



landscapes

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

DESCHUTES LAND TRUST NEIGHBOR NEWS {FALL 2020}

DESCHUTESLANDTRUST.ORG/NEIGHBOR-NEWS

EXPLORING YOUR PRESERVES SAFELY

What a spring and summer for the record books! The pandemic has changed everyone's lives and we hope that you and yours are safe and healthy. We also wanted to take a moment to say thank you . . . thank you for your patience. Thank you for your kindness. Thank you for your words of encouragement.

Never in our 25 year history have we had to close all of our Land Trust Preserves to the public. At the end of March with the pandemic progressing at an alarming pace, we made the incredibly difficult decision to close our Preserves and help keep our community healthy. We knew it would be hard—and especially hard on you, our neighbors. If there is one lesson we have all learned this year, it's that nature close to home is critical. So, thank you for being patient when we closed your favorite nearby trail, thank you for your flexibility as your favorite birding spot was temporarily off limits, and most of all thank you for helping keep an eye on our Preserves as staff pivoted and learned how to work in a new normal.

As you know, we were able to reopen our Preserves in June with new COVID-19 guidelines in place. Thank you for masking up, staying 6 feet apart, and limiting your group size. We know it is a different experience than normal, but together we can protect our neighbors and help keep our community healthy. We don't know what the future will hold, but we do know the Land Trust will keep adapting and helping support community health and safety. In the meantime, we hope you visit your neighborhood Preserve to get some exercise, take a break, or soak in the solace that nature offers us all. —

Learn more about our new Preserve guidelines for the COVID era: deschuteslandtrust.org/covid



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CELEBRATING 25 YEARS VIRTUALLY!

This year the Land Trust celebrates 25 years of conserving land for Central Oregon! While our anniversary events had to be canceled due to the pandemic, we are still celebrating online! Read our 25th anniversary series about our flagship Preserves—the places, the people who have helped care for them, and the power they have to create a brighter future.

Learn more: deschuteslandtrust.org/25-years



LAND TRUST

NEW VISITOR SIGNS AT THE METOLIUS PRESERVE

Since the Land Trust established the Metolius Preserve in 2003, visitor use has increased dramatically in and around the Preserve. This fall we'll be installing new signs at the Preserve to help guide this use and keep all visitors safe.

The first new signs you may see are "No Hunting" signs. The Land Trust has allowed walk-in hunting at the Preserve since 2003 when visitor use was fairly limited and adjacent Forest Service lands were open to hunting. Over the years, Preserve use has increased significantly, and today hikers and bikers use the Preserve regularly and hunting is no longer compatible with these uses. This is why the Preserve is now closed to hunting. It is, however, extremely important to 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 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 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.

Other new signs remind visitors that the Preserve is closed to motorized vehicles and that dogs must be on leash at all times. These too are safety measures that allow for hikers and bikers to explore safely, while also helping keep our natural resources healthy. Finally, new horse-related trail signs remind horseback riders that the only place horses are allowed at the Preserve is on the Lake Creek Trail. Thanks to all our neighbors for helping keep the Preserve safe and accessible for all visitors. —



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

LANDS IN TRUST PROTECTED FOREVER

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LAND TRUST

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Thanks to all those folks who came out last fall to help remove barbed wire from the Metolius River Preserve! You pulled 250 pounds of wire out of the Preserve, helping make it a much safer place for wildlife.

While most of our volunteer projects are still on hold due to the pandemic, we are looking forward to the day volunteers can return to our Preserves!

Learn more about volunteering:
deschuteslandtrust.org/volunteer