



# landscapes

CONSERVING LAND FOR WILDLIFE, SCENIC VIEWS, AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES.

DESCHUTES LAND TRUST NEIGHBOR NEWS {SPRING 2019}

DESCHUTESLANDTRUST.ORG/NEIGHBOR-NEWS

## NEIGHBOR NEWS: METOLIUS RIVER PRESERVE

*We hope you heard the news! The Deschutes Land Trust welcomed a new Preserve to our family last fall: Metolius River Preserve.* Established in October 2018, the new 30-acre Preserve on the banks of the Metolius River includes mixed pine, cedar and spruce forest, and a rare fen. The Land Trust received the Preserve from The Nature Conservancy, which was gifted the property in the early 1980s by the Erskine B. Wood family. **What's special about the Metolius River Preserve?**

**The River:** Clear and cold, the Metolius River bubbles from the ground near the base of Black Butte eight miles upstream from our new Preserve. Famed for its fishery, it is equally loved by those who revel in its blue rushing rapids or serene stretches of quietly flowing water. The river is also an important home to bull trout, spring Chinook salmon, redband trout, and kokanee/sockeye salmon.

**The Fen:** A fen is a type of alkaline wetland that is fed from groundwater. Common along the coast or in subalpine regions, mid-elevation fens, like the one at the Metolius River Preserve, are rare and found infrequently throughout Central Oregon. Fens are biological hot spots and are home to a high percentage of rare or uncommon plant species.

**The Forest:** No, once you've seen one forest, you have not seen them all! In our sea of east Cascade ponderosa pine dominated forest, the Metolius River Preserve has an incredibly diverse mix of conifers on only 30 acres! The Preserve includes ponderosa pine, lodgepole pine, incense cedar, grand fir, Douglas fir, western larch, juniper, and Engelmann spruce. How cool is that?!

The Land Trust's overarching goal for the property, like all of our Preserves, is to protect and restore native wildlife habitat. As we work to develop management plans for the Preserve, we will determine future restoration activities and educational use. In the meantime, access to the Preserve will be limited to guided tours. We hope you'll join us this spring and summer to see first-hand this beautiful part of our region! **Details:** [deschuteslandtrust.org/hikes](https://deschuteslandtrust.org/hikes)



### WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR METOLIUS AREA PRESERVES?

*Join Executive Director Brad Chalfant on a special neighbors-only tour! Explore one or both of our Metolius area Preserves and learn more about the Land Trust's work to conserve and care for land in your backyard:*

- **Metolius Preserve: July 12th, 9-11am**
- **Metolius River Preserve: July 15th, 9am-12pm**

Register online:  
[deschuteslandtrust.org/metolius-tours](https://deschuteslandtrust.org/metolius-tours)



JOAN AMERO



SUE ANDERSON



## METOLIUS PRESERVE UPDATE

The Land Trust has been caring for the Metolius Preserve since 2003. Located north of Highway 20 and west of Camp Sherman, the 1,240-acre Preserve is home to pine and larch forest, three forks of Lake Creek, and a host of wildlife species. The Preserve also offers more than 10 miles of hiking and biking trails that link to longer regional trails like the Lake Creek Trail and the Metolius Windigo Trail.

In the past several years we have made many upgrades to the Metolius Preserve's visitor facilities including creating new interpretive signs, a new trail system, new pedestrian bridges, and this summer updating signs and facilities at the South Trailhead. Our new signs (seen below) share the nature of the Preserve with visitors, highlight the importance of Lake Creek, and honor the many amazing donors who helped make the Preserve possible.



The Land Trust is also replacing a portion of the South Trailhead bridge and repairing creekside viewing platforms that were damaged by recent heavy snows. In conjunction with these updates, we will also be closing the Preserve to hunting. The Land Trust has allowed walk-in hunting at the Preserve since 2003. When we established the Preserve, visitor use was fairly limited and adjacent Forest Service lands were open to hunting. Over the years, Preserve use has increased dramatically, especially with the introduction of regional trails like the Lake Creek Trail. Today hikers and bikers use the Preserve regularly and hunting is no longer compatible with these uses. This is why we are closing the Preserve to hunting.

It is however, extremely important that users remember that all of the land around the Metolius Preserve is open to hunting in accordance with state and local regulations. The Metolius Preserve is essentially an island of private property surrounded by Deschutes National Forest land. The National Forest allows hunting and therefore hunters or their marks may stray into the Preserve. While the Land Trust will do our best to mark our Preserve boundaries with no hunting signs, visitors who use the Preserve during the various hunting seasons should keep this in mind and always hike or bike with caution. **See our tips for hiking during hunting season:** [deschuteslandtrust.org/hunting-season](http://deschuteslandtrust.org/hunting-season)

## JOIN US FOR AN OUTING!

Join the Land Trust on a guided nature walk! Each year volunteers lead free walks and hikes at Land Trust Preserves including the Metolius Preserve and the Metolius River Preserve.

Whether it's fairy houses for kids, a wildflower hike, or a nature journaling class, you are guaranteed to learn a little more about your backyard!

Land Trust Walks + Hikes are offered through October. Details: [deschuteslandtrust.org/hikes](http://deschuteslandtrust.org/hikes)



THE DESCHUTES LAND TRUST IS PROUD OF OUR GENEROUS FAMILY OF SUPPORTERS. JOIN US TODAY: [DESCHUTESLANDTRUST.ORG/JOIN](http://DESCHUTESLANDTRUST.ORG/JOIN)

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210 NW IRVING AVENUE, SUITE 102, BEND, OREGON 97703  
[DESCHUTESLANDTRUST.ORG](http://DESCHUTESLANDTRUST.ORG) PHONE [541] 330 0017