

## 1. Willamette Heights Park/Overlook

*Superb spring warbler migration*

### Facts:

- ◆ hilltop park (760' elevation) near the Willamette River
- ◆ 4.28 acres
- ◆ gravel parking area
- ◆ no restrooms
- ◆ park hours: 6 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Habitat: Historically, this area was oak savanna with a few large Douglas-fir trees. The top of the hill and the open area on the east side still have a number of oaks, but there are now many bigleaf maples and a number of Douglas-fir creating a closed, upland forest. The understory is a combination of native species and urban invasives. In addition to the forested areas, there is a shrubby, open area with blackberries in the southeast corner of the park.

Birding Highlights: Spring migration in April produces waves of warblers and other species, similar to that found on Skinner's Butte in Eugene. Mourning Dove, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Downy Woodpecker, and Steller's Jay are regulars. Common Yellowthroat can be found in summer in the brushy areas. The open sky to the south provides good views of Turkey Vultures and winter raptors. Golden-crowned Kinglets are present in winter. The forested areas support both Great Horned Owl and Western Screech-Owl. Black-capped Chickadees, Bewick's Wrens, Song Sparrows, and Spotted Towhees are common all year.

Other Attractions: In early May, camas bloom on the hilltop. There is a trail around the hill beginning near the totem at the north edge of the mowed lawn. Watch for poison oak as you walk the trail around the south side. From the hilltop vantage point, there are exceptional views of Dorris Ranch, the Willamette River, and Quarry Hill. Below the trail a short distance is a dirt road on an undeveloped public roadway access. Property beyond this dirt road is privately owned. Undeveloped private property to the southeast currently allows wildlife to move between the Willamette River, Dorris Ranch, and Willamette Heights. Deer and other wildlife can be seen here.

Getting There: From South A Street, go south on South 2<sup>nd</sup> Street for .2 mi. Turn left on South D Street, right onto South 4<sup>th</sup> Street. When South 4<sup>th</sup> Street ends in a "T" junction, turn right on Union Street. Almost immediately, turn left onto Perry Street. This portion of the road is pretty rough. At the top of the hill, the street goes right onto Valley View Avenue. The park and adjacent gravel parking area can be seen as you come around the corner.

## 2. Dorris Ranch Living History Farm

*A terrestrial birding dream of riparian forest, oak, upland, and wet prairie*

### Facts:

- ◆ a working filbert farm on the National Register of Historic Places
- ◆ riparian, oak, upland, and wet prairie natural areas
- ◆ 258 acres
- ◆ gravel parking area
- ◆ portable toilet near the Barn
- ◆ park hours: 6 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Habitat: Historically, the Dorris Ranch area was riparian forest and upland prairie with a small corner of oak savanna. Much of the Ranch currently consists of farmed filbert orchards, however, a wide riparian strip and oak woodlands both still exist with healthy native understory shrubs and herbaceous plants. The upland prairie has large patches of roses and some blackberries. Seeps are found throughout this upland prairie slope with Oregon ash and wet prairie habitat following the rivulets of water coming off the hill.

Birding Highlights: Pileated Woodpecker is fairly reliable in the riparian forest. Spotted Sandpiper can often be found along the river edges. Owls and winter raptors can be observed. Songs of Swainson's Thrush along with many other songbirds can be heard in the early morning hours of breeding season. Due to the variety of habitats, most terrestrial bird species can be found here in the appropriate season. This variety of habitats and extensive trails make Dorris Ranch a superb one-stop birding location.

Other Attractions: Deer and other wildlife are often seen. Western gray squirrels are plentiful, due in part to the abundance of filberts. A profusion of blooms greets the spring visitor including camas, buttercup, and hairy star tulip on the open hillsides, to bleeding heart, waterleaf, trillium, fawn lily, spring beauty, and many more in the woodlands. Extensive trails provide ample opportunity for long, quiet walks. An old canal through the property and some of the riparian sloughs provide breeding and rearing grounds for dragonflies and damselflies. Flowering meadows provide for great spring butterfly observation. The front end of the Ranch is shared with living history programs for school groups. The Living History Festival including the Civil War reenactment takes place in August.

Getting There: From South A Street, go south on South 2<sup>nd</sup> Street almost .9 mile to the entrance to Dorris Ranch. Park in the gravel parking area near the kiosk. A striped bicycle lane is available on South 2<sup>nd</sup> Street. Expect occasional closures of the Ranch for spraying that takes place in the orchards.

### 3. Jasper Pond

*A location rich in riparian and pond species*

#### Facts:

- ◆ a stormwater facility owned by the city of Springfield
- ◆ 2 acres
- ◆ interpretive information
- ◆ no parking (if you drive, park on S. 32<sup>nd</sup> Place and follow the walkway between houses opposite Osage St. to S. 32<sup>nd</sup> Street)
- ◆ no restrooms

**Habitat:** The Jasper Pond site is adjacent to Jasper Slough. The site was historically prairie with riparian vegetation beginning at Jasper Slough and continuing south to the Middle Fork of the Willamette River. Much of the site is now a detention pond processing stormwater runoff from the neighboring residential area. A willow thicket surrounds the shallow pond with Oregon ash and bigleaf maple along Jasper Slough. Good riparian habitat still exists beyond Jasper Slough.

**Birding Highlights:** Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Yellow-rumped Warbler, and Winter Wren can be found in winter months. Wood Ducks are abundant in Jasper Slough in winter. Wilson's Warbler, Violet-green and Tree Swallows, Western Wood-Pewee, and Swainson's Thrush can be observed in summer. Spotted Towhee, Black-capped Chickadee, Song Sparrow, and Mallard are found year-round.

**Other Attractions:** The shallow water of both Jasper Slough and Jasper Pond provides abundant rearing habitat for dragonflies and damselflies. Tree frogs sing heartily in spring. Western pond turtles make use of the site. Beaver are resident in the slough south of the pond. Agnes Stewart Middle School is just to the north of this site. Two interpretive signs exist at this location. They describe the pond's contribution to water quality and to wildlife habitat.

**Getting There:** From Main Street, go south onto S. 32<sup>nd</sup> Street. After crossing the railroad tracks and passing Agnes Stewart Middle School, the road curves left onto Jasper Road. Jasper Pond is straight ahead at the end of S. 32<sup>nd</sup> Street before the curve onto Jasper Road. There is no on-street or off-street parking in the immediate vicinity. To park, drive south on S. 32<sup>nd</sup> Street as noted above. After crossing the railroad track, turn left (east) on Douglas Drive. Immediately turn right on S. 32<sup>nd</sup> Place. Park in the vicinity of Osage Street. There is a walkway from S. 32<sup>nd</sup> Place to S. 32<sup>nd</sup> Street between 904 S. 32<sup>nd</sup> Place and 910 S. 32<sup>nd</sup> Place. The walk from this parking location to Jasper Pond is about 500'. Please use care not to block neighbors' driveways when parking.

#### 4. Clearwater Park

##### *Old growth riparian forest*

###### Facts:

- ◆ a boat ramp on the Middle Fork of the Willamette River is located here
- ◆ 65 acres
- ◆ site is heavily used, especially in summer
- ◆ there is a pit toilet
- ◆ Clearwater Park will be the trailhead location for the Middle Fork multi-use path to be constructed in 2009
- ◆ there can be lots of mosquitoes near areas of standing water
- ◆ park hours: summer (May 1 – Sept. 30), 4:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.; winter (Oct. 1 – April 30), 6 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Habitat: The riparian habitat is dominated by black cottonwood and Oregon ash with an understory of willows, snowberry, blackberry, and Pacific ninebark. Sedges and rushes line the pond edges. The site has several sloughs and ponded areas that are parts of former river channels. There are some open grassy fields on park property away from the river's edge. Many invasive species are present including blackberries, false brome, reed canary-grass, and shining geranium.

Birding Highlights: Bald Eagle, Osprey, Common Merganser, and Spotted Sandpiper are sometimes seen near the river. The older riparian habitat supports Great Horned Owl, Pileated Woodpecker, Brown Creeper, and Wrentit. Although Red-eyed Vireo has not been observed here, the habitat is very similar to locations upstream on the Middle Fork where Red-eyed Vireo has been reported.

Other Attractions: The boat ramp is used for launching boats, rafts, canoes, and kayaks, although the river tends to dump gravel at the base of the boat ramp. Bank fishing and swimming (at your own risk) are other popular activities. A bark path allows quiet walking through some parts of the park with a bench near one of the ponds and one along the river. There is also a picnic table near the parking lot. Deer and other wildlife use the riparian habitat extensively. Shallow water supports good populations of dragonflies and damselflies.

Getting There: From Main Street, go south on South 42<sup>nd</sup> Street, following S. 42<sup>nd</sup> Street almost .8 mile to the roundabout at Jasper Road. Turn left onto Jasper Road for .3 mile. Turn right onto Clearwater Lane for approximately .5 mile. Jog slightly to the right as the road leaves Clearwater Lane and continue on the park entrance road to the parking area.

## 5. Volunteer Park

### *Developing habitat of well-designed native plantings*

#### Facts:

- ◆ a newer neighborhood park named in honor of Willamalane's many volunteers
- ◆ 4.4 acres
- ◆ includes a designed wet prairie and emergent wetland of almost .3 acre
- ◆ no restrooms
- ◆ park hours: 6 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Habitat: Young non-native trees are present throughout the park with designed native plantings along the north property line. Native plantings include Oregon ash, Douglas-fir, red-twig dogwood, Oregon grape, snowberry, and Douglas' Spiraea. Native grasses, sedges, and rushes have been planted in the wet prairie and emergent wetland areas. Oregon white oak is present on a neighboring hill contributing "borrowed habitat" to the park. Young plantings are developing nicely and the birding habitat will continue to improve.

Birding Highlights: Shrubby habitat along the north fence supports Song Sparrow, Spotted Towhee, and American Goldfinch. Black-capped Chickadees forage in the trees and shrubs.

Other Attractions: The park has a play structure, a sand play area, a basketball court, and a large, open grassy field. There are concrete walks throughout the park with a gravel walk through the native upland and wetland plantings.

Getting There: From Main Street, go south on South 42<sup>nd</sup> Street, following S. 42<sup>nd</sup> Street almost .6 mile. Turn left on Holly Street. The park is on your left in the second block of Holly Street. Parking is on-street.

## 6. Wyatt Meadows Pond

*Over an acre of urban emergent wetland*

Facts:

- ◆ a privately owned stormwater detention pond
- ◆ 1.35 acres
- ◆ interpretive signage
- ◆ no restrooms

Habitat: This relatively new stormwater detention pond is a developing emergent marsh with excellent cattail, spike rush, and soft rush habitat and scattered willows. Over time, habitat will continue to improve for emergent wetland birds.

Birding Highlights: Current habitat supports Red-winged Blackbirds and several species of ducks. Violet-green and Tree Swallows scoop up flying insects over the marshy vegetation. Developing habitat should also support Common Yellowthroat and Marsh Wren. Willows may provide habitat for Wilson's Warbler.

Other Attractions: Two interpretive signs can be viewed at the edge of the sidewalk toward the west end of the property frontage. They describe the pond's contribution to water quality and to wildlife habitat.

Getting There: From Main Street, go south on South 42<sup>nd</sup> Street, following S. 42<sup>nd</sup> Street .25 mile. Turn right on Virginia Avenue. Turn left on South 41<sup>st</sup> Street (not S. 41<sup>st</sup> Place). Turn right on Forsythia Street. Look for the open area on the right as the street curves. Parking is on-street. **The pond is private property. Please bird from the street.**

## **7. Jasper Meadows**

*Existing ash wetlands in a newly developing neighborhood*

### Facts:

- ◆ one of Willamalane's newest parks
- ◆ ultimately approximately 14 acres
- ◆ no restrooms
- ◆ park hours: 6 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Habitat: The site has large areas of Oregon ash wetlands with willow thickets and some black cottonwood. Emergent wetlands are present in some of the areas that are ponded into the summer months. Some wet prairie exists between the ash groves.

Birding Highlights: Northern Flicker, Western Wood-Pewee, Cedar Waxwing, and Black-headed Grosbeak use the taller ash and cottonwoods. Yellow Warbler, Common Yellowthroat and Spotted Towhee make use of the willows and blackberry thickets. Killdeer and Red-winged Blackbirds can be found in the marshy areas.

Other Attractions: In the fall of 2007, a small playground will be constructed for the developing neighborhoods.

Getting There: From Main Street, go south on Bob Straub Parkway. In .38 miles, turn right onto South 57<sup>th</sup> Street. In .5 miles, turn left onto Mt. Vernon Road. Turn right onto South 57<sup>th</sup> Place. The wetland you see on your right is part of Jasper Meadows Park. There is limited on-street parking.

## 8. Walterville Pond

*A 70-acre open water pond near town*

### Facts:

- ◆ Walterville Pond is a water storage pond with a small dam on the west end
- ◆ the pond is owned and operated by Eugene Water & Electric Board (EWEB)
- ◆ the pond is about 70 acres in size
- ◆ a graveled road/path loops around the pond
- ◆ a portable restroom is located in the parking area

**Habitat:** The pond provides open water habitat with limited adjacent terrestrial vegetation. Willow thickets are found to the east of the pond. Areas of vegetation border the north edge of the pond and the path in places. Young Douglas-firs are located on the hills to the north of the pond.

**Birding Highlights:** Winter water birds are one of the main reasons to visit this pond. Summer birds include Yellow-breasted Chat, Wrentit, Black-headed Grosbeak, and Common Yellowthroat. Pied-billed Grebe, Western Grebe, Double-crested Cormorant, Canada Goose, Lesser Scaup, Common Merganser, and American Coot are some of the birds that can easily be found here in the appropriate season. Barrow's Goldeneyes have been seen here. Open farmland in the area lends itself to Turkey Vultures and hawks.

**Other Attractions:** Many people walk the 1.3 mile loop around the pond for exercise or to walk their dog. There is a picnic table on the north side of the pond and benches located in two places.

**Getting There:** From downtown Springfield, drive east on Highway 126 about 10.5 miles to Walterville. As you continue east from Walterville less than ½ mile, you will cross EWEB's Walterville canal. At the east end of the bridge over the canal, make an immediate and sharp left turn onto a gravel road that heads west along the north bank of the canal. Drive this gravel road west about 1000' to a gravel parking area. From the parking area, Walterville Pond is just ahead of you to the west. (Note that due to the levees around the pond, the pond is not visible from Highway 126 or from the parking area.)

## 9. Bob Artz Memorial Park

*A mix of ash wetland, streamside vegetation, and open fields*

### Facts:

- ◆ a 15-acre sports park with three softball fields
- ◆ contains a small playground
- ◆ paved parking
- ◆ restroom facilities are available during ball games
- ◆ park hours: 6 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Habitat: Gray Creek borders the south edge of Bob Artz with some riparian habitat. The western edge of Bob Artz is bordered by mature Oregon ash wetlands. Open former agricultural fields are found to the east and south of the park.

Birding Highlights: Black-headed Grosbeak, Common Yellowthroat, and Orange-crowned and Wilson's Warblers are present in summer. Surrounding open fields provide good views of Red-tailed Hawk, Turkey Vulture, Violet-green Swallow and American Goldfinch. The riparian vegetation is used by Mourning Dove and Cedar Waxwing. Killdeer and Wilson's Snipe are sometimes seen foraging in the wetland field to the south of Gray Creek. A pair of Osprey built a nest on top of one of the stadium light fixtures. Other common birds such as Black-capped Chickadees, Song Sparrows, and Spotted Towhees are regulars.

Other Attractions: Bob Artz Park is heavily used during programmed ball games, but relatively unused at other times. The park is used for dog walking by nearby residents. Shallow standing water in Gray Creek produces many dragonflies and damselflies. Deer have been seen in the surrounding fields.

Getting There: From Main Street (Highway 126) turn north onto 69<sup>th</sup> Street. Drive ½ mile north to the stop sign at Thurston Road. Turn right on Thurston Road and drive a little over .9 mi to the entrance to Bob Artz. Turn right into the park drive and follow it toward the south about 1000' to the parking area.

## 10. Wallace M. Ruff Jr. Memorial Park

*Dense riparian edge rich in spring birdsong*

### Facts:

- ◆ a donated park containing a magnolia arboretum and other exotic plantings
- ◆ much of the arboretum maintenance is done by the Friends of Ruff Park through monthly work parties
- ◆ 9.8 acres
- ◆ park hours: 6 a.m. to 10 p.m.

**Habitat:** The park is surrounded on three sides (bisected on the north) by South Cedar Creek, and bordered on the far north edge by North Cedar Creek. Riparian habitat consists of mature bigleaf maples, Oregon ash, red-twig dogwood, and snowberry.

**Birding Highlights:** Wood Ducks, Western Wood-Pewee, Willow Flycatcher, Cedar Waxwing, Black-headed Grosbeak, Black-capped Chickadee, and Common Yellowthroat use the riparian edge. Song Sparrow and Spotted Towhee make use of the brushy areas. Violet-green Swallows and American Robin find food in the open spaces.

**Other Attractions:** The park has a .3 mile loop walking path near the riparian edge weaving in and out of the magnolias. Ruff Park provides a quiet walk with a rural feel. Deer visit the area. Ring-necked Pheasants and California Quail can be heard on neighboring farm land. Dragonflies and damselflies are present. The peak bloom of the deciduous magnolias is late March to mid-April. The grandifloras start blooming in late June and continue on into August. Other bulbs, perennials, and shrubs contribute to the flowering beauty of the park throughout the spring and summer.

**Getting There:** The park address is 1161 66<sup>th</sup> Street with a panhandle entrance from 66<sup>th</sup> Street between North and South Cedar Creek. Improvements are planned for the 66<sup>th</sup> Street entrance including a parking area and a pedestrian bridge into the park over South Cedar Creek. At this time, that entrance is still unimproved. Currently, park users are entering the park through the public streets in the Levi Landing subdivision. To get to the park, turn north from Thurston Road onto 67<sup>th</sup> Street. Go two blocks and turn right onto Moses Pass. At the next intersection, turn left onto 67<sup>th</sup> Place. In two blocks, turn left onto Jacob Lane and park along the street. There is a 435' long paved walk into the park from Jacob Lane between the houses located at 6718 and 6736 Jacob Lane.

## 11. Jack B. Lively Memorial Park

*This habitat is for the birds!*

### Facts:

- ◆ this 32.5 acre park contains one of the region's finest swim centers as well as amazing native habitat
- ◆ restrooms are located in the swim center
- ◆ a recent master planning process anticipates significant upgrades to the developed portion of the park as well as restoration and trail improvements in the natural areas
- ◆ park hours: 6 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Habitat: Native habitat consists primarily of bigleaf maple, Douglas-fir, and grand fir woodland. The area directly behind the pool has a native woodland understory. The sunlit outer edges are currently ringed with blackberry. The most northerly portion of the park (behind the Thurston Middle School) also contains a small grove of Oregon white oak, a grove of incense-cedar, and Oregon ash, red alder, and red-twig dogwood where the property borders Cedar Creek. The south portion of the park has a more developed appearance, but does contain two large Oregon white oak trees near the entrance as well as several old fruit trees directly southwest of the swim center.

Birding Highlights: Mourning Dove, Downy Woodpecker, American Kestrel, Cedar Waxwing, and Red-breasted Nuthatch are commonly seen at this site. Typical birds of riparian habitats or thickets such as Western Wood-Pewee, Western Scrub-Jay, Song Sparrow, Spotted Towhee, and Bewick's Wren are very common.

Other Attractions: *Splash!* Lively Park Swim Center has been the mainstay of this park. Deer and other animals use the forested area behind the swim center. Dragonflies, damselflies, and butterflies can easily be observed. An outdoor water play area and an off-leash dog park are planned.

Getting There: The entrance to Lively Park (*Splash!*) is located at 6100 Thurston Road (directly across from 61<sup>st</sup> Street). There is a large paved parking lot in front of the swim center. **The park property jogs to the east in the northern half. Please be sure that you know where park boundaries are and respect signage indicating neighboring private properties.**

## 12. EWEB Bike Path at Irving Slough

*A slough of Wood Ducks!*

### Facts:

- ◆ the bike path is an east-west path extending over 2.5 miles from Pioneer Parkway to 35<sup>th</sup> Street along the EWEB utility corridor
- ◆ stormwater detention ponds to the east of Irving Slough are privately owned
- ◆ ponds are surrounded by chain-link fence
- ◆ there are no restrooms at this location

Habitat: Irving Slough is narrow, wooded, and sluggish. It is lined with black cottonwood, Oregon ash, and willow. The slough to the south of the bike path is filled with yellow pond-lily. To the north of the path, it is narrowed by willows. Two large stormwater detention ponds are located just to the east of the slough. The ponds are filled with willow and cattail.

Birding Highlights: Wood Ducks numbering nearly 100 fill the slough to the south of the bike path in winter. A few remain through the year, but are difficult to see due to the pond-lily vegetation. Red-winged Blackbirds are abundant in the nearby ponds allowing close-up views. Sparrow flocks use some of the edges in winter. Anna's Hummingbird moves between the slough and a nearby residence. Great Blue Heron visit the slough.

Other Attractions: Dragonflies and damselflies are prolific. Bullfrogs can be easily observed in the ponds.

Getting There: If you are biking, follow the bike path to the bridge crossing of Irving Slough between 31<sup>st</sup> Street and 33<sup>rd</sup> Street. If you are driving, turn north from Main Street onto 28<sup>th</sup> Street. Follow 28<sup>th</sup> Street for 1.7 miles, going under I-105 and curving as the road now becomes 31<sup>st</sup> Street. Turn right on V Street. Follow the road as it curves around onto 33<sup>rd</sup> Street. The bike path crosses 33<sup>rd</sup> between Parker Lane and Watermark Drive. Park on the street and walk the bike path to the west about 200 feet to the crossing of Irving Slough.

### 13. Harvest Landing

#### *Riparian possibilities on the McKenzie*

##### Facts:

- ◆ the Rodakowski boat ramp and parking area is managed by Lane County
- ◆ open hours at the boat landing are 5 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- ◆ the County maintains a restroom at the boat ramp
- ◆ no parking is allowed along the entrance road
- ◆ Willamalane-owned Harvest Landing is the river frontage west of the boat landing

Habitat: Riparian maple forest with a few black cottonwood and Oregon ash dominate Harvest Landing. There is some native understory of snowberry, nettle, vine maple, and red-twig dogwood, but much of the understory consists of blackberry tangles. The terrain is relatively rough as much of the site is old river side channels. Filbert orchards border the south side of the parking area and part of the entrance road.

Birding Highlights: You will find riparian species such as Western Wood-Pewee and Wilson's Warbler. Chipping Sparrow forages near the road edges. Thicket species such as Song Sparrow and Spotted Towhee are easy to find. River species such as Common Merganser, Spotted Sandpiper, and Great Blue Heron can also be found here. Bald Eagle and Osprey can be seen. Vaux's Swift and Violet-green and Tree Swallows find insects over the river and grassy fields. In winter, Golden-crowned and White-crowned Sparrow flocks forage in and near the blackberries.

Other Attractions: Deer and chipmunks are present. Bats can be seen over the river at dusk.

Getting There: From downtown Springfield, take Pioneer Parkway north 1.7 miles. Turn right on Hayden Bridge Way. In 1.2 miles, turn left onto Harvest Lane and follow the road for a little over  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile to the end. Park in the County boat ramp parking area.

## 14. Corporate Way Detention Basin

*Mature cottonwoods, developing wetlands, and blackberry thickets*

### Facts:

- ◆ a city of Springfield stormwater detention basin covering over 2 acres
- ◆ Maple Island Slough parallels the detention basin on the north
- ◆ a BPA powerline and a gravel road are between the detention basin and Maple Island Slough
- ◆ the open field and the filbert orchard to the south are planned for development
- ◆ no restrooms exist on the site

Habitat: Mature black cottonwood follows Maple Island Slough. Young cottonwood (15' tall) is developing in the detention basin. The detention basin has some emergent vegetation beginning to develop, but extent and robustness will be limited by lack of summer water. The area has a number of large blackberry patches.

Birding Highlights: Birds that are found at this site include Northern Flicker, Cedar Waxwing, Downy Woodpecker, Great Blue Heron, Osprey, Tree Swallow, American and Lesser Goldfinch, Wilson's Warbler, American Crow, Dark-eyed Junco, Song Sparrow, and Spotted Towhee. Winter sparrow flocks are likely to use the blackberries near the gravel road.

Other Attractions: Lots of Pacific chorus frog tadpoles develop in spring in the shallow standing water remaining in the detention basin. Dragonflies and damselflies can be observed. Raccoons and deer frequent the area.

Getting There: From Beltline Road, turn north on Gateway Street. In .25 mile, turn right on International Way. In a little over .5 mile, turn left on Corporate Way. In about 600' the paving ends. Park on the street. Do not continue driving the gravel road that jogs to the left and north across the slough onto the private farm property to the north of Maple Island Slough. The detention basin is just northeast of the paved turnaround at the end of Corporate Way. The Springfield owned property extends to the slough on the north. It also extends about 300' to the east of the east end of the detention pond. You can walk the gravel road running east under the powerline up to where the road begins to drop down to a slightly lower level (the end of Springfield property). **Please be cognizant of the surrounding private property and avoid trespassing.**

## 15. Guy Lee Park

*Incredible avian diversity in an urban setting*

### Facts:

- ◆ park uses include groomed ball fields, tennis courts, and open play areas
- ◆ restrooms are open during ball games
- ◆ 11.69 acres owned partially by Willamalane and partially by Springfield Public Schools
- ◆ park hours: 6 a.m. to 10 p.m.

**Habitat:** The site contains two acres of Oregon ash woodlands. Understory in the ash woodland includes large amounts of osoberry. An SCS drainage channel with emergent wetland vegetation and a border of Oregon ash runs east and west through the property.

**Birding Highlights:** Spring birds include Western Wood-Pewee, Willow Flycatcher, Warbling Vireo, Cedar Waxwing, Swainson's Thrush, American Robin, Bewick's Wren, Bushtit, Black-capped Chickadee, American Goldfinch, Yellow Warbler, Wilson's Warbler, Song Sparrow, Spotted Towhee, and Black-headed Grosbeak.

**Other Attractions:** Tennis courts, programmed softball games, and picnicking opportunities exist on the site.

**Getting There:** The park is located at 890 Darlene Avenue. There are a number of ways to get into the park from nearby neighborhoods or on a bike. If driving, from downtown Springfield, go north on Pioneer Parkway 1.7 miles. Turn left on Harlow Road. In a little over .5 mile, turn left again onto Hartman Lane. Guy Lee Elementary School is on your left. Continue on Hartman Lane past the school and park on the street near the intersection of Hartman Lane and Darlene Avenue. Walk southeast into the park. The ash woodland can be seen farther to the southeast beyond the SCS channel.

## 16. By-Gully Bike/Jog Path

*See all of the common urban birds on a pleasant bike ride*

### Facts:

- ◆ a 1¼ mile long bike path on the south side of I-105 extending from Pioneer Parkway west to the intersection of Quinalt Street and Anderson Lane
- ◆ the Q Street Channel provides riparian habitat between I-105 and the bike path
- ◆ park hours: 6 a.m. to 10 p.m.
- ◆ no restrooms

Habitat: On the west end, the Q Street Channel has a number of bigleaf maples, a few Oregon ash, and some dense understory. On the east end, the vegetation is more sparse.

Birding Highlights: Birds found here include both Great Blue and Green Heron, Rock Pigeon, American Crow, American Robin, Western Scrub-Jay, Mallard, Wood Duck, European Starling, Bewick's Wren, Black-capped Chickadee, House Sparrow, House Finch, Song Sparrow, Spotted Towhee, Red-winged Blackbird, and Brown-headed Cowbird.

Other Attractions: This path would be great as a part of a bicycle birding "Big Day" to pick up the majority of the typical urban birds.

Getting There: From downtown Springfield, go north on Pioneer Parkway .7 mile. Turn left on Centennial Blvd. Go two blocks and turn right on Mill Street. The road will curve around and become Fairview Drive. At the curve, you can access the east end of the bike path. To access the west end, continue on Fairview Drive for almost a mile until it curves north and intersects with Quinalt Street. Turn left on Quinalt Street. In 500', Quinalt Street intersects with Anderson Lane and the west entrance to the By-Gully Bike Path. Parking is on-street.

## 17. Kelly Butte Overlook

*Great views of the city! And birds, too.*

### Facts:

- ◆ a 6-acre hilltop park with nearly 360° views
- ◆ paved parking area with an overlook
- ◆ no restrooms
- ◆ park hours: 6 a.m. to 10 p.m.

**Habitat:** The tops of second growth Douglas-firs are viewed along the east boundary of the park. You can walk north along the west side of the Springfield Utility Board water storage tank and follow a path going down the ridge to the north. The park continues down the ridge to the north to a locked gate. This north portion has bigleaf maple and young Douglas-fir canopy with osoberry, blackberry, and hawthorn understory.

**Birding Highlights:** Spring migration of warblers is good at this location. Vaux's Swift and Violet-green Swallows circle overhead on early summer mornings. Other sightings include Western Wood-Pewee, Black-capped Chickadee, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Cedar Waxwing, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Winter Wren, American Goldfinch, Dark-eyed Junco, Wilson's, Townsend's, Orange-crowned and Black-throated Gray Warblers, Song Sparrow, and Spotted Towhee.

**Other Attractions:** There are terrific views of Springfield, much of Eugene, and the Three Sisters to the east on a clear day. It's a great spot to watch the sunset or enjoy evening views of the city.

**Getting There:** The park is located at 937 Summit Blvd. From downtown Springfield, drive north on Mill Street. Turn left on D Street. In about three blocks, turn right on Riverview Blvd. Watch for Summit Blvd and turn right again. The entrance to the paved parking area is on your right as you continue on Summit Blvd. about 1000' farther up the hill.

## **18. Eastgate Woodlands, Alton Baker Park (Whilamut Natural Area)** *High quality, diverse native plant communities*

### Facts:

- ◆ 40-acre park
- ◆ includes boat ramp access to the Willamette River
- ◆ commuter and recreational bike path connecting to the regional multi-use path system
- ◆ Kalapuya Talking Stones
- ◆ gravel parking area
- ◆ no restrooms
- ◆ park hours: 6 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Habitat: Eastgate Woodlands contains mature riparian forest with black cottonwoods and Oregon ash, Pacific ninebark, and osoberry. More upland areas contain bigleaf maple, incense-cedar, and snowberry. Much of the ground cover is English ivy, but some areas still have exceptional remnants of diverse native herbaceous plants. A little more than five acres of the park is a mowed open grassy field bordering I-5.

Birding Highlights: A Great Blue Heron rookery is located on the north side of the canoe canal in a tall cottonwood. Winter gulls and Double-crested Cormorants can be seen on the river. Brown Creeper nest here. Swainson's Thrush sings its beautiful early morning song in late spring. Mallards are frequently seen in the canoe canal (Patterson Slough). Hummingbirds are particularly fond of the delphinium when in bloom. Western Wood-Pewee, Black-headed Grosbeak and Wilson's Warbler are summer nesters. Spotted Towhees, Song Sparrows, Bewick's Wren, Bushtits, and Black-capped Chickadees can be found all year. American and Lesser Goldfinch forage for seeds in the summer.

Other Attractions: A playground is located at the entrance to the park. Spring blooms of bleeding heart, waterleaf, delphinium, piggy-back plant, and cow parsnip are prolific in more pristine areas of the park. Deer and river otter are occasionally seen. Kalapuya habitation is discussed in a kiosk near the parking area and represented in the Talking Stones found throughout the Whilamut Natural Area.

Getting There: From downtown Springfield, drive north on Mill Street to D Street. Turn left on D Street and proceed to the stop sign at Aspen Street. At the stop sign, turn left onto Aspen and follow the road into the park and to the parking area. On a bike, the bike path from the west enters from Eugene under I-5. From the east, the bike path enters Eastgate Woodlands from West D Street Greenway.

## 19. West D Street Greenway

*A strong sense of the river, providing relaxing birding and walking*

### Facts:

- ◆ Half-mile long paved multi-use path along the north bank of the Willamette River
- ◆ good access from neighborhood streets
- ◆ benches for relaxing and viewing the river
- ◆ part of the regional multi-use path system
- ◆ park hours: 6 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Habitat: Mature cottonwood and bigleaf maple with areas of willow and Oregon ash line this riparian corridor. Several nice groves of trees extend from the riparian edge north across the path toward West D Street.

Birding Highlights: Mallard, Canada Goose, Great Blue Heron, Spotted Sandpiper, and Common Merganser are often visible. Look for Osprey in summer. In winter, gulls and Double-crested Cormorants feed and rest along the river. Violet-green, Tree and Barn Swallows are common over the river. Rock Pigeon, Downy Woodpecker, Western Wood-Pewee, Cedar Waxwing, Bewick's Wren, Bushtit, Black-capped Chickadee, American Goldfinch, Common Yellowthroat, Song Sparrow, Spotted Towhee, and Black-headed Grosbeak can all be expected.

Other Attractions: A soft-surface running path parallels the paved path, connecting to Pre's Trail in Eastgate Woodlands. The river is visible in most locations making a very pleasant walk. There are benches to stop, relax, and enjoy the river. The tall trees make a shaded path for much of its length. Fishing and river access at your own risk is possible, although the routes down the embankment to the river level are usually steep and can be slippery.

Getting There: From downtown Springfield, drive north on Mill Street to D Street. Turn left on D Street. The easternmost entrance to West D Street Greenway is from West D Street a little over .3 mile from Mill Street. To enter at the west end, continue west on D Street a little over .8 mile from Mill Street. Turn left onto Aspen Street at the stop sign and park immediately in the parking spaces on your right. The path is near the river (south of the parking) and proceeds to the east. Some on-street parking exists for much of the length of West D Street with access at each of the street intersections including paved curb cuts. On a bike, the bike path from the west enters from Eastgate Woodlands. Bikes can enter the east end as described above when coming from Springfield or through Island Park via West D Street.

## 20. Island Park

### *Birding the margins of an urban park*

#### Facts:

- ◆ a 15-acre well-used community park along the Willamette River
- ◆ Paved parking
- ◆ boat ramp access to the river at the southern end (enter from South Mill St.)
- ◆ picnic shelters that can be rented
- ◆ has a restroom facility
- ◆ a children's playground
- ◆ park hours: 6 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Habitat: The park contains mature riparian habitat with cottonwoods, bigleaf maple, Oregon ash, alders and willows. There is a grove of old fruit trees in the north end of the park on the east side of Beaver Creek toward the West D Street entrance. On the west side of Beaver Creek in the north end of the park, considerable native understory exists. The best birding exists in the areas around the margin of the park where more understory is still intact and there is less human disturbance. The riparian vegetation near the boat ramp and the mouth of the Millrace provides some good birding opportunities.

Birding Highlights: Northern Flicker, Downy Woodpecker, and Red-breasted Sapsucker all make use of the mature trees. Western Wood-Pewee, Brown Creeper, Bushtit, Wilson's Warbler and American Robin all raise families here. The park has typical urban birds such as Rock Pigeon, European Starling, House Sparrow, and Brown-headed Cowbird. Urban ducks and Canada Geese use the park extensively to rest and spend the night.

Other Attractions: Many organized activities are held here including the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Light of Liberty Celebration, the Children's Celebration, Fiesta Latina, and summer outdoor concerts. Picnic shelters can be rented for family or group functions. Watercraft can be launched at the boat ramp at the south end of the park.

Getting There: From downtown Springfield, drive north on Mill Street. Turn left on West B Street. West B Street ends in a parking area near a park entrance. Alternatively, turn south from Main Street or South A Street on South Mill Street. Curve down the road driving west toward the boat ramp. The road curves right, again, under the bridges coming into Springfield from Glenwood and brings you to a large parking area near the children's playground. Island Park can also be entered by bike or on foot from the West D Street entrance on West D Street opposite Kelly Blvd. or from the Willamalane Adult Activity Center located at 215 West C Street.

## 21. Millrace Park

*A tucked away birding site*

### Facts:

- ◆ a small .7 acre park sited on the edge of the historic Springfield Millrace
- ◆ contains a beautiful, nearly 100' long wisteria arbor
- ◆ sited across the drive from the Springfield Chamber of Commerce (located in the old train depot building)
- ◆ park hours: 6 a.m. to 10 p.m.
- ◆ no restrooms

Habitat: The riparian habitat consists of bigleaf maple with some alder, willow, osoberry, and blackberries.

Birding Highlights: A surprisingly diverse list of birds can be observed at this location including Great Blue Heron, Green Heron, Spotted Sandpiper, Northern Flicker, American Crow, Cedar Waxwing, Bushtit, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Black-capped Chickadee, and Song Sparrow.

Other Attractions: Interpretive panels discuss the historic Springfield Millrace. There is a picnic table and a small overlook. Deer and river otter have been seen here. The old train depot building containing the Springfield Chamber of Commerce and an old train car can be accessed from the same parking area.

Getting There: From downtown Springfield, go south on South Mill Street. Immediately turn left into the parking area. Alternatively, go south on South 2<sup>nd</sup> Street. Immediately turn right into the parking area.