

JUNIOR WETLANDS RANGER

Jackson Bottom Wetlands Preserve



**This Adventure Booklet
belongs to**



Hillsboro
Parks & Recreation

How to Become a Junior Wetlands Ranger

Program Rewards

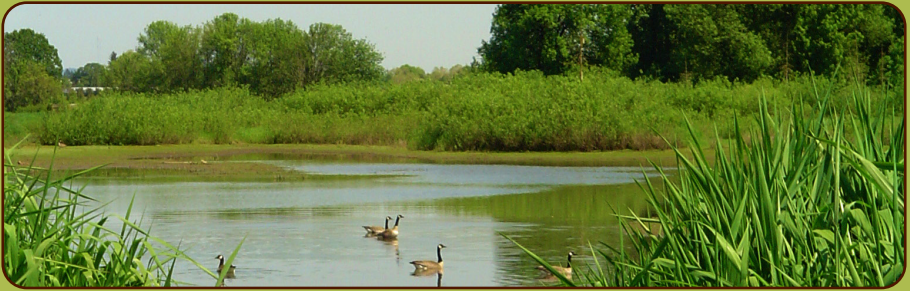
1. For each activity completed starting on page 7, you will receive a **Junior Wetlands Ranger Collector's Card** that features one of the animals or plants on the Wetlands. Complete all the activities to collect all of the cards (optional).
2. After completing the activity booklet, you will receive a **Certificate of Recognition**.

A Junior Wetlands Ranger is a Person Who:

1. Cares about the conservation of native wildlife and its habitat.
2. Knows about the wildlife and plants the Wetlands Preserve is protecting.
3. Recognizes the importance of wetlands for both wildlife and the community.
4. Is environmentally conscious—does “green” things.
5. Is ready to share this information with others to make a difference!

What is a Wetlands?

1



In the not too distant past, wetlands were regarded as wastelands. Most people felt that they were places to be avoided, and it was common practice to drain them, fill them, or treat them as dumping grounds.

Today, we know that wetlands provide many important services to the environment and to the public. They offer critical habitat for fish, waterfowl, and other wildlife. They purify polluted waters and help reduce the destructive power of floods and storms.



Jackson Bottom Wetlands Preserve protects me, Katy the Killdeer!

Fun Fact: Jackson Bottom is named after the Jackson family who were early settlers of the Hillsboro area. The word "Bottom" refers to low-lying land along a watercourse—in this case the Tualatin River.

Sensitive Species and Habitats



Hello! I am Ricky the Red-legged Frog, a sensitive species that is protected by Jackson Bottom Wetlands Preserve.

“Sensitive” means any native wildlife species that is so few in number that it is likely to become endangered or threatened. If no one helps an endangered species, it could vanish forever.

Fun Fact: It’s unlikely you’ll hear a red-legged frog call. They call underwater.

Think about the place where you live. What does it look like? Draw a picture of your home or habitat below.

Invasive Species

3

Once upon a time there was a healthy marsh full of native plants and animals. One day a visitor arrived — a plant from another land...an invasive species. The invasive species had no natural predators, so it began to take over, destroying Katy's home. Can you help?

The native species are looking for the Wetlands nursery, which is safe from the invasive species. Be careful to avoid the invasive species on your journey.

Now, look for these native species on the Wetlands:

Wapato

Camas

Hint: The pictures below show what you should be looking for.

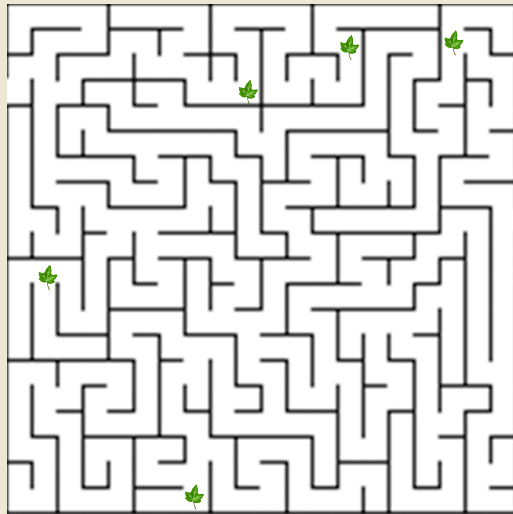


Wapato



Camas

Start



Plant
Nursery



Nice Job!
You have
arrived at
the plant
nursery.

What can you do?

You can help save native species by volunteering at the Wetlands or other local parks. You can plant native species or remove invasive species.

Conserve and Preserve!

The actions of humans have altered wildlife habitat. Pollution and development contributed to the loss of 85% of native habitat. Now it is your turn to help!

Tip 1: Start a compost bin in your kitchen where you can put leftover fruits and vegetables.

I will _____ to decrease waste.

Tip 2: Plant native plants in your garden to make a home for native animals.

I will _____ to make native species welcome.

Tip 3: Do not throw trash or pollutants on the ground. When these items are washed down the storm drain, they flow directly into the river. This harms animals that live in and around the river.

I will _____ to keep river water clean.

I pledge to act upon the suggestions that I created above.

Sign Here



Fun Fact: In Oregon, most beavers live in dens dug into the bank of a creek or river rather than building a lodge. They still build dams and block water flow.

Plant Spotlight: Wapato

5

Hello! I am Trevor the Tree Frog. When I transform from a tadpole to a tiny frog I like to crawl up the stems of the Wapato plants that grow in my wetlands home. You will often find me nestled at the base of a Wapato leaf.

Wapato has an underground tuber like a potato and was a main food staple for local tribes. Wapato tubers were collected in the fall by women using their feet and toes to dig them from the mud in shallow wetlands. Me, I just like hanging out on the arrow shaped leaves.



Activities



Fun Fact: A nearby bald eagle nest was in a tree that was destined to fall. On September 22, 2005, after the young eagles had left the nest, crews took down the 12-foot section of tree holding the nest, a feat that had never been done before. That nest can be seen today in the Nature Center.

Trading Cards

For each activity completed, you earn a wetlands trading card! Do all the activities to collect all the cards. You can get the cards at the front desk in the Nature Center.



Activity 1: Explore the Nature Center

7



Explore the Nature Center in person or with our virtual tour.

One cool thing I learned in the Nature Center:

Date of visit: _____
Month Day Year

Activity 2: Go Hiking!

Taking a walk is a great way to see the plants and animals that live in the wetlands. We suggest the Kingfisher Marsh Trail for young explorers.

A map and a bird list may be useful exploration tools. You can download them here. Be sure to take water and dress for the weather!



Draw a picture of your favorite scene/view from your hike.

Name of trail: _____

Date of visit: _____

Month

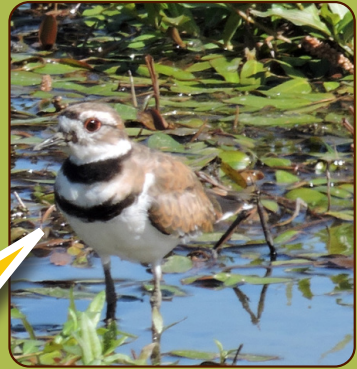
Day

Year

Activity 3: Exploring Habitats

9

For this activity, you need to visit 3 different habitats in the Wetlands. Be sure to look for my habitat, the muddy areas along the **Jackson Bottom Wetlands trail**.



Draw a line from each plant or animal to its habitat. A clue is given next to each plant or animal.

Garter Snakes

(like it warm and dry)

Uplands

(seldom flood)

Macroinvertebrates

(like still water)

Marsh

(wet most of the year)

Wapato

(needs spring and summer water to grow)

Riparian

(riverside)

Osprey

(need to find fish to eat)

Muddy Areas

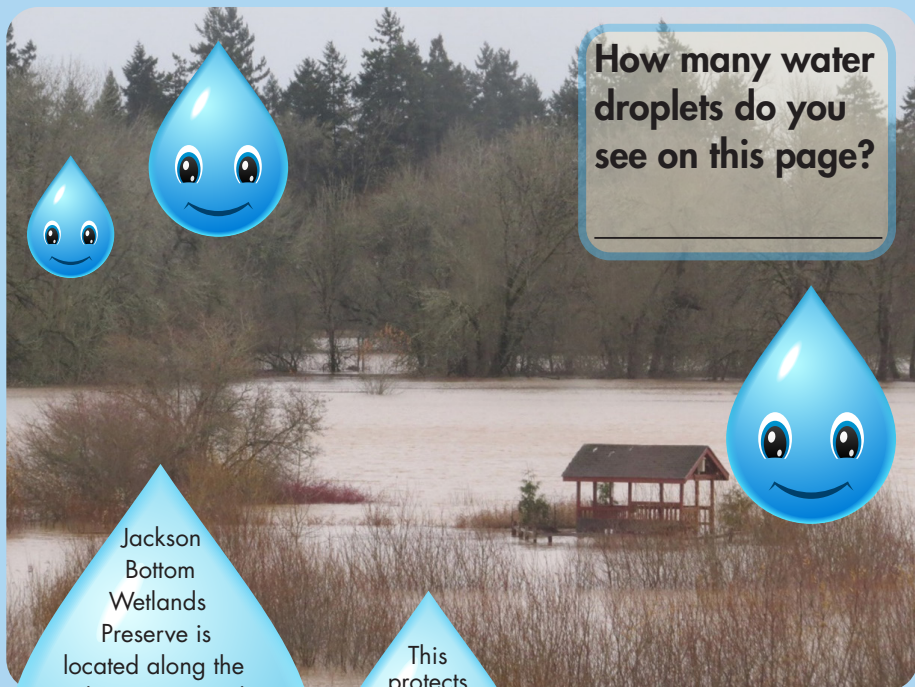
(along the trail)

Killdeer

(eat tiny creatures in the mud)

Ponds

Activity 4: Flooding and the Wetlands



How many water droplets do you see on this page?

Jackson Bottom Wetlands Preserve is located along the Tualatin River. Each winter the rains cause the river to flood and water from the river flows into the Preserve.

This protects areas downstream like parts of Hillsboro and Beaverton from flooding!

Clean rivers mean a healthier home for wetland plants and animals. What can you do to help keep garbage and pollution out of the river?



Activity 5: Count those Birds!

11

Jackson Bottom Wetlands Preserve is home to 215 species of birds each year. The Wetlands is located on the **Pacific Flyway**. You can think of the Pacific Flyway as a highway for birds.

The Wetlands act as a rest stop for birds, where they can recharge on their way to and from South America and Alaska.

If the wetlands did not exist, the birds would not have a place to refill on food and water or to rest. It would be like taking a week long road trip without stopping for a break. This would make the trip impossible. Wetlands are essential for the survival of migrating birds.



Help Ricky fall asleep!

Instead of counting sheep, Ricky is counting birds. Can you help him? Pick a spot and stand there for 5 minutes. Count all the birds you see. We suggest the feeder area by the front of the Nature Center.

1 bird...2 birds...3 birds...

Count your birds here:

The Birds



Black-capped Chickadee

I am small and quick. I dart in to grab a seed from the feeder and dash away. Look for my black cap and bib.

In late spring and summer, head out for a chance to see our Osprey family. The front desk can help you with the location of this year's nest.



Red Winged Blackbird

I am all black except for bright red patches on my shoulders that are bordered with yellow. If I'm not at the feeder I'm out where there are cattails and water.



Downy Woodpecker

I have black and white on my face, back, and wings, but I'm all white underneath. I have a little red patch on the back of my head if I'm a boy. My beak is tiny, but it's mighty! I like suet better than seeds.

These birds are often seen at the Wetlands. Bird species and how they look vary by season.



Spotted Towhee

Look for me close to the ground beneath dense bushes. I have a red eye and reddish brown on my sides. My belly is white and my back is black with white spots.



Anna's Hummingbird

You can see me any time of year, even in winter if the hummingbird feeder isn't frozen. My body is very green and I have a deep red-rose color on my throat and head if I am a boy.



Song Sparrow

I am a plain brown and gray bird with lots of streaks on my underside. The streaks come together to form a large spot on my chest.



Rufous Hummingbird

My long pointy beak and super-fast wing beat say I am a hummingbird. I have a red-orange body and head and I'm only here in Spring and Summer.



Black-headed Grosbeak

I have a very large beak that is good for cracking seeds. I am mostly black but some orange and white make me stand out. I love to sing from the cottonwood trees.



Golden-crowned Sparrow

I am here from September to April. A little golden spot on my forehead gives me my name. I'm a little bigger than my cousin the song sparrow. I like the ground by the feeder and other open places.

Basic Bird Identification Activity

Choose one bird that you saw today. **Draw the shape of the bird in the box below.**

Is the bird chunky/slim? _____

Is its tail short/long? _____

Is its beak short/long? _____

Is its beak flat and dull/pointy and sharp? _____

Coloring

What is the color of its beak? _____

Its legs? _____

Any distinctive patterns or colors? _____

Look at the bird pictures and descriptions on the previous pages and see if your bird is a match. If not, the front desk can help you identify your bird based on the information you filled out above.



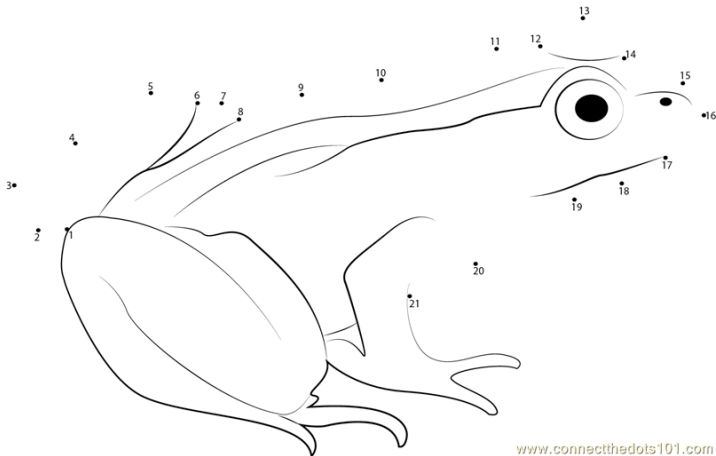
Activity 6: Plants and Wildlife

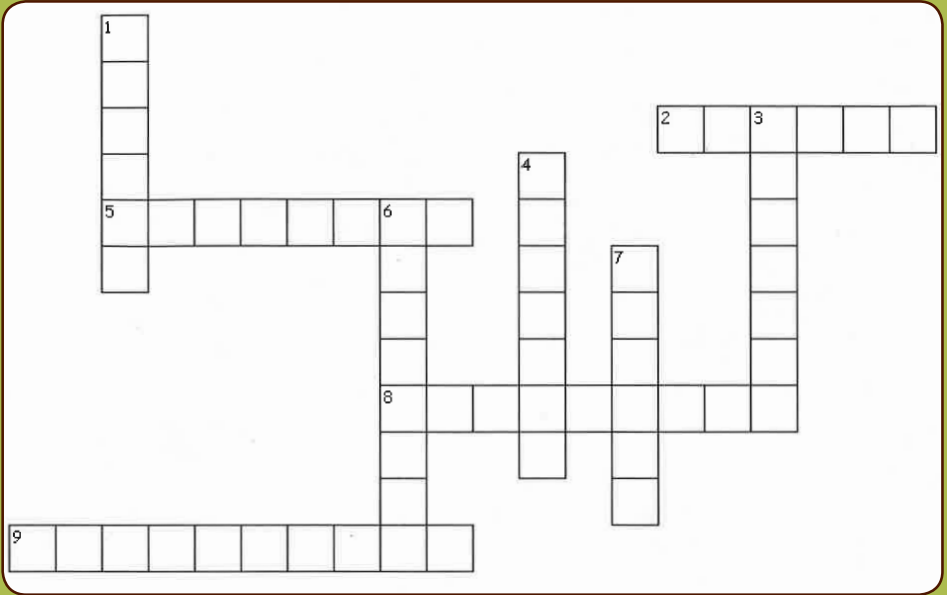
The riparian habitat along the Tualatin River is home to a lot of different animals. Walk the River Trail. Look all around and up and down, record the animals and plants you see on the lines below. Draw a line to show which of the things on the right describes the animal or plant.

Example: Robin

1. _____ Flying (birds, butterflies)
2. _____ Crawling (bugs, salamanders)
3. _____ Stationary (plants)
4. _____ Hopping/running (frogs, rabbits)
5. _____ Other (Specify to the right of the blank)

Connect the dots to find a wetlands friend.





Across

- 2. Low lying land along a watercourse
- 5. Jackson Bottom is located along this river
- 8. Species that are very few in number
- 9. You seldom hear Red-legged Frogs
because they call_____

Down

- 1. Plant that grows from an underground tuber
- 3. Baby frog
- 4. Place to put kitchen scraps
- 6. Species that arrive from another place
- 7. _____ snakes like it warm and dry

Answers

Across 2. Bottom 5. Tualatin 8. sensitive 9. underwater
Down 1. Wapato 3. tadpole 4. compost 6. invasive 7. garter



CONTACT US

Jackson Bottom Wetlands Preserve
2600 SW Hillsboro Highway
Hillsboro, OR 97123
503-681-6206
Hillsboro-Oregon.gov/JacksonBottom

