

The Columbia Slough Watershed

NATURE IN THE CITY



1 Kelley Point Park (N Marine Drive & Lombard St.)
This multi-use park features cottonwood forest with grassy, open areas. It offers inviting beaches, as well as fabulous views of the Columbia Slough, Willamette and Columbia Rivers, Sauvie Island, and marine traffic.

2 Kelley Point Park Canoe Launch
Just inside the park entrance, a parking area provides access to a canoe launch.

3 Kelley Point Park to Smith/Bybee Wetlands Trail
The trail starts across the street from the entrance to the park. It passes through grassland and along the wetlands.

4 Ramsey Lake Wetlands (City of Portland guided tours only) This city-constructed wetlands/stormwater treatment facility is planted with native vegetation. It borders Port of Portland mitigation wetlands to the north and restored historic wetlands and forests.



5 St. Johns Landfill Grasslands (No public access, but can be seen from adjacent viewpoints)
This closed landfill is part of the Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area. Its 264 acres of grasslands complement the adjacent natural areas. Future trail access to the North Portland Greenway and Smith and Bybee Wetlands is planned.

6 St. Johns Landfill Canoe Access (9363 N Columbia Blvd, across from Chimney Park)
The entrance road provides parking for an informal canoe launch. Upstream sights are lovely. Slough flows here are tidal.

7 Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area (5300 N Marine Drive)
At nearly 2,000 acres, this is one of the nation's largest urban freshwater wetlands. Its varied habitats include ash and cottonwoods, open meadows, wetlands, and Smith and Bybee Lakes. The Interlakes Trail includes two wildlife viewing platforms. A canoe launch provides water access.

8 Bicycle-Pedestrian Trail (Multiple access points)
This vacated road (formerly North Marine Drive) is part of the regional trail system located along the northeast edge of Smith Lake.

9 Wapato Wetlands (Accessible only by boat from the slough during high water)
These privately owned wetlands contain the largest stand of native Wapato ("Indian potato") within Portland.

10 Columbia Boulevard Wastewater Treatment Plant (5001 N Columbia Blvd)
The plant started treating Portland's sewage in 1952. Treated sewage is discharged to the Columbia River. A footbridge connects the Peninsula Crossing and Columbia Slough trails. The site includes a 6-acre restored forest and a boat launch accessible during high water. Low water brings mud flats.

11 Peninsula Crossing Trail (Multiple access points)
This trail connects the Willamette and Columbia Rivers and numerous greenspaces.

12 Heron Lakes Golf Courses (3500 N Victory Blvd)
These two Portland Parks & Recreation golf courses are located on the site of Vanport, a World War II housing project destroyed by flooding in 1948. At Force Lake, near the entrance, interpretive signs describe Vanport and local wildlife.

13 Vanport Wetlands (Port of Portland guided tours only)
Numerous waterfowl and shorebird species frequent this 90-acre Port-owned mitigation wetland.

14 Delta Park (N Denver Ave and Martin Luther King Jr Blvd)
This multi-use park offers sports fields, paths, a playground, and picnic tables.

15 Bridgeton Slough Walking Path (NE Bridgeton and Marine Drive)
A short trail parallels the slough. A planned extension along the levee will connect to the Expo Center.

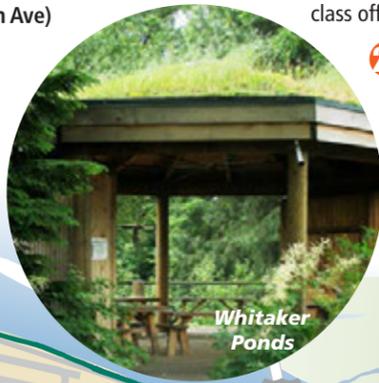
16 Columbia Children's Arboretum (NE Meadow Lane west of NE 13th)
The 27-acre arboretum and park is a mosaic of wetland, riparian, and grassland habitat. Beginning in 1968, students planted trees from each state here.

17 Flyway Wetlands (NE 13th and Golf Ct; no public access)
This 25-acre wetland natural area has no amenities or access, but can be seen from adjacent viewpoints.

18 Multnomah County Drainage District Headquarters (1880 NE Elrod)
The Drainage District maintains 35 miles of waterways, 15 miles of levees, and pumps that control water levels in 8,200 acres of the Columbia Slough watershed. Canoe launches into both the Lower (west) and Middle (east) Slough are provided.

19 Catkin Marsh (No current public access)
This 54-acre wetland, located within Broadmoor Golf Course, will be a future trail link in the regional trail system.

20 Whitaker Ponds Nature Park (7040 NE 47th Ave)
A walking path leads through a cottonwood forest, past two spring-fed ponds. This public park also includes a floating dock, canoe launch, environmental education areas, and stormwater treatment wetlands.



21 Colwood National Golf Course (7313 NE Columbia Blvd)
Large numbers of bats live here and at other golf courses along the Columbia Slough.

22 Thomas Cully Park and Nature Play Area (NE 72nd and Killingsworth)
Formerly a landfill, this 25-acre grassland park currently features a community garden. Future plans include a native plant area, sports fields, and trails with mountain views.

23 Walking and Biking Path (Between NE Clark and Alderwood Corporate Park)
This 2-mile asphalt trail passes by riparian forest and sloughs. Numerous bird species can be seen. There is a connection with the I-205 bicycle path at NE Clark and 105th.

24 Johnson Lake and Woodlands
Numerous birds and dragonflies can be seen here. The woods north of the lake are restored with western red cedar, cottonwood, and fir. Access to the trail (from the west) is via the end of NE Colfax off NE 92nd and (from the east) via Glass Plant Road.

25 Gateway Green (Access via Gateway Regional Center/Gateway MAX stop and I-205 bike path)
This 38-acre parcel is an island of trees and grassland nestled between I-84 and I-205. It contains a portion of the I-205 bike path. Future plans include a world-class off-road cycling facility and hiking paths.

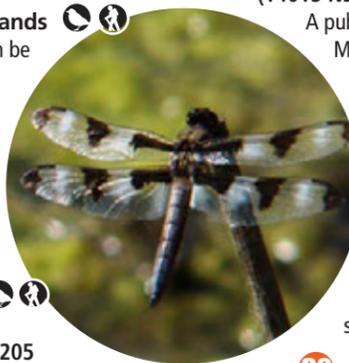
26 Columbia Slough Nature Park (11198 NE Simpson)
This 2-acre natural area borders the Columbia Slough. A canoe launch is located on Water Bureau property immediately to the west.

27 Little Four Corners/Prison Pond
North and south arms of the slough merge here. Numerous springs well up from the slough's bottom. There is good wildlife viewing from NE 112th, north of Marx Street.

28 Senn's Dairy Park (11206 NE Prescott)
This 1-acre park includes native landscaping, picnic tables, a walking path, playground, and community garden.

29 143rd Avenue Levee
The informal walking path on the elevated levee provides scenic views and good wildlife viewing. The slough trail extends west to NE 124 Avenue.

30 Glendoveer Golf Course (14015 NE Glisan)
A public walking trail circles this Metro-owned golf course.



31 Wilkes Creek Headwaters Park (NE 154th and Fremont—not yet fully open for public use)
This park is being developed both as a natural area and for active uses. The eastern branch of Wilkes Creek emerges from a hillside spring in the park.

32 Portland Water Bureau Groundwater Facility (16550 NE Airport Way)
The Columbia South Shore Well Field system provides Portland's backup drinking water from wells hundreds of feet deep. There is access to a launch and trail stretching from NE 158th Avenue to Marine Drive.

- ADA Accessible
- Biking
- Birds and wildlife
- Canoe launch
- No pets
- Parking
- Restrooms
- Walking

- TRAILS
- ROADS
- PARK/OPEN SPACE



33 Big Four Corners Natural Area
(NE 170th and Airport Way)

This 200-acre natural area includes sloughs, cottonwood forest, willow wetlands, clear cold springs, and Oregon white oak woodlands.

- **Wildlife Pond and Mitigation Wetlands (north side of NE Airport Way):** There is walk-in access on the north side of the road. No parking.
- **Mason Flats Wetland (south side of NE Airport Way):** This restored wetland provides excellent habitat for wildlife and many bird species. The NE Airport Way sidewalk provides excellent views.
- **Slough Trail:** A trail extends to the NE 185th Avenue city boundary, passing wetlands and a stormwater treatment pond along the way. The area is planted with native vegetation. Access to the trail is from the south side of NE Airport Way.

34 Multnomah County Drainage District Pump Station
(NE 174th and Marine Drive)

Water from the Upper Slough is pumped to the Columbia River here to prevent flooding inside the levees. There is access to the Marine Drive bicycle-pedestrian trail and the slough trail. No parking.

35 Nadaka Nature Park and Garden
(NE 176th and Glisan)

This 12-acre park features native plant landscaping and a 1/2-mile trail. Two acres are being developed as a community garden, meadow, nature play area, picnic shelter, and additional trails.

36 Blue Lake
Regional Park Wetlands
(20500 NE Marine Dr, Fairview)

This regional park has a walking path circling a wetland at its west end. Open ponds and emergent marsh are rich in wildlife. Blue Lake Park also offers a nature play area, boating, fishing, and swimming.

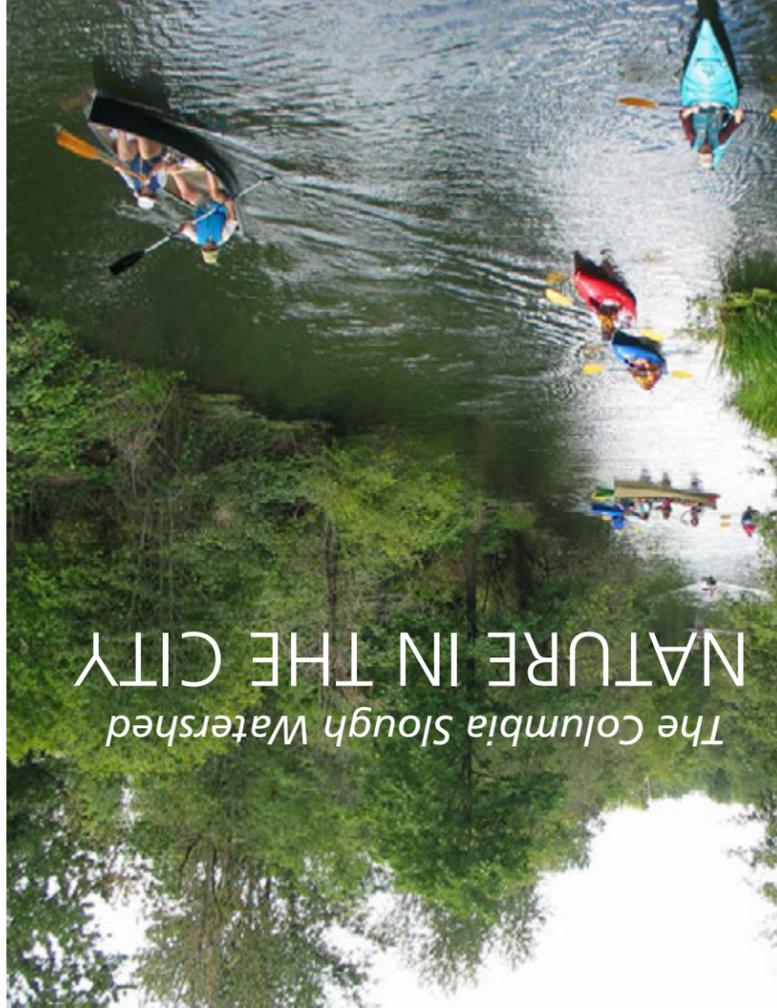
37 Lakeshore City Park
(3653 NE 217th Ave, Fairview)

The shallow 110-acre Fairview Lake has public access at this location. All other access is private. The slough begins at a small dam at the lake's west end.

38 Salish Ponds (NE 207th and Glisan, Fairview)

A 6-acre and a 12-acre pond in a former rock quarry feature ADA-accessible fishing, walking, and bird-watching opportunities.

The slough's headwaters begin at NE 170th and Powell Blvd where Fairview Creek flows north into Fairview Lake and then into the slough.



NATURE IN THE CITY
The Columbia Slough Watershed

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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| City of Portland, Bureau of Environmental Services
www.portlandoregon.gov/bes | Multnomah County Drainage District #1
www.MCDD.org |
| Columbia Slough Watershed Council
www.columbiaslough.org | Metro Regional Parks and Greenspaces
www.oregonmetro.gov |
| Portland Parks & Recreation
www.portlandoregon.gov/parks | Port of Portland
www.portofportland.com |
| The Intertwine
www.theintertwine.org | City of Gresham
www.greshamoregon.gov |
| Audubon Society of Portland
www.audubonportland.org | City of Fairview
www.fairvieworegon.gov |



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Wander,
Wonder,

Imagine a place where you can canoe or walk along waters once travelled by Lewis and Clark. Bald eagles and peregrine falcons soar above. You may spot otters or hear the slap of a beaver tail. It is quiet, beautiful, almost hidden from view. Yet, you are right in the heart of the city.

This is the Columbia Slough, a 40-mile network of wetlands, marshes, lakes, and channels that meander through the former floodplain of the Columbia River. The slough collects runoff and groundwater from the surrounding 50-square-mile watershed. Urban and natural landscapes are connected, offering an intriguing mix of sights and experiences.

In the past, thousands of Native Americans lived here. Wildlife was so abundant that in 1805, the Lewis and Clark Expedition recorded a sleepless night on the lower edge of the floodplain because of "the noise kept up during the whole of the night by swans (and) geese." As European settlers arrived, dramatic changes occurred. Much of the original floodplain was drained and filled, levees were constructed to control flooding, and upland areas were cleared for development. Today's Columbia Slough is a remnant of the original waterways, and the watershed is a diverse urban area home to 170,000 people, many businesses, a port, and an airport.



The Columbia Slough watershed is still rich in natural resources. Varied habitats support numerous species of fish, birds, and wildlife. They also provide important ecological functions: improving air and water quality, providing drainage, and helping to control flooding. Opportunities for both active recreation and peaceful contemplation abound.

Imagine a place with so much to see, learn, and do. Then step right in. You don't have far to go to discover the many pleasures of nature in the city.

Go Wild!



Birds and Wildlife

The watershed includes large core natural areas, wildlife corridors, and migratory routes. More than 175 species of birds, 28 species of fish, 29 species of mammals, and 10 species of amphibians and reptiles can be seen. Among them are river otter, beaver, coyote, bald eagle, peregrine falcon, and western pond and painted turtles. Even sea lions venture into the western part of the slough now and then.

Canoeing the Columbia Slough

In the narrow, tree-lined Upper and Middle Slough (the eastern 9 miles), paddlers can glide beneath a mixed alder, cottonwood, red-osier dogwood, and willow canopy. The brushy banks are especially attractive to wood duck, black-crowned night-heron, and the secretive green heron. The Lower Slough (the western 9 miles) is wider and tidal. Large black cottonwoods and ash trees are ideal perching and nesting habitat for osprey, bald eagle, and great blue heron.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
Columbia Slough Paddler's Access Guide,
www.portlandoregon.gov/bes/PaddlerGuide

Walking and Biking

A paved bicycle and walking path extends along much of Marine Drive, and shorter trail segments run along the slough itself, providing excellent wildlife viewing. Regional trail plans call for a complete trail system along the slough in the future.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
The Intertwine, www.theintertwine.org

PUBLIC AND PRIVATE RESTORATION PROJECTS are improving water and sediment quality for fish, wildlife and people. The City of Portland eliminated combined sewer overflows (CSOs) to the Slough in 2000. Green streets and rain gardens use natural systems to improve water quality. Over 1.2 million trees and shrubs have replaced invasive species and transformed more than 40 miles of slough banks and uplands. Together, these actions are revitalizing one of our region's most important natural areas.

