

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

With about a million more people expected to be living here in the next 25 years, we are facing some tough choices on how to grow. As you may know, the region's adopted vision—called the Region 2040 Plan—calls for directing growth into centers (city downtowns) and along transportation corridors, balancing transportation options, jobs and protecting open spaces for our enjoyment.

While the vision is a great blueprint for what we want, actually making it happen on the ground is a daunting job. In District 1 and the rest of the region, we need to prioritize not only where but when to make investments. For example, do we first redevelop existing areas like Rockwood and downtown Gresham or develop new areas like Pleasant Valley? What is the right mix, given our declining resources?

These are the sorts of questions we will talk about as we continue our work in implementing the 2040 Plan. We are taking on this challenge of building these crucial physical cornerstones of our community with great urgency because if we do it right, then our region will continue to be a great place to live, do business, play, and raise a family.

— Rod Park

Nature in Neighborhoods offers new programs, second round of grants

Metro's Nature in Neighborhoods initiative is offering two new programs of interest to builders, developers and property owners and is accepting pre-applications for its second round of grants.

Seminars

The "Green from the Ground Up" seminars will provide information on how to preserve natural features and get more "green" from investments. Green development practices can add value to a development and make it easier to market. Added value includes lot premiums, faster sales, increased sales volume, reduced costs and maintenance (in some cases), and improved public image.

The seminars are presented in partnership with Metro, Environmental Protection Agency, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, Clackamas River Basin Council, Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District and the Home Builders Association of Metropolitan

Portland. For a complete list and to register, go to www.metro-region.org/nature or call (503) 797-1850.

Stormwater Awards Ten-Year Retrospective

Participants of this event will hear about a decade of lessons learned from 12 sites that won the 1996-1997 Stormwater Design Award Competition. The competition was created to select and recognize projects that effectively integrated stormwater management, urban design goals, and natural resource protection and enhancement into the urban environment.

The Retrospective features an appraisal of the projects with site owners, engineers, designers and a group of expert panelists, as well as a discussion on how future planning can be improved to incorporate strategies that foster sustainability in both public-sector and private-sector stormwater management practices and facilities. To register for the

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Nature in Neighborhoods

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free event, which takes place at the Metro Regional Center on Tuesday, November 7 from 1 to 4:30 p.m., call (503) 797-1555 or e-mail harlanc@metro.dst.or.us.

Nature in Neighborhoods grants

Following on the heels of an earlier round of grants is another opportunity for private individuals, groups or organizations to apply for funding. In spring of this year, Metro awarded \$560,000 in grants for 32 projects. In the late spring next year, up to \$370,000 will be awarded.

Projects must be within the jurisdictional boundary of Metro and focused on watershed restoration and community building through hands-on restoration, education and outreach. The process includes a pre-application in which successful proposals will be selected to apply for final funding. The pre-application period ends January 18.

Applicants are required to provide a level of match depending on the amount of their request. To obtain a copy of the pre-application, go to www.metro-region.org and click on the Nature in Neighborhood logo. Interested parties can also contact Janelle Geddes at geddesj@metro.dst.or.us or at (503) 797-1550.

I-5 to 99W Connector open houses

The I-5 to 99W Connector Project is a study to address the possibility of connecting these two busy roadways, which has been recognized as a need for more than a decade.

Traffic demand in the southwestern portion of the region has grown substantially, leading to increasingly congested conditions. Growth comes from more people living and working in Tigard, Tualatin, Sherwood and Wilsonville; moving freight into and out of the area; growth throughout the region; and statewide traffic.

Metro's Regional Transportation Plan, the Oregon Highway Plan and transportation plans for Washington County, Sherwood and Tualatin identify the need for a transportation solution in this area to address the growing travel demand. The Oregon Transportation Commission designated this as a project of statewide significance, further confirming its importance.

To help identify potential solutions, the project team is hosting three open houses to gather input from the public.

Areas to be discussed include:

- potential corridors where new transportation facilities could be located, and where these corridors should connect to I-5 and Highway 99W
- potential upgrades to existing roadways or intersections that could improve regional and intrastate travel
- constraints or areas that should be avoided as corridors are developed.

Open house dates:

5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 29
Tualatin High School
22300 SW Boones Ferry Road, Tualatin

5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 30
Middleton Elementary School
23505 SW Old Highway 99W, Sherwood

5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 6
Wilsonville City Hall
29799 SW Town Center Loop E, Wilsonville

The same information will be available at all meetings. For more information, call (503) 595-9915, send e-mail to info@i5to99w.org, or visit www.i5to99w.org.

Thanksgiving walk at Oxbow Regional Park

At 10 a.m. on Sunday, November 19, take time to celebrate the simple gifts of nature. On an easy walk along the river, we'll open our senses and notice how wildlife responds to the changing season, then gather around the campfire to share the Iroquois "Thanksgiving Address." Hot drinks will be provided. Free with park entry fee of \$4 per vehicle. Advance registration required; call (503) 797-1715.

Councilor Rod Park contact information

Address	600 NE Grand Ave. Portland, OR 97232
Phone	(503) 797-1547
Fax	(503) 797-1793
E-Mail	parkr@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.

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
Robert Liberty, District 6

Auditor
Alexis Dow, CPA

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