

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: Lessons from the not-so-far North

In September I helped lead a group of community leaders, including three mayors as well as city councilors, developers and planners, to the other great Northwest city-Vancouver, British Columbia. We went there to see what they are doing because Vancouver and its region faces the same issues we face in the Portland metro area. Vancouver is experiencing the same rapid population growth (it is known as the “Banana Belt” of Canada!) and similar public support for protecting the farmland and natural areas surrounding the urban area. Part of what is fascinating about visiting Vancouver and its suburbs is that in a way we were able to see our future. The greater Vancouver region has a population similar to ours but occupies about half the land area.

Canada didn’t have a federally-funded interstate highway program, so the sprawl we see in US cities didn’t happen there. Plus, the provincial government of British Columbia adopted strict farmland protections in the 1970s that helped limit sprawl as well. As Metro goes through its New Look at the region’s 50-year land use plan, it was good to see another community that is maintaining a very high level of livability even with double our density.

What did our group see? Even in the suburbs there were many high-rise apartment and condominium developments clustered around light rail stops. In Coquitlam, about the size of Beaverton, there were four construction cranes active at the Skytrain stop. In Collingwood, we met a spry and sharp older woman who led her community in its negotiation with the city and the developer, gaining a park, new school, community center and community police office as part of a deal to replace an old industrial site with high density housing in the middle of a single family neighborhood. The community won big as did homebuyers looking for convenient, affordable housing.

I told my fellow travelers that our goal wasn’t to mimic Vancouver’s growth strategies but to be explorers, to see the good, the bad and the ugly, and to bring back ideas that seemed to work well and would work well in their communities. Expect to see some new ideas to make our community an even better place to live.

— Rex Burkholder

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

continued

Salmon Festival

continued from page 1

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.

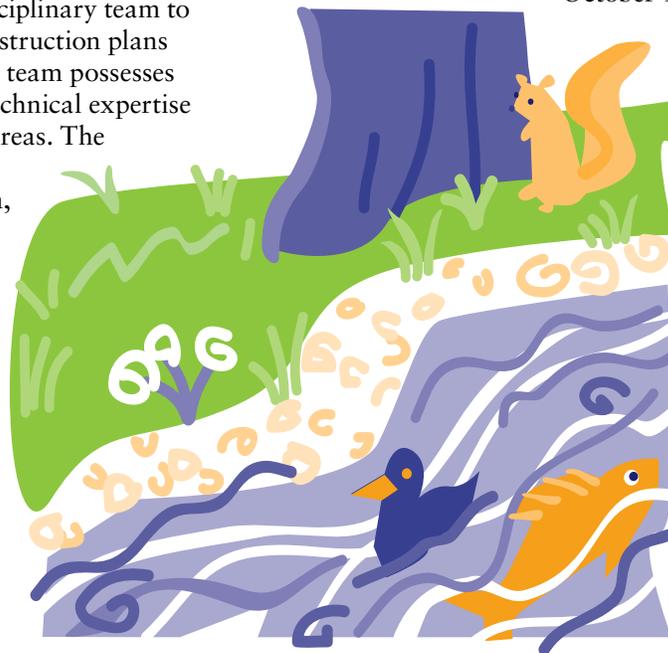
Festival hosts are Metro, Mt. Hood National Forest, Portland Water Bureau, Western Rivers Conservancy and the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission. Event sponsors are Portland General Electric, Bureau of Land Management, Columbia Sportswear and The Portland Tribune.

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

Design under way for Cooper Mountain Natural Area

Site design begins this fall for the visitor improvements and habitat restoration for the Cooper Mountain Natural Area. Planned improvements, as described in the adopted master plan, include trailheads and parking with accompanying amenities at Kemmer and Grabhorn road entrances, approximately three miles of improved trails and a "nature house" for environmental education programs.

Metro has hired a multidisciplinary team to develop the design and construction plans for Cooper Mountain. The team possesses outstanding creative and technical expertise in creating public natural areas. The construction budget is approximately \$1.5 million, with \$15,000 reserved for public art. Parallel to the design and engineering work, Metro will oversee design and coordinate installation of the visitor information and interpretive signs informing users about the natural and cultural history and unique plants and animals found at Cooper Mountain.



The Metro Council has committed to involving neighbors and keeping the public informed of the details of this natural area development. To do this, Metro will convene a project working group comprised of neighbors and technical experts to receive timely and relevant input during design development. The first working group meeting will be held in October; details will be posted on Metro's website and online calendar. Working group meetings are open to the public.

A public meeting will be held in November for broader community input on the design. Metro will send periodic mailings of the Cooper Mountain Chronicle newsletter to area neighbors and other interested persons. Project updates will be posted to Metro's website at www.metro-region.org/coopermountain. For more information, to receive the newsletter, or to be included on the e-mail notification list, contact Lora Price at pricel@metro.dst.or.us or (503) 797-1846.

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.

Comments can be submitted in several ways, including attending one of the public Listening Posts Metro will host around the region in November. A Portland Listening Post will be held 5 to 8 p.m. Thursday, November 16 at Metro, 600 NE Grand Avenue (TriMet bus 6 and MAX). To ensure that oral testimony is accurately recorded, please also submit comments in writing.

continued

Transportation Priorities

continued from page 2

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

Email: 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

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.

Oregon Zoo increases funding of conservation efforts

Over the past few decades, the Oregon Zoo has gained a reputation among zoos as a leader in protecting the environment. The most visible conservation projects include a California condor breeding program that has produced seven chicks since 2003, and efforts to save western pond turtles in the Columbia Gorge and Oregon silverspot butterflies on the Oregon Coast.

To expand these and other conservation initiatives, the Oregon Zoo joined an alliance of Pacific Northwest zoos, aquariums and wildlife parks interested in conservation. Members are in the process of generating new money, which they hope to pool and spend on projects around the Northwest.

To contribute to this effort, the Metro Council approved a 25-cent surcharge on admission, starting in January, to help save endangered animals and wildlife habitat. The fee is expected to raise \$102,000 per year for projects such as breeding endangered butterflies, California condors and pygmy rabbits. This will triple the money available through the Future for Wildlife program, a joint venture of the Oregon Zoo and the Oregon Zoo Foundation. Funds will be targeted toward preserving animals native to the Pacific Northwest.

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.

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.



Salmon FESTIVAL

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.

Events of note in District 5

For a complete list of events, check out our online calendar at calendar.metro-region.org.

Shorebirds and waders at Smith and Bybee Wetlands

Saturday, October 7, 9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.
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 is required in advance; children are free. Call (503) 797-1715. Directions will be mailed to you.

Lone Fir Pioneer Cemetery tour

Saturday, October 14, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.
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. Advance registration not required. A suggested donation of \$10 goes to headstone restoration and educational programs. For more information, call (503) 775-6278.

Backyard habitat basics

Saturday, October 21, 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
In this workshop you will discover the key elements to include in your garden to make it inviting to a variety of wildlife. Not all gardens are the same and animals have different preferences, so experts will be on hand to help you create the habitat that will best match your location and tell you which animals you are likely to attract. You'll even get a chance to tour the grounds with zoo horticulture staff as they point

out how the zoo creates habitat for animals in and outside zoo exhibits. Resource materials included. \$40 for zoo members; \$50 for non-members. Advance registration required. For more information, visit www.oregonzoo.org or call (503) 220-2781.

Tour of Untimely Departures at Lone Fir Pioneer Cemetery

Tuesday, October 31, 6 to 9:00 p.m.
Experience Portland's oldest cemetery after dark! Special Halloween tours will offer a look at a bit of Portland's darker side. Tours will be approximately 25 minutes and run continuously from 6 to 9 p.m. Suitable for all ages. Meet at the main entrance at Southeast 21st Avenue and Morrison Street. If you are interested in volunteering as a tour guide, call Mary at (503) 789-5887 to sign up for the orientation on Oct. 14. Advance registration for the event is not required. A suggested donation of \$5 goes to restoration and educational programs. For more information, call (503) 775-6278. Sponsored by Friends of Lone Fir Cemetery.



Councilor Rex Burkholder contact information

Address 600 NE Grand Ave.
Portland, OR 97232
Phone (503) 797-1546
Fax (503) 797-1793
E-Mail burkholderr@metro.dst.or.us
Assistant Kathryn Sofich
Phone (503) 797-1941
E-Mail sofichk@metro.dst.or.us
Web www.metro-region.org

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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