



IUWC 2019 Field Trips

Sunday, June 2nd

URBAN BEAVERS & BIRDING IN THE JOHNSON CREEK WATERSHED

Time: 7am – 11am

Organizers: David Helzer, City of Portland Bureau of Environmental Services

Cost: \$10

Explore small and large natural area parks along Johnson Creek in southeast Portland. Beaver are actively recolonizing this now urbanized watershed. We'll look at a variety of beaver occupied sites and discuss challenges and approaches we have employed in Portland for minimizing conflicts while striving to keep beavers and ecological services they provide on the landscape. We'll also look and listen for breeding birds along the way: warblers, thrushes, vireos, woodpeckers, sparrows, flycatchers, swallows, raptors, and a variety of waterbirds may be encountered.

David Helzer is a birder and biologist with the City of Portland Environmental Services who works on birds, beaver, other wildlife, habitat, and wetlands.





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FERNHILL WETLANDS BIRDING

Time: 8am – 12pm

Organizer: Joe Liebezeit, Audubon Society of Portland and Carol Murdock, Clean Water Services
Cost: \$10

Fernhill Wetlands is part of more than 700 acres in Forest Grove owned by Clean Water Services for water resources management. Fernhill utilizes natural treatment systems or wetlands to improve water quality by removing nutrients, cooling, and naturalizing the water after initial treatment at the Forest Grove Wastewater Treatment Facility. In the summer, 5 million gallons of water are cleaned each day at Forest Grove and then Fernhill before flowing to the Tualatin River. Fernhill Wetlands provides an outstanding example of how wetland restoration, wildlife habitat, and wastewater treatment strategies can be integrated together to provide holistic strategies for managing urban water resources. Participants on this tour will learn about Clean Water Service's large-scale wetland restoration project to enhance wildlife habitat as well as help treat wastewater more naturally and cost-effectively. You will learn about Portland Audubon's community science monitoring effort to help understand how birds that use Fernhill Wetlands are responding to the habitat restoration. We'll be looking and listening for dozens of bird species ranging from waterfowl like Northern shovellers and wood ducks, a host of songbirds including recently arrived long-distance migrants like the colorful Western tanager, and even secretive marsh birds like the Virginia Rail. Coffee and pastries will be served.

Joe Liebezeit is Portland Audubon's Staff Scientist and Carol Murdock is Clean Water Service's Water Resources Program Manager.





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OREGON ZOO: BEHIND THE SCENES

Time: 9am – 12pm

Organizers: Organizer: Metro/Oregon Zoo

Cost: \$10

Field trip description coming soon!





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ST. JOHN'S PRAIRIE BIRDS AND HABITAT WALK

Time: 7am – 11am

Organizer: Katy Weil, Metro

Cost: \$10

Come along to hear and see birds using this grassland prairie area within the city limits of Portland. This area is located within the larger Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area, one of the region's Important Bird Areas. This site was previously the Portland city dump, which was closed almost 30 years ago and continues to be closed to the public due to long term gas recapture activities from landfill material. A future nature trail is in the planning stages. Restoration of the prairie has been ongoing and data from avian surveys has shown that migrating birds are taking full advantage of that good work. We will walk the site using established tracks to avoid the taller grass areas. The pathways are primarily flat with some gentle slopes. Metro has seeded native grasses and forbes on two habitat patches to create lark habitat in order to attract the threatened Streaked horned lark to the site. Birds we may see include Savannah sparrow, Lazuli bunting, Western meadowlark, Tree swallow, and the occasional eagle and osprey flying overhead, enroute to the adjacent wetlands. Walking time approximately two and a half hours. Sunscreen and sturdy hiking shoes highly recommended. No poison oak preventive required. Oregon Metro's Parks and Nature Conservation Program manages and restores over 16,000 acres of natural areas and parks within the three counties in the Willamette Valley. Monitoring these sites for response to restoration and maintenance actions involves amphibian, avian, mammal, and some reptile survey.

Katy Weil is Metro's wildlife monitoring coordinator, has been working in the field of wildlife biology since 1982, and is consistently and happily surprised with what birds we find in these urban areas.





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BULL RUN WILDLIFE AND WATER EXPEDITION

Time: 8:30am – 4:30pm

Organizer: John Deshler and Dick Robbins, City of Portland Water Bureau

Cost: \$20

This Bull Run Watershed tour offers the unique chance to see firsthand the wildlife management activities that support Portland's drinking water supply. We will explore Portland Water Bureau (PWB) infrastructure and the landscape at the heart of the water supply system in the context of wildlife research and management efforts that support PWB's: (1) Habitat Conservation Plan, (2) Bull Run Lake Permit Agreement with the United States Forest Service, (3) water protection and treatment activities related to *Cryptosporidium*, an intestinal parasite, and (4) infrastructure projects. We will discuss what camera surveys and trapping have revealed about Bull Run wildlife, and how spotted owls may be coping with the invasion of barred owls there. We will also discuss results of our research at a western toad breeding area that was formed by the creation of Dam 1, and that has been invaded by reed canary grass. Some of the highlights may include: stops at two dams that create the Bull Run Reservoirs, a walk through old-growth forest, lunch at Bull Run Lake, and with any luck, some views of grouse, bears, and other wildlife.

John Deshler is the wildlife biologist at the Portland Water Bureau. Dick Robbins is PWB's recently retired Watershed Protection Manager who worked previously at the US Forest Service on the Willamette and Klamath National Forests.





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OAKS BOTTOM & SPRINGWATER TRAIL BIKE RIDE

Time: 1pm – 4pm

Organizer: Bob Marshall, Oregon Department of Transportation and Paul Ketcham, City of Portland Bureau of Environmental Services

Cost: \$10

Please join a bicycle tour of some of Portland's urban nature. The 3-hour tour is 14 miles on mostly flat grades, but with a few moderate inclines and a short pitch of smooth gravel. Departing from the University Place Hotel (310 SW Lincoln St.) at 1:00 PM, the route will go along a pedestrian trail, through Lovejoy Fountain Park, then onto the bike path on Harrison St. to the South Waterfront. We will cross the Willamette River on the Tillicum Bridge to the Springwater Riverfront Trail. Stops along the trail will include a feral cat feeding station, public art, Red-Legged frog ponds, fish passage improvements and gazing out across the lagoon at waterfowl. We'll ride into Sellwood Park to an overlook on bluffs over the lagoon, then cross the river again on the newly completed Sellwood Bridge and ride back along the west side green way where urban high rises and riparian restorations coexist. Participants will be responsible for bringing their own bicycles. Information will be provided regarding bike rental and the use of the less svelte Nike share-bikes. The tour group is limited to 20 people. The route mostly follows multi-use paths, but some of the ride will be on roads, shared with traffic. Participants are expected to be in moderately good physical condition and be capable and attentive bicyclists.

The tour guide, Bob Marshall, is a Portland resident, an outdoors enthusiast, and a landscape architect with Oregon Department of Transportation. Paul Ketcham is an environmental program manager with City of Portland's Bureau of Environmental Services. He leads a science team on watershed health and river restoration.





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CARLI CREEK ENHANCEMENT PROJECT

Time: 1pm - 4pm

Organizer: Gail Shaloum, Clackamas County Water Environment Services and Suzi Cloutier, The Clackamas River Basin Council

Registration Cost: \$10

The Carli Creek Enhancement Project is a regional, integrated habitat enhancement and stormwater quality project on a 15-acre parcel of land adjacent to the lower reach of Carli Creek. Carli Creek is a tributary of the Clackamas River located south of the unincorporated community of Clackamas, Oregon. The design features a new diversion pipeline to route untreated stormwater that currently discharges to Carli Creek to the project site; two new diversion structures to regulate flow diverted from the creek and to treat it; a series of step pools to dissipate energy; and a treatment facility that incorporates a vegetated detention cell, swales, and bioretention and constructed wetland cells. This facility will treat stormwater through a combination of settling, filtration, and infiltration. The design also includes instream habitat improvements, a backwater wetland channel, and native planting and habitat structures throughout the site. Situated along the Clackamas River, wildlife in the area uses the site, including deer, coyote, birds, and threatened & endangered species of salmon and trout.

Participants on this tour will see the completed project, learn about the construction process, and view signs of wildlife present on the property. A bus will take participants from the conference location to the site; travel time from Portland State University is approximately 25 minutes each way. Total time proposed is 3 hours, including 1 hour of travel time and 2 hours on site.





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COLUMBIA SLOUGH CANOE PADDLE

Time: 1pm – 5pm

Organizer: Matthew Lee and Jennifer Devlin, Columbia Slough Watershed Council

Cost: \$10

Join us to paddle one of Portland's most hidden urban waterways, the Columbia Slough. The Columbia Slough was historically part of the Columbia River floodplain, but through a century of land use changes and urban development is one of the most managed waterways in the state of Oregon. The slough is still a critical area for wildlife with most of the wetlands in the city located here. It is also home to the largest concentration of Western painted turtles in the Portland region. This field trip will explore how natural areas, wildlife, and the management of this waterway interface with urban development and regional infrastructure. This field trip is perfect even for people with no experience or beginner level experience in boats.

Matthew Lee is the Stewardship Director for the Columbia Slough Watershed Council and works with local partners to restore habitat, cleanup up the slough, and construct green infrastructure to reduce stormwater runoff. Jennifer Devlin is the Environmental Program Coordinator for the Columbia Slough Watershed Council and works on creative projects to get people connected to this gem in the city and has only fallen in twice.





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Sunday, June 2nd

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE TOUR: CREATING HEALTHY LANDSCAPES FOR PEOPLE AND WILDLIFE

Time: 9am - 3pm

Organizers: Bob Sallinger, Audubon Society of Portland, Casey Cunningham and Tom Lipton, City of Portland Bureau of Environmental Services

Cost: \$10

Portland is well known for its innovative green infrastructure and wildlife stewardship strategies. This tour will take participants to a variety of sites to learn about Portland's efforts to create healthy green landscapes for people and wildlife. Participants will visit the Willamette River Greenway and learn about efforts to restore the Willamette River and Oaks Bottom, Portland's first wildlife refuge and learn about Portland's efforts to create an interconnected system of parks, trails, and natural areas. Participants will also learn about Portland's efforts to green the built environment through innovative strategies to promote green roofs, green streets, and urban tree canopy. We will also visit yards certified through Portland's renowned Backyard Habitat Certification program which has enrolled over 5,000 yards in an effort to promote neighborhood scale habitat restoration and stewardship. Participants will see and learn about Portland's innovative efforts to address wildlife hazards such as window strikes, light pollution and cat predation. Finally, we should see some Peregrines nesting on Portland's downtown buildings. This tour is 6 hours and will include a stop at a local brewpub for lunch (lunch not included). Join us for a day exploring a wide range of programs, projects and strategies promoting urban wildlife conservation.

Bob Sallinger is the Conservation Director for the Audubon Society of Portland. Casey Cunningham is a Landscape Architect with the City of Portland Environmental Services, an obsessive birder, and a wannabe ecologist.





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BEAVER IN URBAN ENVIRONMENTS

Time: 1pm – 5pm

Organizer: Crystal Durbecq and Bruce Barbarasch, Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District
Cost: \$10

The Fanno Creek Greenway is a 120+ acre suburban wildlife corridor where beaver activity has been increasing over the past several years. The tour will view and discuss several benefits (water quality, partnerships, and habitat) and challenges (including trails, recreation, and infrastructure) that come with having active beaver in an urban park environment. Participants will visit several dams, some of which have been modified with flow devices to allow for water movement throughout the year. We will also look at issues such as trail and bridge flooding, and vegetation removal by beaver, and discuss management methods.

Crystal Durbecq is a Nature & Trails Specialist for the Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District, which involves management and care of over 100 natural areas throughout the district. Bruce Barbarasch is the Nature & Trails Manager for the Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District, where he coordinates natural resources stewardship, educational programs, and trail management. Beavers are an endless source of fascination and head scratching for Bruce.

