



Winter

Bald eagle  
© Nicole Beaulac



Spring

Osprey  
© Andy Morfitt



Fairy slipper orchid  
© Photogram



Salmonberry  
© Elaine of Lotus Land



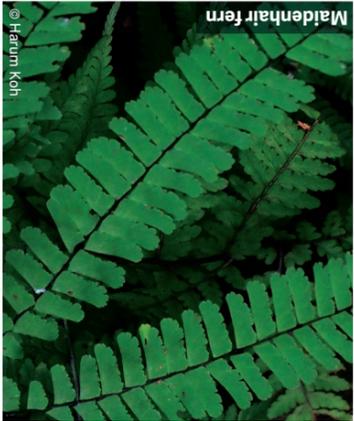
Northern pygmy owl  
© Frank D. Ussell



Summer



Western toad  
© Jon Nelson



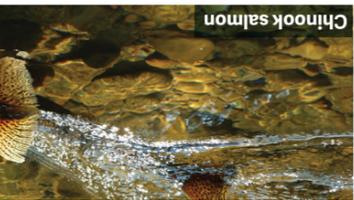
Maidenhair fern  
© Harun Koh



Coho salmon  
© PJM Oregon and Washington



Bolete mushroom  
© Kenich Ueda



Chinook salmon  
© Oregon State University



American dipper  
© Nicole Beaulac



Varied thrush  
© Eugene Beckes



Fall



Mountain lion  
© Cloudtail the Snow Leopard



Douglas fir  
© J. Breen



Sword fern  
© Forest and Kim Star



River otter  
© Mark Dumont



Beaver  
© Kristine Torres



Pileated woodpecker  
© Jerry McFarland

21033

# Oxbow Regional Park Guide



Black-tailed deer  
© Allan Hack



Douglas squirrel  
© Tiffex2

**DON'T FEED THE WILDLIFE**  
Deer, squirrels and rabbits are herbivores, which means they eat only plants. The park is full of their favorite foods such as grass, leaves and ferns. Many birds eat plants, insects and other animals. If these animals eat human food, they can get very sick and even die. They can also get too used to people, which can lead to dangerous situations. It's best to sit quietly and enjoy watching the animals eat, hop, walk and rest in the forest.



**CAMPING RESERVATIONS**  
For more information or to reserve a campsite, call 503-663-4708 or visit [oregonmetro.gov/oxbow](http://oregonmetro.gov/oxbow)

**CAMPING AT OXBOW**  
Oxbow's wooded campsites are open year-round and may be reserved up to nine months in advance. Maximum occupancy is six people and two vehicles per site.



**PICNIC RESERVATIONS**  
For more information or to reserve a picnic shelter, call 503-663-4708 or visit [oregonmetro.gov/oxbow](http://oregonmetro.gov/oxbow)

**PICNICS AT OXBOW**  
You can reserve picnic shelters at Oxbow. Each picnic shelter includes tables, a barbecue, horseshoe pit, drinking water, pit or flush toilets nearby and a parking area. Electricity is not available. Reservation fees vary; parking pass not included. All other picnic areas are on a first-come, first-served basis.



Pacific wren  
© Jacob McGinnis

**METRO PETS POLICY**  
Pets are not allowed at most Metro parks and natural areas, including Oxbow. Dogs and other pets can damage sensitive habitat and threaten the wildlife that voters help protect. Birds and other animals think of dogs – even the friendliest ones – as predators. Animals have keen senses of sight, smell and hearing; the presence of a pet, even on a leash, can scare them. In places where dogs are not allowed, people see more wildlife. Service animals welcome at all destinations.

**HOURS**  
Open year-round at 6:30 a.m.  
Gate closure time posted at park entrance.

**PARKING FEE**  
\$5/car or \$7/bus, free parking with Metro annual parking pass. An annual parking pass is available for \$40; \$30 for seniors; \$10 for people with disabilities.

**ACCESS**  
Many of the park facilities are wheelchair accessible, including picnic areas and shelters, some campsites, some restrooms and the shower building at the campground. Hiking trails are not wheelchair accessible.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

3010 SE Oxbow Parkway  
Gresham, OR 97080

Oxbow Regional Park office  
503-663-4708

Nature education  
503-220-2782

Picnic shelter and campground reservations  
503-663-4708

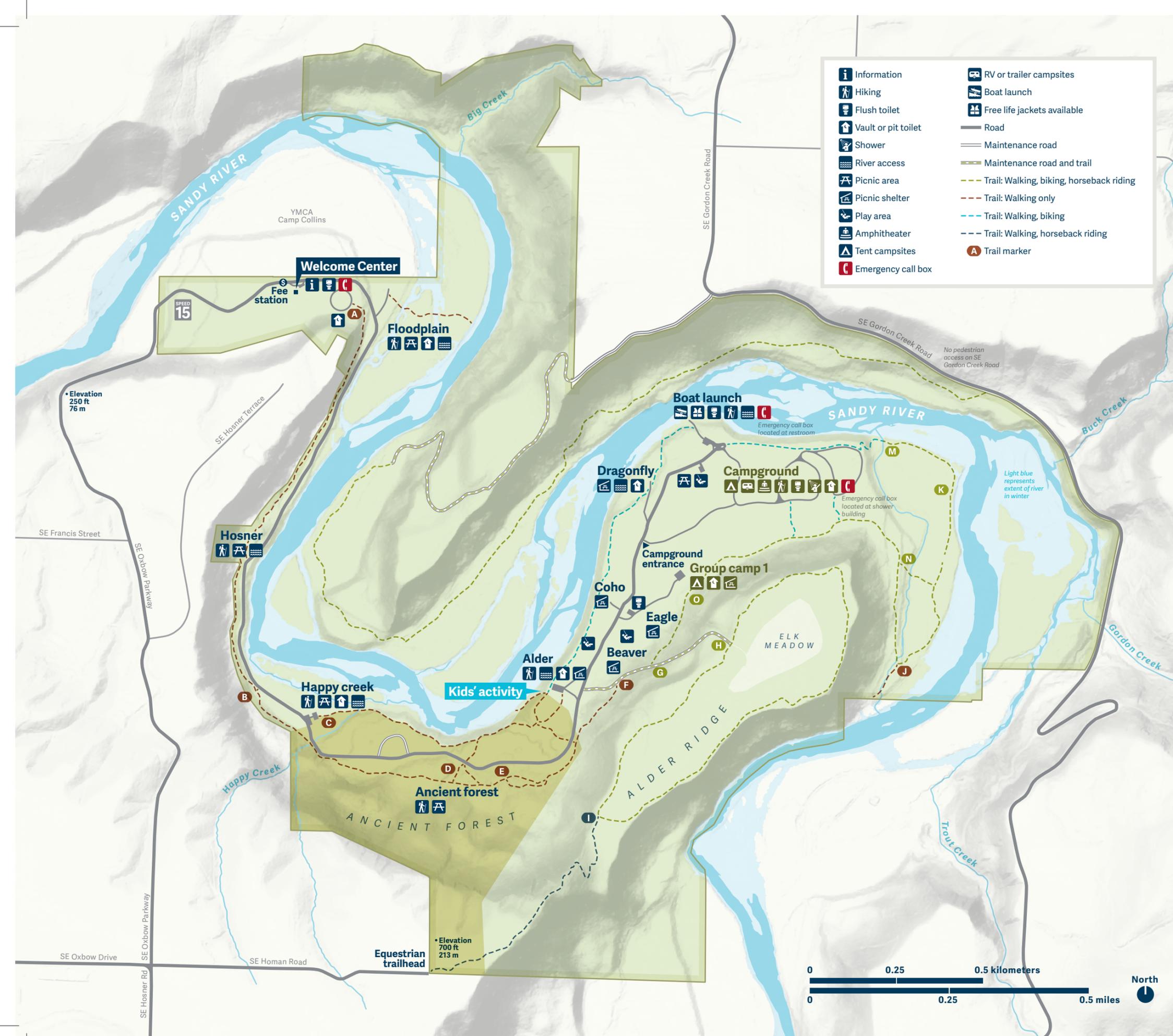
Hearing impaired  
1-800-735-2900

To learn more about Metro and its services, visit [oregonmetro.gov](http://oregonmetro.gov)

## IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

No cell phone coverage in the park.  
Call 911 using one of the call boxes located outside the Welcome Center at park entry, the campground shower building or the boat launch.





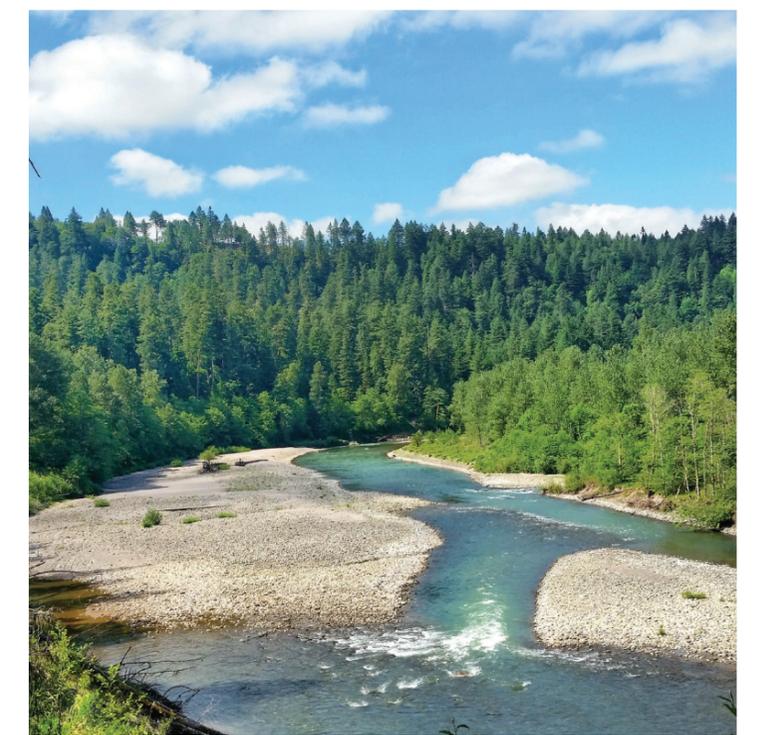
**Two great forces shaped Oxbow:** the Sandy River and Mount Hood. More than 200 years ago, eruptions on Mount Hood sent lahars — massive flows of melted snow, sand and gravel — into the valleys below, burying the forest beneath 40 to 50 feet of sand. Hard bedrock causes the Sandy River to flow in a U-shaped bend here, similar to the oxbow shape of collars used on oxen.

Oxbow's human history dates back to the Indigenous people who have lived, fished and gathered here since time immemorial. The park operates on land that is ceded from several groups of Indigenous peoples.

White settlers created homesteads nearby in the late 1800s.

In 1988, the Sandy River was designated a National Wild and Scenic River thanks to neighbors and activists.

Oxbow is home to diverse wildlife such as Roosevelt elk, bald eagles, osprey, and runs of salmon and steelhead trout. Visitors can fish, float and swim in the Sandy River, or hike among majestic 700-year-old trees in the old-growth forest.



**PARK RULES**

- Do not feed wildlife or harvest plants, mushrooms, seeds or flowers.
- Pets are not allowed; they can damage habitat and threaten wildlife.
- Wood fires and charcoal are allowed in designated fire pits and barbecues only and must be attended at all times. Firewood gathering or cutting is prohibited.
- Do not stick axes, knives, nails or other items into trees or tables.

Violators of these or any other park rules are subject to citation and/or eviction. (Metro Code, Title 10)