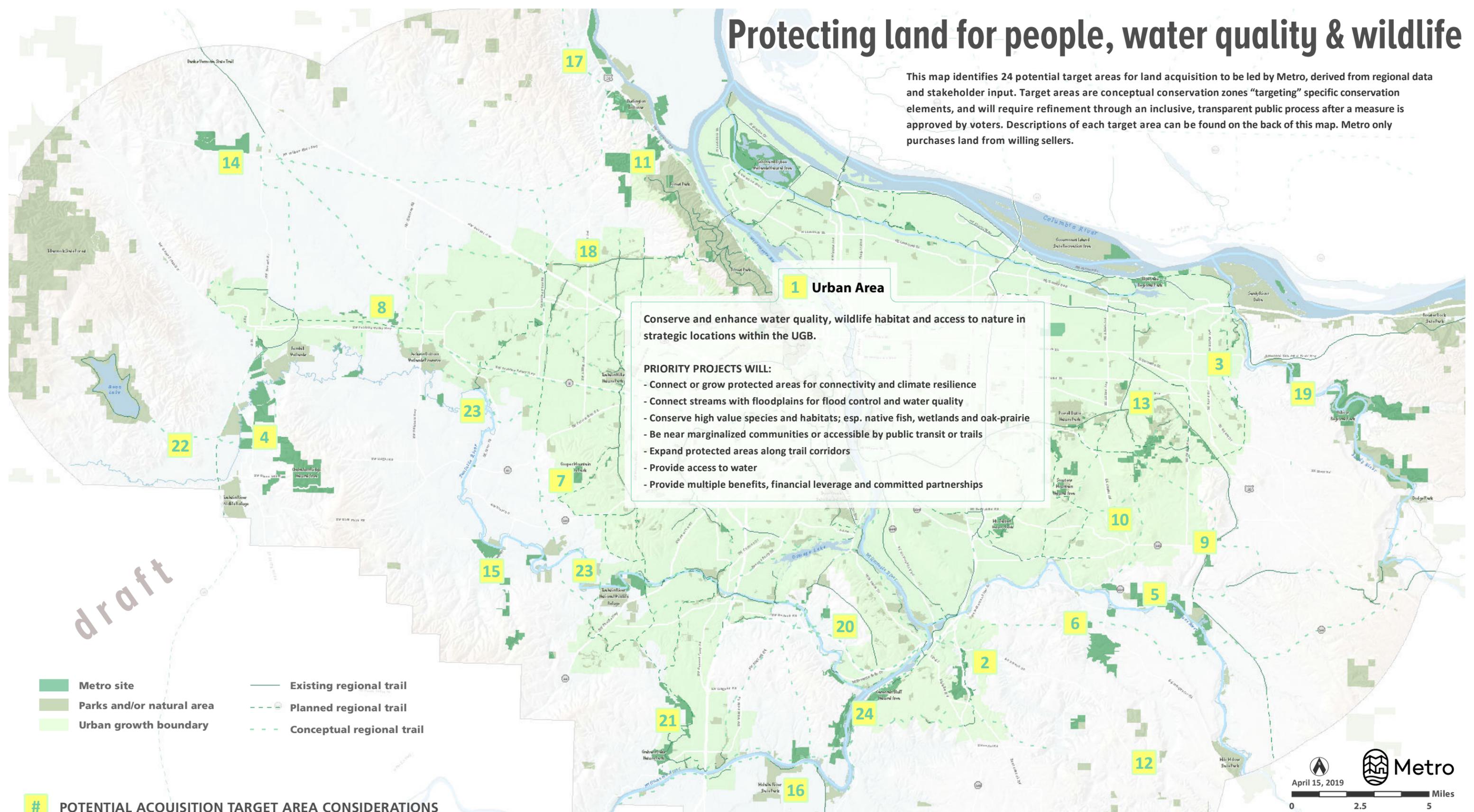


Protecting land for people, water quality & wildlife

This map identifies 24 potential target areas for land acquisition to be led by Metro, derived from regional data and stakeholder input. Target areas are conceptual conservation zones “targeting” specific conservation elements, and will require refinement through an inclusive, transparent public process after a measure is approved by voters. Descriptions of each target area can be found on the back of this map. Metro only purchases land from willing sellers.



1 Urban Area

Conserve and enhance water quality, wildlife habitat and access to nature in strategic locations within the UGB.

PRIORITY PROJECTS WILL:

- Connect or grow protected areas for connectivity and climate resilience
- Connect streams with floodplains for flood control and water quality
- Conserve high value species and habitats; esp. native fish, wetlands and oak-prairie
- Be near marginalized communities or accessible by public transit or trails
- Expand protected areas along trail corridors
- Provide access to water
- Provide multiple benefits, financial leverage and committed partnerships

draft

- Metro site
- Parks and/or natural area
- Urban growth boundary
- Existing regional trail
- Planned regional trail
- Conceptual regional trail

POTENTIAL ACQUISITION TARGET AREA CONSIDERATIONS

- | | | | |
|--|-------------------------------|---|--|
| 1) Urban Area | 7) Cooper Mountain | 13) Johnson Creek Floodplain and Headwaters | 19) Sandy River Connections |
| 2) Abernethy and Newell Creeks Connections | 8) Dairy-McKay Creek | 14) Killin Wetlands | 20) Stafford Basin |
| 3) Beaver Creek Connections | 9) Deep Creek and Tributaries | 15) Lower Tualatin Headwaters | 21) Tonquin Oaks Connections |
| 4) Greater Chehalem Ridge, Wapato Lake and Gales Creek | 10) East Buttes | 16) Molalla Oaks, Prairie and Floodplains | 22) Wapato Lake to the Coast Range |
| 5) Clackamas River Bluffs and Greenway | 11) Forest Park Connections | 17) Multnomah Channel Headwaters | 23) Tualatin Floodplain |
| 6) Clear Creek | 12) Highland Ridge | 18) Rock Creek | 24) Willamette Narrows and Canemah Bluff Connections |

1. Urban Area

Investments within the UGB core will target strategic opportunities for Metro to conserve and enhance water quality, wildlife habitat and access to nature. Priority projects will increase and connect already conserved lands to enhance habitat connectivity and improve floodplain connectivity for water quality, flood protection and climate change resiliency. Sites with opportunities for multiple benefits, financial leverage, strong partners, access to water and access for historically marginalized communities, especially by public transit or trail will be emphasized.

2. Abernethy and Newell Creeks

Abernethy Creek and its lower tributary Newell Creek provide significant fish and wildlife habitat within an urbanizing area and provide habitat connectivity from the foothills of the Cascades to the Willamette River in Oregon City. Home to Metro’s Newell Canyon Nature Park, the lower Abernethy watershed is severely threatened by nearby growth and development. Investment would focus on improving the integrity of local natural areas and a regional nature park and improving the connectivity of existing public land to the Willamette River to benefit water quality and wildlife habitat, especially including salmon and lamprey.

3. Beaver Creek (Lower Sandy River)

Beaver Creek’s headwaters are urbanized or rapidly urbanizing areas of Portland and Gresham, and the creek flows close to outer SE Portland, Gresham, Troutdale and Fairview, yet it still supports native salmon and steelhead. Work in this target area will consolidate conservation gains made in the previous two bond measures along Beaver Creek’s floodplain down to its confluence with the Sandy River, and protect adjacent upland parcels that facilitate habitat improvement, wildlife connectivity, water quality protection and public access.

4. Greater Chehalem Ridge, Wapato Lake and Gales Creek

This target area integrates four sub-areas that encompass conservation priorities in the Upper Tualatin River, including Wapato Lake and the Wapato National Wildlife Refuge, Gales and Carpenter creeks and adjacent Chehalem Ridge. Metro investments will build on 20 years of partnership-based land conservation success by connecting existing natural areas and expanding conservation of the spectacular Chehalem Ridge Nature Park to the south to improve water quality, wildlife habitat, climate change resilience and expand access to nature opportunities. Key conservation targets include large blocks of forest that protect headwater streams, oak woodlands and wetlands, particularly those supporting culturally important plants such as wapato.

5. Clackamas River Bluffs and Greenway

The Clackamas River is one of two priority watersheds for salmon and steelhead recovery in the Willamette Valley, is the source of drinking water for 300,000 people, and offers some the region’s best opportunities for wildlife habitat conservation and access to nature. Investment in this target area directs conservation efforts to connect existing public lands and expand efforts to new priority areas of the lower Clackamas River, the confluence with Eagle Creek and the headwaters of Foster Creek. Combines three sub-areas.

6. Clear Creek

Metro’s Clear Creek Natural Area is a true regional gem and success story from the 1995 and 2006 bond measures. Clear Creek protects one of the most important remaining runs of native coho and Chinook salmon in the region, and delivers cool, clean water to the Clackamas River, near the town of Carver. Continued investment in the greater Clear Creek landscape will further enhance and connect a regional anchor site for conserving salmon, steelhead, lamprey, oak savanna, wetlands and large contiguous forest tracts. Includes two sub-areas.

7. Cooper Mountain

Once at the outer fringe of urban growth, Cooper Mountain Nature Park is now firmly within the fast growing city of Beaverton. Conserving the long-term health of this popular park as a regional opportunity to experience nature and an anchor site for oak- and prairie-dependent plants and wildlife depends on strategic park expansion and enhancing the connection of the area to the nearby Tualatin River. Combines two sub-areas.

8. Dairy and McKay Creeks

Conservation work in this target area located between Hillsboro and Cornelius concentrates on two elements: building on past investment focused on protecting floodplains, riparian areas and associated wetlands to improve water quality and wildlife habitat by connecting or expanding habitat patches in these major tributaries of the Tualatin River, as well as establishing a new project - protecting a significant prairie site that can serve as a focal location for Indigenous people to gather first foods, including camas, and hold ceremonies. Work will create potential public access opportunities while providing important habitat, water quality and climate resilience benefits. Two sub-areas are included.

9. Deep Creek and Tributaries

The relatively intact, steeply wooded slopes of the canyons of Deep Creek, located near Boring, and its tributaries in eastern Clackamas County hold some of the region’s most extensive contiguous wildlife habitat. The creek serves as the principal corridor connecting the Clackamas River to habitat areas within the more urbanized portions of the county to the north. The corridor includes the Cazadero Trail that will link Gresham, Barton and public lands in the area. Land protection will focus on connecting existing public land along the creeks and their associated uplands to improve fish and wildlife habitat, water quality and climate change resilience.

10. East Buttes

The remaining undeveloped wooded slopes of extinct lava domes in our eastern metropolitan region provide special opportunities to protect water quality and connect landscape scale natural areas for wildlife habitat and corridors from the edge of the Cascade foothills to inner Portland urban areas such as Scouters Mountain and buttes in the Damascus area. Dual goals of this target area are connecting existing public lands and connecting the network south to the Clackamas River to enhance habitat quality and climate resilience in both target areas. Contains two sub-areas.

11. Greater Forest Park Connections

The 2019 bond will build off of successful efforts in the 1995 and 2006 measures that filled ownership gaps in Forest Park and preserved significant parcels north and west of Forest Park. Connecting existing protected areas as well as connecting Forest Park to Rock Creek and the Westside Trail will improve important habitat and wildlife connectivity, as well as provide trail connections between the region’s largest urban park and Washington County. Land conservation will focus on connecting Ennis Creek, Burlington Creek, McCarthy Creek and North Abbey Creek natural areas to each other and surrounding areas, and continuing to build trail and wildlife connections to the north and west.

12. Highland Ridge

These expansive forested upland ridges and canyons located between Oregon City and Estacada would form a new target area on the east side of the region and provide an opportunity for a regional destination and important wildlife connection to the Cascade foothills. Conservation of this area which contains the headwaters of Abernethy and Clear creeks would build on investments by Metro in restoration of lower portions of the Abernethy and Clear Creek watersheds, protect water quality in important salmon streams for the region, and protect a large patch of forest habitat. The upland forests with well established logging roads are reminiscent of Chehalem Ridge and may facilitate public access opportunities on the east side of the region.

13. Johnson Creek Floodplain and Headwaters

Johnson Creek remains one of the most densely urbanized creeks in our region and yet is a true regional conservation success story in the making, with reduced flooding improving water quality and wildlife habitat and recovering salmon populations as a result of concerted land conservation by many partners. Future investment will build on the significant achievements over the past 20 years by closing gaps in public stewardship in the floodplain and headwaters, thus creating additional flood protection opportunities and enhancing water quality, wildlife habitat and climate resilience for people and nature.

14. Killin Wetlands

Killin Wetlands is designated one of Oregon’s greatest wetlands, is one of the largest peat soil wetlands remaining in the Willamette Valley, is a regionally significant bird habitat, and as of 2018 is an accessible Metro Nature Park. This area supports a rare assemblage of plants and animals, including some of special importance to indigenous communities. Future conservation efforts in this target area will protect remaining pieces to create ecological integrity and work to build a habitat corridor to the coast range to ensure that wildlife continue to thrive at this remarkable and now safely accessible site. Contains two sub-areas.

15. Lower Tualatin Headwaters

Conservation in this target area protects water quality and late season flow volume in the Lower Tualatin River, as well as protecting an important habitat corridor connecting the Tualatin Floodplain with Chehalem Ridge. The 2019 bond will enable connecting sites acquired in Baker Creek during previous bond measures and expanding conservation work to adjacent Heaton Creek, which offers regionally significant salmon habitat protection opportunities. Contains two sub-areas.

16. Molalla Oaks, Prairies and Floodplains

From the Willamette Falls and Canemah Bluffs to Molalla, remnant Oregon white oaks and extensive river floodplains remind us of habitats that once defined our landscape. This new target area for 2019 is a high priority for indigenous communities and connects oak, prairie and floodplain habitats in the middle Willamette Valley with Canemah Bluff, Willamette Narrows, and the Willamette Greenway to the north to sustain the vibrant and distinctive wildlife and flora that occur there. Thoughtful acquisition that supports habitat restoration and working lands, while honoring Indigenous peoples connections is a key goal in this target area.

17. Multnomah Channel Headwaters

West of Highway 30 and north of the existing Metro Burlington Creek Forest Natural Area, this target area consists of large forested parcels that protect headwaters streams flowing into Multnomah Channel and the Multnomah Channel Marsh Natural Area. Many of these parcels are in industrial forest ownership and offer an opportunity to continue to build on the large forest preserves north of Forest Park, shifting management from timber production to the promotion of old-growth forest and protection of water quality and wildlife habitat. This target area also provides access to nature opportunities close to the Portland metropolitan area and furthers the connection of Forest Park to the larger Pacific Greenway.

18. Rock Creek (upper and middle forks)

A major tributary of the Tualatin River, Rock Creek and its tributaries are under intense development pressure as urban growth expands throughout the watershed. Future conservation efforts will build from the success of the 2006 Bond measure by acquiring streamside tax lots to connect the North Abbey Creek Natural Area in the upper Rock Creek watershed to protected parcels downstream inside the urban growth boundary. Expanding the target area to the west in the lower reaches includes additional floodplain tax lots and other Rock Creek tributaries whose conservation will contribute to water quality protection, flood control and climate resilience.

19. Sandy River

The free-flowing, wild and scenic Sandy River originates on Mount Hood, joining the Columbia River in Troutdale and is a regional anchor site for salmon, steelhead and lamprey recovery. In addition to providing important habitat and climate resilience for wildlife and fish, the river and its floodplain possess significant scenic value and offer a variety of outdoor recreation opportunities. Conservation efforts will focus on connecting existing public lands for water quality, wildlife habitat and access to nature for people. Contains two sub-areas.

20. Stafford Basin

Conservation in the Stafford Basin will build off of successful investments in the 1995 and 2006 Bond measures by expanding and connecting existing natural areas on tributary creeks to the Tualatin River, including Wilson, Pecan and Fields creeks. These investments will enhance water quality for the lower Tualatin River and create wildlife movement corridors from the river to public lands in Lake Oswego and West Linn.

21. Tonquin Oak Woodlands

This target area builds on the very successful 1995 and 2006 measures that protected places like Graham Oaks Nature Park and the Coffee Lake Creek Wetlands. Future investment will protect and connect remaining wetlands, upland forests and oak woodlands, including a new emphasis on an important habitat corridor to Chehalem Ridge to protect wildlife habitat and enhance climate resiliency. Closing gaps in this important target area will connect the Tualatin and Willamette rivers, link Metro lands to the Tualatin National Wildlife Refuge, and preserve important remnant landscapes created by the Ice Age Missoula Floods. Contains two sub-areas.

22. Tualatin River Floodplain

The Tualatin River is unique in our region for its broad and active floodplain and helps supply drinking water to 300,000 people in Washington County. Conservation work along the Tualatin will build on previous efforts by multiple organizations to protect and enhance water quality, flood control and late season flow while supporting the recovery of salmon and other wildlife and plant populations, especially imperiled prairie and oak species of importance to Indigenous people, while creating opportunities for future public access to the river. Contains three sub-areas.

23. Wapato Lake to the Coast Range Connection

New for 2019, this target area aims to connect the Chehalem-Wapato Lake area with the Coast Range to improve the long-term viability of wildlife corridors and provide climate change resilience.

24. Willamette Narrows and Canemah Bluff Connections

Descending the Willamette River, this greenway forms a regionally significant habitat corridor and a gateway to Willamette Falls, Oregon City and urbanizing areas of the lower Willamette River. Flowing through islands and past steep bluffs, this portion of the river retains a sense of wildness like no other reach of the lower river. The Narrows also provide some of the region’s highest quality wildlife and fish habitat, including many regionally rare species. Contains two sub-areas.