

Summer 2019



Metro

Our Big Backyard

Destination
Guide inside



Best of summer

Parks and nature staff
share their favorite
summer destinations.

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Holistic health in nature

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Diversifying construction trades

New partnerships recruit young
people to construction careers

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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

Lynn Peterson

Metro Councilors

- Shirley Craddick, District 1
- Christine Lewis, District 2
- Craig Dirksen, District 3
- Juan Carlos González, District 4
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- 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
- instagram.com/oregonmetro

Pets 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 pets 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.

Parks and nature news



Share your thoughts on Metro’s parks and nature content

Photography by Joshua Manus

We want to hear from you.

Metro periodically reviews its parks and nature content to ensure we’re providing stories and information that are compelling and useful. The review will include a wide range of print and digital content, including Our Big Backyard magazine, Metro News stories, social media posts and more.

As part of the review, community members in greater Portland are invited to share their thoughts in an online survey available through July 19. Your opinion will help shape the way we communicate in the future and help us provide more relevant stories, information, social media and other content.

The survey is being conducted by DHM Research to ensure that your feedback is secure and anonymous.

Participants who complete the survey will be given the option to enter their name and contact information at the end to be entered in a drawing for one of three \$100 Visa gift cards. Your name will not be connected with your answers and will not be shared with Metro.

Weigh in by July 19:
dhmresearch.com/metrosurvey

Parks and nature bond measure

This November, voters across the greater Portland area will be asked whether to renew a proposed \$475 million parks and nature bond measure that, if passed, would address water quality, fish and wildlife habitat and access to nature. After gathering input from partners and community members, the Metro Council decided in June to send the proposal to the ballot. If the bond passes, property owners would continue to pay a property tax of \$0.19 per \$1,000 of assessed value – about \$4 per month for a home assessed at \$250,000. If the bond measure does not pass, the property tax rate for Metro’s parks and nature bond program would drop to \$0 per \$1,000 of assessed value by 2026 and the proposed projects would not be completed.

Read more: oregonmetro.gov/parksandnaturebond

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: The best place to find woodpeckers is in the mixed oak-conifer woodlands of Graham Oaks Nature Park. Listen for the drumming pattern as they peck on dead trees or watch for their unique flying pattern of three wing flaps followed with gliding. Woodpeckers will move on tree trunks in an upright position with their special (zygodactyl) feet and specialized stiffened tail feathers to use as a prop as they hammer on the tree. This red-breasted sapsucker is known for making a neat line of small holes in a dead tree. The woodpecker returns after the holes fill with sap and then eats the sap and any insects caught in it. –**Bonnie Shoffner, volunteer coordinator**
Photo by Cory Eldridge

Sista Sistah to highlight health and nature in holistic healing event

Story and photography by Cristle Jose



Getting out in nature can be difficult for people who live in cities and spend their days plugged into technology.

To connect people with nature, the nonprofit Sista Sistah is partnering with Metro to put on its first collaborative holistic healing event, called Soul Food Family Gathering this summer at Blue Lake Regional Park.

“To become one with nature, you connect more spiritually,” said Sah’Rah Bey, founder of Sista Sistah. “You’re more mentally focused. You can connect more with the people around you. It’s almost a form of meditation.”

The organization helps girls of African descent build self-esteem, self-awareness, spirituality and connections with their community.

“For us to be able to get a self-awareness and identity that connects us to our ancestral heritage and background, we as aboriginals and Indigenous people have a sense of belonging,” said Tim-Khdar Bey, Sah’Rah’s partner and co-founder of Sista Sistah. “Our belonging is through nature, through a space and area, and those things that connect us to the Earth and to the heavens because they become one in the same.”

The event will highlight communities of color, and numerous partners who are looking to connect with communities of color will offer yoga, sound vibration therapy, kemeti reiki and more. The partners include Sacred Heart Crystal Healing, Ladies of the Light, Champions Barbering Institute, Kaiser Permanente and Brotha 2 Brothah.

In the Zone Restaurant will also provide demonstrations to promote healthy eating.

“As people of African descent, we love soul food, so we are going to experiment with different ways on how to make it healthy,” Sah’Rah Bey said.

“Identifying ourselves is essential in how that connects us back to people who lived off the resources and lived in a way where we

“Events like this one are exactly what communities have been asking for: events that are crafted for community members by community members.”

Loni Black, Metro event planner

didn’t have to concentrate on recycling,” Tim-Khdar Bey said. “We lived in a circle so that everything we did allowed us to have sustainability.”

Metro has worked with Sista Sistah on previous events, but this event is planned by the community, which Loni Black, parks and nature event planner for Metro, says is her long-term goal for future events.

“Events like this one are exactly what communities have been asking for: events that are crafted for community members by community members,” Black said. “Community members are diving in to work together to deliver an event for people and families from all walks of life, and Metro gets to be a part of welcoming people into these spaces.”

SAT. SEPT. 14

Soul food family gathering

Bring the whole family to a total health and wellness experience in nature. Enjoy healthy cooking/eating demonstrations, mindful meditation, community-based exhibitors, crystal healing and more. All services and activities provided will be focused on the total health and wellness of community members.

Blue Lake Regional Park
9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Free. All ages.
No registration required.
Difficulty: easy.



Blue Lake Summer Fun Days

Story by Cristle Jose
Photography by Elayna Yussen

School’s out for the summer. Enjoy activities with your children by taking them to Blue Lake Regional Park for Summer Fun Days every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from June 25 to Aug. 7 (except the Fourth of July).

All activities and services are free. Parking is free when entering Blue Lake from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Summer Fun Days.

Nature and gardening education and activities

Tuesdays to Thursdays, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Led by the Youth Environmental Educators working with the OSU Extension Service, activities are focused around a variety of unique habitats of the park. Enjoy hands-on natural gardening and resource conservation education at the Blue Lake Natural Discovery Garden. Pop-up interpretive sites focus on ecosystems, wildlife and connecting with nature across a variety of topics, such as pollination, soil science, composting and pest management with minimal use of chemicals.

Lunch

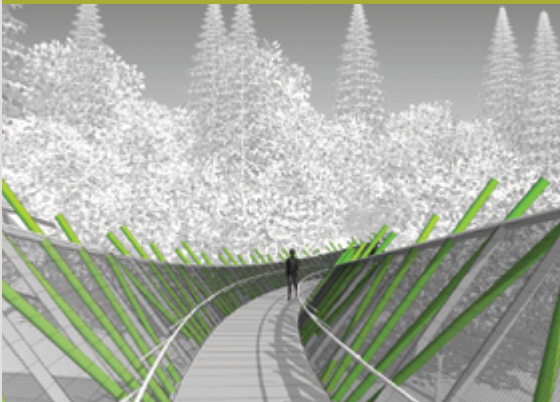
Tuesdays to Thursdays, noon to 1 p.m.

Youth Environmental Educators and Reynolds School District Nutrition Services will provide a free lunch for participants 18 and younger. A nominal fee applies for adults. Metro, OSU Extension and Reynolds School District Nutrition Services are equal-opportunity providers.

Fishing lessons with Get Hooked

Thursdays, 10 a.m. to noon

Hosted by the Get Hooked Foundation, which focuses on exposing underserved youth to the outdoors. Families can try their hand at fishing, practice knot tying and casting, learn water safety, identify habitat and fish and more.



Barbara Walker Footbridge to improve safety for park users over West Burnside

Story by Cristle Jose
Renderings by Ed Carpenter

A long-awaited footbridge connecting the popular Wildwood Trail over West Burnside Street is becoming a reality. The bridge, scheduled to open this fall, will provide a safe crossing for hikers and runners over a dangerous curve on West Burnside where roughly 20,000 drivers pass each day and 80,000 pedestrians cross each year.

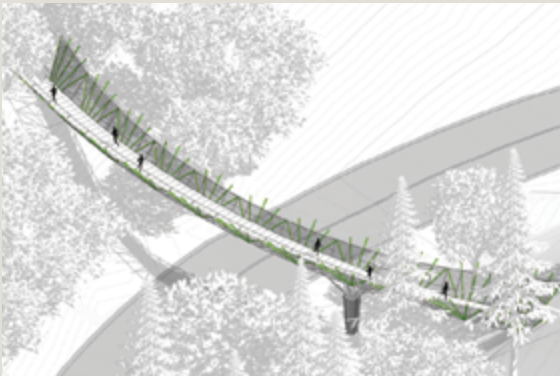
The path will also connect two of the Wildwood Trail’s most popular destinations: Hoyt Arboretum and Pittock Mansion.

The crossing is a key gap in the regional trails system, said Mel Huie, regional trails coordinator for Metro.

Metro has partnered with Portland Parks & Recreation and the Portland Parks Foundation since the early 90s in the planning process. Spearheading the project, the Portland Parks Foundation raised more than \$2.1 million from more than 900 individual donors toward the \$3.2-million project. Metro contributed \$200,000 from its natural areas bond measure, and the City of Portland pitched in \$850,000.

Crews broke ground in late March, closing a portion of the Wildwood Trail during construction as they removed trees, relocated a power line and eventually lifted the bridge into place. Designed by Ed Carpenter, the steel structure was pre-made off-site and features a unique design with glass walls.

The bridge is named after the late Barbara Walker, a strong advocate for parks and trails who played a significant role in numerous projects across greater Portland, including the 40-Mile Loop, Pioneer Courthouse Square and Marquam Nature Park. The bridge named after her also provides a key connection on the 40-Mile Loop, a network of trails throughout greater Portland that includes the Wildwood Trail.



Why are so many trees dying?

Story and photography by Kate Holleran



Last summer I received a voice message asking, “What’s happening with the trees on Grant Butte?” I was pretty sure I knew the answer, but I headed out to west Gresham to check out the forest on the butte. The best view was from the neighborhood to the east of the butte, where the dead trees and dying tops were visible among the summer green of the healthier trees. Most of the dead and dying trees were red alders, but the bigleaf maple and black cottonwoods also had dying tops.

The calls and conversations around dead and declining trees continue today. We see declining red alder in the East Buttes forests and along Johnson Creek, dying Douglas fir in valley-floor forests and browning foliage in bigleaf maples at Chehalem Ridge.

The simple reason is summer drought. Yet as with all things in nature, it is more complex than that. Drought is often the triggering event but the tree’s response is complicated by growing conditions, insects, disease and other factors.

In the northern Willamette Valley, some species of trees expanded into new areas when the periodic fires used by Indigenous communities ended with colonization. Douglas fir, red alder, grand fir and other species took root in challenging places such as thin soils or hot, south-facing slopes.

Then the climate started to shift. Although our trees are adapted to a periodic summer drought, our more recent summers have been hotter and drier than typical. Last summer we had the greatest number of days above 90 degrees — 31 in the Portland area. And particularly for trees growing on marginal sites, these hotter droughts are very stressful. Insects and diseases take advantage of drought-weakened trees, contributing to further decline and death.

What does an increase in tree mortality mean for our natural areas? More dead wood habitat for insects, woodpeckers and other wildlife! Dead wood is a part of a functioning forest and, fortunately, the region is not yet seeing the extremely high tree mortality that is occurring in California and other places. Where dead or dying trees threaten a structure or public safety, Metro cuts them and removes them if necessary.

The hotter droughts and subsequent increase in tree decline and death are just one of the impacts of the changing climate. It does have my colleagues and me thinking differently about our restoration and land stewardship. Metro incorporates recommendations based



From top: A dead Douglas fir at Tonquin Scablands Natural Area. Pitch streamers on Douglas fir trees at Glendoveer Golf and Tennis Center, likely caused by bark beetles.

on climate science to promote resilient forests. We use a climate resiliency lens when developing our planting lists, including understanding the specific growing conditions of each site.

For example, in a low-elevation valley floor forest, I might favor ponderosa pine in my planting mix even if Douglas fir is present. Ponderosa is native to the Willamette Valley. More drought tolerant than Douglas fir, it may better tolerate the trend toward hotter temperatures and lower precipitation rates. Thinning also helps trees by reducing the competition for moisture. Over the past decade we’ve thinned many of our forests, reducing the number of trees but keeping the species diverse.

Due to the tough conditions last summer, we are likely to see more tree deaths this year. But on a bright note, our Oregon white oaks, Pacific madrones and ponderosa pines are drought tolerant, and so far are doing okay with the warmer summers.

If you are thinking about what type of tree to plant, OSU Extension Service offers good advice on native drought-resistant trees. To take care of yard trees, consider thinning the vegetation to reduce competition for water. Mulching out to the edge of the tree crown helps retain soil moisture, but don’t leave mulch on tree trunks, since that can promote disease. Protect the soil around the trees from compaction. Avoid driving or parking under trees as roots do not grow well in compacted soil. Irrigation is an option. Deep watering twice a month during periods of extended dry weather benefits most species.

Field guide

GRAHAM OAKS NATURE PARK

Story by Sheilagh Diez
Photography by Fred Joe

Rising above an expanse of prairie, a lone tree’s gnarled branches reach in every direction. This heritage oak has been a witness to the history of this land, one filled with the complex relationship between people and place.

Nestled in the suburban landscape of Clackamas County, Graham Oaks Nature Park offers a glimpse into oak prairie habitats once common across the Willamette Valley. Now, they cover only about 7 percent of their original range.

Oak prairies reflect the communities they support. The Kalapuya and other Indigenous peoples have cared for this land for thousands of years. Before settlers arrived, they regularly used seasonal fires to maintain vast open spaces for hunting and gathering practices. The fires also supported a rich diversity of native wildflowers that continue to draw unique pollinators from across the region.

Along the southwest edge of the park, pockets of towering old-growth Douglas fir trees invite visitors into a shaded world of steep canyons blanketed in dense ferns and native shrubs. Woodpeckers can often be heard in the dappled sunshine canopy.

On the eastern flank of the park, songbirds flock to a wetland oasis filled with insects and flowers. Springtime brings the omnipresent sound of young frogs. Restoration work has increased the amount of water flowing to Arrowhead Creek, creating new habitat for sensitive species, such as northern red-legged frogs.



Graham Oaks Nature Park
11825 SW WILSONVILLE ROAD WILSONVILLE
DIRECTIONS
From Interstate 5, take exit 283 and head west onto Southwest Wilsonville Road. After a mile and a half, turn right into the park. Park at the entrance; parking is not allowed at nearby schools. Wilsonville SMART bus line 4 serves the park’s main entrance.

KNOW WHEN YOU GO
Open 6:30 a.m. to sunset. Bicycles and on-leash pets are allowed on the Ice Age Tonquin Trail but not the rest of the park.

AMENITIES
Restrooms, picnic shelter, parking for six bicycles at park entrance. Much of the park is wheelchair accessible, although some trails are more challenging.

oregonmetro.gov/grahamoaks

In the neighborhood The park is a short distance from the Wilsonville Family Fun Center, where visitors can play laser tag, ride a roller coaster simulator or play arcade games. Refuel with a visit to McMenamins Old Church & Pub, a family-friendly brewery in a historic, renovated church.

Returning to the prairie, birds flit about the sentinel oak tree. They come for shelter when winter storms blow through, and they find insects for food in the crooks and crannies of the bark. Like the gnarled branches of this heritage oak, Graham Oaks Nature Park knits together a mosaic of habitats for local wildlife and people.

For more details about all 18 Metro destinations, visit oregonmetro.gov/parks

Be on the lookout!



Season-by-season highlights

SUMMER: Take the family for a bike ride along the first five miles of the Ice Age Tonquin Trail. Along the way, discover the scablands, rich wetlands and ponds left by the Ice Age Missoula floods. In Graham Oaks, enjoy a leisurely ride through the restored prairie on a wide, paved trail.

FALL: Stroll along the Legacy Creek trail and enjoy the brilliant reds of vine maple leaves in the changing forest. As the trail rejoins the prairie, search for the hidden wonders of oak galls. These large, round and vaguely apple-like structures are caused by chemicals injected by larva of certain gall wasps. Once a main source of ink, oak galls continue to fascinate botanists and artists.

WINTER: Watch northern harriers glide across the landscape on a crisp, clear morning. These unique raptors have disc-shaped faces similar to owls that allow them to use hearing as well as sight when hunting. Identify them by their low flight above open lands and distinct white rump patch that’s obvious in flight.

SPRING: Listen for the sounds of frogs during breeding season along the Arrowhead Creek trail. These peeps belong to Pacific chorus frogs. Formerly known as tree frogs, these tiny creatures range from bright green to dusky brown, but all share dark masks across their eyes.

Best of summer

PARKS AND NATURE STAFF MEMBERS SHARE
THEIR FAVORITE SUMMER DESTINATIONS

Best place to cool off

Refreshing activities along the Sandy River at Oxbow Regional Park include swimming, rafting, kayaking or just dipping your feet in the glacier-fed water. Venturing inland, stroll through the densely wooded ancient forest, where you will find yourself shaded and cooled by 600-year-old trees. At the new nature play areas, enjoy the calm of the forest while the young ones splash around in the water tables at the sand and water play feature, or use their creative imaginations exploring the adventure camp and building shelters.

– Kendra Carrillo, lead park ranger



Best wildflower walk

Cooper Mountain Nature Park supports several native prairies and oak woodlands dating back to the early 1800s. These habitat patches support over 200 native plant species, many of which are endangered or threatened and can be seen at few other places in the region. Metro has been carefully cultivating the rarest of these plants and re-introducing them to the park, along with strategic burning, grazing, planting and seeding to help them thrive.

– Curt Zonick, senior natural resources scientist



Best public artwork

Orenco Woods Nature Park is my ideal weekend stroll because of trails that meander through varied landscapes, bridges with scenic views of wildlife and even interactive artwork. Along a line of old-growth Douglas fir trees, you can spot 18-foot stickwork sculptures staring straight back at you. These caricatures of surprised human faces were designed by Patrick Dougherty and made from interwoven willow and dogwood branches by Hillsboro community members in 2017. Knowing that the artwork will only be around another 2 years reminds me to value the site and all of nature's beauty while I can.

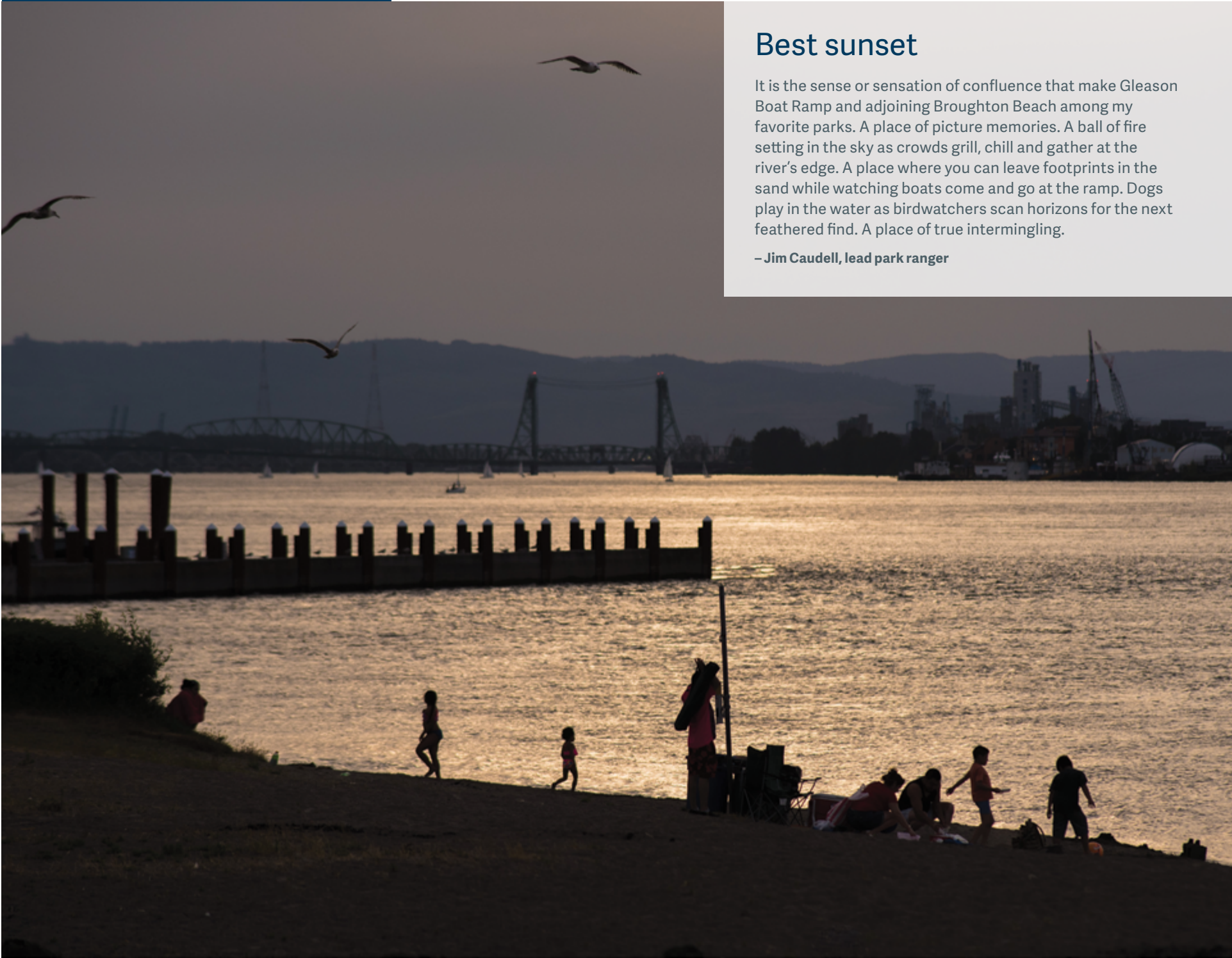
– **Alejandra Cortes**, nature education specialist



Best fishing area

One of my favorite areas to fish in the metro region is along the Clackamas River. It's an amazing, rugged landscape away from everything, and you really feel like you're in nature. As much as I enjoy fishing, it's mostly an excuse to swing a rod with a line in the water and hopefully not get it stuck in the trees.

– **Jonathan Blasher**, Parks and Nature director



Best sunset

It is the sense or sensation of confluence that make Gleason Boat Ramp and adjoining Broughton Beach among my favorite parks. A place of picture memories. A ball of fire setting in the sky as crowds grill, chill and gather at the river’s edge. A place where you can leave footprints in the sand while watching boats come and go at the ramp. Dogs play in the water as birdwatchers scan horizons for the next feathered find. A place of true intermingling.

– Jim Caudell, lead park ranger

Best picnic with a view

Scouters Mountain is the best picnic area with a view because on a clear day, the view of Mount Hood is amazing, and there is a grassy area to lay out a blanket and soak up the sun. The past few years, there have been red-tailed hawks nesting nearby who often soar above and perch on the tall Douglas firs lining the picnic area.

– Alice Froehlich, nature education supervisor



Registration, accessibility information

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 or to request communications aids, sign language interpreters and other modifications: Nature education team, 503-220-2782.

For additional nature classes, volunteer opportunities and events, please visit oregonmetro.gov/calendar

Photography by Elayna Yussen and Jerome Hart

FRI. JULY 5, 12, 19, 26	SAT. JULY 6, 13, 20, 27
SUN. JULY 7, 14, 21, 28	THU. JULY 11, 18, 25

King Lear, Portland Actors Ensemble

Portland Actors Ensemble, one of the city’s longest-running theater companies, presents William Shakespeare’s tragedy King Lear in the heart of Lone Fir Cemetery. The ensemble works “to bring financially accessible classical theater to Portland communities in a nontraditional environment.” Bring a blanket and picnic and enjoy this outdoor performance.

Lone Fir Cemetery
7 p.m.
Free. All ages.
Registration not required. Difficulty: easy.



SÁB. 13 DE JULIO

Caminata por el bosque del parque natural Orenco Woods

Cuando el verano está en furor, los aleteos y zumbidos de los polinizadores resuenan por este bosque de tierras altas y sabana de robles. Ven y explora la variedad de hábitats y particularidades de este paisaje diverso. La clase será guiada en español.

Orenco Woods Nature Park
10 a.m. a 12:30 p.m.
\$6/persona, \$11/familia. Para todas las edades.
Debes registrarte en oregonmetro.gov/calendar.
Dificultad: fácil.

SAT. JULY 13

Star party

The Rose City Astronomers bring their telescopes and expert knowledge to share. 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
8:30 to 10:30 p.m.
Free. All ages.
Registration required. Difficulty: easy.



Get involved
CLASSES AND EVENTS

THU. AUG. 1, 15

Twilight Thursday

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

Aug. 1: Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area
Aug. 15: Blue Lake Regional Park
7 to 9 p.m.
\$6/person, \$11/family. All ages.
Registration required. Difficulty: easy.

SUN. SEPT. 22

Bird language for beginners

Through vocalizations and movement, song birds broadcast daily stories happening on the land. Learn how to recognize the different voices and patterns and walk the trails in search of their secret stories. Class will be both indoors and outdoors. Meet at the Nature House.

Cooper Mountain Nature Park
9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
\$10/person. Ages 12 and older.
Registration required. Difficulty: moderate.



Free Parking Days

Get out and explore nature!

Enjoy free parking at Oxbow and Blue Lake regional parks, Broughton Beach, Chinook Landing Marine Park, and M. James Gleason Memorial Boat Ramp on July 18; Aug. 15; Sept. 19; Oct. 17; Nov. 11, 21 and 29; and Dec. 19.

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

SAT. JULY 13, 27	SAT. AUG. 10, 24
SAT. SEPT. 7, 21	

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 snacks provided.

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

SÁB. 10 DE AGOSTO

Exploración del bosque en Scouters Mountain

Ven y explora el bosque que creció sobre el domo de lava de un volcán extinto en compañía de un naturalista. Este habitat de abetos de Douglas y arces brinda protección y alimento a los mamíferos y aves que anidan en nuestra región. Durante la caminata buscaremos señales de estas interacciones. La clase será guiada en español.

Scouters Mountain Nature Park
10 a.m. al mediodía.
\$6/persona, \$11/familia. Para todas las edades.
Debes registrarte en oregonmetro.gov/calendar.
Dificultad: fácil.

WED. AUG. 28

Regional trail counts volunteer orientation

Are you interested in exploring the regional trail system, getting hands-on experience in survey methods and learning how data affects policy? Each year in mid-September, Metro and partner agencies rely on volunteers to help count people using regional trails. The data is used for transportation planning and grant applications. Learn more at this required orientatation before conducting the counts Sept. 10 to 12 and 14 and 15. Snacks and door prizes.

Metro Regional Center, room 270, 600 NE Grand Ave., Portland
4:30 to 7 p.m.
Free. All ages, though counters under 16 require a parent/guardian.
Registration required. Difficulty: easy.





Tools for living

ARTISTS PUT TRASH IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Story and photography by Megan Zabel Holmes

Five local artists are now in the midst of creating art out of trash.

GLEAN is an annual art program that aims to inspire people to think about the waste they generate and the resources they throw away. Artists are given license to rummage the piles of Metro Central transfer station for the materials they'll use to create a body of work that will be exhibited at a local gallery.

This year's artists bring diverse backgrounds and a broad spectrum of disciplines that includes contemporary sculpture, printmaking, painting, metalsmithing, fiber arts and even stop-motion puppet building. Here's a bit about what each artist hopes to bring to GLEAN.

Vanessa Calvert

"I'm most excited about letting the discoveries and hidden treasures at the transfer station lead me down new paths – letting these materials inspire the direction of the work and finding new ways to peel back, manipulate and transform whatever comes my way. It's exciting to let go of some of the preconceived notions of what I want and need for my work and let the experience of gleaning take over!"

Jeremy Okai Davis

"I'm most looking forward to gathering some new inspiration for my work. As a painter, working in the two-dimensional realm is my safe zone. I'm excited about potentially adding some found three-dimensional elements into my work and what better place for surprises than the dump. I'm hoping to throw my practice for a little bit of a loop and see where I come out on the other end of it all."

Asa Mease

"There are a lot of unknowns at the beginning of this residency, and I am interested to see where the materials I come across lead my artmaking. All of the material gleaned so far has felt like a coincidence, so I plan to spend more time at the Metro Central transfer station so I can have more happenstance discoveries."

Miel-Margarita Paredes

"Most of my past work is made from copper and other non-ferrous metals, using traditional metalsmithing techniques. During my GLEAN residency, I am hoping to get a chance to experiment with different materials — plastics in particular. I would like to apply my craft techniques to the discarded materials I find, to make them over into something precious."

Lauren Prado

"Of course, hunting for the perfect materials is the super exciting part of this residency! But I'm also excited to open up a conversation (through the artwork itself) about low-brow and accessible materials to create representations of luxury items! I can't wait to start on this project."



Recycling questions?
Ask your in-house expert.
Then ask ours.



Arts and events
Garbage and recycling
Land and transportation
Oregon Zoo
Parks and nature

503-234-3000
oregonmetro.gov

2019 GLEAN exhibition

OPENING RECEPTION: 6 to 9 p.m.

Thursday, Aug. 1

WHERE: 1313 NW Kearney Street at Lovejoy Square in Northwest Portland

EXHIBITION OPEN: Thursday, Aug. 1 to Sunday, Aug. 25, noon to 5 p.m. Friday through Sunday

The 2019 GLEAN exhibition is made possible in part through a generous donation of space by Killian Pacific.

gleanportland.com





Regional roundup

NEW PARTNERSHIPS WORK TO RECRUIT YOUNG PEOPLE TO CONSTRUCTION CAREERS



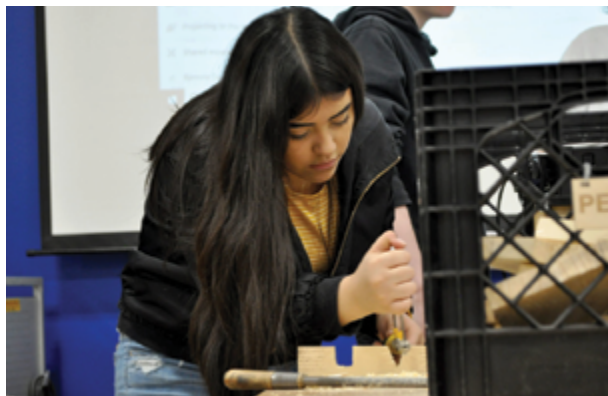
Story by Cristle Jose
Photography by Cristina Rojas and Cristle Jose

Construction cranes dot Portland’s skyline as new apartment buildings, offices and hotels go up. Many of those who make it happen – the carpenters, electricians, brick masons and plumbers – earn above the average median income with full benefits.

As older workers retire, the construction industry faces a shortage of skilled workers while struggling to recruit and retain women and people of color. A regional construction workforce study published last year shows that in 2016, only 4% of 23,000 construction workers were women and only 20% people of color.

Metro and multiple public partners created the Construction Career Pathways Project to identify strategies for providing reliable pathways for women and people of color to work in the construction trades.

One strategy is to appeal to young people – as early as in middle school. Union trade groups,



community partners and schools are trying to change negative perceptions about the trades and highlight the good wages and benefits that construction careers offer.

They’re partnering to host job fairs and create curricula about the construction trades for new programs at schools throughout greater Portland.

“We need these young people to come in and take the place of people that are going to be retiring,” said Paul Philpott with Pacific Northwest Regional Council of Carpenters. “We want them not just to be workers but to be leaders.”

Anthony Deloney, director of strategic initiatives at Self Enhancement, Inc., said the construction industry presents an opportunity for teens, many of whom come from communities of color, to become a part of the wave of Portland’s economic growth.

“For kids that don’t want to go to college or don’t have the money to go to college but

From top: Self Enhancement, Inc. hosted a trades fair in December 2018, the first of what leaders there hope to be quarterly events. Woodworking instructors at Aloha High School are encouraging their students to consider careers in constructions as a first choice. School officials and industry leaders are trying to draw more women into construction trades.

have the skills in these other areas, then construction is not just a good option – it’s a great option,” Deloney said.

The Columbia Pacific Building Trades Council pitched a multi-craft core curriculum to 23 school districts, which resulted in working with about a dozen of them, including the Portland and Beaverton school districts, to redesign their career technical education construction classes.

The Beaverton School District is also partnering with Worksystems, Inc. and industry firms, including Walsh Construction Co., Bremik Construction, Hoffman Construction Company and Inline Commercial Construction, to create a magnet program for construction at Merlo Station High School.

Thanks to a grant, the program kicks off this summer at Merlo Station with a construction class for seventh and eighth graders, followed by a pilot course for high school students in the fall. Construction for a lab space will begin in early 2020.

Learn more about the latest developments on the Construction Career Pathways Project: oregonmetro.gov/pathways

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Brent Nielsen, Beaverton

Hearing birds calling as we hiked through Cooper Mountain Nature Park, we stopped to spy for hawks in the oaks. Our kids sat a long time on this chilly morning searching for winged friends.

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