



CITY OF  
GRESHAM

# Gabbert Butte Master Plan

A place to protect, connect with nature close to home

*You're invited to help shape a plan to welcome visitors to Gabbert Butte Natural Area in Gresham.*

Gabbert Butte is one of six buttes within Gresham city limits. About 150 acres, the site is surrounded by residential neighborhoods to the east and west, and natural areas to the north and south.

Big leaf maple, alder and Western redcedar trees greet visitors to the site. Native wildflowers abound in spring.

Metro and the City of Gresham both own land on Gabbert Butte and are partnering to create a master plan for welcoming visitors to Gabbert Butte.

The project team will be talking with community members about an entrance to the natural area, trails and trail heads, and opportunities to experience nature at Gabbert Butte.

## **A community resource**

Gresham has a long history of public support for protecting its diverse natural features. The earliest Gabbert Butte preservation and park planning dates back to the 1990 City of Gresham Open Space Bond Measure, where Gresham voters approved \$10.3 million in general-obligation bonds to purchase park sites, wetlands, buttes, greenways and creek corridors for preservation. Significantly, this was the first open-space bond measure approved by any community in the Portland metropolitan area. Thanks to voters, the City of Gresham and Metro have collectively protected over 1,000 acres of open space in the East Buttes.

Gresham's buttes provide scenic views and important wildlife habitat, and are treasured natural landmarks. Gabbert



Gabbert Butte Natural Area

Butte offers a unique opportunity to access nature in the Gresham area, allowing people to connect with nature in a place that supports clean water and healthy wildlife.

## **Habitat and Water quality**

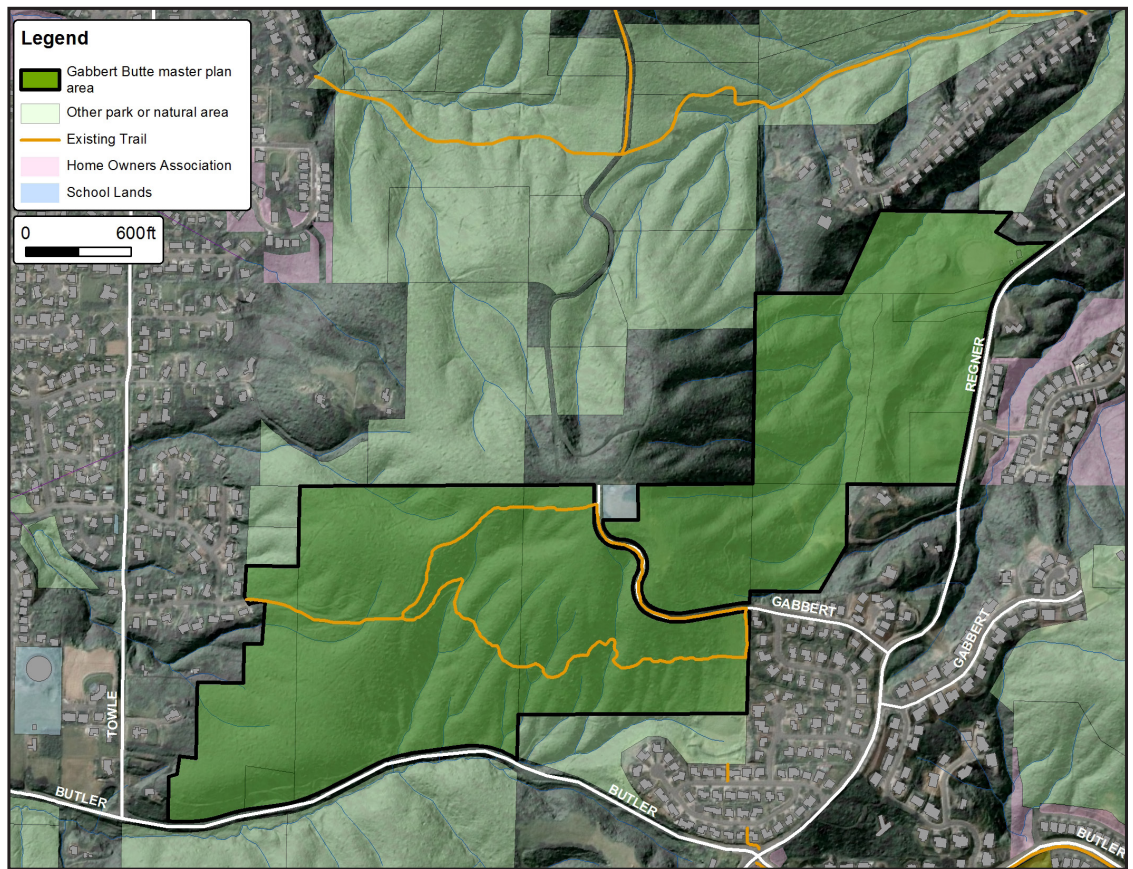
The East Buttes contain some of the largest contiguous wildlife habitat in the region. The natural areas protect the headwaters of Butler, Meadow and Kelley creeks and many other tributaries that flow into Johnson Creek. Forests along these streams keep water cool and clean for salmon and other wildlife downstream.

Like islands, the East Buttes natural areas are important for migrating birds, who need places to stop, eat and rest along their journey. For wildlife that lives here year round, the East Buttes provide a home, places to hunt and forage, and connections to streams, rivers and larger habitat areas.

The East Buttes natural areas also help to connect the watersheds of Johnson Creek and the Clackamas River. This is important for long-term health and diversity of species facing habitat loss and climate change.



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### Connect with Nature

Metro's Connect with Nature initiative is reaching out to communities of color to help Metro create parks and natural areas that are welcoming and inclusive to all cultures. Gabbert Butte is one of two sites that Connect with Nature focuses on, and outreach for the two projects is integrated. A consortium of multi-cultural planners, consultants and community members is working with Metro to identify key design principles and ways to apply them to Gabbert Butte.

Metro Parks and Nature protects clean water, fish and wildlife habitat, and creates opportunities to enjoy nature close to home through a connected system of parks, trails and natural areas.

Over the past 25 years, voters have made this mission a reality by approving two regional bond measures to purchase natural areas, and a levy to care for this growing portfolio of land. All three voter investments have called for public access as an important part of Metro's work.

### Please join us and share your vision to help make Gabbert Butte even better!

At a series of open houses, Metro and the City of Gresham are asking neighbors and community members to help shape a plan to welcome visitors to Gabbert Butte Natural Area.

Community ideas and participation will help create a plan to guide the future of Gabbert Butte Natural Area.

#### Learn more

[oregonmetro.gov/gabbertbutte](https://oregonmetro.gov/gabbertbutte)

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