

## **2023 MAY GNOME HUNT (See Map in Related Links/Attachments)**

### **EAST WALUGA PARK (15505 Quarry Rd.)**

This 25 acre mixed use park has it all! Pass by the playground, picnic area and ball fields. At the end of the parking lot you'll find the main trail into the tranquil forest.

1. Hike up the trail to the old quarry and admire the tall, native Big Leaf Maple trees. Blossom followed a Townsend's Chipmunk up to the area where Mountain Bikers do jumps!
2. Head down the trail to the "Y". Take a small side trail down the hill. Go Right on the main trail. Greenie found a tree that busy Northern Flickers made into a bird hotel!
3. Turn back and follow the main trail. Go right on a side trail that winds around the ball fields. Oak is resting on a log to count beautiful Swallowtail butterflies. At the "Y", go left on the trail between the ball fields to return to the parking lot.

### **LUSCHER FARM (125 Rosemount Rd.)**

This 42 acre park has active farm land, community gardens, rolling meadows, oak savannahs and expansive vistas. Watch for Red Tail Hawks that soar over the meadow.

1. From the historic Luscher farmhouse, follow the paved trail across the footbridge. Blossom is on a Pine tree reading the William Safford poem etched in a stone pillar.
2. Take a Left at the circle. Head up to the Heritage Trail sign. Pass by the sign. Greenie's hiding in the old apple orchard where White Tail deer graze!
3. Follow the paved trail to 2 wide yellow stripes. Go Left on the natural trail in the meadow. Look for a side trail on the Left. Enter a magical tree canopy to find Oak in 3 trees with white striped bark. Cross the apple orchard back to the paved trail that leads to Luscher Farmhouse.

OR, for a meadow walk, look for a wee dirt trail on the Right side of the orchard. This trail leads to the grass trail that parallels the paved trail. Enjoy the meandering grass trail and listen to the Song Sparrows singing. You will walk by a towering 100 year old Ponderosa Pine, a Heritage tree. At this point, rejoin the paved trail and head back to the Luscher Farmhouse.

### **SOUTHWOOD PARK (6200 Pamela St.)**

Discover a hidden oasis! This 2.5 natural park is host to Towhees and Douglas Squirrels that dwell in the forest.

1. Weave through the forest on winding trails. Keep an eye out for Mountain Bikers that like being in nature, too! Blossom is on a native Douglas Fir tree to listen to croaking Pacific Tree Frogs that live by the creek.
2. Follow the paved trail that meanders by the babbling creek in the woods. Greenie's on a Red Alder tree to watch for the Great Horned Owl that often roosts in tall trees along this trail.
3. Cross the large grassy area and you may find Oak. He followed a Garter Snake that slithered into native Thimbleberry bushes to look for earthworms.