



As you approach Sauvie Island, Mount Hood, Mount St. Helens, and Mount Adams rise in the distance as farmlands fill the frame with Multnomah Channel running beneath.

Since time immemorial, the Chinookan, Multnomah and Wapato tribes sustained thriving river cultures along the Columbia and Willamette rivers. An estimated 30,000 to 40,000 Chinook lived in the lower Columbia in a complex of villages and trade routes.

When Lewis and Clark passed by, they named it Wapato Island, a fitting title for lands once abundant with wapato, a wetland plant that is an important food to Indigenous people. Wapato thrives in wetlands, but white farmers later drained most of these areas and built levees that destroyed many wapato populations.

The Classical Revival house near the park entrance was completed in 1858 for James and Julia Bybee. The house retains the original nine rooms, six fireplaces, a sweeping staircase and low-hung doorknobs on interior doors. Amelia and

John Howell purchased the home in 1873. The house isn't currently open for tours.

Walking through the park, you will find the orchard planted with cuttings from apple and pear trees carried over the Oregon Trail. These cuttings were then grafted onto dwarf rootstock and planted in the orchard. You may also notice the pound pear tree next to the red barn. Be wary when the pears start to fall, as they do weigh over a pound.

Work in recent years has focused on restoring the site's natural ecology. A newly installed small water control structure allows seasonal flooding and draining of Howell Pond, which supports important wetland native species like wapato, red-legged frogs and painted turtles. Crews restored the oak savanna and prairie to native grasses and wildflowers, including the endangered golden paintbrush wildflower, which had disappeared from Oregon until being reintroduced in the last decade. After two years, the park's golden paintbrush population became the largest in Oregon, featuring 17,000 plants last year.

Be on the lookout!



wapato



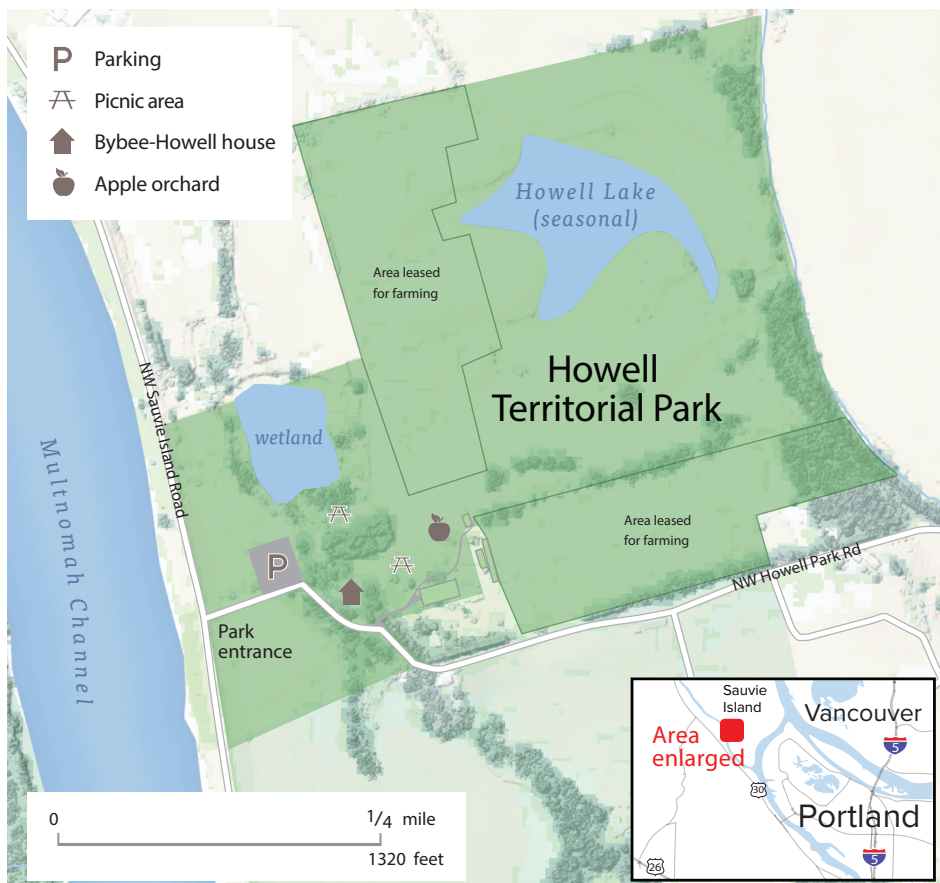
black-headed grosbeak



salal grape



red-breasted nuthatch



Season-by-season highlights

Spring: Pacific chorus and red-legged frogs can be found throughout the park's grassy meadows, damp woodlands or hiding under wood in tight groups and wooded swamps. During mating season, listen for the chorus frog's loud "cre-ee-eeeek" call. Apple blossoms begin to fill the orchard.

Summer: Pack a picnic and enjoy the cool evening breeze. Grillmasters can bring burgers, hot dogs and vegetables for the park's two barbecues. Hear songs and catch sight of nuthatches, sparrows, swallows, grosbeak or willow flycatcher. Scan flowering plants for myriad bees and butterflies that support both native plant habitats and farms.

Fall: With the changing colors and falling leaves, the sounds of geese migrating south for the winter fill the sky. Other migrating birds, that have been spotted at the park in late fall include sandhill cranes, tundra swans and snow geese. Visit nearby pumpkin patches and corn mazes in preparation for Halloween.

Winter: In winter, you might have the park all to yourself. This is a good time to watch birds perched in the old oak trees or fir grove. You might also spot deer, coyote or rabbits, or at least see their tracks in the moist soil. Howell Pond is typically full of ducks and other waterfowl and often attracts flocks of large, vociferous sandhill cranes.

Howell Territorial Park

13901 NW Howell Park Road,
Portland

Getting there

From Portland, head northwest on U.S. 30. Turn right and cross the Sauvie Island Bridge. Continue on Northwest Sauvie Island Road for about a mile until Howell Park Road on the right. The route is also enjoyable on bike.

Know when you go

Park open sunrise to sunset. No pets, please.

Amenities

Port-a-potty, barbecues, picnic tables, fruit orchard

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.

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