WINTER 2010

GreenScene

Your winter guide to great places and green living

www.oregon**metro.gov**

watch

trace

burrow

glisten

give

launch

exhale

Metro | *People places. Open spaces.*

Rough-legged hawk

Jim Cruce photo

Raptor Road Trip

Annual event celebrates birds of prey

9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 6

Explore Sauvie Island in search of magnificent bald eagles, hawks and falcons that spend the winter on the island. On this special day devoted to raptors, experienced naturalists and hawk experts host activities and answer your questions at four locations around the island. Enjoy guided bird viewing, meet live raptors up close and sharpen your hawk identification skills. Hot drinks and donuts are available in the morning to keep you warm while you breakfast with the birds.

How does the road trip work?

Begin at Kruger's Farm Market and pick up your event map and raptor identification guide. The event fee is $10 per vehicle, cash only, and includes a Sauvie Island Wildlife Area parking permit.

To reach Kruger's, take the Sauvie Island Bridge and continue straight 1.5 miles (past Howell Territorial Park) to the farm entrance on your right. Carpooling is encouraged.

Spotting scopes and a crash course in raptor identification are provided with naturalists on hand to point out the birds. Bring binoculars and field guides if you have them and dress for the weather. This event takes place rain or shine. The road trip is suitable for birders of all skill levels and families are welcome.

While you don't have to be an "early bird" and get up at the crack of dawn to see these birds of prey, you should allow approximately three hours to visit all four locations.

What will you see?

It all depends on what nature has in store. Frequently sighted raptors include bald eagles, red-tailed hawks, American kestrels and Northern harriers. With a little luck, you might spot a rough-legged hawk, Cooper's hawk, merlin or peregrine falcon. Beautiful snow geese, sandhill cranes and great blue herons are commonly seen at this time of year.

For more information about the Raptor Road Trip, call 503-797-1650 option 2.

Three of the four event locations offer wheelchair access.

Sponsored by Metro, Audubon Society of Portland, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and HawkWatch International

Fantastic four

Metro naturalist James Davis offers identification tips for the most common raptors seen on the Raptor Road Trip or on any winter day in the region.

Arranged from the largest to the smallest

Bald eagle

Long, broad wings look plank-like

Big head and beak

Adults have white head and tail

Biggest raptor in Oregon

Red-tailed hawk

Broad, fairly long wings

Short, broad tail

Underside has "dark head, white breast, dark belly" pattern

Most common raptor in the Portland area

Northern harrier

Long wings and long tail

Flies low over fields with wings held up in a shallow "V"

Has a bright, white rump patch

American kestrel (falcon)

Streamlined shape

Narrow, pointed wings

Long, narrow tail

Perches on wires and hovers over fields

Smallest hawk-like bird in the Portland area

Metro grant programs invest in innovation and involvement

People in communities all over the Portland metropolitan area have generated innovative solutions to solve neighborhood problems, restore and preserve wildlife habitat and enhance quality of life. There's no shortage of opportunities to roll up your sleeves and get involved. Perhaps you have worked at a natural area removing litter and invasive species? Maybe your company sends employees to be "reading buddies" with kids at a local school?

Metro is proud to support hundreds of local projects – large and small – by awarding thousands of grant dollars every year. Metro looks for initiatives that reflect thoughtful research, help strengthen the community, involve residents and deliver results. Funds are given to nonprofits, businesses, schools, governments and others who want to make a difference.

Field trips to a working farm yield results

For hundreds of North Portland schoolchildren, lessons learned in the fields at Sauvie Island Center about food, farming and the land are as fresh as leafy greens, as crisp as carrots, and as surprisingly tasty as a turnip or radish. A take-home recipe book brings lessons to life.

Metro funding source: Community enhancement grant program
Grant recipient: Sauvie Island Center

Wintering-in Workdays refrain, "repair, prepare"

To help 23 seniors and disabled homeowners stay safely and independently in their homes, a team of volunteers tripled the impact of donations by clearing yards of blackberries, cleaning gutters, building new porch steps and rails, and more.

Metro funding source: Community enhancement grant program
Grant recipient: REACH Community Development Corporation

Kids dig deep, plant roots in Lents restoration project

Hundreds of local youth and adult volunteers planted 6,000 native trees and shrubs along a quarter-mile stretch of the Springwater Corridor in Lents. To date, 300 cubic yards of concrete, gravel and asphalt have been removed and recycled from the former lumber mill site in outer Southeast Portland.

Metro funding source: Nature in Neighborhoods restoration and enhancement grant program
Grant recipient: Ed Kearns, Lents Springwater Corridor habitat restoration project

Wise water and waste manager earns "big gulp" from efforts

An industrial manufacturer in Northwest Portland proves that economic vitality does not have to come at the expense of ecosystem health. Installing nature-friendly designs, Owens Corning decreases average water use by 25 percent – that's 400 gallons of fresh water per production hour!

Metro funding source: Nature in Neighborhoods restoration and enhancement grant program
Grant recipient: Owens Corning

It's the water … and much, much more!

Rain-inspired art and nature-friendly landscape designs come to life in this Humbolt neighborhood outdoor classroom and living lab. Residents and visitors to the North Portland demonstration site find a rain garden, cistern, porous pavement treatment and creative art for disconnected downspouts.

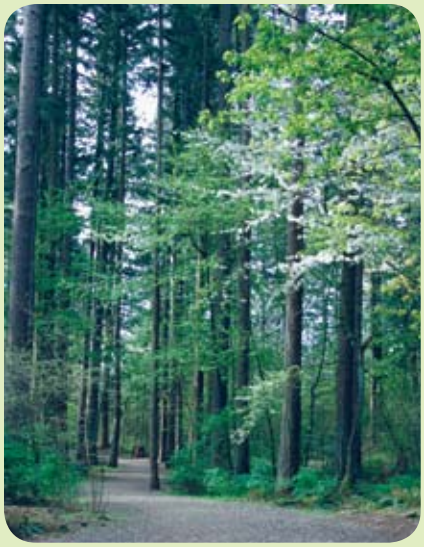
Metro funding source: Nature in Neighborhoods capital grant program
Grant recipient: East Multnomah Water and Soil Conservation District

Nadaka Nature Park comes into view

One of the best kept secrets in Gresham is now easier to find thanks to improved access from an acquired parcel along bustling Northeast Glisan Street. A caring community of local hands-on activists attends to the ongoing needs of this gem of a park.

Metro funding source: Nature in Neighborhoods capital grant program
Grant recipient: East Wilkes Neighborhood Association

Sauvie Island Center



Nadaka Nature Park — Lee Dayfield photo

Find out more about Metro grant opportunities and projects

www.oregonmetro.gov/grants

MetroPaint milestone

Retail recycled paint hits 10-year mark

What saves about 100 kilowatt hours of energy and an estimated 115 pounds of carbon dioxide emissions for each gallon used instead of new paint? Metro's recycled latex paint, of course! This fall MetroPaint celebrated 10 years as a retail product helping the region reduce waste, conserve natural resources and look good while going green.

Jerome Hart photo

Metro's paint-recycling operations have come a long way since launching in 1992 at the agency's first permanent household hazardous waste facility. After initially giving away 55-gallon drums of recycled paint in the early years – primarily to nonprofits and government agencies – Metro in 1999 transformed the product into retail brand MetroPaint, available in 5-gallon pails and, later, 1-gallon cans.

In 2005, after more than a dozen years at Metro South transfer station in Oregon City, the paint-recycling program settled into its current Swan Island site in North Portland. The program has moved beyond mixing paint with boat paddles to conducting the most sophisticated process of any such municipally operated endeavor nationwide.

Paint recycling makes a difference for people and the environment. Metro has recycled more than 1 million gallons of latex paint since 1992, helping save natural resources and keeping reusable materials out of landfills. Each year, Metro collects more than 5 million pounds of household hazardous waste, with about 40 percent of it latex paint. With eligible batches of leftover latex then processed into quality, low-cost color paints, consumers get a sustainable product that's easy on the wallet, too.

Got unwanted paint?

Help protect the environment and conserve natural resources by taking it to selected collection sites such as Metro's hazardous waste facilities for proper disposal or recycling. For details, call Metro Recycling Information at 503-234-3000 or visit Metro's web site.

Share a ride and enter to win free lift tickets

This winter CarpoolMatchNW and Mt. Hood Meadows Ski Resort are teaming up to promote the CarpoolMatchNW "one time trip" feature that allows users to both offer and request rides to events including ski trips, hikes, concerts, Seahawks Football and even day trips to the Oregon Coast.

Register your own one time trip on CarpoolMatchNW.org during November, December and January and then complete the entry form available on your profile within the first five days of the following month. Each month three names will be drawn to receive two Mt. Hood Meadows lift tickets.

CarpoolMatchNW.org is the regional rideshare matching service for Oregon and Southwest Washington. Over 11,000 commuters are registered. For more information, call Metro at 503-813-7566.

CarpoolMatchNW.org
LOG ON · MATCH UP · DRIVE OFF

DID YOU KNOW?

Metro has sold nearly 1 million gallons of recycled paint to more than 80,000 satisfied customers since 1992.

MetroPaint, certified by Green Seal and the Master Painters Institute, was named a 2008 Top 10 Green Product by Sustainable Industries business magazine.

Oregon in 2009 passed the nation's first law requiring manufacturer-financed management of leftover paint, paving the way for eventual statewide paint recycling.

Kent Derek photo

www.oregonmetro.gov/paint

Grow green

Free natural gardening presentations

Got a garden club, neighborhood association or civic group? Don't miss these free presentations by Metro's natural gardening specialists. From compost and chemical-free lawns to organic edibles and robust blooms, Metro's experts are ready to talk tips and share gardening tricks at your meeting. Each program includes a visual presentation, discussion, hands-on learning and free publications for all participants. To schedule a presentation, call Metro Recycling Information at 503-234-3000.*

Gardens safe for kids and pets
Learn how to make your yard nontoxic, safe and fun for kids and pets.

Sustainable gardening essentials
Gather tips for effective, easy, nontoxic ways to design and care for your yard and garden.

Organic soils and compost
Get the real dirt on compost and organic amendments for a thriving, nontoxic yard.

Native plants
Discover the beauty, benefits and ease of growing native plants.

Organic gardens of eatin'
Taste the delicious difference with tips on growing organic foods in your own backyard.

Terrific turf without toxics
Get the latest on growing a great lawn that's safe for children and pets.

Water-wise gardening
From wise design to rain-harvesting, learn how to water without waste.

Pesticide-free pest control
Discover effective, nontoxic techniques to tackle weeds, pests and diseases in your yard.

Petals without poisons
Get the scoop on selecting and safely protecting roses and other eager bloomers.

Birds, bees and butterflies
Gain helpful hints on attracting beneficial wildlife.

*Requires minimum 20 participants. For venues in the Portland metropolitan area only.

Photos by Jerome Hart, Jim Cruce and Paul Sanford

www.oregonmetro.gov/garden

Portland Fix-It Fairs

8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays, Jan. 9 and 30

It's Fix-It Fair season! Now in its 23rd year, Fix-It Fairs are free events designed to help area residents save money, live healthier and connect to valuable resources for sustainable living. Fix-It Fairs offer day-long exhibits, hourly how-to classes and free giveaways.

Hosted by the Portland Bureau of Planning and Sustainability, this year's Fix-It Fairs feature workshops led by Metro staff offering participants free tips on green cleaning and natural gardening.

Join your neighbors at the healthy homes booth and talk to Metro's experts about how to spend less and stay healthy.

Easy steps to green cleaning
Discover safe, simple recipes for your healthy home.

Led by Caran Goodall, Metro toxics reduction educator

Grow pesticide-free veggies in raised beds
Learn the basics of growing your own vegetables by converting your lawn (or weed patch) to productive raised beds – all without the use of toxic garden chemicals.

Led by Glen Andresen, Metro natural gardening educator

Natural gardening 101
Get an introduction to composting, plant selection and poison-free pest and weed control.

Led by Paul Sanford, Metro native plant and garden educator

Fair locations
Jan. 9 | David Douglas High School, 1001 SE 135th Ave., Portland

Jan. 30 | Parkrose High School, 12003 NE Shaver St., Portland

Future Tonquin Trail

Bike riders and pedestrians can look forward to safe, new connections between Wilsonville, Sherwood and Tualatin

Plans are under way for the highly-anticipated Tonquin Trail, a multi-use regional trail that will connect the communities of Wilsonville, Sherwood and Tualatin. Linking important natural areas such as the Willamette River and Graham Oaks Nature Park with the Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge in Sherwood, the Tonquin Trail will highlight the unique and striking landscape of the Tonquin geological area. The Tonquin Trail will connect to other regional trails and provide increased access to transit, homes, jobs, schools and shopping areas.

Help determine where the trail will be located by providing your input online or at an open house in December. Metro staff and partners will be available to provide background information about the project, discuss proposed trail alignments and potential connections and listen to your ideas and feedback. The open houses are family-friendly with refreshments and children's activities.

Voter-approved funds for trail acquisition were included in Metro's 2006 Natural Areas bond measure.

Find more information about the trail and comment online beginning Dec. 7.

www.oregonmetro.gov/tonquintrail

OPEN HOUSES

Tuesday, Dec. 8
6:30 to 8:30 p.m.
Tualatin Council Chambers Building
18880 SW Martinazzi Ave., Tualatin

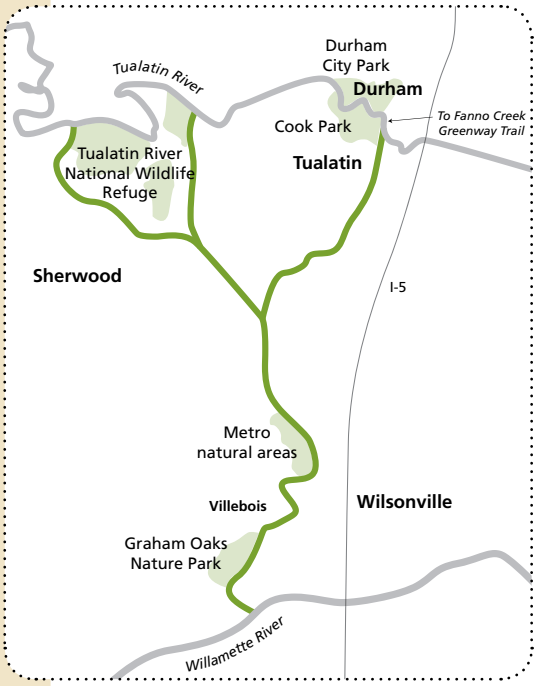
Co-hosted with Tualatin Parks Advisory Committee

Wednesday, Dec. 9
6 to 8 p.m.
Wilsonville City Hall, Council Chambers
29799 SW Town Center Loop E., Wilsonville

Co-hosted with Wilsonville Planning Commission

Thursday, Dec. 10
5:30 to 7:30 p.m.
Sherwood Community Room, Sherwood City Hall
22560 SW Pine St., Sherwood

Co-hosted with the City of Sherwood

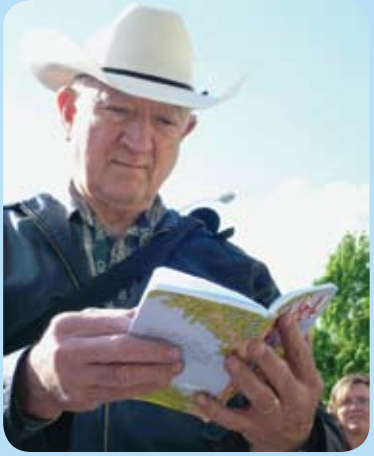


The trail alignment shown above is conceptual only and does not represent the location of the future Tonquin Trail. Many potential trail segments will be studied prior to identifying a preferred trail alignment.

THE INTER TWINE

The Tonquin Trail is part of The Intertwine, our connected network of parks, trails and natural areas in the Portland, Oregon and Vancouver, Washington region. To learn how you can help us plan, protect and promote The Intertwine, visit www.theintertwine.org.

Winter inspiration from Walk There!



Grab an umbrella, throw on a couple of layers and hit the pavement with your copy of Metro's walking guide. The book leads you on 50 winter-friendly 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.

Walk There! 50 treks in and around Portland and Vancouver is available for $9.95 in bookstores and other retail locations throughout the region. Visit Metro's web site to buy a copy online or download free route maps and descriptions.

Richard Kidd (above), former mayor of Forest Grove, consults a Walk There! guide for his next walking adventure.

Visiting a favorite park in the winter can provide a fresh perspective.

Give the gift of walking

Walk There! is a great gift for anyone on your holiday list who'd like to exercise more, save money on gas and parking, or reduce their carbon footprint. Since it's designed to fit in your pocket, it is the perfect size for stockings. Create an "experience gift" by giving the guide along with a homemade coupon redeemable for your services as a walking buddy or a babysitter.

Let your feet take you shopping

Take "buy local" to a new level by doing your holiday shopping on foot. Let Walk There! introduce you to the main streets, downtowns, art districts and outdoor markets that happen to be among the region's best places to shop. Explore your own front yard or the town next door; each trip begins or ends near a bus or MAX stop. Destinations include downtown Vancouver, Forest Grove, Hillsboro, Milwaukie, Sherwood and Gresham, and Portland's Saturday Market, Pearl District and Alberta Arts District.

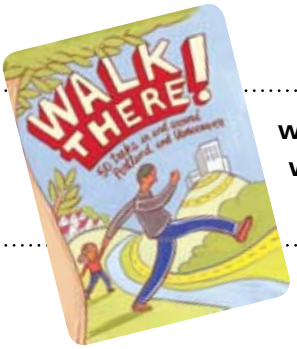
See the light

We make up for shorter days and darker skies by stringing lights at this time of year. Take in the twinkle of the city on a walk along the Willamette River and over Portland's bridges. Check out the holiday lights of Peacock Lane on a Laurelhurst walk. Wind your way through the west hills to the Oregon Zoo and enjoy ZooLights between Nov. 27 and Jan. 3.

Resolve to walk

Looking for a new year's resolution that's good for your wallet, good for the planet and good for you? Why not set a goal to complete all 50 of the Walk There! trips in 2010? Increasing your physical activity can raise your energy level and help you lose or maintain weight. Walking is good for your emotional health too. It's easy to stay indoors during the cold and wet winter months but with a goal and a walking buddy, you can get out in nature and have time to really look at your surroundings and enjoy the company of friends and family. So put on a pair of good shoes and head out the door! Whether strolling the neighborhood or exploring a new area, you'll have fun, be invigorated and feel your outlook brighten with the lights.

Metro developed the guide in partnership with local governments and community groups and with support from Kaiser Permanente.



www.oregonmetro.gov/walkthere

Winter restoration at Metro's natural areas

Metro biologist Elaine Stewart enjoys a snowy planting day in Forest Grove.

While you might think of spring as planting season, the late fall and winter months are prime planting time for the seeds, shrubs and trees so critical to ongoing restoration efforts at Metro's natural areas.

Bare root shrubs and trees, carefully chosen for historic habitat accuracy by Metro's science and stewardship team, arrive at the restoration site in a dormant state, ready to be planted in the cold ground where they will rest and recover until spring.

Seeds supplied by Metro's Native Plant Center depend on the frost and weathering action of the cold winter months to soften their hard coats. Known as stratification, this cold weather conditioning allows seed embryos to break through in the spring in search of warm sun and nutrients.

Graham Oaks natural area

During the winter of 2008, close to 150,000 native trees and shrubs common throughout the Willamette Valley in the 1800s were planted at Graham Oaks natural area in Wilsonville to restore historic landscapes and create rare wildlife habitat. The slow growing Oregon white oak planted as part of the restoration effort will need 50 to 100 years to transform open fields into oak savannah and woodland, making it a legacy project to be enjoyed by future generations. This winter, restoration crews will carry out maintenance activities and hand mulch the young trees and shrubs throughout the 230-acre natural area.

Gales Creek floodplain

The 44-acre Gales Creek property, located in the Tualatin and Gales Creek watersheds just south of Forest Grove, provides a different challenge to restoration crews during the winter. Lying mostly within the Gales Creek floodplain, a large portion of the site floods each winter making bank stabilization a priority. Planting the riparian buffer between creek and land with native plants and trees helps minimize erosive runoff, promote bank stability and support water quality. The Native Plant Center provides native grass and wildflower seeds collected locally for winter restoration efforts.

Native Plant Center

Metro's Native Plant Center, located near Wanker's Corner in Tualatin, provides an essential supply of rare native seeds and plant stock to support Metro's restoration projects. Center staff and volunteers gather, grow and distribute locally adapted native seeds and plant stock needed to restore historic landscapes and create rare wildlife habitat at targeted natural areas around the region. Interested in helping? See calendar listing for Native Plant Center volunteer Saturdays on page 10.

In addition to planting and maintenance work, winter is also the ideal time for Metro's volunteer wildlife monitors to conduct winter waterfowl surveys. The collected data is used to establish a baseline for avian species that have chosen a Metro natural area to call home.

www.oregonmetro.gov/volunteer

Deep Creek acquisition

As its name indicates, lands along Deep Creek are mostly steep and forested, like the 18 acres on Deep Creek's North Fork now protected by Metro. The property's wooded slopes offer significant habitat protection for two threatened native fish species – winter steelhead and coho salmon – and also benefit spring Chinook, migratory and resident cutthroat trout, and lamprey eel. It's the first purchase in this area, where the goal is to preserve water quality and fish habitat for the Damascus area.

Metro's voter-approved Natural Areas Program funds land acquisition and capital improvements that protect water quality and fish and wildlife habitat, enhance trails and wildlife corridors, and provide greater connections to nature in urban areas throughout the Portland metropolitan area. Visit Metro's web site for acquisition updates, information about grant opportunities and new projects near you.

www.oregonmetro.gov/naturalareas

Natural area sneak preview tours

Forest Park connections in Northwest Portland

10 to 11 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 6

If you've ever visited or passed by the Audubon Society of Portland's headquarters on Northwest Cornell Road in Portland, you've glimpsed this forested and steeply sloped property that is the latest acquisition in the Forest Park Connections target area. Adjacent to Audubon's 128-acre sanctuary with its four miles of public nature trails, this 86-acre addition blends seamlessly into the forested landscape.

The site includes mature big-leaf maple, hemlock, Western red cedar, alder and Douglas fir. However, the acquisition also brings with it the challenge of invasive weeds – the most significant being English ivy – present throughout the site to varying levels. Join Metro Council President David Bragdon, Metro Councilor Rex Burkholder and Portland Parks Commissioner Nick Fish for this early winter tour while Metro and Audubon staff speak about how they're restoring the forest to health after repeated rounds of ivy removal treatment. Learn about their long-term commitment to protecting this investment for the benefit of the public and local wildlife. Suitable for adults and children 10 and older. Free. Advance registration required; call 503-797-1650 option 2.

Canemah Bluff in Oregon City

11 a.m. to noon Saturday, Feb. 20

Home to conifer forests, ash bottomlands, Pacific madrone, forested wetlands and rare Oregon white oak woodlands, Canemah Bluff natural area in Oregon City brings a bit of the wild close in for residents of the surrounding neighborhoods. In the spring of 2009, Metro acquired a 24-acre parcel that expanded the total acreage of the existing natural area to 158 acres.

With its sweeping views of the Willamette River and neighboring West Linn, its rocky outcrops and small caves, and the historic Canemah Pioneer Cemetery close by, Canemah Bluffs offers visitors a unique perspective on the biological, geological and historical value of the area that is further protected with this recent acquisition. Tour the new property with Metro Council President David Bragdon, Metro Councilor Carlotta Collette and Oregon City Mayor Alice Norris. Easy walking over uneven trails. Suitable for adults and children 10 and older. Free. Advance registration required; call 503-797-1650 option 2.

Winter calendar

Natural area restoration planting days
9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays
Join Friends of Trees and others in your community to help with vital restoration work at urban greenspaces. No experience necessary; gloves, tools and guidance provided. For planting day locations and directions, call 503-284-8733. For groups of 10 or more, call 503-282-8846 ext. 12. *Friends of Trees*

Neighborhood trees planting days
9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays
Join Friends of Trees and others in your community to help plant street and yard trees. No experience necessary; gloves, tools and guidance provided. For planting day locations and directions, call 503-284-8733. For groups of 10 or more, call 503-282-8846 ext. 12. *Friends of Trees*

Lunch with the birds
noon to 1 p.m. Wednesdays
Spend your lunch hour learning how to identify waterfowl and other birds. Bald eagles and great blue herons are just two of the wonderful creatures that can be seen on the preserve. Meet at the north viewing shelter next to Clean Water Services on Highway 219 just south of Hillsboro. Free. For more information, call 503-681-6278. *Jackson Bottom Wetlands Preserve*

Blackberry removal at Carolwood Park
9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Dec. 5
Help cut and dig Himalayan blackberries from restoration sites throughout the riparian corridor of Beaverton's South Johnson Creek. Bring heavy-duty work gloves, loppers, shovel and reusable water bottle. Refreshments provided. For more information, call 503-629-6350 ext. 2350. *Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District*

Blackberry removal at Matrix Hill Park
9 a.m. to noon Saturdays, Dec. 5 and 19, Jan. 23 and 30
Help remove Himalayan blackberry from the slopes of Matrix Hill Park. Bring heavy-duty work gloves, loppers, shovel and reusable water bottle. Refreshments provided. For more information, call 503-629-6350 ext. 2350. *Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District*

TogetherGreen Volunteer Day
10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturdays, Dec. 5 and Jan. 30
Help spruce up Audubon's 150-acre nature sanctuary. Your day begins with a continental breakfast and short program followed by trail maintenance projects including invasive plant removal and replacement with native plants and trees. Tools and lunch provided. Minimum age 15 years with a volunteering adult. For more information, call 503-292-6855 ext. 108. *Audubon Society of Portland*

Forest market holiday fair
10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 5 and 6
Support the exceptionally talented artisans and culinary gurus of our local community by attending the holiday fair at Tryon Creek State Natural Area. A portion of the proceeds goes toward the education and restoration programs at Tryon Creek. Planned activities for children and adults include making holiday crafts and herbal salve. Free. For more information, call 503-636-9886 ext. 225. *Friends of Tryon Creek*

Oaks Bottom Wildlife Refuge walk
noon to 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 6
Join Mike Houck on a bird sight and song walk around 160-acre Oaks Bottom Wildlife Refuge. The walk is a gentle two-mile stroll on a combination of paved and uneven dirt paths with two moderate hills. More than 100 species of birds have been seen in Oaks Bottom, Portland's first official urban wildlife refuge. Meet at the parking lot at the north end of Sellwood Park at Southeast Sellwood Boulevard and Seventh Avenue. Free. Advance registration required; call 503-292-6855 ext. 112. *Audubon Society of Portland*

A walk on the wetlands
9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Dec. 12
Discover the magic of Jackson Bottom Wetlands Preserve with this opportunity to enjoy the natural world of the wetlands. Learn about the local birds and wildlife that make Jackson Bottom unique. The terrain is mostly flat and the pace slow to minimize disturbing the wildlife. Weather appropriate clothing and shoes recommended. Bring your binoculars and a field guide if you own one. Registration and payment of $3 per person required in advance; call 503-681-6278. *Jackson Bottom Wetlands Preserve*

Blackberry removal at Tualatin Hills Nature Park
9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays, Dec. 12 and Jan. 16
Help remove invasive blackberry from the Big Fir Trail in Tualatin Hills Nature Park. Bring heavy-duty work gloves, loppers, shovel and reusable water bottle. Refreshments provided. Meet at the Nature Park Interpretive Center. For more information, call 503-629-6350. *Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District*

Native Plant Center volunteer Saturdays
9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays, Dec. 12, Jan. 9 and 23, Feb. 13 and 27
Help out at Metro's Native Plant Center in Tualatin which provides an essential supply of rare native seeds and plant stock to support Metro's restoration projects. Activities vary throughout the winter and may include harvesting native bulbs and willow stakes, replanting seedlings grown from seed collected at Metro's natural areas, potting up native species into gallon pots, maintaining seedbeds, and planting native plugs for prairie and wetland seed production. This is a family-friendly volunteer opportunity and a great way to learn more about Metro's native species conservation program. Prior gardening experience not required. Gloves, tools, water and a snack provided. For more information or to register, call 503-797-1653 or send e-mail to nativeplantcenter.volunteers@oregonmetro.gov. *Metro*

wildlife watching · sustainable living · volunteering · nature discoveries · paddling · natural gardening · wheelchair accessible

Blackberry removal at Rosa Park

9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Dec. 19

Help cut and dig Himalayan blackberries from the riparian corridor of Celebrity Creek in Rosa Park. Bring heavy-duty work gloves, pruners, shovel and reusable water bottle. Refreshments provided. Meet at the picnic tables. For more information, call 503-629-6350. *Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District*

Winter waterfowl walk at Valley Memorial Park Cemetery

10 a.m. to noon Saturday, Dec. 19

Mike Houck and Dean Markasky of Valley Memorial Park co-lead this winter waterfowl viewing walk along the nature trail encircling a 6-acre lake. With over 40 acres of landscaped area, woods and wetlands, the memorial park is natural home to a diverse array of birds and wildlife. Advance registration required; call 503-292-6855 ext. 112. *Audubon Society of Portland*

Winter Solstice hike at Oaks Bottom Wildlife Refuge

1 to 4 p.m. Monday, Dec. 21

Join Mike Houck for a hike on the shortest day of the year around the 2-mile loop at Oaks Bottom Wildlife Refuge. View winter waterfowl at their peak at Oaks Bottom during the cold winter months. Come celebrate the rebirth of the sun as the days begin to get progressively longer. Advance registration required; call 503-292-6855 ext. 112. *Audubon Society of Portland*

Day off camp

8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Monday, Dec. 21

Wednesday, Dec. 23

Thursday, Dec. 31

Monday, Jan. 18

Spend your days off from school having fun in nature. Expect hiking adventures, creative crafts, games, activities and friends. Camp themes include winter solstice, the scoop on scat, animal tracking and learning about what wildlife eat. Suitable for ages 7-11. Meet at the Nature Park Interpretive Center. Registration and payment of $49 (in district) per camp required in advance; call 503-629-6350. *Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District*

Early winter paddle at Smith and Bybee Wetlands

noon to 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 26

Come join the Friends of Smith and Bybee Lakes for a day after Christmas paddle. Take advantage of this great time to explore the lakes, see wildlife and burn off extra holiday calories. Bring your own boat and equipment. Meet at the parking lot on North Marine Drive. Free. Advanced registration required; call Dale Svart at 503-285-3084. *Friends of Smith and Bybee Lakes*

Ross Island New Years Day paddle

noon to 3 p.m. Friday, Jan. 1

What better way to shake off the fuzzies from the night before than with a refreshing wintertime paddle around Ross, Hardtack, East and Toe Islands? Join Mike Houck on a paddle around Ross Island and watch for waterfowl, bald eagles and peregrine falcons. Share the camaraderie of other paddlers on the first day of the new year. Advance registration required; call 503-292-6855 ext. 112. *Audubon Society of Portland*

Audubon Christmas bird count

8:30 a.m. to noon Saturday, Jan. 2

This year marks the 110th annual Christmas bird count season. Each year, birders from all over North and Central America commit to counting all the birds in a 15-mile diameter on a given day. Join birders of all skill levels at Tryon Creek State Natural Area and help with the Portland count. Free. Registration not required. For more information, call 503-636-9886 ext. 225. *Friends of Tryon Creek*

Winter birds at Smith and Bybee Wetlands

9:30 a.m. to noon Saturdays, Jan. 9 and 30, Feb. 27

The winter birds are really settled in at Smith and Bybee. The most obvious winter visitors are the numerous waterfowl and raptors that hang out at the lakes until spring. The year-round residents, as well as a few winter songbirds, are easier to see because all the leaves are gone. Meet Metro naturalist James Davis in the natural area parking lot at 5300 North Marine Drive. Suitable for adults and children 10 and older. Bring binoculars or borrow a pair on site; spotting scopes provided. Free. Advance registration required; call 503-797-1650 option 2. *Metro*

Build bat houses at Cooper Mountain

9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Jan. 9

As primary predators of night-flying insects, bats play a vital role in maintaining the balance of nature. Bats need highly specialized places to rest and nest, places that are often in short supply. Bat boxes are specially designed to meet these amazing animals' particular needs. Come enjoy a short presentation on bats and then build a bat house that will be placed at Cooper Mountain Nature Park. Group limited to 10 participants; minimum age 8 years. Free. Advance registration required; call 503-629-6350. *Metro and Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District*

Winter ecology and sign tracking

10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 12

The art of tracking is at the heart of the curriculum of these monthly tracking and awareness classes. Suitable for both beginning and intermediate students, participants learn how to track deer, otter, nutria, beaver and other animals over leaf, litter, moss or grass. Together students create a working map of wildlife movement in one of Portland's most important urban greenspaces – Oaks Bottom Wildlife Refuge. Through a mixture of hands-on activities and presentation, students develop a basic foundation of tracking and awareness. Registration and payment of $65 required in advance; visit www.trackersnw.com. *TrackersNW*

Project WILD early learner workshop

9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 13

Part of Project Learning Tree, this all day workshop focuses on the pre-kindergarten to first grade educator. Participants explore the role of trees and forests in daily living and how to incorporate natural sciences and multi-sensory activities into early learner curriculum. Learn how to accommodate multiple learning styles in your teaching approach through a combination of classroom activities and field experiences. Dress for outdoor activities; bring lunch and a notebook. Free to Oregon educators and includes three free curriculum guides. Advance registration required; call 503-636-9886 ext. 225. *Friends of Tryon Creek State Park*

Help protect and restore the Willamette River

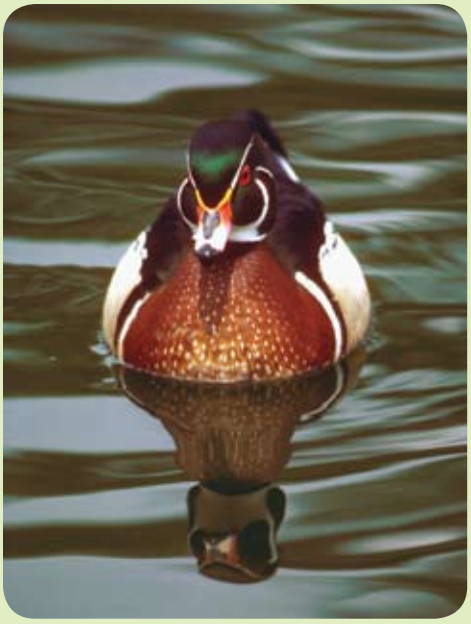
9 a.m. to noon Saturdays, Jan. 16 and Feb. 20

Join Portland Parks and Recreation and the South Portland Riverbank Partners for their monthly work party along the Willamette River. Activities vary with the season but generally include planting native plants, removing invasive species, improving trails and fences, and removing litter from the river banks. Tools and training provided. Appropriate for all ages; children must be accompanied and supervised by an adult. Meet at the sheltered picnic area at the southern end of Willamette Park. For more information, call 503-823-7016. *Portland Parks & Recreation*

Ducks 101: Waterfowl identification class

7 to 9:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 14

Half a million ducks, geese and swans spend the winter in the northern Willamette Valley and many visit or pass through Smith and Bybee Wetlands. Waterfowl are some of the easiest birds to identify and great for learning the basics of bird identification. Join Metro naturalist 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 in Portland. Registration and payment of $10 per person required in advance; call 503-797-1650 option 2. *Metro*



Wood duck

Stories in the stones on Mount Talbert

11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 23

Join Metro naturalist Dan Daly and explore the rugged beauty of this unique lava dome as you wander through a white oak woodland in winter. Mount Talbert is part of a series of cinder cones and small shield volcanoes that began bubbling up almost 3 million years ago, leaving Mount Tabor, Rocky Butte and Mount Talbert in our region in its wake. Participants gain a basic understanding of geology in the region from the stories unlocked in the stones and land formations along the way. Appropriate for ages 10 years to adult. Trails are rough and steep in places. Cost is $5 for adults; under 18 free. Advance registration required; call 503-797-1650 option 2. *Metro*

Cooper Mountain Nature Park open house

11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays, Jan. 23 and Feb. 21

Park visitors are welcome to stop into the Nature House and tour the education classroom, learn about upcoming programs. *Tualatin Hills Parks & Recreation*

Winter wonderland at Cooper Mountain

9:30 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 26

As the seasons change so does life in the park. Discover how the animals and plants in the Nature Park survive the cold days of winter. Suitable for ages 3-4 years. Registration and payment of $8 per person required in advance; call 503-629-6350. *Tualatin Hills Parks & Recreation District*

Nature Kids preschool program open house

4 to 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 28

Nature Kids is a nine-month program for children ages 3 1/2 to 5 1/2 where kids learn about nature through hands-on exploration, journals, art, stories, singing, friendship and fun. The nature park Interpretive Center staff invites parents and their preschoolers to learn more about Nature Kids and the other free programs offered throughout the year. For more information, call 503-629-6350. *Tualatin Hills Parks & Recreation District*

Cooper Mountain nature play time

10 a.m. to noon Fridays, Jan. 29, Feb. 5, 12, 19 and 26

Make new friends while playing in nature at Cooper Mountain. Drop-in play time available between 10 a.m. and noon on Fridays. The Nature House will be transformed into a safe environment filled with games, learning and exploration. Suitable for ages 1-4. Parent participation required. $4 per child. For more information, call 503-629-6350. *Tualatin Hills Parks & Recreation District*

Mid-winter paddle at Smith and Bybee Wetlands

noon to 4 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 31

Join the Friends of Smith and Bybee Lakes for a brisk but exciting mid-winter paddle. Look for wintering waterfowl, resident eagles and other local birds. Bring your own boat and equipment. Meet at the parking lot on North Marine Drive. Free. Advance registration required; call Troy Clark at 503-249-0482. *Friends of Smith and Bybee Lakes*

Wilderness survival and primitive skills evenings

6 to 9 p.m. Tuesdays, Feb. 2 to 23

Ten thousand years ago on this planet, people were mostly nomadic. There was no need for expensive homes, tools or toys. Shelters, clothing and boots were self-designed and handmade. The village was central to survival. The skills of self-sufficiency are still of value today. Gain the foundations for hand craft and primitive skills through four evenings of instruction. From cordage and fiber arts to stone tools and fire by friction, learn from a skilled instructor and through practice with peers. Meet at 5040 SE Milwaukie Ave. $85 for all four evenings or $25 per evening. Advance registration required; call 503-253-5898.

Feb. 2 – Cordage, knots and nets
Feb. 9 – Stone tools
Feb. 16 – Fire by friction
Feb. 23 – Birch bark baskets

Hosted by TrackersNW

Wild about Cooper Mountain

1 to 3 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 3

Geared toward preschoolers and kindergartners, this class may include walks, stories, hands-on activities, games and crafts. Suitable for ages 4-6. Registration and payment of $13 required in advance; call 503-629-6350. *Tualatin Hills Parks & Recreation District*

Raptor identification class at REI Portland

6:30 to 8:50 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 4

Hawks, eagles and falcons have always fascinated people. Metro naturalist James Davis discusses how to tell these groups of raptors apart and the key points for identifying the most common species in Oregon. Get ready for great winter raptor watching and be well prepared for the Sauvie Island Raptor Road Trip on Feb. 6. Learn about the natural history of raptors and the amazing adaptations of these birds for catching and killing their prey. In addition to slides, study skins of the most common species are available for an up-close look. Suitable for adults and teens. Meet at REI in the Pearl, 1405 NW Johnson Street, Portland. Registration and payment of $10 per person required in advance; call 503-797-1650 option 2. *Metro*

Native planting at Summercrest Park

9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Feb. 6

Help plant native trees and shrubs throughout the riparian corridor of Beaverton's South Johnson Creek at Summercrest Park. Bring heavy-duty work gloves, shovel and reusable water bottle. Refreshments provided. Meet at the park trailhead, Southwest Rigert Road east of 170th Avenue, Beaverton. For more information, call 503-629-6350 ext. 2350. *Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District*

Blackberry removal at Beacon Hill Wetlands

9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Feb. 20

Help remove Himalayan blackberries throughout the natural areas of Beacon Hill Wetlands. Bring heavy-duty work gloves, shovel, loppers and reusable water bottle. Refreshments provided. Meet at the Turquoise Court entrance. For more information, call 503-629-6350. *Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District*

Invasive plant removal at Autumn Ridge Park

9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Feb. 20

Help remove English holly, Himalayan Blackberry and English ivy from the natural areas of Autumn Ridge Park. Bring heavy-duty work gloves, loppers and reusable water bottle. Refreshments provided. Meet at the basketball courts. For more information, call 503-629-6350 ext. 2953. *Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District*

Native planting at Tualatin Hills Nature Park

9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Feb. 20

Help plant native trees and shrubs throughout the West Woods restoration site at the Tualatin Hills Nature Park. Bring heavy-duty work gloves, shovel and reusable water bottle. Refreshments provided. Meet at the Nature Park Interpretive Center. For more information, call 503-629-6350 ext. 2953. *Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District*

Winter paddle at Smith and Bybee Wetlands

noon to 4 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 21

Join the Friends of Smith and Bybee Lakes for a late winter paddle in the wildlife area. Winter will still have a grip on the place but spring is just around the corner. Bring your own boat and equipment. Free. Meet at the parking lot on North Marine Drive. Advance registration required; call Troy Clark at 503-249-0482. *Friends of Smith and Bybee Lakes*

Tilth toolshed series: Plan your garden

6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 24

Spring is right around the corner and it's time to start planning your vegetable garden. Attend this class to learn practical planning techniques for selecting seeds, optimizing space, increasing harvests and rotating crops. Participants receive free seeds and a tilth garden planning packet. Suitable for beginning and intermediate gardeners. Registration and payment of $35 or $31 for Tilth members and Lake Oswego residents required in advance; call 503-675-2549. *Oregon Tilth*

Cooper Mountain tree planting

9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Feb. 27

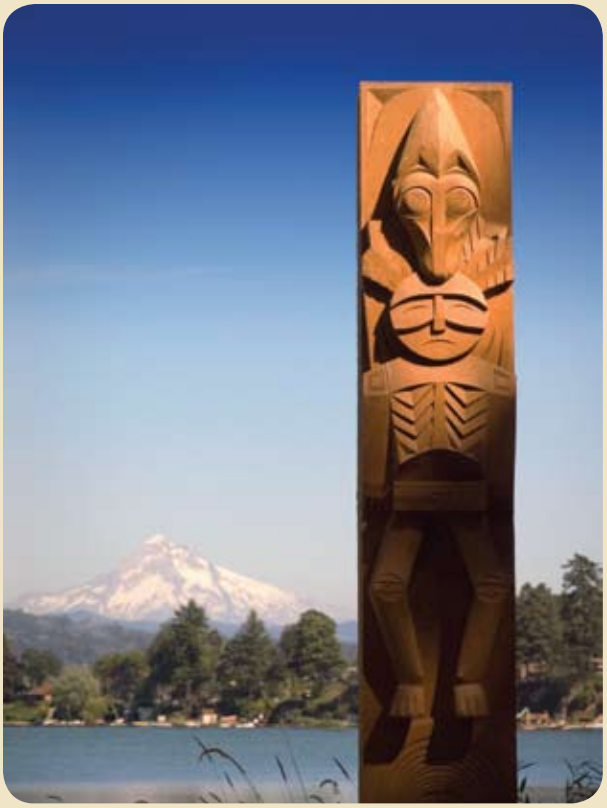
Help plant native trees and shrubs in the Douglas fir forest understory at beautiful Cooper Mountain, the region's newest nature park. Dress for the weather – this project happens rain or shine! Water, snack, tools and gloves provided. Group limited to 25 people. Advance registration required; call 503-797-1653 or send e-mail to bonnie.shoffner@oregonmetro.gov. *Metro*

Native planting at Serah Lindsay Estates

9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Feb. 27

Help plant and mulch native trees and shrubs throughout a restoration site at Serah Lindsay Estates. Bring work gloves, shovel and reusable water bottle. Refreshments provided. Meet at the end of Northwest Oakley Court located north of Northwest Laidlaw Road in the Bethany area. For more information, call 503-629-6350 ext. 2953. *Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District*

To register for Metro nature activities online, visit www.oregonmetro.gov/calendar



Nichaqwli Monument at Blue Lake Regional Park Jerome Hart photo

Annual passes for Metro parks available now

Purchase your 2010 annual park pass for free admission and parking at Oxbow and Blue Lake regional parks, Chinook Landing Marine Park and the M. James Gleason Boat Ramp. Passes are valid Jan. 1 through Dec. 31. Passes are not accepted for special events at Oxbow and Fourth of July fireworks at Blue Lake. A regular pass is $40; a senior pass is $30 and a low-income/disability pass is $10 (documentation required). MasterCard and Visa are accepted. Pick up a pass at the Blue Lake or Oxbow park office or Metro Regional Center. You can also purchase your pass online at www.oregonmetro.gov/parks or call 503-665-4995 to order by phone.

Metro honors Oregon State Parks passes for disabled veterans; call 503-665-4995 for more information.

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www.oregon**metro.gov**

You're invited

There are so many great things to do in the Portland metropolitan area that they won't all fit on these pages. Check out Metro's online calendar for hundreds of nature activities, volunteer ventures, tours, pedals, walks, workshops, seminars and public meetings. Visit www.oregonmetro.gov/calendar.

Places to go

Metro's parks offer wildlife watching, hiking, boating, camping, fishing and more. Visit www.oregonmetro.gov/parks or call 503-797-1850 to get directions and park information, reserve a picnic shelter or plan a field trip.

Sustainable living

Make the region greener at home, in your garden and on the road. Visit www.oregonmetro.gov/sustainableliving for guides to biking, walking, reducing waste, green cleaning and gardening with nature.

Getting rid of stuff

Discover everything you need to know about recycling, composting and disposing of garbage and hazardous waste on Metro's web site. Find your hauler, become a recycling star and help keep your neighborhood clean. Call Metro Recycling Information at 503-234-3000.

Volunteer

As a Metro volunteer, you will be directly involved in improving and protecting the region's great places for people and wildlife now and in the future. Find volunteer stories and opportunities at www.oregonmetro.gov/volunteer.

Participate

Help shape the future of the region by contributing your ideas on land, transportation, recycling, parks, trails and how we grow. Visit www.oregonmetro.gov/participate for public comment opportunities, meeting schedules and more.

Featured places

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

Oregon Zoo
4001 SW Canyon Road, Portland
www.oregonzoo.org
503-226-1561

Protected by mature trees, Mount Talbert's hiking trails are perfect for a woodsy winter walk.

Metro | *People places. Open spaces.*

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.oregon**metro.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
Bird watchers at Smith and Bybee Wetlands and a rough-legged hawk.

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, call 503-797-1650 option 2.

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