



The Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge, located in Sherwood, Oregon, is one of America's few "urban" refuges and grew from an idea first promoted in 1990 by the community. The Refuge was established in 1992, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service now manages 1358 acres of land within the 3,060 acre acquisition boundary.

From its inception, the Refuge has been a unique and broad-based partnership between members of the local community, federal and state agencies, surrounding local jurisdictions, business groups, and local and national non-profits, with steady support from Oregon's Congressional delegation. These partners share a common goal of preserving wetlands, riparian corridors, and other floodplain habitats and the fish and wildlife that live in and migrate through the Tualatin River Basin, all in the midst of the urbanizing Portland metropolitan area.

Recently, the story of this community-based national wildlife refuge entered a new chapter. Funding was secured to build visitor facilities just off State Highway 99W on the Refuge's "Steinborn Unit." With these developments, the Refuge will take its place among the most important publicly accessible natural areas in Metropolitan Portland and Northwest Oregon.

In celebration of a community dream that has been over 15 years in the making, a Grand Opening Celebration is planned for June 3 & 4, 2006. On Saturday, June 3, from 1:30 to 4:00 p.m., free public guided tours of the Steinborn Unit (on the north side of State Highway 99W between King City and Sherwood) will be conducted, and will continue through Sunday, June 4 from 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Thereafter, trails and interpretive facilities in the Steinborn Unit will be generally open to the public from dawn to dusk on a year-round basis.

These public tours will be led by expert naturalists and birders from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Audubon Society of Portland, Oregon Field Ornithologists and Friends of the Refuge. Guided tours are on a drop-in basis and will head out every 30 minutes on Saturday afternoon, and every 60 minutes on Sunday. You are also welcome to explore the

new refuge trails and facilities on your own both Saturday afternoon and dawn to dusk on Sunday.

On Saturday June 3rd, free parking will be available at Home Depot in Sherwood and a free shuttle bus will run continuously to and from the event. On Sunday June 4th, you can park right at the Refuge. You can also take advantage of a new Tri-Met bus service (#12) with a southbound stop right at the entrance to the Refuge. Visitors needing special assistance will be accommodated.

For more information, call 503-972-7714 or go to www.friendsoftualatinrefuge.org