

Rod Park

METRO COUNCIL DISTRICT 1 NEWS



METRO

PEOPLE PLACES
OPEN SPACES

Rod Park represents District 1, which includes Fairview, Gresham, Happy Valley, Maywood Park, Troutdale, Wood Village, Damascus and portions of East Portland.



A message from Rod Park

I was recently reminded of the miles of multi-use trails East County has to offer when I met staff from Congressman Earl Blumenauer's office to show off the work that has been completed as a result of federal, regional and local funding. We also shared future plans for completing a trail network throughout East County. We lunched at Linneman Station, a restored train depot on the Springwater Corridor, where staff from Gresham's Department of Environmental Services presented future plans for trails throughout East County.

For example, plans are underway to complete a trail to connect Gresham and Fairview and the 40-Mile Loop Trail on Marine Drive next to the Columbia River. The development of this trail and others like it provides and enhances opportunities for recreation and mobility options.

I am excited and impressed with how jurisdictions such as Gresham, Portland, and Fairview have partnered with TriMet, Metro, and the Oregon Historical Society, to name a few, to increase the number of miles of trails in this region. I am also thankful that Congressman Blumenauer has made trails a priority in his work at the federal level. I encourage you to visit these trails before the summer ends!

— Rod Park

Metro bond measure aims to protect natural areas, parks and streams

The Metro Council's proposed \$227.4 million bond measure (Measure 26-80) asks voters whether to direct Metro to protect natural areas and lands near rivers and streams throughout the metro region, safeguarding the quality of our water while managing the impacts of growth and maintaining the area's quality of life for future generations.

Should Measure 26-80 pass, property owners would likely pay 19 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value (not market value) on property taxes to fund continued acquisitions of, and improvements to, natural areas. For the average homeowner, the total annual cost is likely to be \$30 to \$35.

If voters approve the measure, Metro would acquire properties from willing sellers in 27 targeted areas identified as providing ecological benefits to the entire region. Areas

in or near this district include the East Buttes; Deep Creek and Tributaries which includes the Cazadero Trail that will link Gresham and Barton and will complete the Springwater Corridor; the Clackamas River Bluffs and Greenway; Clear Creek; Johnson Creek and Watershed; the Sandy River Gorge; and the Gresham-Fairview Trail, a multi-use trail that connects Gresham from north to south.

Metro would also provide \$44 million to several local cities, counties and parks districts—including Portland, Fairview, Wood Village, Troutdale, Gresham, Damascus, Clackamas, Happy Valley and Clackamas County—to purchase land for neighborhood parks and protect water quality and wildlife habitat.

For more information on the bond measure, please visit www.metroregion.org/bondmeasure.

Metro and partners increase construction recycling

A year-end survey of contractors, architects and engineers indicates that a Metro program aimed at reducing waste from the construction and demolition industry (C&D) is continuing to have a positive effect on the local industry's recycling operations.

The C&D industry has one of the largest impacts on the region's landfills. Metro estimates that 20 percent of the region's 1.3 million tons of waste brought to regional landfills comes directly from building activity, and of that waste, as much as 60 percent could be recycled, reused or otherwise diverted from the landfills.

The program is a partnership with several organizations representing more than 2,000 area construction professionals. The centerpiece is Metro's "Construction Industry Recycling Toolkit," a comprehensive directory of more than 100 recycling and salvage facilities in the metro region.

The survey indicates that 67 percent of the members of the partner organizations have seen the Toolkit, up from 63 percent in 2005 and 60 percent in 2004. It also shows that overall awareness of sustainable construction techniques is increasing, and that recycling among partnership members is up. Wood, cardboard, metal and glass were all categories that saw increased recycling rates among those surveyed between 2005 and 2006.

The Toolkit is available as a printed guide, on-line at www.metro-region.org/toolkit, and also as a mini CD. In addition to the Toolkit, Metro also offers a "Salvage Planning Guide," which helps architects and developers design and specify construction projects that generate less C&D waste.

New Look regional forum asked, "How do we grow from here?"

As mentioned in the last newsletter, the Metro Council recently hosted a regional forum as part of its New Look at Regional Choices. The New Look is divided into three broad policy categories:

1. Investing in our communities—how we steer growth into existing commercial areas and promote vibrant mixed-use

centers that use land most efficiently and provide more housing and transportation options for residents.

2. The shape of the region—how we manage expansion of the urban growth boundary in a way that protects valuable agricultural land, but also allows for responsible growth in outlying areas.
3. The Regional Transportation Plan—how we update the plan to make it financially realistic and support the region's growth management values.

At the June 23 forum, nearly 300 citizens, elected officials, business leaders, planners and environmental advocates were asked to think of new, creative ways to implement the 2040 Growth Concept.

Several themes emerged, including suggestions on making strategic investments, especially in centers, corridors and employment areas; adapting and changing policies and legal requirements in order to create greater flexibility; encouraging more development in specific areas while limiting it in others; continuing to protect the natural environment; and providing housing choices for people at all stages in their lives.

A more detailed summary of suggestions will be available soon on the New Look web site: www.metro-region.org/newlook.

As the New Look continues, this input will be used to refine new financial investment strategies and potential changes to state law and local policies that will help this region remain a great place to live and work, even as about a million more people are born or move here in the next 25 years.

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About Metro

Clean air and clean water do not stop at city limits or county lines. Neither does the need for jobs, a thriving economy and good transportation choices for people and businesses in our region. Voters have asked Metro to help with the challenges that cross those lines and affect the 25 cities and three counties in the Portland metropolitan area.

A regional approach simply makes sense when it comes to protecting open space, caring for parks, planning for the best use of land, managing garbage disposal and increasing recycling. Metro oversees world-class facilities such as the Oregon Zoo, which contributes to conservation and education, and the Oregon Convention Center, which benefits the region's economy.

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