
OAKS BOTTOM PORTLAND, OREGON

MIKE HOUCK

The 160-acre Oaks Bottom Wildlife Refuge, was the first formally designated urban wildlife refuge in Portland. In the middle distance, sitting in the middle of the Willamette River, is the four island Ross Island archipelago (Ross, Hardtack, East and Toe) 45 acres of which was recently donated to Portland Parks and Recreation by Ross Island Sand and Gravel. Holgate Channel, the narrow channel between Oaks Bottom and the islands is now a wake-free zone where families can canoe, kayak and bird watch without the noise and wakes associated with high speed motorized activities. In the distance is the downtown Portland skyline. Oaks Bottom, Ross Island, and the riparian habitat along the Willamette River comprise 400 acres of significant fish and wildlife habitat and access to nature in the heart of Oregon's largest city.

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Oaks Bottom Wildlife Refuge
Photo Credit: Mike Houck

