

# 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

Are you interested in learning more about how Metro works? If so, I invite you to apply to be a member of the Metro Committee for Citizen Involvement (MCCI) for District 1. If you are unsure if you live in District 1, go to [www.metro-region.org/article.cfm?ArticleID=778](http://www.metro-region.org/article.cfm?ArticleID=778) and type in your address.

MCCI was established under Metro's home-rule charter in 1992 to assist with the development, implementation and evaluation of Metro's citizen involvement program and to advise Metro on how to best involve residents in regional planning activities. For example, MCCI members have given input to staff and Council on outreach plans for various Metro initiatives such as the Regional Transportation Plan update and the Waste Reduction Plan. As an MCCI member you will learn about many aspects of regional government including how jurisdictions work with each other, outside groups and citizens to make our region a better place to live.

MCCI meets from 6 to 8 p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month here at Metro. If you are interested in learning more or applying, please contact Cheryl Grant at (503) 797-1536 or [grantc@metro.dst.or.us](mailto:grantc@metro.dst.or.us).

—Rod Park

### Citizen input helps shape region's waste reduction plan

Metro is currently revising the region's Waste Reduction Plan in order to help protect the environment and conserve resources.

This spring, Metro invited public comment on the draft plan by creating an on-line survey, which included background information describing proposed strategies and approaches to help reduce waste and conserve resources. More than 400 people gave input on the plan's overall vision and on key strategies to achieve the vision.

In addition to support for the plan's vision and values, we found strong support for

several major themes, including a focus on waste prevention, not just recycling; improved access to recycling services, such as adding materials to curbside recycling; more emphasis on education and outreach for all sectors of the population; and ensuring that responsibility for the recycling of hazardous and difficult-to-recycle products is shared by those who produce, distribute and use the products.

Metro will post results of the survey at [www.metro-region.org/letstalktrash](http://www.metro-region.org/letstalktrash). The Metro Council will consider the plan for adoption in July or August 2006.

### Oxbow Regional Park: outstanding camping in your own backyard

As gas prices continue to climb over \$3 per gallon, camping under the stars next to a rushing river may seem out of reach—but if you look close, it's not. Consider Metro's Oxbow Regional Park, a spectacular 1,200-acre natural area

located eight miles east of Gresham within the Sandy River Gorge.

The 67 wooded campsites, available all year on a first-come, first-served basis, have a cooking grill, picnic table and fire pit. The

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## Oxbow Park camping

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campground also has restrooms with hot showers.

There is plenty to do—hiking in an ancient forest, mountain biking, fishing, boating, swimming and wildlife watching are just a few of the activities. Ball fields and play yards for children are also available. Friday nights typically feature local musicians playing bluegrass and folk music; Saturday evening programs feature storytelling

## ZooTeens spur re-opening of interactive Insect Zoo

There's a big, bizarre and beautiful world of animals waiting to be discovered, and if Jamie Klein, a ZooTeen at the Oregon Zoo has her way, the zoo will build a new exhibit to showcase specimens from all over the globe.

But Klein isn't focusing on large critters, instead, she's got her eye on arthropods—the crustaceans, millipedes, centipedes, insects, and arachnids of the world.

Because of budget cuts, the Insect Zoo, established in the 1970s, has been open, but not staffed. But this summer, expert staff will be on hand to answer questions and explain why they believe the crawly creatures are cool, not creepy.

"The Insect Zoo had been an interactive exhibit," said Klein. "We talked with visitors, especially kids, explaining why

## Events of note in District 1

**1:00-11:00 p.m., Tuesday, July 4**

**Fourth of July fireworks at Blue Lake Park**  
*Celebrate Independence Day with fireworks, music and fun at Blue Lake Regional Park.*

*Family activities begin at 1 p.m. Enjoy a variety of musical entertainment from 6 to 10 p.m. Fireworks begin at dusk. Pets, alcohol and personal fireworks are not permitted. Free with park admission of \$6 per vehicle, \$12 for vans (12-passenger or larger), buses and RVs. For more information, call (503) 665-4995.*

**9 a.m., Saturday, July 8**

**Powell Butte trail maintenance**

*Help repair the trails at Powell Butte Nature Park from winter storm damage. Bring water and gloves. Meet at the parking lot at the top of the hill on Southeast 162nd Avenue south of Powell Boulevard. To register, call (503) 823-6131.*

and naturalists talking about local area wildlife.

The camping fee is \$15 per night plus the \$4 park entry fee per vehicle on the first day. Two group camp areas are available by reservation. Firewood is sold at the campground for \$4 a bundle. For the safety of wildlife, pets are not allowed at Oxbow Regional Park or any of Metro's parks or natural areas.

Visit [www.metro-region.org/parks](http://www.metro-region.org/parks) for a complete listing of guided tours, classes and campfire programs.

insects are so important. But the structure is in pretty sad shape," said Klein. "It's only a matter of time before it will have to be demolished."

That means no more chances to rub noses with an Australian walkingstick, shake a leg with a Mexican red-kneed tarantula, hiss with a Madagascar hissing cockroach or tickle the senses with a giant African millipede. Such prospects are unthinkable to Klein, and that's what spurs her on.

Klein and other bug-loving ZooTeens are attempting to raise the estimated \$250,000 needed for a new insectarium.

"I'll be surprised if they don't succeed," said Zoo Director Tony Vecchio. "The teens are intelligent, enthusiastic and, most importantly, persistent."

**10 a.m., Saturday, July 8**

**Water spray grand opening at Blue Lake Park**

*Help break in the new water spray ground at Metro's Blue Lake Regional Park. The water spray ground is fun, interactive and accessible. Designed for children ages 1-10. Free with park admission of \$4 per car; \$7 per bus. For more information, call (503) 665-4995.*

## Councilor Rod Park contact information

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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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