

# Rex Burkholder

## METRO COUNCIL DISTRICT 5 NEWS



**METRO**

PEOPLE PLACES  
OPEN SPACES

Rex Burkholder  
represents District  
5, which includes  
Northwest Portland,  
North Portland,  
Northeast Portland,  
downtown Portland,  
a portion of  
Southwest Portland  
and a portion of  
Southeast Portland.



### A message from Rex Burkholder

Before summer ends (!) I want to encourage you to get out and enjoy the miles of trails this region offers. Whether you bike, walk, or run: opportunities abound! I was reminded of this when I recently met with 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, including \$5 million Congressman Blumenauer earmarked for trails in his district (Thanks, Congressman!) We took a tour of the Springwater

Corridor and learned about the plans that are underway to complete a trail to connect Gresham and Fairview, adding to the 40-Mile Loop Trail on Marine Dr. next to the Columbia River as well as completion of the Springwater Corridor Trail in Sellwood. I am thankful that Congressman Blumenauer has made trails a priority in his work at the federal level.

As some of you have experienced, a gap in the Springwater Corridor Trail exists, which requires users to travel via streets to complete the whole trail. One exciting development with this trail is the impending completion of three bridges over McLoughlin Boulevard, the Union Pacific Railroad and Johnson Creek. On October 19th we will be celebrating this long awaited event. One of my first successes on the Metro Council was getting almost \$5 million in regional transportation funds dedicated to fixing this major missing link. Stay tuned for details.

In addition, check out the story about the Metro bond measure, Measure 26-80, which will protect natural areas, parks and streams. If voters approve the measure this November, it will pay for new bike trails in Tualatin, Wilsonville and Sherwood, a major Westside Trail, running from Forest Park to Tigard, a Gresham trail from the Springwater Corridor to Blue Lake Park and the Columbia River, new bike access to the Columbia Slough, and improvements to the Springwater Corridor.

While we are talking about getting out, September is the month for the Bicycle Transportation Alliance's annual Bike Commute Challenge. How many of you take advantage of our trails to get to work? The Challenge is a great time to get back on your bike if you've been thinking about it or to encourage those co-workers who have always talked about riding to work. The bike challenge is a good motivator—all in the name of friendly competition. The workplaces with the highest percentage of commutes by bicycle during the month win! For more information go to [www.bikecommutechallenge.com/oregon](http://www.bikecommutechallenge.com/oregon).

— Rex Burkholder

## **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. Target areas in and near this district include the Columbia Slough; the Forest Park Connections, which connect Forest Park to Rock Creek and the Westside Trail; and the Willamette River Greenway, which connects Wilsonville to the Multnomah Channel.

Metro would also provide \$44 million to local cities, counties and parks districts to purchase land for neighborhood parks and protect water quality and wildlife habitat.

For more information on the bond measure, please visit [www.metro-region.org/bondmeasure](http://www.metro-region.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](http://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

*continued*

## Regional forum

*continued from page 1*

will be available soon on the New Look web site: [www.metro-region.org/newlook](http://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.

## Events of note in District 5

For a complete list of events, check out our online calendar (<http://calendar.metro-region.org>).

### 10 a.m. Saturday, September 9 Lone Fir Pioneer Cemetery tour

*Embark on a unique history lesson while enjoying the beauty and tranquility of Metro's Lone Fir Pioneer Cemetery in Southeast Portland. The tour highlights Portland's founders, early pioneers and nationally-recognized figures, as well as interesting headstones and monuments. Explore 30 acres of mature trees and a very special rose garden. Suitable for all ages. Meet at the main entrance at Southeast 21st Avenue and Morrison Street. Registration not required. A suggested donation of \$10 goes to headstone restoration and educational programs. For more information, call (503) 775-6278.*

### 9:30 a.m. Saturday, September 16 Shorebirds and waders at Smith and Bybee Wetlands

*The water control structure at Smith and Bybee Wetlands has reconnected the wetlands with the Columbia Slough and the Willamette/Columbia system. As a result, tidal mudflats have been developing in Bybee Lake in the fall, and this habitat is a shorebird and wader magnet. The number and variety of shorebirds haven't been this good in decades, so Metro naturalist James Davis is offering two field trips focused on sandpipers, herons and their relatives. The group may visit the mudflats near the old St. Johns Landfill, an area that is accessible to the public only during these trips. Suitable for adults and young birders age 12 and older.*

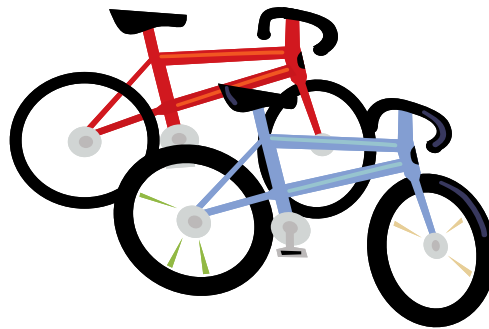
*Registration and payment of \$5 per adult required in advance; children are free. Call (503) 797-1715.*

### 12 noon Saturday, September 23 Aquifer adventure

*Ahoy there, matey! Come to a free pirate-themed treasure hunt, with games, prizes and canoe rides led by real pirates. Prepare to walk, canoe and explore the mysteries of groundwater and the Columbia Slough as you search for hidden treasure. Suitable for all ages. The event will take place at the 40-mile Loop trailhead at 16550 NE Airport Way in Portland. Free. Registration not required. For more information, call (503) 281-1132.*

### 8:30 a.m. Sunday, September 24 Walk or Run for the Wildwood

*Walk, run or mosey your way through your choice of two beautiful courses along the Wildwood Trail in Forest Park. Hang around afterward for a morning of fun for the entire family including arts and crafts, games, food, raffle prizes and music in Lower Macleay Park. This 7th annual event is a benefit for the Friends of Forest Park trail program. Register by Sept. 21. For more information, visit [www.friendsofforestpark.org](http://www.friendsofforestpark.org) or call (503) 222-6454.*



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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.

### Your Metro representatives

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