

FALL 2010

# GreenScene



Your fall guide to  
great places and  
green living

[www.oregonmetro.gov](http://www.oregonmetro.gov)



glow  
roll  
gaze  
reach  
bundle  
crunch  
preserve

# Discover Graham Oaks Nature Park

Dense conifer forests where ancient Douglas firs grow along creek canyons; lush wetlands that are home to hundreds of bird species; restored native Oregon white oak woodland habitat where acorns feed jays, quail, woodpeckers, ducks, raccoons and deer – sound like a remote Oregon location? You can now find all of this at Metro’s Graham Oaks Nature Park in Wilsonville, just 15 miles from downtown Portland.



Above: Interpretive sign posts made by a local artist from recycled steel. Wood used for trellis structures is certified by the Forest Stewardship Council as sustainably harvested.

Right: Students from two adjacent schools and an environmental education center use Graham Oaks as a living laboratory.



## Celebrate

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
Saturday, Sept. 18

Bring friends and family for a fun-filled day with guided park tours, activities and crafts, music and entertainment at the region’s newest nature park. Explore three miles of trails traversing the varied terrain and visit interpretive plazas, a picnic area and scenic overlooks made from locally sourced materials.

### Eat

Start the day with an omelet and pancake breakfast fundraiser at Boones Ferry Primary School from 9 a.m. to noon, sponsored by the Rotary Club of Wilsonville. The school is the center of the celebration with a main stage, booths, food vendors and bike and car parking areas.

### Bike

Be the first to ride your bike through Graham Oaks on the newest section of the Tonquin Trail. When complete, this regional trail will connect Wilsonville, Tualatin and Sherwood. The one-hour scenic tour, sponsored by Wilsonville SMART, departs from CREST

plaza at 9 a.m. and heads north through the park, ending at Boones Ferry in time for the grand opening festivities. Additional secured bike parking will be provided, and those who ride to the event will receive a Bike There! cycling accessory. Advance registration required, call 503-682-0502.

### Play

Students’ park-inspired art will be on display at the opening, and the artwork can also be found on Graham Oaks trading cards, available at discovery stations throughout the park during the event. Draw your own card and enter to win prizes from Metro’s Native Plant Center for your backyard.

### Discover

Learn about wildlife and habitats at Graham Oaks from Metro’s scientists, ranger and naturalists, and hear how crews restored the oak woodland habitat by planting native trees and plants. See how sustainable strategies were used in the park’s design, materials and construction.

### Honor

At a noon dedication ceremony, enjoy ceremonial dancing and drumming, live music and Boones Ferry students reading from their new book about the history of Graham Oaks.

## Explore

Discover how the Kalapuya Indians lived at Graham Oaks as members from the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde demonstrate basket weaving, arrowhead making and cooking with acorns. Explore the farming traditions of Graham Oaks and the Wilsonville area with interactive wheat threshing demonstrations by rangers from Oregon Parks and Recreation Department’s Champoeg State Heritage Area. Tour CREST (Center for Research in Environmental Sciences and Technology, funded and operated by the West Linn-Wilsonville School District) and see how students tend the organic gardens, orchard, beehives and greenhouse and monitor wildlife and water quality.

[www.oregonmetro.gov/  
grahamoaks](http://www.oregonmetro.gov/grahamoaks)





Orange-crowned warbler

## Getting to know Graham Oaks

Graham Oaks Nature Park has a fascinating past – and an equally fascinating future. Brush up now to impress your family and friends at the grand opening.

- Before the land was logged and farmed, it was a rich habitat for birds, mammals and camas lily.
- It is likely that the Ahantchuyuk and Tualatin tribes of the Kalapuyan people used the site to gather food. Blackberries, salal berries and

- huckleberries were dried; strawberries and raspberries were eaten fresh; deer and elk were hunted.
- Camas bulbs were unearthed and steamed for about two days over hot rocks in an earth-covered oven. Acorns were an important staple food, and the tribes used fire to maintain the oak savannas and enhance acorn yields.
- Clackamas County Commissioner Charlotte Lehan, former mayor of Wilsonville, is a descendant of the family that purchased this site in the 1880s to grow hops, filberts, corn, potatoes and grass crops.
- Metro purchased Graham Oaks with funds from a 1995 natural areas bond measure, approved by voters across the region. The land was developed as a nature park with Metro's 2006 bond measure funds. The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department provided a \$500,000 construction grant, funded by the state lottery. The City of Wilsonville prepared the master plan, helped to facilitate construction and contributed \$300,000 to the project.
- Metro has planted 150,000 native trees and shrubs – including 15,000 oaks – and more than 100 million seeds of wildflowers and grasses. Over time, these will recreate historic oak and pine woodland and savanna, and replenish wetlands and conifer forests.

- Graham Oaks serves as an outdoor classroom for the Boones Ferry and Wood schools, and for CREST. Students study the rich wildlife, habitat and cultural history of Graham Oaks, from the early inhabitants like the Kalapuya Indians to settlers such as Alphonso Boone who established Boones Ferry.
- CREST played an integral role in the restoration of Graham Oaks, as students planted wildflowers and native shrubs through Metro's adopt-a-plot program. Learn about CREST's farm-to-school program and see how students are cultivating and harvesting food for school lunches and a student-operated farmers market – the first harvest will be available at the opening!
- An Oregon white oak takes 100 years to mature.
- Less than 8 percent of historic native Oregon white oak landscape has survived in the Willamette Valley.
- Different types of oak habitat attract different species of native birds and mammals. Grassy oak savanna provides a familiar home to the Western bluebird and the Northern harrier; bushy oak woodlands harbor the orange-crowned warbler and the Western gray squirrel.

## Discover one of the region's greenest parks

At Graham Oaks Nature Park, porous pavement in the parking lot manages stormwater and removes pollutants. Solar panels on the restroom feed into the City of Wilsonville's electric grid, and the beautiful stonework at the plazas and overlooks is Columbia River Gorge basalt.

Sustainable strategies used in the design, materials and construction of Graham Oaks promote environmental stewardship of natural resources in many ways:

- Metro chose durable, environmentally appropriate, locally produced materials for facilities such as the restroom (a pre-fab kit from Roseburg) and the ecoroof on the picnic shelter (from Baker City).
- The native plants, trees and shrubs used to restore the oak woodland habitat were grown at Metro's Native Plant Center, where the wildflower seeds were also sown.
- Interpretive signs tell the story of Graham Oaks and introduce visitors to the natural and cultural history of this site and its sustainable features.
- Benches, metal banners and wetland viewpoint screening are detailed with hand forged metal oak tree leaves and indigenous wildlife. Local artist Mauricio Saldana has sculpted a 6,000-pound acorn for a public art installation.



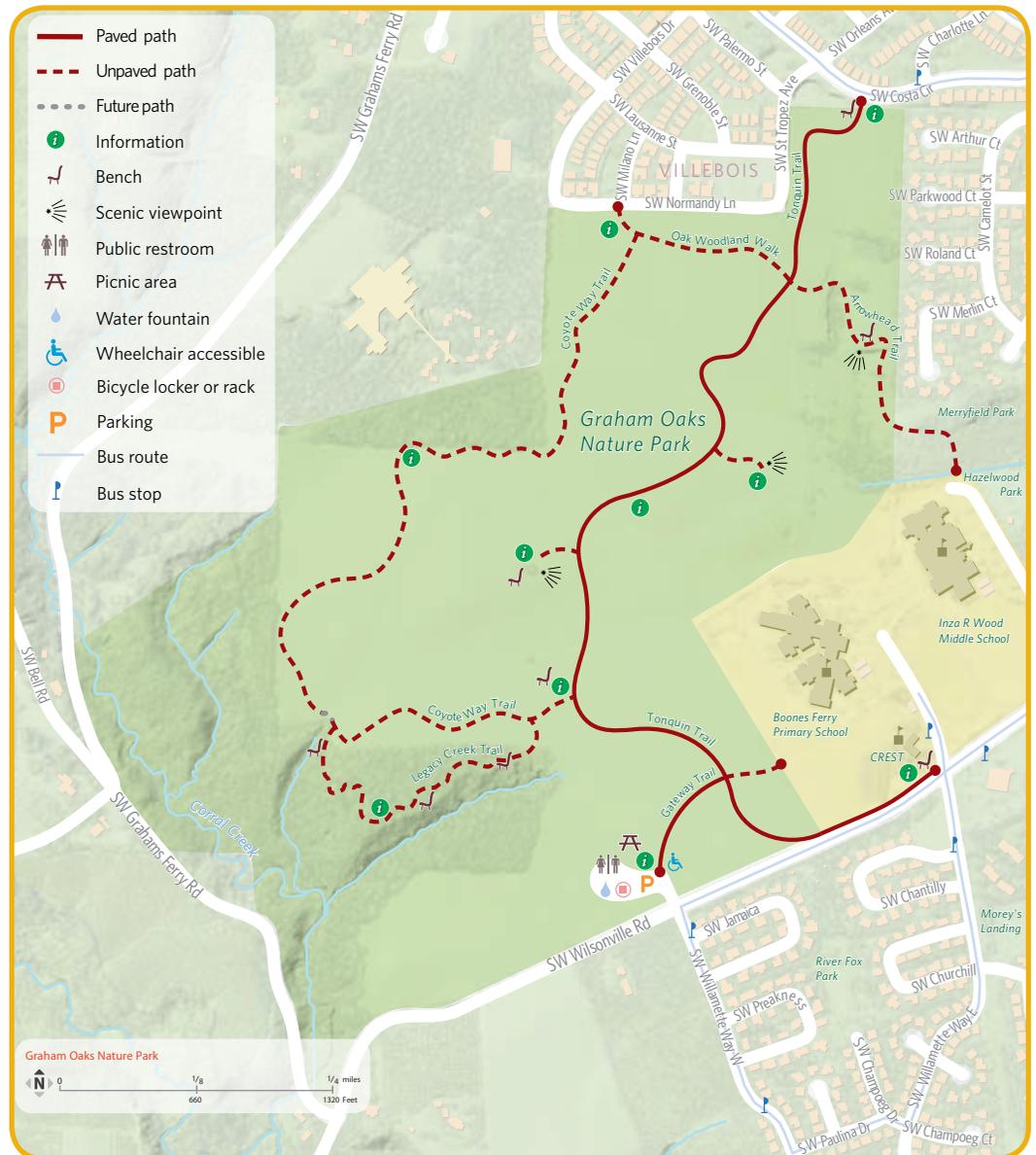
Stormwater swales in the parking lot and an ecoroof on the picnic shelter help improve water quality.



# Walk There! Graham Oaks Nature Park

Explore Graham Oaks Nature Park with your own two feet following this new walking route. Find more great places to walk in the Portland-Vancouver area with Metro's Walk There! The easy-to-use guide book leads you on 50 explorations of urban natural areas, scenic parks, historic neighborhoods and fascinating main streets. Detailed maps and route descriptions help you discover the region's rich history and varied landscapes while you enjoy the benefits of walking.

[www.oregonmetro.gov/walkthere](http://www.oregonmetro.gov/walkthere)



*Note: Dogs are not allowed at Graham Oaks except on the Tonquin Trail, and there only on leash.*

Begin at Gateway Plaza, Southwest Wilsonville Road at Willamette Way West. Walk east to Acorn Plaza, home to a 6,000-pound basalt acorn sculpture. Trails to the east lead to Boones Ferry Primary School, Inza Wood Middle School and CREST. Graham Oaks is an outdoor classroom for 1,400 students at these schools.

Acorn Plaza intersects the Tonquin Trail, a paved, multi-use path that will eventually connect the Willamette River, just south of Graham Oaks, to the Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge in Sherwood.

Turn left onto the trail. At the first junction, the Coyote Way Trail offers a walk through restored oak woodland habitat. It also connects to the Legacy Creek Trail, where ancient Douglas fir grow along creek canyons in a deep forest, a counterpoint to the park's more open oak savanna.

Further on the Tonquin Trail, a short trail to the left leads to Lone Oak Plaza. Here a spectacular oak grows with the spreading habit that testifies to its early years in an open savanna.

Continue on the Tonquin Trail to a path on the right leading to a bird blind overlooking restored wetlands. Further north, the Arrowhead Trail leads to wetlands and connects Graham Oaks to the Park at Merryfield neighborhood.

The Tonquin Trail in Graham Oaks transitions to a network of off-street promenades and

bike lanes through Villebois, a planned community of 2,600 homes built on the former site of Dammasch State Hospital. Designed using smart growth principles, Villebois won the 2010 Community of the Year award from the National Association of Home Builders. A second Villebois trailhead to the west connects to the Oak Woodland Walk and allows for a loop back to the start via the Coyote Way Trail.



# Fall garden solutions

Savoring fall's beautiful bounty? From layering your landscape to boosting lawn health, let the good vibes reign all season with Metro natural gardening tips safe for people, pets and the planet.

## Diversify your landscape

The long-term solution to most garden problems? Diversity. Establishing a variety of native and well-adapted nonnative plants in the sun and soil conditions they prefer ensures a healthier garden ecosystem. Variety in size matters, too, so consider low-growing ground covers, annuals and perennials, medium and tall shrubs, and trees. This layered-landscape approach offers an attractive habitat for birds and other beneficial wildlife. Another bonus? A robust, head-turning yard.



Kent Derek photo



## Keep yellow jackets at bay

Yellow jackets score big points for eating some garden pests, but these little carnivores grow more aggressive in the fall and can disrupt outdoor activities. Cover picnic foods to avoid attracting the insects. If a yellow jacket drops by anyway, give it a moment to fly off or calmly brush the insect away. Got a whole nest of them around your home? Consider hiring a professional for safe removal. For a fee, some beekeepers will move wasp nests to less-populated areas, where the feisty predators can do more good than harm.

## Renovate your lawn

Got a lawn? Time to refresh it for optimal turf health. First, hand-pull any weeds and use a thatch rake to open up the soil. Next, overseed the lawn with an applicable Northwest mix. Third, add a thin layer of weed-free compost or quarter-ten crushed basalt. These steps not only thicken your lawn but also fortify it against weeds.

## Wrangle powdery mildew

No need to worry much about powdery mildew that might appear on fall squash and cucumbers. It's unlikely to reduce harvests this late in the season, so simply cut off affected leaves to maintain the plants' beauty. Place diseased foliage in your yard-waste bin to avoid infecting other garden plants.

## Explore the possibilities

Feeling fresh out of fall garden ideas? Jumpstart your imagination at Metro's four demonstration gardens across the region:

**Blue Lake Natural Discovery Garden at Blue Lake Regional Park, Fairview** – With a self-guided tour, learn about rain gardens and eye-catching edible plants.

**Cooper Mountain Demonstration Garden at Cooper Mountain Nature Park, Beaverton** – Discover native and noninvasive, nonnative blossoms, foliage and ornamental grasses.

**Natural Techniques Demonstration Garden, Southeast Portland** – Explore a robust mix of Northwest natives, ornamentals, edibles, a rain garden and a sustainably grown lawn.

**Backyard Makeover exhibit at the Oregon Zoo, Southwest Portland** – Enjoy the beauty of local plants and wildlife, including vine maple, penstemon, kinglets, bushtits and chickadees.

For helpful guides on natural gardening, including composting, controlling pests without toxic chemicals and recognizing beneficial wildlife, call Metro Recycling Information at 503-234-3000 or visit

[www.oregonmetro.gov/garden](http://www.oregonmetro.gov/garden)



## New, free guide offers the what, where and how of regional recycling

Got a garage full of leftover plastic plant pots? Wondering where to take those old tires? Get help with Metro's newly revised Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, a free, quick-reference booklet, a companion publication to Metro's popular recycling hotline, explains what, where and how to recycle in the Portland metropolitan area. From reducing junk mail to buying in bulk, the guide also offers timely waste-prevention tips and resources. Call Metro Recycling Information at 503-234-3000 for a free copy.



[www.oregonmetro.gov/recycling](http://www.oregonmetro.gov/recycling)



## Paint-recycling options expand

Oregon's new industry program for paint recycling, the first in the nation, makes it even more convenient to drop off leftover paint and keep reusable materials out of the landfill. Industry nonprofit PaintCare Inc. will manage the pilot program – including safe disposal of oil-based paint – and has launched additional collection sites locally and statewide. As a program participant, Metro will continue accepting paint at its household hazardous waste facilities, turning quality leftover latex into award-winning MetroPaint. Visit [www.paintcare.org](http://www.paintcare.org) to learn more about the Oregon Paint Stewardship Pilot Program, including collection sites and covered products.

[www.oregonmetro.gov/paint](http://www.oregonmetro.gov/paint)



Kent Derek photo

## Share your views

**M**etro is a regional roundtable where leaders, experts and the people of the region come together to shape our future. Share your ideas on land, transportation, natural areas, trails and how we grow. What do you love about the Portland metropolitan area? How should your hometown look in five years or in 50? What would make your neighborhood a better place to live today?

For current public involvement opportunities, visit Metro's website.

[www.oregonmetro.gov/participate](http://www.oregonmetro.gov/participate)

## Stay in touch with the Metro newsfeed

Stay current with daily updates on the actions, events and activities at Metro that support vibrant neighborhoods, thriving local economies and treasured farms and forestland. Visit Metro's newsfeed or subscribe to daily, weekly or monthly digests of stories that interest you.

[www.oregonmetro.gov/news](http://www.oregonmetro.gov/news)

## Setting the course of the Tonquin Trail

**W**hether you are looking for a safe route to bike or walk to work or new opportunities to exercise and explore nature, you have a stake in the future Tonquin Trail. Metro and its partners are planning a multi-use trail that will connect neighborhoods, schools, jobs, parks, shopping centers and transit stops around Sherwood, Tualatin and Wilsonville.

A new section that runs through Metro's Graham Oaks Nature Park, opening Sept. 18. The project partners need your help now to determine which route the trail should follow from Wilsonville to Sherwood and Tualatin. Visit Metro's website to learn about the options, review maps and complete a questionnaire with your preferences. The public comment period continues through Sept. 20.

Parts of the trail path have been determined, and some portions have been built, including a

[www.oregonmetro.gov/tonquintrail](http://www.oregonmetro.gov/tonquintrail)



A new section of the Tonquin Trail travels through Graham Oaks Nature Park and connects to nearby neighborhoods and schools.

## Shaping the future of the region

**H**ow can we make the most of limited resources and invest in our communities? What kinds of investment do you want to see in your community? Where should we grow – both inside and outside the urban growth boundary?

Metro's chief operating officer issued a set of recommendations on Aug. 10 to create safe, livable communities, protect natural areas and develop jobs. The report also analyzes potentially where – and how much – to expand the urban growth boundary for housing and employment needs, and calls for a regional approach to public and private investment.

The Metro Council wants to know what you think. Visit an open house in your area. The public comment period continues through Sept. 27.

To review the content of the recommendations and maps of proposed urban growth boundary study areas, or to take an online survey, visit the Metro website.

[www.oregonmetro.gov/investment](http://www.oregonmetro.gov/investment)

### Open houses

**Monday, Sept. 13, 5 to 7 p.m.**  
Lents Boys and Girls Club community room

**Tuesday, Sept. 14, 5 to 7 p.m.**  
Wilsonville City Hall conference rooms I and II

**Thursday, Sept. 16, 5 to 7 p.m.**  
Sherwood City Hall community room

**Monday, Sept. 20, 5 to 7 p.m.**  
Oregon City – Clackamas County Development Services Building community room

**Tuesday, Sept. 21, 5 to 7 p.m.**  
St. Johns Community Center classroom 4

**Wednesday, Sept. 22, 5 to 7 p.m.**  
Hillsboro Civic Center room 113 C

## Planning travel options between Lake Oswego and Portland

With ever-increasing traffic, decision-makers are faced with the need to make the most of available public resources while protecting the character of neighborhoods in the Highway 43 corridor. A more effective transit solution in the corridor could offer better travel options, helping people save time and reduce air pollution.

This fall, the Lake Oswego to Portland Transit Project will publish its analysis of the impacts

and benefits of transit alternatives to address future travel demand between the two cities. After publication of the analysis, the project team will host open houses and a public hearing on the alternatives. Learn more and sign up to receive project updates on Metro's website.

[www.oregonmetro.gov/lakeoswego](http://www.oregonmetro.gov/lakeoswego)

## Guiding the stewardship of Smith and Bybee Wetlands

Beavers, river otters, black-tailed deer, osprey, bald eagles and Western painted turtles all have a home amid the port terminals and warehouses of industrial North Portland at Metro's Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area. At 2,000 acres, it's the largest protected wetland within an American city and a favorite among paddlers, walkers and wildlife watchers.

Metro and the Smith and Bybee Management Committee are working to ensure the health and well-being of this special place and its unique habitat. You can help shape an updated management plan that will guide restoration and public access at Smith and Bybee Wetlands for the next 20 years. Learn about the project and how you can get involved on Metro's website.

[www.oregonmetro.gov/smithbybeeupdate](http://www.oregonmetro.gov/smithbybeeupdate)



Jim Cruce photo



## Metro grants turn your good ideas into great community investments

The people who live and work in the Portland metropolitan area are the best source of ideas about important public investments. That's why Metro solicits grant proposals from residents, nonprofit organizations, schools, community groups and others that want to strengthen their communities and make them more sustainable.

Grants act as a catalyst by encouraging individuals and organizations with good ideas to step forward and get involved.

With funding and technical expertise, Metro helps create great communities, protects water quality and wildlife and supports a strong economy as the region – and our neighborhoods – continues to grow. The right investments today can make a big difference for our children and our future.

It's not too soon to start planning today to apply for a Metro grant. Application dates and funding cycles for each grant program vary. To learn more about Metro's grant programs and read about recent awards, visit Metro's website. To be added to the mailing list for future notifications, call 503-797-1834 or e-mail [kristin.blyler@oregonmetro.gov](mailto:kristin.blyler@oregonmetro.gov).

### Metro Central community enhancement grant program

Applications for the 2011 grant cycle are due at 5 p.m. Monday, Nov. 8. Register to attend a free grant writing workshop offered Oct. 4 for tips, samples and details about past awards. Funds benefit organizations that deliver aid to local residents and groups that look after the natural environment in Northwest and North Portland neighborhoods.

### Nature in Neighborhoods restoration and enhancement grant program

Pre-applications are due Jan. 18, 2011. Full applications will be due in March. Attend a free grant writing workshop offered in October or November. Funds improve fish and wildlife habitat in local communities by engaging people in hands-on activities and education programs. Current projects are helping homeowners improve wildlife habitat in their own backyards, restoring degraded streams for salmon and sensitive species in local natural areas, and more. Since 2005, Metro grant-funded projects have attracted an estimated 80,000 hours of volunteer time and talent, along with giving support to dozens of classrooms and thousands of students, teachers and educators.

For all current grant opportunities, visit Metro's website.

[www.oregonmetro.gov/grants](http://www.oregonmetro.gov/grants)

# Fall calendar

## **Beaverton Round fitness walk**

5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 8

Step off on an evening fitness walk with Coach Carmen. This two-hour workout takes participants through historic downtown Beaverton to the new Beaverton Round section of the city and back again. It's straight from the pages of Metro's popular Walk There! guide book. Learn how to walk for fitness while checking out the community. Meet at the Beaverton Library at 5:15 p.m. Free. For more information, call 503-813-7575. *Metro and Kaiser Permanente*

## **Bull Run watershed tour**

8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 10

Don't miss this opportunity to see Portland's tap water at its source. Learn about the protected resources that provide Portland with uniquely high quality drinking water. \$10. Advance registration required; call 503-823-7437. *City of Portland Water Bureau*

## **Swift sledding**

5 to 9 p.m. Friday, Sept. 10

Looking for something to do on Friday night in Portland? Watch 10,000 birds swirl into a chimney like a tornado! Get the expert interpretation of this phenomenon from passionate naturalists. After the show, experience sledding without the snow and enjoy a healthy snack picnic. Bring binoculars or borrow a pair on site. Suitable for ages 11 to 18. \$25; transportation, supervision, binoculars and snacks provided. Advance registration required; visit [www.portlandparks.org/](http://www.portlandparks.org/) register. For more information, call 503-823-6378. *Portland Parks & Recreation*

## **Cooking from the garden**

11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 11

What's for lunch? Explore the possibilities in Charlene Murdock and Richard White's half-acre garden of diverse organic edibles in Forest Grove. Get tips on gardening naturally while enjoying a hands-on lesson in harvesting and cooking the delicious bounty. Meal included. Complimentary coupons and publications for all participants. Free. Advanced registration required; call 503-234-3000. Address provided with registration. *Metro and OSU Extension Service Community and Urban Horticulture*

## **Family adventure at the refuge**

11 a.m. to noon Saturday, Sept. 11

Discover the Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge where you can look for birds, sneak up on grasshoppers and bound like an otter. Volunteer naturalists will lead short, drop-in activities along the trail. Nature enthusiasts of all ages are invited to join the fun. Free. For more information, call 503-625-5944. *Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge and YMCA*

## **Lone Fir historic tours**

10 a.m. to noon Saturdays, Sept. 11, Oct. 9, Nov. 13 and Dec. 11

Embark on a unique history lesson while enjoying the beauty and tranquility of Metro's Lone Fir Pioneer Cemetery. The tour highlights Portland's founders, early pioneers and nationally recognized figures as well as interesting headstones and monuments. Explore 30 acres of mature trees and a very special rose garden. Suitable for all ages. Meet at the soldier's monument. Suggested donation of \$10 goes to headstone restoration and educational programs. For more information, call 503-224-9200. *Friends of Lone Fir Cemetery*

## **Native Plant Center volunteer ventures**

9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays, Sept. 11 and 25, Oct. 9 and 23, Nov. 6 and 20, Dec. 4 and 18

Volunteer at the Native Plant Center and help care for the rare native seeds and plant stock that support Metro's restoration projects. This year's projects include Clear Creek and Gotter Prairie natural areas. Fall activities vary and will

include transplanting seedlings, harvesting and cleaning native seeds, planting native plugs for prairie habitat seed production, harvesting bulbs for restoration projects and fall seed planting. Work gloves, tools, water and a snack provided; prior gardening experience not required. Free. For more information or to register, call 503-797-1653. *Metro*  by arrangement

## **Protect Terwilliger Parkway**

9 a.m. to noon Saturdays, Sept. 11, Oct. 9, Nov. 13 and Dec. 11

Help protect and enhance the forest corridor of Terwilliger Parkway by removing invasive plant species. Tools, gloves, water and instruction provided. Wear long sleeves, long pants and sturdy shoes. Suitable for adults and children age 10 and older. Meet at the public restrooms at Southwest Terwilliger and Hamilton streets. For more information, call 503-293-1069. *Friends of Terwilliger*

## **Stewardship Saturdays at Tryon Creek**

9 a.m. to noon Saturdays, Sept. 11 and 25, Oct. 9 and 23, Nov. 13 and 27

Pull together to remove invasive English ivy and to protect the forest. Ivy out competes native plants, takes over the forest floor and ruins precious habitat. Gloves and a light snack provided, but bring your own water bottle. Youth age 16 and younger must be accompanied by an adult. Free. Groups of five or more register in advance; call 503-636-4398. *Friends of Tryon Creek*

## This September, take the Bike Commute Challenge

The Bicycle Transportation Alliance is gearing up for the Bike Commute Challenge, a friendly competition to encourage biking to work. It's easy, fun and free. Register your company at [www.bikecommutechallenge.com](http://www.bikecommutechallenge.com) or join your company's existing team. Then ride to receive discounts at local bike shops and more! Mark your calendar for the awards party the first week of October in Portland.



wildlife watching



sustainable living



volunteering



nature discoveries



paddling



natural gardening



wheelchair accessible



## Nature University

### Discover the naturalist in you!

Each year, thousands of children and adults visit Metro's parks and natural areas for summer programs and school field trips. Volunteer naturalists make these wonderful experiences possible by helping Metro staff naturalists lead these activities and programs.

If you love nature, enjoy working with children and have access to personal transportation, consider becoming a volunteer naturalist by attending Nature University. No special experience is required, but a background in natural history and biology and working with groups is helpful. At Nature University, you receive the training needed to become a qualified and confident Metro volunteer naturalist.

Nature University is a 12-week training course that starts people along the path of becoming naturalists and teachers. Nature University students are introduced to time-honored techniques of nature observation and principles of discovery learning. Students learn about common wildlife and plants, the ecology of wetlands and ancient forests, and effective teaching techniques. Student naturalists go into the field with experienced naturalists to learn how to recognize animal tracks and signs, bird sounds and much more. Learn the importance of careful observation and the use of field guides, skills that can be applied in a lifelong process of learning and sharing with others.

Nature University classes meet from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Tuesdays, Jan. 25 through April 12 at different locations. There is some homework between class meetings. In exchange for this

unique training, graduates are expected to provide a minimum of 40 hours of service within the first year, which is about 10 school field trip programs. Expectations include availability to help with class field trips during school hours in the fall and spring and on some weekdays or weekends in the summer. There are also opportunities to expand volunteer service to other public outreach programs, such as special events and natural area tours, and to help develop educational materials.

### Enrolling in the class of 2011

A brochure and application materials are available on the Metro website. Completed applications must be received by Thursday, Nov. 4. For more information, call 503-813-7565 or e-mail [parkvol@oregonmetro.gov](mailto:parkvol@oregonmetro.gov).

[www.oregonmetro.gov/volunteer](http://www.oregonmetro.gov/volunteer)

### Trail building at Madrone Wall

8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 12

Help build hiking trails and prepare a future park site at the Madrone Wall in Clackamas County. Enjoy a barbecue lunch provided by ClimbMax rock climbing. The site will be open to volunteers only; it is otherwise closed to public access. Free. Suitable for age 12 and older. For more information, visit [www.savemadrone.org](http://www.savemadrone.org). Advance online registration required; visit [www.rei.com/clackamas](http://www.rei.com/clackamas). *Madrone Wall Preservation Committee*

### Urban chickens

2 to 3 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 12

Urban chickens are so sustainable – fresh eggs every day and great fertilizer for a garden. Join Just Us Hens to get the scoop on setting up your coop. Meet at Tryon

Creek State Natural Area. For more information, call 503-636-4398. *Friends of Tryon Creek*

### Wild edible plants

9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Sundays, Sept. 12 and Nov. 7  
Learn about edible and medicinal plants. The food and medicine of the wild can feed a village and heal an individual. Join the Wilders Guild of Trackers to learn the basics of plant identification along with skills for a lifetime of study in herbology and wildcrafting. The class also covers how sustainable harvest can actually restore and cultivate abundance in the land we live. \$25. For more information, call 503-354-3143. *TrackersNW*

### Nature guide training at Tryon Creek

6 to 9 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 15 or 9 a.m. to noon Thursday, Sept. 16

Want to learn more about plants and animals? Interested in how Native Americans used our local plants for food, medicine, tools and shelter? Like working with children? Attend an orientation and become a trained nature guide. Then, guide small groups of children on field trips through the forest. Meet at the Nature Center. For more information, call 503-636-4398. *Friends of Tryon Creek*

### Walks in the old growth

9 a.m. to noon Thursdays, Sept. 16 and Oct. 14

Join the Forest Park Conservancy stewardship director for a hike through a grove of old growth forest. Learn about the natural history of the area and the old growth ecosystem. You might

even spot one of the bald eagles nesting on the property. \$10 per adult; free for conservancy members. Advance registration required; call 503-223-5449. *Forest Park Conservancy*

### Park(ing) Day All day Friday, Sept. 17

The streets will be paved with green as dozens of groups come together to create parks in public parking spaces around the region. Join the global event to highlight the need for more urban open space, rethink the way green space can happen and improve the quality of urban human habitat – at least until the meter runs out! Park(ing) Day helps promote The Intertwine, the Portland region's outstanding network of parks, trails and natural areas. Visit Metro's space at Northeast 8th and Multnomah or find a park(ing) space near you. Learn more at [www.theintertwine.org](http://www.theintertwine.org). Free. *The Intertwine and partners*



## **Aquifer adventure** Noon to 4 p.m.

**Saturday, Sept. 18**

Big and little pirates alike are welcome to join a family festival all about groundwater! Play fun games and explore the Columbia Slough Trail in search of hidden treasure – not gold but groundwater, a precious resource that flows beneath your feet. Come dressed in yer finest pirate togs or else the Cap'n might make ye walk the plank! For more information, call 503-281-1132. *Portland Water Bureau and Columbia Slough Watershed Council*

## **TogetherGreen volunteer day**

**10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 18**

Help restore and maintain Audubon's beautiful nature sanctuary. Start the day with a short program and continental breakfast before diving into trail projects. Lunch provided. Suitable for age 14 and older with an adult. For more information, call 503-292-6855 ext. 108. *Audubon Society of Portland*

## **Volunteer work parties in Forest Park**

**9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturdays, Sept. 18, Oct. 16, Nov. 20 and Dec. 18**

Come to Forest Park for a volunteer work party on the third Saturday of each month. Work is focused on habitat restoration. No experience required; tools, materials and training provided. Bring work gloves and wear sturdy footwear. Advance registration required; visit [www.forestparkconservancy.org](http://www.forestparkconservancy.org). *Forest Park Conservancy*

## **Winter cover crops for soil health**

**10 to 11:30 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 18**

Learn to grow your own fertilizers for winter soil protection and perfect plant performance. Join Oregon State University horticulturist Weston Miller in Southeast Portland for a demonstration and discussion of cover cropping – the process of planting legumes and grains in the fall for digging into your garden

beds in spring as a soil enhancer. Complimentary coupons and publications for all participants. Free. Advanced registration encouraged; call 503-234-3000. Drop-ins welcome if space is available. No restroom available. *Metro and OSU Extension Service Community and Urban Horticulture*

## **Landscaping for conservation**

**1 to 4 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 19 and Saturday, Oct. 16**

Save time, save money and help the environment by letting nature do the gardening. Join Stephanie Wagner and learn how a garden can function more like a natural system. Learn about gardening from the ground up using native plants, which use less water and don't require expensive fertilizers and pesticides. Receive a free plant and the opportunity for a garden consultation. Free. Advance registration required; call 503-636-4398. *Friends of Tryon Creek*

## **Sunset circle at Tryon Creek**

**6 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 21**

Twilight is a great time to sharpen your awareness skills because it is a transition time of day when some animals become quiet and different animals become active. Meet at the Nature Center and walk to the Riparian Forest to observe the changes as day becomes night. Bring something to sit on the ground comfortably for 45 minutes, mosquito repellent, notebook and pencil. Advance registration required; call 503-636-4398. *Friends of Tryon Creek*

## **Beginning bird watching class in Portland**

**7 to 9:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 23**

If you are curious about the birds around you but don't know where to begin, this program is for you. Naturalist James Davis has been getting birdwatchers started in Portland for 25 years. Discuss the basics of bird identification, talk about the best field guides and binoculars and discuss how to identify the 25 most



Fall rains at Mount Talbert bring out lots of fungus and lichen.

common birds of the Portland region. After this introduction to the basics of bird watching, you'll be prepared for field trips and other classes that follow or to head out on your own. Suitable for adults and teens. Meet in room 370 at Metro Regional Center. Registration and payment of \$10 required in advance; call 503-797-1650 option 2.

*Metro* 

## **Rainwater harvesting and rain gardens**

**6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 23 and Wednesday, Oct. 20**

This workshop will focus on both the fundamentals of harvesting rain water for later use and designing a rain garden to improve stormwater infiltration. Meet at Wilsonville Library, Sept. 23 or Molalla Grange, Oct. 20. Advance registration required; call 503-655-3144. *Clackamas County Soil and Water Conservation District*

## **National Public Lands Day at Tryon Creek**

**9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Sept. 25**

This is the nation's largest volunteer, hands-on activity of its kind. Held annually, the event brings together thousands of individual and organizational volunteers to refurbish and restore the country's public lands, including an ivy pull. For more information, call 503-636-4398. *Friends of Tryon Creek*

## **Teen harvest hike** **9 a.m. to 5 p.m.**

**Saturday, Sept. 25**

Enjoy the sweet treats that nature has to offer. Visit several areas in and around Portland to harvest berries, apples, pears or other feral foods. End the day making jelly or other sweet treats to take home. Suitable for ages 11 to 18. Advance registration required; visit [www.portlandparks.org/register](http://www.portlandparks.org/register). For more information, call 503-823-6378. *Portland Parks & Recreation*

## **Mount Talbert's hidden beauty**

**10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 26**

Explore a window to the past when the Willamette Valley was a patchwork of habitats inspired by fire, providing an abundance of wild foods for people and wildlife alike. The rare oak woodlands of Mount Talbert offer welcome refuge for migrating songbirds such as warblers, tanagers, orioles and cedar waxwings. Move quietly through shaded groves in search of the elusive Western gray squirrel and learn to identify poison oak. Bring binoculars or borrow a pair on site. The trail is steep and uneven in places. Suitable for adults and children age 10 and older. Registration and payment of \$5 per adult required in advance; call 503-794-8092. *North Clackamas Parks and Recreation District and Metro*

## **Sunday Parkways: Northwest Portland**

10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday,  
Sept. 26

Sunday Parkways offer a chance for people to get out and enjoy walking, biking, rolling, running or skating on traffic-free streets! The four-and-a-half mile Northwest Portland Sunday Parkways' route will have two loops connecting Southwest Stark Street, Old Town, Chinatown, Pearl and Northwest neighborhoods. Activities, food and entertainment will be in Couch and Wallace parks and along the route. Drop by Metro's Drive Less/Save More booth at Wallace Park to get a free safety light, check out free walking and biking resources and get your free souvenir photo at the Bike There! photo station, which is powered by renewable energy. *City of Portland Bureau of Transportation, Metro and Kaiser Permanente*

## **Beginning bird watching class at Cooper Mountain**

7 to 9:30 p.m. Thursday,  
Sept. 30

If you are curious about the birds around you but just don't know where to begin, this program is for you. Metro naturalist James Davis has been getting bird-watchers started in Portland for 25 years. Discuss the basics of bird identification, talk about the best field guides and binoculars and see slides of the top 25 birds of Cooper Mountain and the Beaverton/Portland area. After this introduction, you'll be well prepared for field trips and other classes that follow or to head out on your own. Suitable for adults and teens. Join one of the first evening classes to meet in the new Nature House at Cooper Mountain Nature Park. Registration and payment of \$8 per adult required in advance; call 503-629-6350 or visit [www.thprd.org](http://www.thprd.org). *Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District and Metro*

## **Clear Creek Natural Area tour**

12:30 to 3:30 p.m. Saturday,  
Oct. 2

Join Metro naturalist James Davis for a natural history tour of one of the most beautiful properties protected by Metro's Natural Areas Program. This forested tributary of the Clackamas River has excellent water quality and significant wild fish runs. Signs of deer, coyote, beaver and river otter are common and there is a good variety of other wildlife and plants, along with plenty of fungi in the fall. Mushroom identification is beginners' level. Bring your binoculars or borrow a pair on site. Expect a leisurely walk for 2 to 3 miles over uneven terrain on old dirt roads. Suitable for adults and children age 10 and older. Location provided upon registration. Registration and payment of \$5 per adult required in advance; call 503-797-1650 option 2. *Metro*

## **First Saturday work parties**

9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday,  
Oct. 2, Nov. 6 and Dec. 4

Join Clackamas River Basin Council staff and volunteers to help make the Clackamas watershed a better place. Help remove invasive species and replace them with native trees. The council provides tools, plants, gloves and know-how – you just need to show up. Bring a reusable water bottle. Locations may change from month to month; visit the website for current location information. For more information, call 503-558-0550. *Clackamas River Basin Council*

## **Old Apple Tree Festival**

10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday,  
Oct. 2

The oldest living apple tree in the Northwest is 183 years young and ready to celebrate. Enjoy live music, an old-fashioned baking contest, tree cuttings, children's activities and more at Old Apple Tree Park. Free. For more information, call 360-619-1108. *City of Vancouver*

## **Environmental Concert of Oregon**

4 to 11 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 2

The Environmental Concert of Oregon is dedicated to ecological sustainability and transition to a greener economy in the state of Oregon. The annual benefit concert, education and job expo event at the Oregon Convention Center will bring together individuals and businesses and help inspire, entertain, motivate and empower them toward conscious involvement and cooperation with our shared environmental concerns. \$15 to 25. For more information, call 503-731-7847. *ECOregon, Oregon Convention Center*

## **Homeschool naturalist program at Cooper Mountain**

1 to 4 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 5

Created for home school families, these natural science classes incorporate hands-on discovery and outdoor experiences with Oregon state science benchmarks. To accommodate families with multiple children, two classes will run simultaneously – a coyote program for ages 6 to 9 and a migration class for ages 9 to 12. \$20. Advance registration required; call 503-629-6350. *Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District*

## **Evening Canoe the Slough**

6 to 8:30 p.m. Wednesday,  
Oct. 6

Explore the Columbia Slough by boat in search of beavers, great blue herons and other twilight wildlife. Bring your own boat and life jacket or borrow one from the council. Free. Registration for boat rentals required in advance; call 503-281-1132. *Columbia Slough Watershed Council*

## **Ducks 101: waterfowl identification class**

7 to 9:30 p.m. Thursday,  
Oct. 7

Every autumn a million ducks, geese and swans fly over the region's wetlands, and tens of thousands stay in the Portland area to spend the winter.

Waterfowl are the region's most abundant and diverse group of wintering birds and are easy to identify. Join Metro naturalist and expert birder James Davis to find out who's who in this large group of beautiful birds. Suitable for adults and teens. Meet in room 370 at Metro Regional Center. Registration and payment of \$10 required in advance; call 503-797-1650 option 2. *Metro*



## **School's Out Scramble**

8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday,  
Oct. 8

Head to the hills on a wild climbing adventure. Scramble on rock in an attempt to summit a craggy Cascade peak. Learn about basic mountaineering and wilderness travel on this safe and fun adventure. Suitable for both beginners and those with experience ages 11 to 18. \$35 includes transportation and instruction. Advance registration required; visit [www.portlandparks.org/register](http://www.portlandparks.org/register). For more information, call 503-823-6378. *Portland Parks & Recreation*

## **Autumn birds at Smith and Bybee Wetlands**

9:30 a.m. to noon Saturdays,  
Oct. 9, Oct. 30 and Nov. 13

By October, the wintering waterfowl and raptors have arrived in large numbers to join the year round residents at Smith and Bybee Wetlands. The falling cottonwood leaves turn the trail into a beautiful yellow brick road. Flocks of noisy geese descend through the golden light. The annual drop in water level each fall also results in shorebirds and other waders descending on the wetlands to feed in the mud and shallow water. Suitable for adults and children age 10 and older. Bring binoculars or borrow a pair on site; spotting scopes provided. Meet Metro naturalist James Davis in the natural area parking lot at 5300 N. Marine Drive. Free. Advance registration required; call 503-797-1650 option 2. *Metro*



## **Baltimore Woods plantings**

9 a.m. to noon Saturdays, Oct. 9 and Nov. 20

Plant native trees and shrubs in North Portland's Baltimore Woods to restore this unique oak habitat in the middle of the city. Tools and gloves provided. Advance registration required; call 503-844-9571 ext. 332. SOLV

## **Grow your own organic veggies**

10 to 11:30 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 9

Visit the Washington County Fair Complex Demonstration Garden in Hillsboro for time-tested organic gardening tips from Oregon State University horticulturist Weston Miller. Learn to grow a robust variety of tasty vegetables year-round. Get the latest on weeding effectively, watering without waste, enhancing soil fertility and controlling pests without poisons. Complimentary coupons and publications for all participants. Use Clover Leaf entrance at the west end of the fairgrounds. Free.

Advanced registration encouraged; call 503-234-3000. Drop-ins welcome if space is available. *Metro and OSU Extension Service Community and Urban Horticulture*

## **No Ivy Day** 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**Saturday, Oct. 9**  
Join volunteers in an annual effort to halt the aggressive spread of invasive English ivy at natural areas throughout the region, including Forest Park and Tryon Creek State Natural Area. Morning work parties are followed by food and a celebration at Lower Macleay in Forest Park at 12:30 p.m. View locations and register at [www.noivyleague.com](http://www.noivyleague.com). *No Ivy League*

## **Rainwater harvesting workshop and barrel sale**

9 to 11 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 9  
This workshop will focus on both the fundamentals of harvesting rain water for later use and designing a rain garden to improve stormwater infiltration. Meet at Estacada Library. There

will also be a sale of recycled 55-gallon, food grade barrels at \$70 per barrel. Advance registration required; call 503-655-3144. *Clackamas County Soil and Water Conservation District*

## **Ancient forest mushroom class**

2 to 4 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 10  
Join mycologist Gary Slone for a two-hour class that ends with a walk on an easy trail in the old growth forest at Oxbow Regional Park. Learn about mushroom classification and edibility and then gather, identify and compare specimens. Beginning and experienced shroomers age 12 and older are welcome. Bring your own mushroom specimens for identification. Meet at Alder Shelter (picnic area A). Registration and a fee of \$10 required in advance. There is a \$5 per vehicle entry fee payable at the park entrance. Call 503-797-1650 option 2 to register. *Metro*

## **Forest Park Day of Stewardship**

9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.  
**Saturday, Oct. 16**  
Join the largest volunteer work party of the year at Forest Park and lend a hand with trail maintenance and habitat restoration projects. No experience required; all tools and instruction provided. A volunteer appreciation party follows the event. Advance registration required; call 503-223-5449. *Forest Park Conservancy*

## **Transplanting perennials and natives**

10 to 11:30 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 16  
Don't fritter away the free plants at your feet! Join celebrated garden author Linda Bentler at Metro's Natural Techniques Demonstration Garden for hints on lifting and dividing your favorite flowers and using them to fill the thin spots in your border beds. Make the most of the mild fall and winter months by moving or multiplying beautiful native and well-behaved nonnative plants that grow great without fuss. Complimentary coupons and publications for

all participants. Free. Advance registration encouraged; call 503-234-3000. Drop-ins welcome if space is available. No restroom available. *Metro and OSU Extension Service Community and Urban Horticulture*

## **Animal tracking workshop at Oxbow**

10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 17  
Oxbow Regional Park is rich in tracks at this time of year when beaver, otter, fox, mink, mouse and deer often leave clear footprints in the sand. With practice, you can learn to read the ground like an open book. You will also learn to make plaster casts of animal tracks. Local tracker Terry Kem will introduce you to the basics of track identification and interpretation and the awareness and stealth skills needed to watch wildlife at close range. Suitable for adults and families. Bring a snack and meet at the floodplain parking area. Registration and payment of \$10 required in advance. There is a \$5 per vehicle entry fee payable at the gate. To register call 503-797-1650 option 2. *Metro*

## **Whooo goes there? Owls of Oregon**

7 to 9:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 21  
Come to the new Nature House at Cooper Mountain for a special class all about owls. Owls have always fascinated people because of their unique appearance and nocturnal lifestyle. These nighttime hunters have amazing adaptations for finding and catching their prey. Despite their popularity, owls are hard to see in the wild and remain a mysterious and confusing group of birds. With Halloween approaching, it's a great time to learn about owls and how to tell Oregon's owls, apart with Metro naturalist James Davis. Suitable for adults and teens. There will be stuffed specimens of real owls, owl pellets and slides of Oregon's owls, but this is not a live bird presentation. Registration and payment of \$8 per adult required in advance; call 503-629-6350 or visit [www.thprd.org](http://www.thprd.org). *Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District and Metro*

## **Tour of Untimely Departures**

6 to 9 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 31

Meet some of Lone Fir Pioneer Cemetery's residents at their graves and hear the unusual circumstances surrounding their untimely departures. Ghostly guides share the history of Lone Fir as they take you through the cemetery on a path lit with candles. Tours are approximately 45 minutes and run throughout the evening. Tickets are \$10 per adult and \$15 per family; no refunds available. To reserve your tour time in advance, visit [www.oregonmetro.gov/lonefir](http://www.oregonmetro.gov/lonefir). Tour proceeds support education, preservation and restoration efforts at Lone Fir Cemetery. *Friends of Lone Fir Cemetery*

## **Volunteer opportunities**

This event relies solely on volunteers – be a tour guide, actor, entertainer or ghoul. No experience necessary. At 10 a.m. on Sept. 11, attend a historic tour followed by a volunteer orientation. Meet at the Southeast 26th Avenue entrance of the cemetery.



Kent Derek photo

 **Welcome the rain**  
10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**Saturday, Oct. 23**

Find out how to solve your stormwater challenges at a solutions fair at Atkinson Elementary School. Learn about rainwater harvesting, rain gardens, porous pavement and more. Free. For more information, call 503-935-5366. *East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District*

 **Wilderness survival**  
9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**Saturdays, Oct. 23 and Dec. 4**

Learn how to survive in the wilderness to keep you alive and healthy in challenging circumstances. Get an introduction to the Rangers Guild and begin to build a lifelong connection to nature. \$25 For more information, call 503-354-3143. *TrackersNW*

**Mushrooms for beginners at Smith and Bybee Wetlands**

1:30 to 4 p.m. Saturdays, Oct. 30 and Nov. 13

Join Metro naturalist James Davis for an exploration of the fungi at Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area. In this beginner's mushroom field class, the basics about mushrooms and other fungi are discussed, along with how to identify this complicated group of strange and fascinating life forms. Some edibles will be discussed but this is not a wild edibles collecting trip. Suitable for adults and children age 12 and older. Meet in the natural area parking lot on North Marine Drive. Registration and payment of \$10 per adult required in advance; call 503-797-1650 option 2. *Metro* 

 **Urban expedition**  
9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**Saturday, Oct. 30**

Get on the bus and see where TriMet can really go. Use a map and compass to navigate your way to some of Portland's most spectacular places. Journey through natural areas and urban jungles to see what wild wonders await you close to home. Suitable for ages 11 to 18. Participants receive instruction map, compass use and an all-day TriMet pass.

Registration and payment of \$15 required in advance; visit [www.portlandonline.com/register](http://www.portlandonline.com/register). For more information, call 503-823-6378. *Portland Parks & Recreation*

 **Raptor identification class in Portland**

7 to 9:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 4

Hawks, eagles and falcons have always fascinated people. Come and get ready for great winter raptor watching. Metro naturalist James Davis will discuss how to tell these groups of raptors apart and the key points for identifying the most common species in Oregon. You will also learn about the natural history of raptors and the amazing adaptations of these birds for catching and killing their prey. In addition to slides, there will be study skins of the most common species for up-close looks. Suitable for adults and teens. Meet in room 370 at Metro Regional Center. Registration and payment of \$10 required in advance; call 503-797-1650 option 2. *Metro* 

 **Friends of Trees crew leader training**

9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 6

Join a key team of volunteer leaders to help surpass last year's record-breaking planting season. Learn how to plant street and yard trees in neighborhoods, and how to lead volunteers. Crew leaders guide small groups of volunteers at three or four weekend plantings between November and April. Previous experience not required. Free. To register, call 503-282-8846 ext. 24. *Friends of Trees*

 **Mount Talbert Nature Park tour**

10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 6

Explore the trails at 144-acre Mount Talbert Nature Park with Metro naturalist James Davis. Discover the variety of plants and animals that live on the largest undeveloped lava butte in northern Clackamas County. Especially interesting this time of year is the big variety of colorful fungi along the trail. Discuss basic mushroom



Rough-skinned newts

identification and identify the easy mushrooms you find. Bring binoculars or borrow a pair on site for bird watching. The trail is steep and uneven in places. Suitable for adults and children age 10 and older. Registration and payment of \$5 required in advance; call 503-794-8092. *North Clackamas Parks and Recreation District and Metro*

 **Newt Day**

noon to 4 p.m.

**Saturday, Nov. 6**

Do you love wet fall weather? Do you want to get your family out exploring in the off season? Have you always wanted to know more about local wildlife of all sizes? Delve into the wonders of autumn at Tualatin Hills Nature Park. This family-friendly event provides activities designed to inspire exploration of nature during a season when it's tempting to stay inside. Pay \$1 admission or bring two cans of food for the Oregon Food Bank. For more information, call 503-629-6350. For information on how to volunteer, call 503-629-6350 ext. 2953. *Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District*

**Groundwater 101**

8:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 13

Interested in learning where Portland's drinking water comes from? Join experts from the Portland Water Bureau for a workshop all about groundwater, Portland's secondary water supply. Visit a well, test water quality and learn about local hydrogeology that influences the groundwater protection program. Free. To register, call

503-281-1132. *Portland Water Bureau and the Columbia Slough Watershed Council*

 **Wildlife tracking**  
9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**Saturday, Nov. 13**

Learn about the art of tracking deer, beaver and other animals. Learn how to track both clear and hard-to-see prints. This class answers the important question of why the animal is there and how it lives in its habitat. \$25. For more information, call 503-354-3143. *TrackersNW*

 **Raptor identification class at Cooper Mountain**

7 to 9:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 18

Hawks, eagles and falcons have always fascinated people. Come to the new Nature House at Cooper Mountain Nature Park and get ready for great winter raptor watching. Metro naturalist James Davis will discuss how to tell these groups of raptors apart and the key points for identifying the most common species in Oregon. Learn about the natural history of raptors and the amazing adaptations of these birds for catching and killing their prey. In addition to slides there will be study skins of the most common species for up-close looks. Suitable for adults and teens. Registration and payment of \$8 required in advance; call 503-629-6350. *Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District and Metro*

## **Camassia work party**

9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**Saturday, Nov. 20**

This 27-acre preserve near West Linn features woodlands, wildflower meadows, rock gardens, ponds and willow and aspen swales. Home to more than 300 plant species including several rare ones, Camassia is a special gem in a rapidly growing urban area. Help prepare and plant native shrubs and trees. Advance registration required; call 503-802-8100. *The Nature Conservancy*

## **Thanksgiving walk at Oxbow**

10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

**Sunday, Nov. 21**

Take time to enjoy and celebrate the simple gifts of nature at Oxbow Regional Park with Metro naturalist Dan Daly, Terry Kem from Deerdance School, Elisabeth Neely and others. Open your senses while walking along the Sandy River and notice how wildlife respond to the changing season. Then, gather around the campfire as naturalists share the Thanksgiving address passed down by the Iroquois Nation. This is a simple and moving way to express appreciation for connections to nature. Hot drinks provided. Suitable for adults and families. Meet at the boat ramp. Free with park entry fee of \$5 per vehicle. Advance registration required; call 503-797-1650 option 2. *Metro*

### Register online for Metro activities

Visit Metro's online calendar to register for Metro nature activities and gardening workshops.

[www.oregonmetro.gov/calendar](http://www.oregonmetro.gov/calendar)

### Refund policy

Metro's \$5 programs are nonrefundable. Requests for all other refunds must be received 48 hours in advance of event. Cancellations exempt.

## **Smith and Bybee Wetlands paddles**

Enjoy an invigorating fall paddle at Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area. Bring your own boat and gear; boats over 17 feet need to be registered and proof of registration must be with you. Free. Advance registration required. *Friends of Smith and Bybee Lakes*

**noon to 4 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 27**

To register, call Dale Svart at 503-285-3084.

**10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 12**

To register, call Troy Clark at 503-249-0482.

## **Invasive plant removal at**

**Hazeldale Park**

**9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Dec. 18**

Help remove Himalayan blackberry from the riparian corridor of Celebrity Creek. Bring a shovel, heavy-duty work gloves, loppers and re-usable water bottle. Refreshments and water provided. Meet at the picnic tables near the parking lot. To register, call 503-629-6350 ext. 2953. *Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District*

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## Featured places



Jerome Hart photo

Located within the wild and scenic Sandy River Gorge, Metro's Oxbow Regional Park offers rare access to many of the region's natural wonders while providing a variety of unique recreational opportunities. The river draws rafters, kayakers and drift boats carrying anglers. Fifteen miles of trails invite you to explore an ancient forest with centuries-old trees and ridges and ravines carved by volcanic and glacial flows. Oxbow is a great place to see wildlife and animal tracks. The area's natural habitat makes an ideal home for wildlife such as mink, beaver, raccoon, fox, deer, osprey, songbirds, salmon, elk, black bear, cougar and many others.

### Blue Lake Regional Park

20500 NE Marine Drive, Fairview  
503-665-4995

### Oxbow Regional Park

3010 SE Oxbow Parkway, east of Gresham  
503-663-4708

### Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area

5300 N. Marine Drive, Portland  
503-797-1650

### Mount Talbert Nature Park

10695 SE Mather Road, Clackamas  
503-742-4353

### Cooper Mountain Nature Park

18892 SW Kemmer Road, Beaverton  
503-629-6350

### Metro's Natural Techniques Garden

6800 SE 57th Ave., Portland  
503-234-3000

### Graham Oaks Nature Park

11825 SW Wilsonville Rd., Wilsonville  
503-797-1545

### Oregon Zoo

4001 SW Canyon Road, Portland  
[www.oregonzoo.org](http://www.oregonzoo.org)  
503-226-1561

## Metro | Making a great place

Clean air and clean water do not stop at city limits or county lines. Neither does the need for jobs, a thriving economy and good transportation choices for people and businesses in our region. Voters have asked Metro to help with the challenges that cross those lines and affect the 25 cities and three counties in the Portland metropolitan area.

A regional approach simply makes sense when it comes to protecting open space, caring for parks, planning for the best use of land, managing garbage disposal and increasing recycling. Metro oversees world-class facilities such as the Oregon Zoo, which contributes to conservation and education, and the Oregon Convention Center, which benefits the region's economy.

[www.oregonmetro.gov](http://www.oregonmetro.gov)



### Metro Council

From left: Carl Hosticka, district 3; Rod Park, district 1; Kathryn Harrington, district 4; David Bragdon, Council President; Carlotta Collette, district 2; Robert Liberty, district 6; Rex Burkholder, district 5

### Auditor

Suzanne Flynn

### On the cover

Kids exploring Graham Oaks, photo by NarrativeLab, Inc.; red-breasted sapsucker, photo by volunteer naturalist John Driscoll.

If you have a disability and need accommodations, call 503-813-7565, or call Metro's TDD line at 503-797-1804. If you require a sign interpreter, call at least 48 hours in advance. Activities marked with this symbol are wheelchair accessible:

### Bus and MAX information

503-238-RIDE (7433)

To be added to the GreenScene mailing list or to make any changes to your mailing information, call 503-797-1650 option 2.



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## Salmon homecoming at Oxbow

Oct. 16, 17, 23 and 24



**S**picy scents of autumn trees, giant golden leaves on maples, silvery chatter of water ouzels in the river and kinglets in the conifers. These are the smells, sights and sounds of Oxbow Regional Park in the autumn. Witness the return of wild salmon to one of the Pacific Northwest's premier rivers – the glacier-fed Sandy – just 45 minutes from downtown Portland. On the third and fourth weekends in October, enjoy viewing salmon on both Saturdays and Sundays. On Saturdays only, go on a guided mushroom walk in the ancient forest.

### Salmon viewing

11 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
Saturdays and Sundays

Naturalists are on hand at the river's edge to help spot spawning salmon and interpret their behavior and life cycle. Special salmon-viewing glasses are available on loan. Salmon viewing proceeds rain or shine.

The trail is unpaved and fairly level; wear good walking shoes. Inquire at the entry booth for starting location of the salmon viewing then follow the signs to the salmon! Suitable for all ages.



### Mushroom walk

2:30 to 4 p.m. Saturdays only

Join naturalist James Davis for an exploration of the abundant fungi in Oxbow's ancient forest. On this beginners mushroom walk learn the basics of mushrooms and other fungi and how to go about identifying this complicated group of strange and fascinating life forms. While not all specimens are identified, this introduction will deepen your appreciation of the amazing variety of shapes, colors, textures and smells that make these life forms so intriguing. Suitable for adults and children age 12 and older. Meet at Alder Shelter (group picnic area A) at 2:15 p.m.

Programs are free with a \$5 per vehicle entry fee to the park. Registration not required. Leave pets at home. For more information, call 503-797-1650 option 2.