



Concept for new park:

“Kids share stories
and have fun. Kids
can come with their
cousins. Kids make
new friends.”

Shared by Alexis, a middle schooler



What's inside

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Community members gave Metro ideas for parks and natural areas in Washington County. Now you get to vote for your favorites.
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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.

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Metro Councilors
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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
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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.



Share your nature and win!



Clockwise from left:

Winner: Jenny Navis, Portland

With the sun streaming through a misty forest while taking our foster dog Ivy out on our morning hike in Marquam Nature Park, I had to stop to take a photo.

Finalist: Randy Tucker, Milwaukie

I was walking through Westmoreland Park looking for wildlife when I spotted this red-shouldered hawk on an open tree branch. Typically found farther south in the Western US, their range has been expanding northward.

Finalist: Cheryl Ames

The three Elders, sculptures at Chehalem Ridge Park, add a welcoming gesture to visitors. On a sunny summer day last year, I came across this Elder, surrounded by wildflowers and crowned by cumulus clouds. Black and white conversion enhances the drama of the photo and shows the intensity of my encounter.

Submit your photo

Win an annual parking pass, a full-day picnic shelter reservation at Graham Oaks or Scouters Mountain nature parks, or a choice between a tennis court session or 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 greater Portland – your friends and family, a view of wildlife or a sunset, for example. Include a 50-word description of your experience. Where were you? What were you doing? What captured your attention?

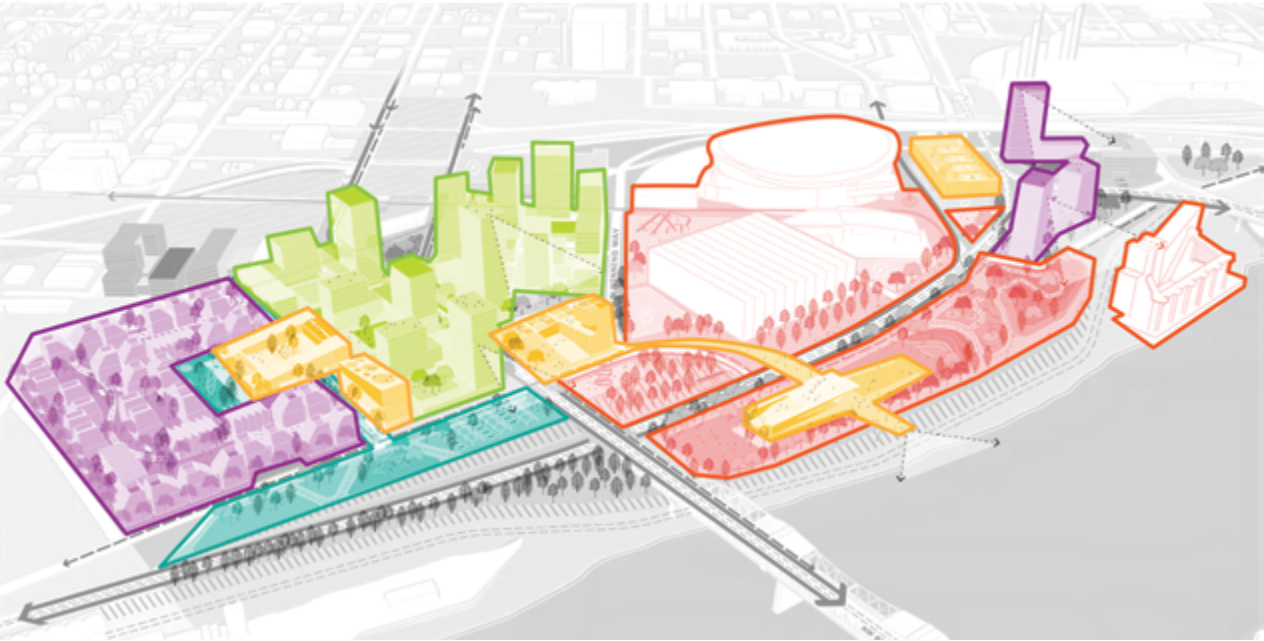
The winner will appear in this space. By submitting a photo, you consent to Metro’s future use and publication of your photo. Send your photo and description by August 15 to: ourbigbackyard@oregonmetro.gov

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Metro commits up to \$10 million for transformative projects

By Cory Eldridge



Above: Albina Vision Trust's plans for the historic Black neighborhood in Northeast Portland includes a waterfront park. Metro committed up to \$5 million for the project.

In May, the Metro Council committed up to \$10 million for three major parks and nature projects in the region, jumpstarting two Portland waterfront projects and a major conservation purchase. The grants are part of Metro's \$30 million Large-scale Community Visions program pilot round, which voters approved when they voted yes on the 2019 parks and nature bond measure.

The projects include

- Up to \$3.5 million for the purchase of a large forest tract by the Trust for Public Land and Oregon State University.
- Up to \$7 million for OMSI, the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry, the Columbia Inter-Tribal Fish Commission and Prosper Portland for construction of the waterfront education park in OMSI's neighborhood on the Willamette River.
- Up to \$5 million for Albina Vision Trust to work toward purchasing properties in the Albina District.

“The range of projects here is incredible,” Council President Lynn Peterson said. “If you want proof of what Metro 2040 has accomplished, it is the ability to take one dollar and make sure you are getting multiple outcomes.”

These will be the first projects to receive funding through the Large-scale Community Visions program. Metro issued a solicitation for projects in 2022. Future rounds could begin as soon as this year.

Metro Council established the program to provide catalytic investments – essentially a big boost – for capital projects that increase access to nature for people across greater Portland or improve the resilience of the region's urban natural areas.

“This brought back good memories of the visioning and scoping of the parks and nature bond,” said Metro Councilor Juan Carlos Gonzalez. “A few of us had this crazy idea, what if we created a new fund within the parks and nature bond to do cool urban transformation projects. And here we are. It's so beautiful to see the public policy process work.”

“The program is showing it has great potential for success. Each of these projects shows vision,” said Gerritt Rosenthal, adding that Metro staff worked closely with applicants to fine tune their proposals to meet the parks and nature bond criteria.

The goal is to help realize projects that have a region-wide impact and meet the needs of communities who have historically been left out or harmed by government decisions. Albina Vision Trust's project aims to do that. Albina was one of Portland's Black neighborhoods. It was systematically broken up and turned into what is now the Rose Quarter and the industrial and tourism zone surrounding it. Metro's Oregon Convention Center is one of the large structures built through this process.

Albina Vision Trust's project includes a waterfront park complex that hopes to help bring community members to the Willamette River, offering one of the only connections to the east bank of the river. Community members have made it clear to Metro that access to water is at the top of the list of valued nature experiences.

“There are Black Portlanders who remember the power of the river in their lives in Lower Albina,” said Winta Yohannes, executive director of Albina Vision Trust. With support from Metro, we are able to create more of those joyful memories while increasing climate change resiliency and confronting historical injustices through intentional reinvestment.”

OMSI's waterfront education park is just one part of a larger project within the OMSI District that includes the Center for Tribal Nations, affordable housing and more.

“The Waterfront Education Park will give visitors the opportunity to see the Willamette River riparian area in the process of healing and introduce them to the deep connection the region's tribes have to this place,” said Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission executive director Aja DeCoteau.

The Trust for Public Land and Oregon State University project provides an opportunity to conserve more than 3,000 acres in the North Tualatin Mountains, preserving land with critical ties to water quality, wildlife habitat, and forest research.

“The Tualatin Mountain Forest project has great potential to develop a research and demonstration forest with expanded climate and health benefits,” says Kristin Kovalik, the Trust for Public Lands Oregon program director.

Get involved:

Register for events at oregonmetro.gov/guidedactivities 503-220-2782

SAT. JULY 15

Swimming upstream: Black and brown stories of perseverance

From Flint to Standing Rock; from the Salmon Wars to lynching, throughout history water has systematically been weaponized against communities of color. Join us at Oxbow Regional Park for stories of Black and Brown resistance, resilience and struggle for equitable access to water. We will delve into the depths of the cultural histories of Black, Indigenous and other communities of color, recounting their perseverance in the face of colonialism and varied uses of water. This event will be held outdoors as a walking tour and discussion.

Oxbow Regional Park
11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
\$6/person; \$5/car, \$7/bus
Ages 12 and older
Registration required
Difficulty: moderate

SAT. JULY 22

Park educator program at Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area

Those who wander may not be lost. Join us in our parks and find wandering park educators who can answer your questions about the park, trail, plants, wildlife and more. Look for the people wearing blue and gray Metro shirts and hats in the parks walking on trails.

Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area
11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
All ages
No registration required
Difficulty: easy

SAT. AUG. 19

Park educator program at Oxbow Regional Park

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

SAT. SEPT. 16

Apple Jam

Participants will be able to work together to make a small batch of fruit jam or (non-alcoholic) cider to take home. We'll be learning about the orchard and listening to live music on the historic steps of the Howell House. Children welcome with adult supervision – we will be working with sharp tools and boiling water.

Howell Territorial Park
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
\$6/person or free
All ages
Registration required
Difficulty: moderate



Choose the region's next parks and nature projects

Story by Cory Eldridge. Illustrations by Michael Yun

Metro asked you and your neighbors to come up with parks and nature projects. They imagined 120 possible projects. Now you'll get to vote on which Metro should make a reality.

Starting in early April, community members across greater Portland began sharing their ideas for parks and nature projects in Metro District 4, Washington County's northern urban strip from Beaverton to Forest Grove. When the idea collection ended, 120 submissions for playgrounds, dog parks, wetland habitat, beaver crossings and more were shared with Metro.

Metro has worked with other park providers in the area to take those ideas and turn them into project concepts that you and your neighbors will get to vote for. After two rounds of voting, the Metro Council will award funding to the projects community members chose.

This two-step – collecting ideas from community members and then asking community member to vote for their favorite idea – is the heart of the Nature in Neighborhoods community choice grant program. It's a new grant program doing its work in a new way. For this first round of grants, up to \$2 million will be awarded for projects with budgets between \$10,000 and \$250,000.

The program is possible because voters chose to invest in nature when they passed the 2019 parks and nature bond measure. Voters made racial equity central to the bond and the community choice grants. When we asked for

ideas, we worked to reach people of color, folks in low-income neighborhoods and Spanish speakers to make sure their ideas were in the mix. We did this because these communities have often been left out when governments ask the public about their hopes and ambitions for their neighborhoods.

Here is a rundown on the ideas that were submitted, who shared them, how and why Metro vetted the ideas, and, most importantly, what you can do to vote and advocate for your favorite parks and nature ideas.

Collecting the ideas

What types of projects did folks dream up?

So, so many different ideas. Enrique suggested covered play areas. Nic and others suggested trail extensions. Pocket forests and micro parks showed up several times, including Rachel's idea for "Micro parks with ice cream?!" Native plant and pollinator friendly gardens were suggested many times, with possible locations across the district.

Who shared the ideas?

Anyone in the region could share ideas, but most came from folks in Metro District 4. Anyone 11 or older could submit an idea.



Wait, kids shared ideas?

Oh, for sure. And they are amazing.

One is from Alexis who suggested Friendship Camp, a place where "Kids share stories and have fun. Kids can come with their cousins. Kids make new friends." Even if Metro can't run a camp, it would be great to see a new place Alexis can visit with their cousins and make new friends.

Of course, the kids weren't only thinking of playgrounds. Sonali, who's in the fifth grade, wants to see a big forest with grassland so that wildlife has space to thrive. Sonali didn't have a specific place in mind, but there are several projects they could vote for that meet their vision.

The vote

Who can vote?

For the first vote, anyone 11 years and older in District 4 can vote.

For the final vote, anyone 11 years and older across greater Portland can vote.

11 year olds can vote?

Yep. This isn't an election, so we thought we'd bring in some of the region's most dedicated parks and nature lovers: kids. It's a great opportunity to introduce young people to the democratic process, from presenting an idea to voting for it to watching that advocacy and care become something real in the world.

Why is this only in District 4?

This is the first time Metro has done a project like this. To give it the best chance of succeeding, we focused on one part of the region.

Turning ideas into projects

How Metro took the ideas and made them into projects you can vote for.

After folks in the region shared their ideas, Metro and staff from other park districts in District 4 went to work taking the ideas and turning them into projects you can vote for. The first step was vetting them to make sure they could be funded by the 2019 parks and nature bond.

Vetting

When Metro asked community members to imagine parks and nature projects, we didn't put any restrictions around what ideas we'd accept. We didn't want to limit folks' imaginations and have them not share a fantastic idea because they worried it wasn't the "right" kind of idea.

There are, however, limits on what the grants can fund. The big one is that Oregon law says bond money can only be used on projects that result in a physical thing that belongs to a local government. Basically, that means the money can be used to buy land, build structures and give nature boosts through big restoration projects. The money can't be used for a youth program or to host a festival, to name two ideas that came up a lot. The projects also have to meet the racial equity and climate resilience criteria voters approved in the bond.

But we aren't just sweeping aside the ideas that didn't meet the criteria. Youth programs and festivals are fantastic ideas. Metro has grants



for programs like nature classes; other park providers have different priorities so they can fund community celebrations; and Metro is sharing what it learns with other governments and parks and nature organizations so they have an even better idea of what sorts of projects community members want to see in their neighborhoods.

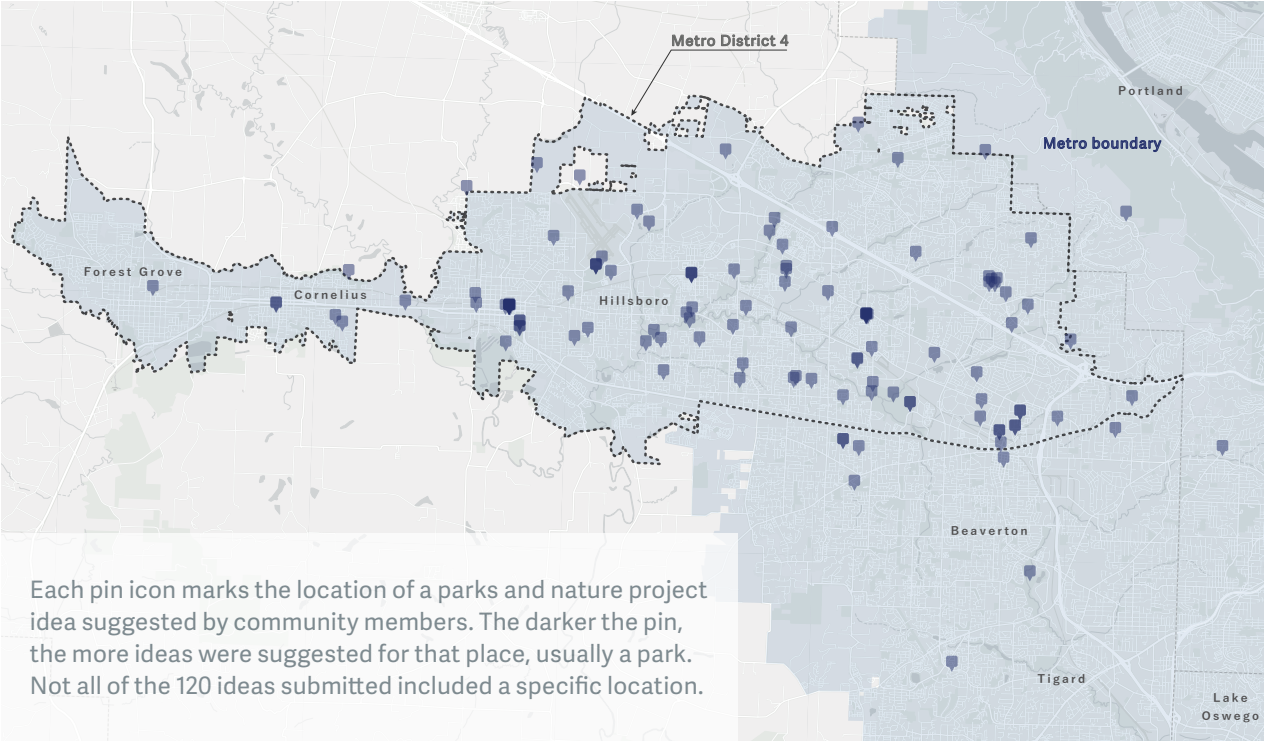
Community design workshops

All of the ideas that meet the criteria then go to a design workshop. Community members, including those who shared ideas, work with park designers to take the ideas and give them more details so that others can better see the project concept.

Most of the project ideas submitted are short descriptions. Often, the description is explaining why the idea is a good one. Staff can help interpret the goal of the idea into a design. Some ideas want a specific thing, but don't have a specific place for it. One idea was for water play areas like those on the waterfront in downtown Portland. For this, staff might be able to identify parks with the water supply the fountain needs, or that have the right sanitation system already in place, or what it would take to bring those to a park that doesn't have them.

Other ideas are very clear about what they want and where they want it. Leif, for instance, "would like the Rock Creek trail that runs through Orchard Park to Wilkins Road to extend south to Baseline Road." Ben knows of a culvert with a big drop that he says makes beaver hike over the road to move up the stream. What these ideas need is technical expertise to clarify what the project would look like and what it might cost.

The ideas workshops help find these details. With those specifics added, the projects head to the vote.



See the projects. Shape the projects. Vote for your favorites.

The dates below might change. Follow Metro on social media for updates.

JULY

First community design workshop

You can join community members and advocates, design professionals, and staff from local cities and parks districts to work together to take the project ideas and turn them into viable project concepts.

JULY 26 TO AUG. 13

First vote

Anyone 11 years old or older in District 4 can vote for the projects they like best. Can't pick just one? You can say yes to multiple projects.

AUGUST

Second community design workshop

The community's favorite projects go back to the design workshop for more detailed planning, cost estimates and designs.

FALL

Project expo

See all the work you and your neighbors have done! Learn more about the projects, enjoy food and refreshments, and spend time with your community.

OCT. 7 TO NOV. 7

Final vote

Anyone 11 years old or older in greater Portland can participate in the final vote. You can again choose multiple projects. Voting will be available at the expo, online and at other convenient locations!

DECEMBER

Grants awarded

The Metro Council awards the grants to the project chosen by the community!

BUILD

Over the next few months and years, the projects you and community members chose will be built. These projects will improve wildlife habitat, make our region more resilient to climate change and connect people to nature close to home.

Learn more and cast your ballot

Scan the QR code to learn more about the Nature in Neighborhoods community choice grants and vote for your favorite project ideas.



Voting begins July 26

Metro partners with City of Portland to protect urban salmon corridor

Story by Hannah Erickson. Photography courtesy City of Portland Bureau of Environmental Services



The most recent land acquisition funded by Metro's 2019 parks and nature bond measure and capital funds from the City of Portland is an important step toward creating a continuous protected stream corridor for endangered salmon right in the heart of Portland.

The .7-acre property includes a 240-foot section of Crystal Springs Creek, an ecologically significant waterway designated by the City of Portland as a salmon sanctuary. The spring-fed creek and its cold water supports documented populations of 16 species of fish. It is also where the "Stumptown scud" – a tiny crustacean found only in Portland – was first discovered.

The 2.4-mile creek flows from its source in Reed Canyon on the Reed College campus to Johnson Creek and ultimately, the Willamette River. Along the way, the creek meanders through Eastmoreland Golf Course and Westmoreland Park. This acquisition helps close one of the gaps between these large, protected green spaces.

"This acquisition emphasizes the importance of protecting water quality and wildlife habitat in urban areas as well as rural ones," said Dan Moeller, Metro's conservation program director. "It may not be possible to purchase hundreds of acres at a time in urban landscapes like we sometimes can do in rural areas. But these smaller parcels can be just as critical in connecting existing parks and natural areas, creating greater climate resilience, and developing healthier fish and wildlife populations."

The property, which historically was part of a farm, was purchased in partnership with the Portland Bureau of Environmental Services (BES). Each agency provided half of the funding for the \$685,000 purchase.



"This small parcel has mighty importance," said Dawn Uchiyama, Environmental Services director. "It fills a critical gap and links other restored areas of the creek. Each effort builds on the success of previous investments. It's amazing to say that Portland is welcoming our wild salmon back home. In the age of climate change, our job is to continue to create and maintain healthy cold-water sanctuaries where fish and other wildlife can find food, shelter, and refuge in Portland's precious waterways."

Environmental Services, along with community partners, has been working for years to restore the creek, removing nine culverts and planting streamside trees and shrubs. Those actions improve water quality and allow endangered salmon and other fish to travel freely from the Willamette River through Johnson Creek to reach the creek's spawning and rearing habitats.

Metro and the city officially took possession of the parcel on April 27. Now the partners can begin to plan for the site's restoration. This plan will include removing some existing



From top: After restoration, the newly acquired portion of Crystal Springs Creek will look more like this section already restored by the City of Portland and partners. Right now, the property by Crystal Springs Creek offers no shade to keep this potential salmon habitat cool. That will change as the site is restored. Thanks to restoration efforts, portions of Crystal Springs Creek have once again become home to native species like river otters and salmon.

structures and replacing invasive weeds with native plants that will protect the health of the stream and riparian environment.

Long-term, Environmental Services will manage the land and restoration, including continuing to work with partners in the Indigenous community, Johnson Creek Watershed Council, Crystal Springs Partnership and others.

This is the 16th land acquisition purchased with funding from the 2019 parks and nature bond, creating a total of 529 acres acquired across target areas identified by the bond and its refinement plan.



Zip. Click. Pull.

Wearing a life jacket is the best thing you can do to stay safe in water. The jacket has to fit to do its job. Here's how to find the right jacket for the right fit.

1

Size
Life jackets are made for people of different sizes and weights.
Check the label for the jacket's weight range and chest size.

2

The kids
Life jackets for children include a leg strap.
Life jackets for infants also have a collar.

3

Zip, click, pull
Make sure all zippers and clips are fastened. Pull straps tight.

4

Shoulder test
Pull the jacket up at your shoulders.
If it slides up to your ears, it's too big.
If it stays tight, you are ready for the water!

Questions?

Contact Metro staff at 503-797-1545.
For updates on Metro parks visit oregonmetro.gov/watersafety

Racial justice through swim lessons and water safety

BLACK SWIMMING INITIATIVE BRINGS ECO-SWIM LESSONS TO COMMUNITIES OF COLOR IN GREATER PORTLAND.



Story and photography by Hannah Erickson

Rewind to last summer early August: It isn't yet noon, but already the shores of Broughton Beach are starting to fill with people in bathing suits. They're eager to beat the heat of what has been predicted to be a day of record-setting temperatures.

Kids and adults alike jump into the Columbia River's chilly waters, shriek ... and then jump in farther. Playing in a river on a hot day is fun—and that can be a problem. In the previous week, three different drowning incidents occurred along the nearby Sandy River, two of them fatal. People often don't realize how many dangers can hide in open water: currents, temperature fluctuations, drop-offs, sunken trees, and all sorts of other underwater hazards.

That's why Morgan Spriggs is at Broughton Beach this day. The founder of the Black Swimming Initiative is here with a group of volunteers to hold an eco-swim camp specifically for people of color and Black and Indigenous communities who suffer rates of drowning that are far higher than those of white swimmers.

"People are inspired to learn to swim when they see people who look like themselves, but there are so few swim instructors here who look like I do," says Spriggs, who learned to swim as an adult and is now a triathlete. "We want to address that pipeline and build skills so that when you walk into a pool it's normal to see Black lifeguards, Black swim instructors. And that helps fight Oregon's drowning epidemic."

Begun in 2020 after the killing of George Floyd, these eco-swim camps teach the basics of river ecology and swim safety to families and individuals who sign up in advance through BSI's website. The lesson starts on land, with a primer on how vegetation between the parking lot and the Columbia River acts as a filter to keep toxins out of the river. Then everyone takes part in a cleanup of the beach. One little girl gets excited as she dons her blue nitrile gloves.

"It's like I'm a scientist!" she says, holding her hands up to her smiling mother.

Her mother, Nakila Bush, has brought her two daughters to the camp because she wants them to get more familiar with swimming safely in different environments.

"People are inspired to learn to swim when they see people who look like themselves, but there are so few swim instructors here who look like I do."

"They've never been in the river, so I think it will give them more confidence in moving water," Bush said.

Both girls can swim a bit, but she says it has been challenging to get them into lessons.

"I've only been able to get them into one swim lesson so far," she says with a sigh. "Me and every other parent is just waiting online,

Above: Eco-swim camp students gather to hear a quick lesson on river ecology before heading into the Columbia River to learn basic swim safety.

trying to sign up the minute Portland opens the next batch of swim lessons."

Helen Kidane, who is here with her husband and two children, learned to swim at an early age. For her parents, who grew up in Eritrea, swimming was part of everyday life. But Kidane has seen that this is not the case for many American families.

"When I spoke with people here, I found that learning to swim is not as common as you would think, especially in the BIPOC community," Kidane says. "There are centuries-long systematic oppression, discrimination and racism that have created barriers for people of color to learn to swim. There are also economic barriers as a result. Economic barriers that make swim lessons inaccessible for many of us. That's why I was so glad to hear about this event."

After a quick beach cleanup, the students head into a roped-off section of the river set up for lessons. They are divided into groups of two or three based on age and swim level. Ages range from toddlers to adults. Each group has a dedicated swim instructor who starts them out by teaching them to enter the water carefully, feeling with their feet for any unseen dips or rocks in the riverbed.

"What I really want people to learn today is putting on a life jacket in the water, throwing a line to someone in the water, and flipping over on their back in the water," says Dena Marshall, whose nonprofit WaterStrong is partnering



with BSI to organize this camp. "Those three things could save their lives."

Laura Smoyer, who is volunteering at the camp today through the Human Access Project's River Huggers Swim Team, says she meets a lot

"What I really want people to learn today is putting on a life jacket in the water..."

of adult Portlanders who never learned how to swim in rivers because the Willamette was too polluted for swimming when they were young.

"It's exciting that it's cleaner now, but it presents a safety issue," she says, noting that she was surprised to learn from her teenaged children that going swimming in the Willamette was now a popular social activity. "Those kids all have parents who don't know anything about swimming in natural water. It's a gap in water safety knowledge."

Metro has increased its outreach about water safety. It provides loaner life jackets in various sizes at its boat ramps and parks with water access.

The efforts go beyond its own park properties. The agency has launched a multilingual advertising campaign to promote life-jacket usage and water safety in the region. For the past two years, it has also partnered with local community-based organizations to distribute life jackets. In the first year of the campaign Metro distributed 500 life jackets; in its second year, Metro distributed almost 3,500. This summer, Metro hopes to expand its outreach further, with life-jacket giveaways at local events and sports venues.

Just before noon, the swim lessons are wrapping up. In a little over an hour, students for the afternoon session will arrive. Some



Clockwise, from top: Students are divided into small groups to work with a volunteer instructor on the basic water skills, such as properly fitting their life jackets, swimming toward a rescuer and entering the water carefully.

kids stay splashing in the water, but others shiver on the hot sand – a testament to how cold river water can be, even on a day when the temperature has already climbed into the 80s and will later top out at 100.

One young girl is clearly ready to go home, water dripping off her puffs of hair as her head rests sleepily on her mother's shoulder. As her mothers stop to thank the organizers, they mention that they live in Battle Ground, Washington.

"Oh, that's quite a drive!" exclaims one volunteer.

"It's worth it to keep our kids safe," says one mother, patting her daughter's back. "As parents, you'll drive as far as you need to. We're just glad we got to be here."



How to be safe in the water

- Swim with a buddy
- Keep a close eye on children in or near the water
- Enter water carefully and feet-first
- Wear a life jacket and make sure it fits properly

Learn more at our water safety web page oregonmetro.gov/watersafety

Learn water safety

Black Swimming Initiative will be hosting multiple eco-swim camps at various locations this summer. Sign up or learn how to volunteer at www.blackswimpx.us

WaterStrong is also hosting eco-swim camps open to the general public this summer, including one at Broughton Beach on July 8. More info: waterstrong.org

Field guide

ORENCO WOODS NATURE PARK



Rock Creek, home to winter steelhead, cutthroat trout and Pacific lamprey, gives life to the 44-acre Orenco Woods Nature Park. The creek wanders through the east and south of the park, bisecting the Rock Creek Trail at the iconic wooden tied-arch bridge that provides bird’s-eye views of the creek and its residents.

Indigenous peoples, including the Kalapuya, inhabited this area since time immemorial and used fire to manage the white oak savannas that historically covered much of the region. The land provided a rich supply of acorns, camas, hazelnuts and wildlife. In the 1800s, white settlers forcibly relocated Indigenous tribes to reservations. Today, Indigenous community members continue to care for this place and to reconnect their culture with the land.

After colonization by white settlers, the property was home to the Oregon Nursery Company, the source of the name Orenco, and then it was a golf course. Metro and Hillsboro purchased the course in 2011. When the golf greens were removed, historic acorns sprouted and began growing into oak trees.

Orenco Woods Nature Park combines the playgrounds, picnic shelters and grassy fields of a traditional park and the natural areas devoted to native plants and wildlife that are the heart of Metro’s nature parks. You’ll find your favorite way to be outdoorsy at Orenco.

0

1/4 mile

1320 feet

NE Birch St

NE 68th Ave

NE 69th Ave

NE 71st Ave

NE 73rd Ave

NE 75th Ave

NE 77th Ave

NE Quatama St

NE Rocky Brook

NE Dogwood St

NE Elm St

NE Cornelius Pass Rd

P

McDonald House

Restroom

Picnic area

Nature play area

Trail

Orenco Woods Nature Park

Rock Creek Trail

Rock Creek

MAX Blue Line

Area enlarged

Hillsboro

Beaverton

N

Orenco Woods Nature Park

7100 NE BIRCH ST., HILLSBORO

DIRECTIONS

From U.S. 26, take the Northwest Cornelius Pass Road exit and head south. Take a right on Northeast Cornell Road, then left on Northwest 231st Avenue, which will be renamed Northeast Century Boulevard. Take a left on Northeast Birch Street; the park is at the end of the street. The Orenco stop on the MAX Blue Line is a short distance away.

KNOW WHEN YOU GO

Park open sunrise to sunset. Pets allowed on leash on Rock Creek Trail only. Hillsboro Parks & Recreation Department provides day-to-day management.

AMENITIES

Restrooms, picnic shelter, nature play area, trails.

oregonmetro.gov/orencowoods

In the neighborhood After exploring the park, head to nearby Orenco Station where you can grab a bite at a restaurant, shop, enjoy a drink or participate in various community events. In late summer, enjoy a trip to the Oregon International Air Show, just a few miles away at the Hillsboro Airport. For those who want to spend an entire day in nature, head to Jackson Bottom Wetlands and Tualatin Hills Nature Park, both just six miles from Orenco Woods.

For more details about all 19 Metro destinations, visit oregonmetro.gov/parks

Be on the lookout!

GREAT BLUE HERON

RED-TAILED HAWK

BLACK-TAILED DEER

DOUGLAS SPIREA

Season-by-season highlights

FALL: With leaves falling along the creek’s edge, animals can be more easily spotted. Industrious beavers leave their mark along the creek with chewed sticks and territorial scent mounds. Dawn and dusk are great times to see these iconic Oregon creatures in their natural habitat. Black-tailed deer are often in small family groups this time of year, making them easier to spot.

WINTER: Red-tailed hawks can be seen throughout the year and may be nesting in the tall Douglas fir trees. As winter settles in, the hawks start their courtship displays. Look for two or more large raptors effortlessly soaring in wide circles in the winter skies. You may see the big raptors dive or extend their legs in a dazzling display of skill and mastery of flight.

SPRING: With a suite of micro habitats, Orenco Woods offers migrating songbirds a place to rest and feed in the oak savannas, upland forest and riparian edges. Some may even decide to nest in this desirable location. Grab your binoculars and tune your ears to the vibrant sounds of spring that echo throughout the landscape.

SUMMER: Insects depend on outside sources for body heat, and they operate best when the temperatures are warm. Take an evening walk and listen to the hums of the pollinators as they search for delicious nectar. Look for the yellow-faced bumble bee on the south side of the trails that wind through the park.

Summer fun disposal quiz

SPRING CLEANING

Now that summer is finally here, many people will pull out gear for their favorite hobbies. From barbecues to pool parties to camping outside or staying cool indoors, it’s a lot of stuff.

Some of that stuff ends up broken or worn out after years of use. When the time comes to get rid of your summer fun supplies, do you know what to do?

Take this quiz to test your disposal knowledge.

- Need a new air conditioner? What should you do with the old one?
 - recycle it
 - toss it in the trash
 - take it to a facility for proper disposal
- What about all those used sunscreen containers?
 - recycle them
 - toss them in the trash
 - it depends on the container
- Any leftover mosquito spray should be taken to a hazardous waste facility.
 - true
 - false
- Is your pool noodle overcooked and saggy?
 - toss it in the trash
 - recycle it
- Are your camping propane tanks out of gas?
 - take them to a hazardous waste facility
 - recycle them
 - toss them
- Those wraparound sunglasses not your style anymore?
 - recycle them
 - donate them
 - toss them in trash
 - either b or c
- Barbecue and metal utensils can be recycled in your home bin.
 - true
 - false

- Finished with fireworks?
 - take them to a hazardous waste facility
 - completely submerge them in water overnight prior to throwing away
 - either a or b
- Has your beach towel lost its fluff?
 - toss it in the trash
 - recycle it
- Your favorite plastic water bottle just cracked, what do you do?
 - recycle it
 - throw it away
 - it depends
- Out of ice cream? Toss your empty cartons into the _____.
 - recycling
 - trash
- Has your hose sprung a leak? Hoses can clog up recycling machines, so it is best to toss them in the trash.
 - true
 - false

Answers

1. c 2. c Bottles that are 6 oz. or larger and empty spray cans go in the recycling. Squeeze tubes, sticks, and all lids and caps go in the garbage. 3. true, but empty containers can go in the garbage. 4. a 5. a always take propane containers to a hazardous waste facility, even when empty. 6. d, before tossing anything, ask if anyone else could use it. 7. true, metal items that are between 2-30 inches and less than 30 pounds apiece can go in the recycling bin. Larger metal items can go to a facility for recycling. 8. c, both are safe disposal options. 9. a 10. c, you can toss the bottle in the recycling, but any chipped off pieces of plastic should be thrown away. 11. b 12. true

Have more disposal questions? Call Metro’s Recycling Information Center at 503-234-3000, or email askmetro@oregonmetro.gov

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Color and discover!



Below the bridge at Orenco Woods

From the bridge above Rock Creek, you have an expansive view of a thriving creek-side habitat. River and creek habitats, called riparian areas, are wildlife-rich areas where water animals, land animals and those at home in both converge. Herons and wood ducks, turtles and beavers, even deer and jumping fish can be spotted from the bridge, undisturbed by the park visitors above. These large animals are signs that smaller animals are hidden away among the red-flowering currants, red osier dogwoods and red alders below.

Follow OregonMetro on Instagram and Facebook or visit oregonmetro.gov/parks to find out when the park opens.

