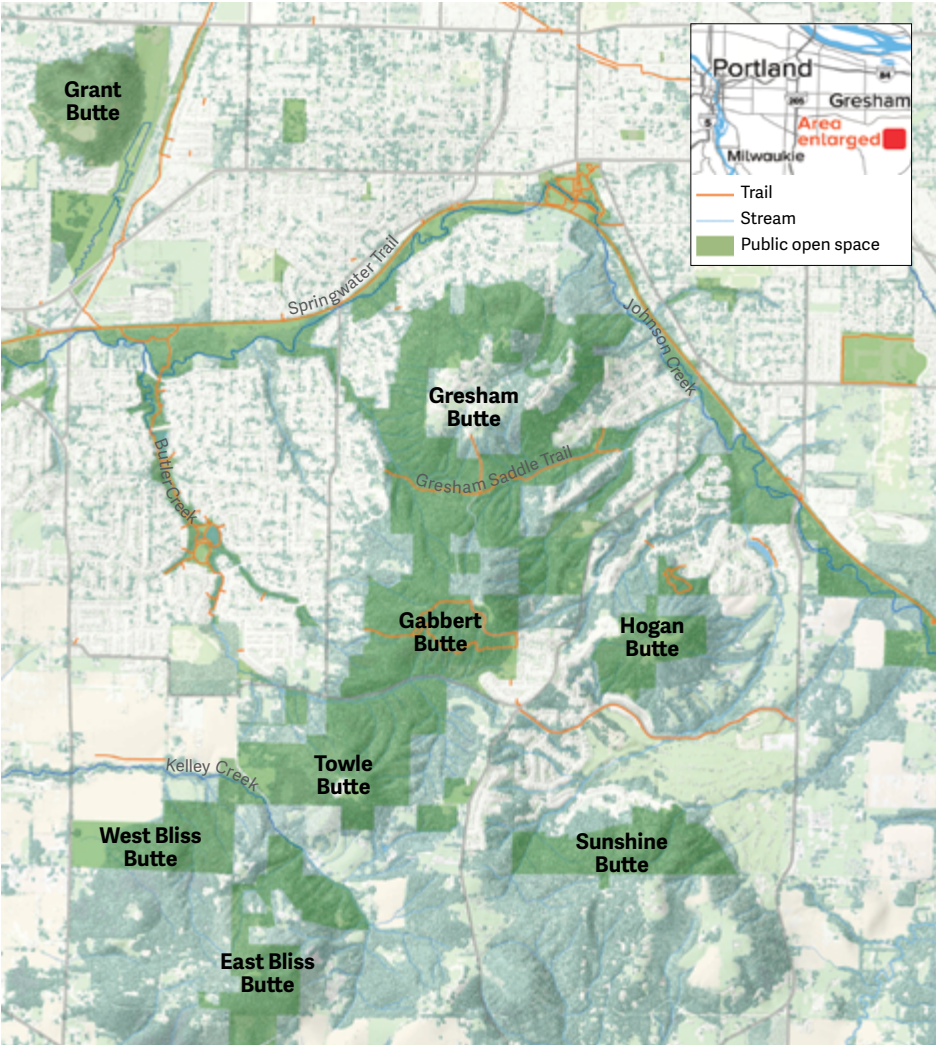
This page, clockwise from above: Black-tailed deer, red-breasted sapsucker, mushroom and clarkia, also known as farewell to spring, thrive at Metro’s West Bliss Butte. **Opposite page, clockwise from top left:** An orange-crowned warbler sings from a low branch. Neighbor Buz Carriker enjoys walking among the alders and maples at Gabbert Butte. Visitors can find Oregon grape, Savannah sparrows, Pacific chorus frogs, Pacific bleeding hearts and sword ferns throughout the East Buttes.



Can a new model for parks planning create more welcoming spaces for underrepresented communities?

Story by Yuxing Zheng

Photography by Phil Nosler and Yuxing Zheng





For years, planners working to design new parks have engaged the community through open houses, surveys and other traditional methods. But what if a different model could work better?

A new initiative called Connect to Nature is contracting with Verde, a community-based organization, to develop a new approach to designing parks that are more welcoming to diverse communities.

It's getting a tryout starting this summer as Metro and the city of Gresham launch an effort to plan for the long-term future of the East Buttes area. Gresham and Metro own a significant collection of properties in the buttes, a series of forested, extinct cinder cones in the Boring Lava Field that formed millions of years ago. The planning effort will create a long-term vision for the area and focus in particular on providing formal access to Gabbert Butte, which connects to Gresham Butte.

As part of the planning effort, Verde will be working to engage diverse communities to identify nature-based activities and facilities to ensure underserved communities can better access nature. The team, led by Verde, includes community organizations and a landscape architecture firm.

“In poll after poll, people of color indicate very highly the need for parks, open spaces and access, yet you see the disparities in our region with people of color and low-income people not having good access to parks in their neighborhoods,” said Tony DeFalco, the Verde project manager for Connect to Nature.

“This opportunity is huge, and a lot of people will be watching our work because it’s really saying for the first time, ‘Let’s figure out what designing and planning these parks mean for these populations, and let’s figure out how to incorporate that going forward in all the work that we do.’”



“In poll after poll, people of color indicate very highly the need for parks, open spaces and access, yet you see the disparities in our region with people of color and low-income people not having good access to parks in their neighborhoods.”

Tony DeFalco, Verde project manager for Connect to Nature

Connect to Nature

Although the neighborhoods immediately surrounding the East Buttes area are predominantly white, the larger Gresham community reflects the region’s growing diversity. Of the city’s estimated 108,000 residents, about a third are people of color or Hispanic, according to the U.S. Census Bureau’s American Community Survey in 2014. The median household income was approximately \$47,700.

“Parks planning historically has focused on the needs and priorities of higher-income folks, or the directives around science in terms of ecological protection, and I think that low-income people and people of color were not thought about,” DeFalco said.

To create a new model, Verde will be working with the Native American Youth and Family Center, the Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon, and the Immigrant & Refugee Community Organization to identify about seven local leaders to connect with community members. The local leaders will receive stipends to learn about the parks planning process, bring members of their communities to the table, and engage them on the types of features and activities they would like to see, as well as overcoming barriers to access. Design workshops will help incorporate that input – and solutions – into the ultimate plan.

Planning more inclusive parks will allow underrepresented groups to better enjoy the health benefits of active lifestyles and other benefits provided by access to nature, DeFalco said.

“It’s really an area where there’s an increasing awareness on behalf of Metro and other agencies, and a need for real practice around ‘How do we do it?’” he said. “There’s a real hunger around institutionalizing this kind of effort. As a community service organization, we’re really excited by that because it indicates to us that this is not just a flash in the pan.”

Protecting nature, collaboratively

From the city’s land around Gresham Butte in the north to Metro’s West and East Bliss buttes in the south, the collective East Buttes area is one of the region’s largest patchworks of publicly owned natural areas.

“This area has the potential to become one of the iconic natural areas in the region,” said Olena Turula, a parks planner at Metro who is leading the East Buttes project. “As this area develops, it’s going to be a huge resource.”

An informal trail system at Gabbert Butte and the Gresham Butte Saddle Trail already allow visitors to explore the forests full of Douglas firs, bigleaf maples, red alders, Western red cedars, sword and licorice ferns, and various flowers. The East Buttes area also contains the headwaters of Kelley Creek and other creeks that flow into Johnson Creek.

On a balmy spring afternoon, sword ferns gracefully unfurled their leaves, Pacific bleeding hearts gently swayed in the wind and trillium blossoms dotted the forest floor. Bees buzzed among Oregon grape and red-flowering currant shrubs.

Amphibians, deer, porcupines, a wide variety of birds and other wildlife rely on East Buttes,



Flowers bloom in the prairie at West Bliss Butte.

“I think there’s a strong appreciation that Metro’s really trying to apply the bond funds for land acquisition, that people are pleased with what they’ve acquired and is now being held in the public trust. That’s going to add to the livability of this entire area.”

Jim Buck, chairman of the Gresham Butte Neighborhood Association

said Elaine Stewart, a senior natural resources scientist at Metro.

“The buttes provide places on the landscape where birds can ‘drop out’ and rest and feed before they take off again during migration. Some stay to nest in the buttes,” Stewart said. “It’s just nice to have large tracts of land. When you add it up, it’s possible to support viable populations of wildlife.”

The joint planning effort between Metro and the city will allow for better coordination on access improvements and better leveraging of shared resources, said Steve Fancher, Gresham’s environmental services director. Metro has more experience planning regional parks and trails, and Gresham knows its residents best, Fancher said.

“It’s not just about more trails, it’s about doing it in a sensitive way for the environment and for the people who live there,” Fancher said. “It’s about doing it the right way so we give more access to natural areas that have been purchased by everybody collectively, but doing it in a way that’s best for all.”

Community input

One of the top priorities is to find the community groups that might provide the most meaningful feedback and to get their input, Fancher said.

One of the key groups will be neighbors.

“I love this trail,” neighbor Buz Carriker said as he walked along a trail at Gabbert Butte one spring afternoon. “I like being out in the woods, especially on days like this when it’s nice and sunny.”

Jim Buck, chairman of the Gresham Butte Neighborhood Association, says he’d like to see restrooms and interpretive and directional signage along the trails as part of access improvements.

Neighbors are concerned about the possibility of illegal camping and dumping, given ongoing issues along the nearby Springwater Corridor Trail, Buck said. He’d also like the planning conversation to discuss whether pets should be allowed.

“I know most Metro areas don’t allow dogs, and some people really want to use the buttes to run with their dogs,” Buck said. “I say that in terms of pets because part of the planning is to preserve the natural environment, and there’s a concern that pets may hamper wildlife from reproducing or even remaining in the area if pets are allowed to roam free or start chasing wildlife.”

Buck, chairman of the city’s urban forestry subcommittee, hikes in the East Buttes area about three or four times a week.

“I think there’s a strong appreciation that Metro’s really trying to apply the bond funds for land acquisition, that people are pleased with what they’ve acquired and is now being held in the public trust,” Buck said. “That’s going to add to the livability of this entire area.”

To learn more about the project, sign up for updates and get involved, visit oregonmetro.gov/eastbuttes

Field guide

BROUGHTON BEACH



Story by Jim Caudell
Photography by Sofia Basto

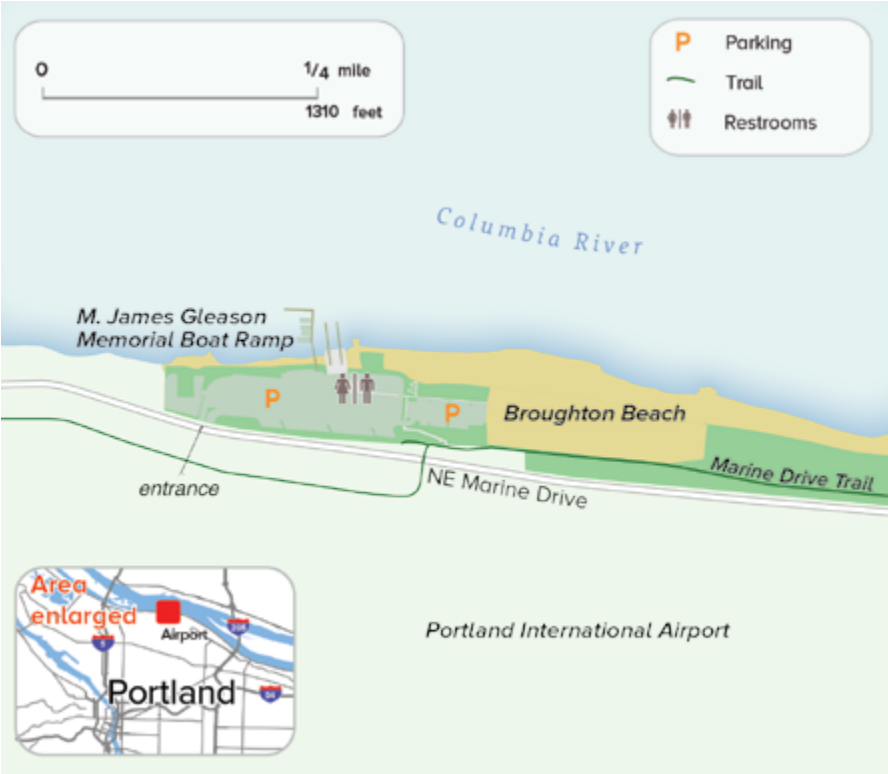
Broughton Beach is one of the few sandy beaches in Portland, attracting a steady stream of visitors to enjoy the Columbia River.

Broughton Beach is just east of the busy M. James Gleason Memorial Boat Ramp. Upon entering the parking area, look to the left to see a number of double-crested cormorants lined up on a wire. These birds are a natural wind gauge; visitors can always tell which way the wind is blowing by the direction the cormorants are facing.

Today, visitors might see artists standing at their easels, capturing the movement of the wind across water, or sand against the backdrop of Mount Hood. Light from the rising and setting sun drapes across the mountain as airplanes departing from Portland International Airport seem to jockey for air space with kites chased by breezes that play at the west end of the Columbia Gorge.

Broughton Beach was previously called Dittler’s Beach and was long known as a meet-up place for groups partying around bonfires, often leaving garbage and broken glass behind. Recent cleanup efforts included using a machine called the Beach Tech 2800 to finely sift through the sand, removing 110 tons of debris. The cleanup, combined with new bathrooms, evening security, and rules prohibiting alcohol and beach fires, have helped create a family-friendly destination.

The river is the backdrop to all that goes on as it brings relief to picnickers, sunbathers and waders during hot summer months. Colorful canopies and tents splash new colors on the



Broughton Beach
4365 NE Marine Drive, Portland

DIRECTIONS
Broughton Beach and Gleason Boat Ramp are accessible only on North Marine Drive. Popular nearby access points are from Interstate 5 exit 307, Northeast Sixth Drive, and Northeast 33rd and 122nd avenues in Portland. Or bike to the beach along the Marine Drive Trail.

KNOW WHEN YOU GO
Open sunrise to sunset. Dogs allowed at Gleason Boat Ramp, on leash at Broughton Beach. \$5/vehicle/day; free with annual pass.

AMENITIES
Restrooms, drinking fountain, workout station. Gleason Boat Ramp offers wheelchair-accessible docks and a seasonal river patrol station.

In the neighborhood

Need some food or refreshment at the end of a long day of fishing, sunbathing or cycling? Stop in at the Sextant Bar & Galley for a burger and beer just to the west end of Gleason boat ramp. Or stop by Salty’s on the Columbia, just west of the Sextant, for weekend brunch or a romantic dinner. Both offer prime views of river. Or head east and around the airport for Cascade Station, which offers plenty of shopping options.

beach as fishermen launch from the adjoining boat ramp to chase spring, summer and fall salmon.

These fish runs that once fed Native American tribes and early explorers are now a symbol of environmental change. Today from the comfort of one’s sand chair, it is possible to watch line fishermen compete with gill-netters and sea

lions in an age-old contest with environmental and economic consequences.

Watch osprey dive under water, often emerging with a struggling salmon clenched in its talons. Early on a quiet morning as fishing boats line up in the “hog line,” it is possible to hear the anglers’ voices carried across the water.

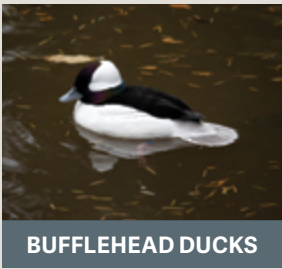
Be on the lookout!



NOOTKA ROSE



STREAMBANK LUPINE



BUFFLEHEAD DUCKS



GREAT BLUE HERON

3 ways to enjoy Broughton Beach

CANOE OR KAYAK History intersects with commerce, recreation and sport at Broughton Beach. At River Mile 110 on the Lower Columbia River Water Trail, it is not uncommon to see tugboats pushing barges loaded with logs and grain through a fleet of sail boats while listening to the grunts of the Columbia River Outrigger Canoe Club members paddle their boats. Bring your own canoe or kayak to enjoy a unique perspective from the river.

MARINE DRIVE TRAIL Cycling is a popular way to visit Broughton Beach, with a separate, asphalt path alongside Marine Drive from Northeast 33rd Avenue to Metro’s Blue Lake Regional Park in Fairview. Cyclists must briefly return to the shoulder of Marine Drive near Northeast

185th Avenue. Be sure to check out the Lewis & Clark National Historic Trail sign that commemorates the Lewis and Clark expedition.

BIRDWATCHING The impulses that cause seasonal movement of fish below the water can be seen in the varieties of birds spotted above. Visitors can see great blue heron, greater and lesser scaup, killdeer, common loon, cackling goose, yellow-rumped warbler, pied-billed grebe, bufflehead ducks, northern shrike and Wilson’s phalarope and more than 150 other birds.

oregonmetro.gov/broughton



Get involved

CLASSES AND EVENTS

JULY 7, 21 AUG. 11, 18 SEPT. 1

Twilight Thursdays

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 awaken and move across the landscape. Join a naturalist on a hike to explore the magical space between day and night.

Blue Lake

July 7, 8 to 9:30 p.m.
\$6/person, \$11/family. Ages 6 and older.
Registration required. Difficulty: easy.


Cooper Mountain Nature Park

July 21, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.
\$10/person. All ages.
Registration required, Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District, 503-629-6350.
Difficulty: moderate.

Glendoveer

Aug. 11, 7:30 to 9 p.m.
Free. Ages 6 and older.
Registration required. Difficulty: easy.

Smith and Bybee Wetlands

Aug. 18, 7 to 9 p.m.
\$6/person, \$11/family. Ages 6 and older.
Registration required. Difficulty: easy. 

Cooper Mountain Nature Park

Sept. 1, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.
\$10/person. All ages.
Registration required, Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District, 503-629-6350.
Difficulty: moderate.

SAT. JULY 9

Stayin’ alive: survival fires


You are lost, and the storm clouds are gathering. Could you light a fire with just one match? Join naturalist Dan Daly in this family-oriented class to learn how to light a fire in the toughest conditions. Participants use knives during the class, and the safe conduct of children is the responsibility of their guardians. Fire safety will be emphasized.

Oxbow Regional Park
11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
\$6/person, \$11/family; \$5/car, \$7/bus. All ages.
Registration required. Difficulty: easy.

WED. JULY 13

Families in the field: pollinators of Graham Oaks Nature Park

Explore the wonders of a white oak woodland through the eyes of a pollinator and your child. Join a naturalist for a hands-on program for the whole family. Learn how butterflies, hummingbirds, beetles and bees play an important role in this habitat. Target age is 5 to 8, though all children are welcome with guardian.


Graham Oaks Nature Park
9 to 11 a.m.
\$11/family. All ages.
Registration required. Difficulty: easy. 

Photography by C. Bruce Forster and Jerome Hart

SAT. JULY 16,30 SAT. AUG. 13,27 SAT. SEPT. 10

Volunteer ventures


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

Native Plant Center, 2661 SW Borland Rd, Tualatin
9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Free. All ages.
Registration required. Difficulty: moderate. 

SAT. JULY 23

Oregon City’s First City celebration

Stop by downtown Oregon City to visit Metro’s Parks and Nature team members. Learn more about the design of the public riverwalk coming to Willamette Falls, the future nature park at Newell Creek Canyon, and more about regional parks, trails and natural areas. The celebration will also feature live music, local food, a kids activity zone, and a beer and wine garden.

Downtown Oregon City
11 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Free. All ages.
Registration not required. Difficulty: easy. 

SAT. JULY 30

Sneak peek of Killin Wetlands

Killin Wetlands is one of the best examples of a peat wetland in the Willamette Valley. This tour will focus on the natural history of the site, bird watching and plans for opening the site to the public. Note there are no restrooms available.

Killin Wetlands, Banks
9:30 to 11:30 a.m.
\$6/person, \$11/family. All ages.
Registration required. Difficulty: easy.

How to register

Unless otherwise noted, register and pay at 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: Sandy Jamison, 503-972-8543.

SAT. JULY 30

Star party at Glendoveer

The Rose City Astronomers bring their telescopes and expert knowledge to share on the greens of Glendoveer Golf and Tennis Center. Look deep into the sky for distant stellar objects and learn common summer constellations. Come prepared to let your eyes adjust to the darkness, and leave your flashlights at home. If the sky is covered by clouds, the event will be canceled.

Glendoveer Golf and Tennis Center
9 to 10:30 p.m.
Free. All ages.
Registration required. Difficulty: moderate.

WED. AUG. 3

Families in the field: Scouters Mountain forest adventure

The shaded slopes of Scouters Mountain offer refuge from the summer heat for people and animals alike. Bring your family to explore the Douglas fir forest on this ancient volcano, and then play nature games to hone your awareness skills. Target age is 5 to 8 year olds, though all children are welcome with guardian.

Scouters Mountain Nature Park
9 to 11 a.m.
\$11/family. All ages.
Registration required. Difficulty: moderate.



Free Parks Days

Enjoy free parking at Oxbow and Blue Lake regional parks, Broughton Beach, M. James Gleason Memorial Boat Ramp and Chinook Landing Marine Park July 7, Oct. 14, Nov. 11 and 25, and Dec. 23, 2016, as well as Jan. 16, 2017.

Parking at all other Metro parks and boat ramps is free year-round.

SAT. AUG. 6 SAT. AUG. 13 SAT. AUG. 20

Naturalist in the park

Join a naturalist for free guided hikes at three of Metro’s destinations. Explore vibrant inner city wetlands at Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area, majestic Douglas fir forests at Scouters Mountain Nature Park, and beautiful white oak woodlands at Mount Talbert Nature Park.

Aug. 6, Smith and Bybee Wetlands
Aug. 13, Mount Talbert
Aug. 20, Scouters Mountain
10 a.m. to noon.
Free. All ages. Registration not required.

Difficulty:
Smith and Bybee: easy.
Mount Talbert: strenuous.
Scouters Mountain: moderate.

TUE. AUG. 9

Independent Living Resources summer picnic

The nonprofit Independent Living Resources returns to Glendoveer for its summer picnic. Community members are invited to join in celebrating the anniversary of the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Booths, food and entertainment provided. Learn how accessible recreation can be for all.

Glendoveer Golf and Tennis Center
11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Free. All Ages.
Registration required. Difficulty: easy.

SAT. AUG. 27

Sneak peek of Newell Creek Canyon

Newell Creek Canyon in Oregon City has layers of stories written into the landscape. Dive deep into the shaded canyon for a sneak peek tour of this future nature park.

Newell Creek Canyon
9 to 11 a.m.
\$6/person. Ages 8 and older.
Registration required. Difficulty: strenuous.

SAT. SEPT. 17

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. Explore Clear Creek Natural Area with naturalist Dan Daly to learn how to interpret what the birds are saying. This site is great for wildlife tracking, and we will look for signs of predators that hunt there.

Clear Creek Natural Area
9 a.m. to noon
\$6/person, \$11/family. Ages 8 and older.
Registration required. Difficulty: moderate.



FRI. JUNE 24 TO SAT. SEPT. 3

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 storytelling on Saturday nights. Campfire shows are only open to overnight campers; day use ends at sunset when the park gates are locked. To see the full list of performers and to reserve a campsite, visit:

oregonmetro.gov/oxbow

Oxbow campground amphitheater

8:30 p.m. June 24 to July 23
8 p.m. July 29 to Sept. 3, unless noted otherwise
Free. All ages.
Overnight campers only

SAT. SEPT. 17

Blue Lake Nature and Culture Festival

Join residents from around the region to celebrate the end of summer with face-painting, music and dance, a nature scavenger hunt, cultural activities and delicious international foods for sale.

Blue Lake Regional Park
11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
\$5/car, \$7/bus; free for pedestrians and cyclists. All ages.
Registration not required. Difficulty: easy.

SAT. SEPT. 17

Health and nature discovery walk

Join local nonprofit organizations Sista Sistah and Brotha2brotha to empower, engage and support youths of African descent. All community members are invited to walk the Glendoveer Nature Trail. A Passport to Health and Nature will be provided, and participants can collect stamps, prizes and information along the trail.

Glendoveer Golf and Tennis Center
9:30 to 11:30 a.m.
Free. All ages.
Registration required. Difficulty: easy.

Tools for living

RECYCLING: THE INVISIBLE SYSTEM BEYOND YOUR BIN



Story and photography by Rebecca Koffman

For many, recycling at home is second nature. We keep junk mail, soup cans, yogurt tubs and peanut butter jars out of the garbage, instead placing them in recycling bins. What’s accepted in home recycling depends on whether any given material, such as paper or glass, can be sold to make new products.

To sorting centers and markets

After the recycling is picked up, it’s sorted on conveyor belts at places like Far West Recycling in Hillsboro. Screens separate paper from cardboard, magnets extract steel cans, and another machine separates aluminum cans. Workers pull out wire and plastic bags, which can wrap around machinery, bringing conveyors to a halt.

Newsprint and cardboard go to local mills that mix it with virgin fiber to make new paper and cardboard. Other paper, including most junk mail, goes mainly to China, along with many plastics and some scrap metal.

A lot of glass goes to a plant near the Portland airport, where it’s used to make new bottles.

The value of resources

Metro works with local governments to help the Portland region meet state recycling goals.

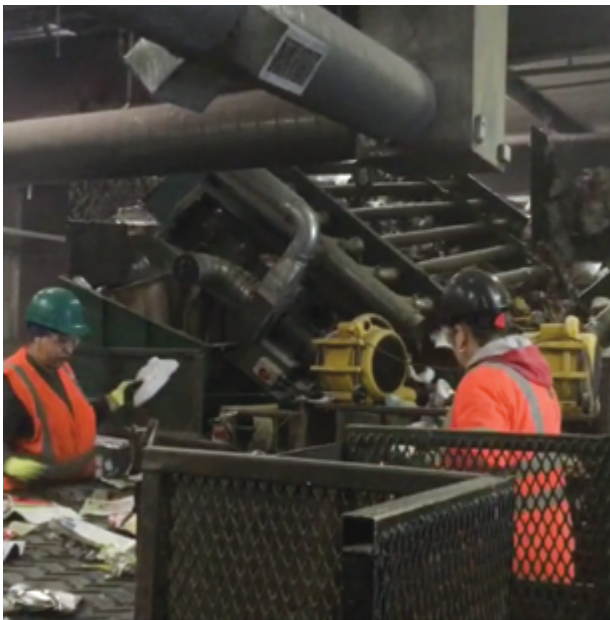
“We want to capture the value of these resources,” says Andy Sloop, former resource conservation and recycling manager at Metro.

Take the aluminum in a soda can. It began as bauxite deep in the earth in places like Jamaica or Malaysia. It’s extracted by strip-mining, which destroys wildlife habitat and produces polluting heavy metals. Turning bauxite into aluminum also requires a lot of energy. Recycling that can extend the life of the bauxite and reduce the need to extract more.

Markets for plastics are more complicated

Huge bales of crushed milk jugs, water bottles and mixed plastics are stacked at Far West Recycling. Some stay onshore, and some go to China. Plastics markets are tied to oil prices, so right now, it can cost less to make new plastic than to buy, sort and clean recycled plastic.

And many plastics – like clamshells holding take-out dinners – aren’t recyclable at home.



These plastics are harder to sort and sell, so they’re not a part of the regional collection system.

Despite such challenges, Jerry Powell of industry organization Resource Recycling sees recycling as an essential part of a regional and global economy. “If all curbside recycling ended tomorrow, our highways could not be rebuilt, our newspapers could not be published, our beverages could not be bottled and canned.”

Find more online

Read the full story and watch the videos at oregonmetro.gov/news

Questions about what to toss or where to recycle? Ask Metro at 503-234-3000 or oregonmetro.gov/toolsforliving

\$5 off the good stuff

compost, native plants and hand-weeding tools

For a list of participating stores, see other side or visit oregonmetro.gov/gardenshops
Limit one coupon per customer per store. Requires a \$20 minimum purchase before discount. All eligible products may not be available at every store. Expires 12/31/2016.

Participating retailers:
Beaverton: Farmington Gardens, Healing Ponds Farm and Garden **Boring:** Boring Square Garden Center, Mt. Scott Fuel **Clackamas:** Clackamas Compost Products **Cornelius:** S&H Landscape **Forest Grove:** Ace Hardware **Gresham:** Flat Creek Garden Center, Schedeens Farms **Happy Valley:** Georges Garden Center, Tony’s Garden Center **Hillsboro:** Best Buy in Town, S&H Landscape **Lake Oswego:** Dennis’ 7 Dees **Milwaukie:** Concentrates, Inc., McFarlane’s Bark **Oregon City:** Echo Valley Natives **Portland:** Beaumont Hardware, Birds & Bees Nursery, City Farm, Cornell Farm, Dekum Street Doorway, Dennis’ 7 Dees Cedar Hills and SE Portland, Garden Fever!, Linnton Feed and Seed, Livingscape, Mt. Scott Fuel, Naomi’s Organic Farm Supply, Portland Nursery on Division and on Stark, Tony’s Garden Center, Urban Farm Store **Tigard:** Bark Blowers **Tualatin:** Hughes Water Gardens, S&H Landscape **West Linn:** Bosky Dell Natives

 **Metro**
503-234-3000
oregonmetro.gov/garden

Where can I put my old mattress to rest?



Ask Metro how to clear stuff out.

503-234-3000
oregonmetro.gov/recycle

 **Metro**



Regional roundup

A TRANSPORTATION SNAPSHOT



Story by Craig Beebe

Photography by Justin Sherrill

Every day, the Portland metropolitan region's 2.4 million people have places to go – to work or school, to doctors, grocery stores, parks and back home again. All these trips knit the region together – from Forest Grove to Troutdale, Vancouver and Portland to Wilsonville and every community in between.

So how well are roads, transit lines, bikeways and sidewalks keeping up with a growing region?

Metro's latest Regional Snapshot takes a look at how people get around in the Portland region and what it says about the region's future.



Here are some particularly interesting numbers:

1995 The year per-capita driving peaked in the Portland region. Residents of the region are driving less than they did 20 years ago and less than residents of other metro areas. Portland-area commuters have shorter commutes than the national average. People here also use other options like transit, biking and walking more often.

26 minutes The average commute in the Portland region in 2014, including all modes of travel. Nearly two-thirds of the region's residents have a 30-minute commute or better, the fifth-best percentage in the country.



34,000 cars If the same percentage of people drove to work alone as in 2000, we'd see 34,000 more cars commuting on our freeways and streets every day. That's like packing three lanes of Interstate 5 all the way to Woodburn. Working from home, bicycling and transit are all helping keep traffic from being even worse as the region grows.

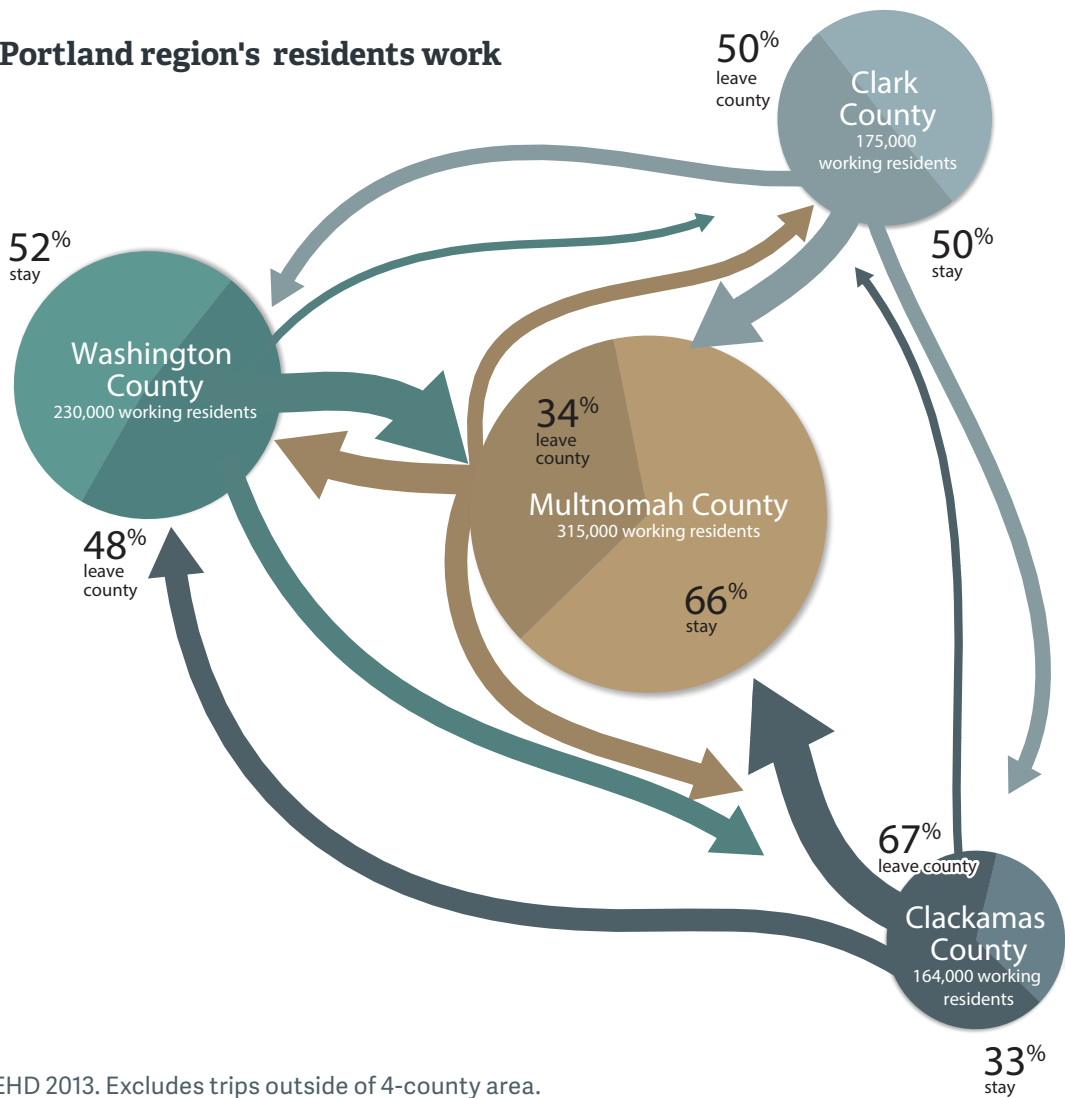
103 million The number of trips people took on the region's four largest transit agencies in 2014. MAX light rail carries two-fifths of those trips; the Blue Line alone carries enough people each day to fill the Moda Center three times.

55 percent The increase in the value of freight exported from the region from 2007 to 2012. That's despite a 44 percent drop in the total weight of goods exported. Why? Because the freight economy is shifting to higher-value products like microchips, which don't weigh as much. Trucks still dominate the freight economy, moving three-quarters of the total freight values.

23 minutes How frequently, on average, a traffic crash happened in the Portland region in 2014 – which saw 23,300 total crashes. Fortunately, 98 percent of crashes result in only minor injuries or property damage.

48 percent The share of fatal crashes from 2010 to 2014 that involved a person walking or bicycling. That's despite just 6 percent of total crashes involving such individuals, showing just how vulnerable people walking and bicycling are.

Where Portland region's residents work



Source: LEHD 2013. Excludes trips outside of 4-county area.

YOU ARE HERE Check out the whole package of interactive maps, videos, charts and more online at oregonmetro.gov/snapshot



Share your nature and win!



Dylan Abel, Southwest Portland
Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area is one of my favorite spots to paddle. I maneuvered my kayak so that Mount Hood would be in the background when I took a photo of this couple canoeing.

Submit your photo

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 photo and description by Aug. 22 to: ourbigbackyard@oregonmetro.gov