

# 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

It's hard to believe, but it's already been over a year since the Metro Council passed a resolution I introduced devoting \$1,250,000 for conservation and restoration projects in environmentally sensitive areas in our region. The goal of this two-year program is to link participants to restoration projects and community building opportunities in their neighborhood and watershed. The funds come from a one-time use of the Recovery Rate Stabilization Reserve and allows us to create a new partnership between the regional waste management industry, its licensed and certified haulers, conservation and restoration organizations, and Metro's Nature in Neighborhoods initiative. The first round of grants distributed \$560,000.

It is my pleasure to announce that pre-applications for the second round of grants will be available October 19. \$370,000 is available for projects within the Metro jurisdictional boundary that are restoration or community building focused. An emphasis on cleaning up illegal dumpsites is also encouraged.

Two workshops will be held for individuals or groups who are new applicants or would like some pointers on applying for a grant and some project assistance. To receive a pre-application or to find out more about the workshops, contact Janelle Geddes, Restoration Grants Coordinator at (503) 797-1550 or [geddesj@metro.dst.or.us](mailto:geddesj@metro.dst.or.us).

— Rod Park

### Salmon Festival celebrates return of fall Chinook

The 23rd annual Salmon Festival at Oxbow Regional Park celebrates the return of fall Chinook salmon to the Sandy River. This year's event takes place from 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 14 and 15 and emphasizes a better understanding of the importance of healthy rivers and streams and ways to ensure that salmon continue to be part of our local story. Admission is \$8 per vehicle or \$12 per bus at the gate. Pets are not allowed.

The festival literally has something for everyone: informative exhibits, live music, interactive activities for children, arts and crafts demonstrations, a salmon barbecue and a food court. The Wy-Kan-Ush-Pum Village, hosted by the fishing tribes of the Columbia River Basin, will offer traditional activities including storytelling, beading, weaving,

dancing, drum making, a traditional salmon bake, as well as lessons about the tribes' efforts to restore salmon runs.

For those seeking a quieter experience, self-guided walks along a peaceful forest trail will take you to the best places to view spawning salmon. Biologists will be on hand to help spot fish and answer questions.

For more information, visit [www.metro-region.org/salmonfestival](http://www.metro-region.org/salmonfestival) or call Metro at (503) 797-1850.

### The Sandy River—a wild river reborn

Standing on the shore of the Sandy River at Oxbow Regional Park, watching Chinook spawn in the river's shallow riffles, you might not realize you're in a river basin of more than 500 square miles, a wild river preserve in a metropolitan area unmatched in the world.

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## Sandy River

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The Sandy used to be a great river for salmon, but today wild fish runs are only 10 to 15 percent of historical numbers. Chinook, coho and steelhead have been listed by the federal government as threatened species.

Many activities, such as over-fishing, clear-cut logging, Portland's Bull Run drinking water system, and two dams, have had a cumulative effect on the health of the Sandy's waters and wildlife.

All that is changing. Progress has already been made through the partnership of a dozen government, private and nonprofit organizations working to protect and restore thousands of acres along the Sandy, and more changes are coming.

A key protection strategy is the acquisition and donation of land. Portland General Electric, in an agreement with Western Rivers Conservancy, plans to dismantle Marmot Dam in 2007 and the Little Sandy Dam in 2008, and donate more than 1,500 acres of its related lands. With funds from the 1995 open spaces, parks and streams bond measure, Metro has acquired and protected more than 1,000 acres. Smaller, strategic acquisitions have been made by The Nature Conservancy.

Habitat restoration is another critical piece of the strategy. The U.S. Forest Service is restoring 1,400 acres of the Sandy River delta. The Nature Conservancy and Metro have been working with private landowners to eradicate invasive Japanese knotweed. And the Portland Water Bureau is creating a habitat conservation plan to improve water flows, water temperature and habitat in the Bull Run watershed and Sandy basin.

Stand at Oxbow Regional Park along the Sandy River shore and peer upriver and down. The rushing waters are flowing from mountain glacier through canyon and gorge, ancient forest, home of black bear and bobcat and ancestral salmon spawning grounds. With a lot of work and renewed dedication, the Sandy remains a river wild.

## 2008-11 Transportation Priorities seeks public comment

The 2008-11 Transportation Priorities process started in April, soliciting project applications from local jurisdictions.

Funds for the Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP) will target economic development in the region's mixed-use and industrial areas and help meet transportation-related air quality requirements.

This summer, Metro staff ranked projects to create a "First Cut" list, which contains 67 projects and programs requesting \$133.5 million. Since only \$45.4 million is actually available, Metro is looking to the public to help narrow the list. The official comment period begins with the release of the First Cut list on October 13 and ends on December 1, 2006. The First Cut list will be posted on the Metro website, [www.metro-region.org](http://www.metro-region.org).

Comments can be submitted in several ways, including attending one of the public Listening Posts Metro will host around the region in November. An Eastside Listening Post will be held 5 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, November 9 in the Springwater Trail Room, Gresham City Hall, 1333 NW Eastman Parkway (accessible via MAX). To ensure that oral testimony is accurately recorded, please also submit comments in writing.

For more information, including the full list of Listening Posts, and to submit comments, contact Metro at:

**Email:** [trans@metro.dst.or.us](mailto:trans@metro.dst.or.us)

**Fax:** (503) 797-1911

**Phone:** (503) 797-1900

**US Mail:** Ted Leybold, Metro Planning Dept., 600 NE Grand Ave., Portland, OR 97232

**Web:** [www.metro-region.org](http://www.metro-region.org)

After the First Cut list is narrowed, a draft final list will be released for further public comment next January before the Metro Council's final adoption of the plan in March 2007. Project funding will begin in October 2007.

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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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