

# 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

'Tis the season – to recycle! The holiday season can generate a lot of waste – from giving gifts to buying decorations. I encourage you to find ways to reduce your waste and recycle the waste you cannot avoid. You can reduce the trash associated with the holidays in a number of ways:

- purchase gifts with little or no packaging;
- buy recycled-content gift-wrap;
- avoid foil or plastic-coated paper;
- take someone to a play, concert or the zoo;
- buy music, foreign language or sport lessons; and
- teach someone a skill you possess – knitting, woodworking or music.

In addition, Fairview, Gresham, Portland, Maywood Park, Troutdale and Wood Village offer curbside tree recycling collection. For specific instructions, call your local solid waste and recycling office, your garbage hauler, or Metro Recycling Information at (503) 234-3000. The hearing-impaired can call TDD (503) 797-1804. You can also look on online at [www.metro-region.org](http://www.metro-region.org) in the recycling section of our website.

I wish you and your family a safe and festive holiday season.

— Rod Park

### Metro open spaces bond measure passes

Voters in the region told the Metro Council that they are willing to preserve local natural areas by passing Metro's open spaces bond measure last month by 58.6 percent. The \$227.4 million measure directs Metro to acquire and protect natural areas, thereby preserving some of the region's best remaining open spaces for the citizens of the region.

The approval of Measure 26-80 enables the protection of rivers, streams and creeks at the regional, local and neighborhood levels in several ways:

- Metro will use \$168.4 million to purchase up to 4,500 acres of land in identified target areas
- \$44 million will be distributed to cities, counties and park districts within Metro's jurisdiction to fund local projects that are consistent with protection of natural areas and water quality

- \$15 million will fund a new Nature in Neighborhoods Capital Grants Program through which non-profit organizations, local governments and other community-based organizations can apply for funding to support community-level projects.

The measure was modeled after a successful \$135.6 million package approved by the region's voters in May 1995. As a result, Metro acquired more than 8,100 acres of natural areas throughout the region, including 74 miles of stream and river frontage. Nearly one million trees and shrubs were planted, and more than 20,000 volunteer hours contributed to restoration efforts.

The natural areas acquisition program will operate entirely on a willing-seller basis with local property owners. Lands purchased through this bond measure will be retained in public ownership.

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## Bond measure passes

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Metro is currently developing areas purchased with funds from the 1995 measure, including 256-acre Cooper Mountain in Washington County and 184-acre Mt. Talbert in Clackamas.

## Kathryn Harrington elected to Metro Council in District 4

Former high-tech business leader and community volunteer Kathryn Harrington was elected Metro Councilor on Nov 7. Harrington will represent District 4, and replaces Metro Councilor Susan McLain, who served on the Metro Council for 16 years.

Harrington, whose volunteer work includes serving as vice chair of Citizen Participation Organization 7 and involvement with other community organizations including transportation planning committees and the Washington County's road project advisory committee, said she will focus on growth and transportation issues.

"People are concerned about growth", said Harrington. "In order to protect our quality of life, we need to manage growth to ensure that we have the appropriate amount of room for housing, schools and businesses, while at the same time maintaining our superior air and water quality."

Harrington will also focus on transportation, and said that she will work to find creative solutions to improve roads and highways and expand public transit in order to handle the increased traffic congestions caused by growth and the needs it presents, including freight movement.

District 4 includes Northern Washington County, Cornelius, Hillsboro, Forest Grove, Northwest Beaverton, Aloha, Bonny Slope, Bethany, Raleigh Hills, West Slope, Cedar Mill and Cedar Hills.

## Metropolitan area increases recycling rate

An annual report by the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) shows that the Portland metropolitan area achieved a record-high waste-recovery rate of 58.6% in 2005, up from 57% the year prior. Metro Council President David Bragdon says the region is on track to reach its 2009 goal of 64% waste recovery. To help reach that goal, Metro continues to develop targeted programs to help

residents and businesses generate less waste and recycle more of the waste they do generate.

A "Recycle at Work" business campaign provides on-site recycling assistance. Metro's "Construction Industry Recycling Toolkit" lists more than 100 recycling and salvage facilities and businesses. Food waste from restaurants, grocery stores and food processors is being trucked to a Washington-based composting operation.

To help conserve resources and protect the environment in the future, the Metro Council has been planning new programs and strategies for the next decade. Earlier this year Council approved a regional waste reduction plan. The plan outlines a significant shift from today's practice of managing waste after it is created to a focus on new policies and practices that prevent waste from being generated in the first place.

Council also is considering ways to improve the region's waste disposal system, from sustainable business practices to new standards for privately owned companies that handle commercial waste. The Metro Council will consider adoption of a new 10-year Regional Solid Waste Management Plan early next year.

## Oregon Zoo lights up for winter holidays

For the 19th winter, the Oregon Zoo comes alive with a million lights decorating animal exhibits, gardens, trees and animated animal sculptures. The annual celebration features choral and dance ensembles, a ride on the Zoo Train, puppet shows, costumed animal characters, and the opportunity to pet pygora goats. Gates open at 5 p.m. nightly with elves greeting visitors. The festival runs through Dec. 31. For more information, call (503) 220-3687.

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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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