

# Council News

## METRO COUNCIL DISTRICT 4 NEWS



**METRO**

PEOPLE PLACES  
OPEN SPACES

### District 4

includes Northern  
Washington  
County, Cornelius,  
Hillsboro, Forest  
Grove, Northwest  
Beaverton, Aloha,  
Rock Creek, Bonny  
Slope, Raleigh Hills,  
West Slope, Cedar  
Mill and Cedar Hills

### Metro offers popular compost bins for sale year-round

Metro recently introduced year-round sales of the popular Earth Machine home compost bins. Made from recycled plastic, the Earth Machine is easy to assemble. A locking lid keeps children and pets out.

Composting helps recycle grass clippings, leaves and food scraps into a rich soil conditioner for use on houseplants or in gardens. It's easy, inexpensive and the resulting mix helps produce beautiful blooms and bountiful harvests and to retain moisture during the driest part of the summer.

The Earth Machine is on sale for \$35 per bin (an \$80 retail value) at the MetroPaint store on Swan Island, 4825 N. Basin Avenue, Portland. Store hours are 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday.

To learn more, call Metro Recycling Information, (503) 234-3000. Details on composting, natural gardening seminars and bin sales are available at [www.metro-region.org](http://www.metro-region.org).

### I-5 to 99W Connector Project Steering Committee studies traffic improvements

Regional and local transportation officials have recognized the need for a connection between I-5 and Hwy. 99W for more than a decade. Traffic demand in the southwestern portion of the region has grown substantially, leading to increasingly congested conditions. This growth comes from more people living, working and moving freight in Tigard, Tualatin, Sherwood and Wilsonville, and from growth throughout the region, particularly in Marion and Yamhill counties.

Metro Councilor Carl Hosticka serves on the I-5 to 99W Connector Project Steering Committee with other elected officials from Washington and Clackamas counties and the cities of Wilsonville, Tualatin and Sherwood, as well as officials from the Oregon Department of Transportation and Federal Highway Administration. The committee is currently working to identify a corridor where transportation improvements could be located.

The Project Steering Committee recently adopted a purpose and need statement and a

set of goals and objectives. These documents will guide the development of alternatives in the study and are posted on the project web site at [www.i5to99w.org](http://www.i5to99w.org).

Though the project alternatives have not yet been defined, they are likely to include options that range from only improvements to existing streets and demand management solutions to options that look at new roadway connections.

The committee will spend the spring developing evaluation criteria, analyzing future transportation needs and studying the community and environmental features in the study area. The project will host an open house early next fall to begin identifying potential transportation corridors.

The project team will meet with community groups this spring and summer to share information about the project's progress. Please call (503) 595-9915 or send email to [info@i5to99w.org](mailto:info@i5to99w.org) to request a speaker.

## Metro Council accepts Damascus/Boring Concept Plan

The Metro Council voted March 16 to accept the Damascus/Boring Concept Plan that was recommended by the plan advisory committee Nov. 29, 2005. The plan provides the basic land use framework for subsequent detailed comprehensive planning, which will be undertaken by the cities of Damascus, Happy Valley and Gresham.

The concept plan is the result of more than two years of regional collaboration between residents, Metro, Clackamas County, the Oregon Department of Transportation and the cities of Damascus, Happy Valley and Gresham. The Damascus/Boring Concept Plan Advisory Committee, consisting of 26 residents, government and business representatives, refined the plan with input from residents at public forums,

## Metro considers 2006-07 budget

Metro Council President David Bragdon has presented his FY 2006-07 Metro budget proposal to the Metro Council for consideration. The \$307.8 million package emphasizes cost control, efficient use of resources and flexibility.

This year's budget includes further development of programmatic initiatives, including the New Look – Metro's approach to updated long-term growth management policies for the region, Nature in Neighborhoods – Metro's region-wide program to protect fish and wildlife habitat, and the regional disposal system review.

The 2006-07 budget shows an increase from the previous year because of anticipated grants to the agency's planning department for federal transportation projects and an excise tax on construction for an expansion area planning fund. The roughly \$2 million anticipated income from that fund, which will sunset after 3 years, will be earmarked for local planning efforts. The budget also includes administrative initiatives such as further centralization of administrative services, additional training for Metro employees, enhanced renewal and replacement reserves and a consolidation of reserved funds.

After discussion, public hearings and possible amendments, council is expected to take final action on June 15.

open houses and more than 20 advisory committee meetings.

In 2002, the Metro Council voted to expand the urban growth boundary (UGB) to include the Damascus area. At 12,000 acres, this is the largest section of land brought into the UGB at one time, and is the largest concept plan of its kind ever developed in the region.

Though the work is not complete, it is a first step toward the ultimate goal of comprehensive planning, which will take another two to three years. Planning staff from the cities of Damascus, Happy Valley and Gresham will work with residents to provide details in the areas of land-use, roads, transit, biking and walking trails and wildlife conservation areas.

## Events of note in District 4

**8 a.m. Monday, April 3**

### First Monday at Jackson Bottom

*Get your week off to a great start by exploring Jackson Bottom from the ground up. Take a look at wetland soils, water quality, plants, animals and more. \$5. To register, call (503) 681-6278.*

**10 a.m. Saturday, April 15**

### Earth Day celebration and native plant sale at Tualatin Hills Nature Park

*Celebrate Earth Day and explore the world of recycling through interactive displays and hands-on activities. The park will also host a native plant sale. For more information, call (503) 629-6350.*

**10 a.m. Sunday, April 30**

### Birding the Killin Wetlands

*Join naturalist James Davis in this natural area purchased through Metro's acquisition program. Suitable for ages eight and older. \$5 per adult required in advance; children are free. Call (503) 797-1715 to register and for meeting locations and directions.*

## 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

Metro Council President  
David Bragdon

Metro Councilors  
Rod Park, District 1  
Brian Newman, District 2  
Carl Hosticka, District 3  
Susan McLain, District 4  
Rex Burkholder, District 5  
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