



Northwest Family DAYCATION NATURE GUIDE

Put on your rainboots and your coat, grab your fam and take a step outside to rediscover your city, with this handy-dandy companion to your NW Family Daycation App.

A fun and friendly guide of the local wildlife and flora, so you can get to know just a little better the neighbors in your naturehood.

 nwfamilydaycation

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nwfamilydaycation.com

ABOUT THE APP

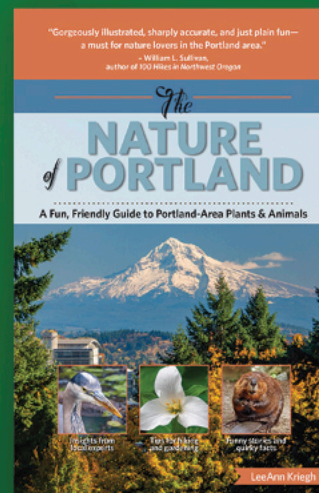
NW Family Daycation is a FREE mobile application for iOS and Android designed for busy families looking for a research-free tool to get out-the-door, have fun, and connect with nature wherever they are, however they like, and on their schedule. The app uses GPS technology to help you find nearby parks, playgrounds, amenities, fun activities, family-friendly events, and curated itineraries or DAYCATIONS, made by real parents that will have you experience your city in a completely new way, while helping the little ones enjoy nearby nature and discovering their place in the natural world and all the reasons why we should protect it.

NW Family Daycation is a collaborative effort between the US Fish and Wildlife Service, The Intertwine Alliance, and many other generous partners in the Portland Metro Region.

ABOUT THE GUIDE

This nature guide is part of a collaboration with local nature author LeeAnn Kreigh, who generously shared excerpts from her book, "The Nature of Portland." Learn more about her and her wonderful books at www.natureofbooks.com.

We have also created a series of fun nature videos called LeeAnn's Backyard wonders, which you can watch on our Facebook page, and nwfamilydaycation.com.

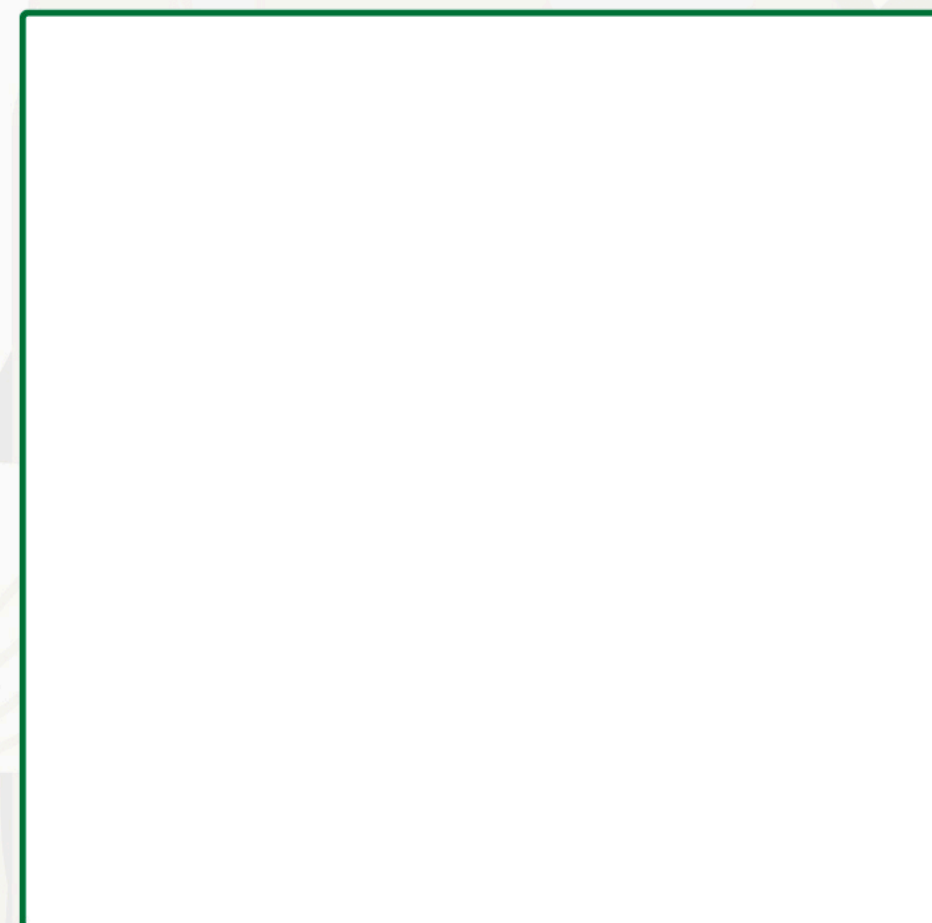


SPOTTER SCORECARD

- Big Leaf Maple
- American Robin
- American Crow
- Northern Raccoon
- Gray Squirrel
- Douglas Fir
- Sword Fern
- Rough Skinned Newt
- Banana Slug
- Black Tailed Deer
- Great Blue Heron
- Damselfly
- Osprey
- Western Painted Turtle
- Mallard

ART NATURELE

This space has been reserved for the young naturalist who owns this guide to create a suitable depiction of her or his favorite natural specimen.



IN THE CITY



Big Leaf Maple

Big leaf maples are the largest maple species in the world and their leaves can get up to 12 inches across! Fun fact: the little twirling helicopter seeds we all know and love are called samaras.

American Robin

Robins are often the first bird you hear singing outside your window in the morning in the spring and summer. In winter, many head out to open places and form flocks of up to 5,000. Robins eggs are bright blue!



American Crow

Crows are famously intelligent animals that can count, solve puzzles, make use of tools, and even recognize human faces (even holding grudges against them). Crows can mimic human speech as effectively as parrots, along with the sounds of ducks, dogs, cats, and even machinery.



Northern Raccoon

Raccoons are synanthropes, which is a fancy term meaning that they have learned to thrive living among humans. They are so urban they have even been seen walking around the city on their hind two legs!



Gray Squirrel

There are two types of Gray Squirrels around Portland. The Eastern Gray Squirrel is the one you usually see running around the trees at the park. Squirrels forget where they bury 74% of their nuts. Those nuts can then grow up to become trees, so squirrels accidentally plant trees!



IN THE FOREST

Douglas-Fir

Look around any park in Portland and odds are you'll see their distinctive swooping branches. These trees can live for a thousand years! Indigenous cultures have used Douglas firs for fuel, tools, and medicine. They are also one of our country's favorite Christmas trees.



Sword Fern

In every season of the year you'll see clumps of sword ferns in every direction. The fronds can get up to 4 feet long, and the underground rhizomes of the sword ferns can be hundreds of years old. And did you know, some Indigenous cultures have bundled the fronds to use as mattresses.



Rough Skinned Newt

Rough skinned newts are so toxic they don't bother with hiding, which is why they're probably the most commonly seen salamander in Portland. Touching one won't kill you, because their toxin is in their skin (not oozed out) but it's better to watch them slowly crawl from a distance.



Banana Slug

Banana slugs are what you might call the "king of slugs," due to its size. It's the second largest land slug in the world. You can think of them as the forest recyclers that break down dead plants, fungi, feces and other organic material and turn it into the rich humus that the forest life depends on.



Black Tailed Deer

Deer are the most common large mammal left in the wild, and you can find the Columbian black-tailed deer all around Portland neighborhoods and parks. They're most often seen eating at dawn and dusk. And did you know black tailed deer can eat poison oak!



IN THE WETLANDS

Great blue heron

Great Blue Herons are the official bird of Portland. And though we often see them near water, they actually nest high up in the trees! So the next time you are taking a walk around a wetland, remember to look up and see if you can spot a heron.



Damselflies

Damselflies and dragonflies have been darting around the planet for at least 325 million years. Unlike dragonflies, Damselflies have a noticeable gap between their eyes. Take a seat beside a wetland area in the summer, and listen to the whir of these colorful carnivores as they hunt mosquitoes, flies, and other insects.



Osprey

Ospreys are amazing at catching fish. When they spot a fish, they dive hard and fast, sometimes descending several feet under water before fighting their way up with their catch. They are Oregon's state raptor, and you'll often see them sitting on utility poles and along rivers, lakes, and streams.



Western Painted Turtle

Painted turtles are incredibly colorful, and their bellies are bright red. Did you know that their eggs will turn into either male or female turtles depending on temperature. Warmer temperatures and the eggs become female, colder and they become male.



Mallard

Mallards can be found just about anywhere with water in the Portland area. But even though they are common, they are also extra-special. They spread a huge amount of plant seeds as they travel from one wetland to another, which increases plant biodiversity and helps make wetlands healthier.

