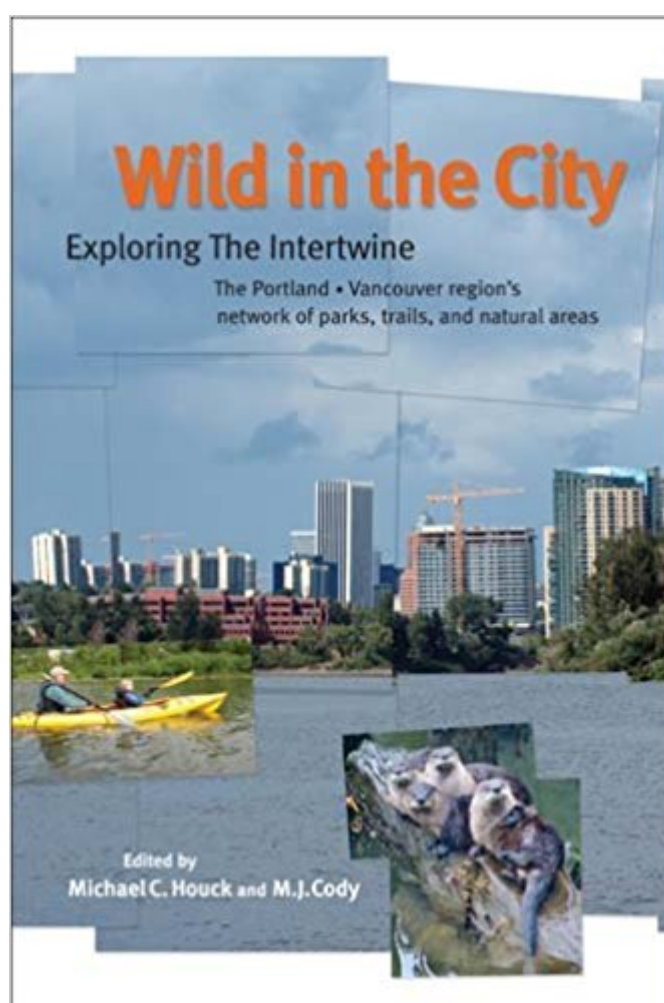


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# Wild In The City: Exploring The Intertwine: The Portland-Vancouver Region's Network Of Parks, Trails, And Natural Areas



## Synopsis

The second edition of the highly acclaimed *Wild in the City* brings over 100 of the best parks, trails and natural areas to your fingertips. This comprehensive "must-have" reference will be the go-to field guide for hikers, cyclists, paddlers, bird watchers, and nature enthusiasts. This revised and updated edition contains all new maps organized according to watershed and includes twenty-eight unique "rambles" that explore multiple sites for recreation, wildlife viewing, or simply contemplating the joys of nature. New natural history essays by such well-known writers as Ursula K. Le Guin, Kim Stafford, Robin Cody, Judy BlueHorse Skelton, Robert Michael Pyle, Jonathan Nicholas, and Richard Louv, author of *Last Child in the Woods*, offer fresh perspectives on the little pockets and expansive corridors of Portland's wild environs. The book also examines the innovative strategies that cities, agencies, and nonprofits are using to create an ecologically sustainable metropolitan region. This invaluable resource will be an essential guide for educators and parents who want to explore the region's natural wonders with their students and children. Included are tips on living with wildlife, as well as a new section that provides essential information for how urban living and green spaces intersect.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Every schoolteacher should be supplied one for field trips. Every car should be sold with one in its glove compartment. Tuck one into every motel-room drawer next to the Gideon Bible. Front to back, there's something in this book for everyone--a trip to take, a thought to spark a memory, a term to explain."--Bill Monroe, *The Oregonian*

Michael C. Houck is executive director of the Urban Greenspaces Institute and a longtime national leader in urban park and greenspace issues. He is the author of *Wild on the Willamette: Exploring the Lower Willamette River* and co-editor of *The Routledge Handbook of Urban Ecology*. M. J. Cody has written and edited several books. Her travel column, "Sleeping Around the Northwest," appears monthly in *The Oregonian*.

Amazing resource for my part of the world. I had no idea about some of these places. I love it!

Great suggestions for where to go. Color pictures would have made it better.

Gave this book to my son and his young family who love to get out and explore on weekends. This gives them lots of options!

Gave this as present to my son and his wife - they have only lived in the area a few years and have a 2 year old. It'll be a great resource to figure out fun things to explore in the area.

It was a birthday present for a friend. She liked it so much she is going to take tours using the guide.

In 2000, the Audubon Society of Portland published a new guide to the natural areas of the Portland region. Edited by Michael C. Houck and M.J. Cody, *Wild in the City: A Guide to Portland's Natural Areas* provided the reader with descriptions of major natural areas in the region, along with short essays about natural history topics appropriate for the area by a variety of local naturalists. When I moved to Portland in 2010, this was one of the first regional books I obtained - along with *The Northwest Nature Guide: Where to Go and What to See Month by Month in Oregon, Washington, and British Columbia* by James Luther Davis. Knowing that my young son and I would be exploring most of the places listed in the book, I decided to use it as a guide for this blog, checking off each place as we explored it. I never got around to putting the whole list of natural areas on the blog, unfortunately, as some things just get pushed aside and forgotten. I am glad that I had not completed the list, however, because now I have the shiny new edition of *Wild in the City* (OSU Press) to utilize for that purpose, which - subtitled *Exploring the Intertwine: The Portland-Vancouver Region's Network of Parks, Trails, and Natural Areas* - adds over 12,000 acres of natural areas (such as Cooper Mountain and Graham Oaks Nature Parks) to the list since 11 years ago. At the

core of Wild in the City is The Intertwine, "the network of parks, trails, natural areas, and special places in the Portland-Vancouver region" that is "about providing people with connections to nature, to their communities, and to one another across urban and rural landscapes." This book is all at once for walker and the hiker, for the paddler and the biker, for the beginning or seasoned naturalist, and most especially, as Richard Louv writes in his foreword, for families with children. Not only does Wild in the City describe with great detail the many places one could explore nature in the Portland region (over 90 locations), but it provides many short essays on far-ranging natural history topics, such as salamanders, Great Blue Herons (the city bird), pygmy owls, Peregrine falcons, "urban vermin," coyotes, and salmon, and personal essays about particular spaces and their histories, like Forest Park, Sauvie Island, and the various watersheds. There are essays from the first edition, however, that are not repeated in the new edition, and that will afford both editions space on my shelf. A section of essays at the beginning of the book provides personal windows into the Portland region as a "sense of place." I personally enjoyed Robert Michael Pyle's essay "No Vacancy," where he looks further into why natural spaces, even "the little places, the corners and crannies and ravines, the urban greenspaces writ small," must be part of our lives. There is no better guide to make those natural spaces - whether a ditch along a trail cutting through your neighborhood or a banana slug-slimed trail at Tryon Creek State Natural Area - part of your regular life than yourself, your family and friends, and a copy of Wild in the City.

A terrific guide to Portland's urban wildness, but a great model for every city -- and it would be great if every city were to publish their own version. In other words, this book isn't just for Portlanders; it's for every urban region that wants to become a restorative city, through nature.

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