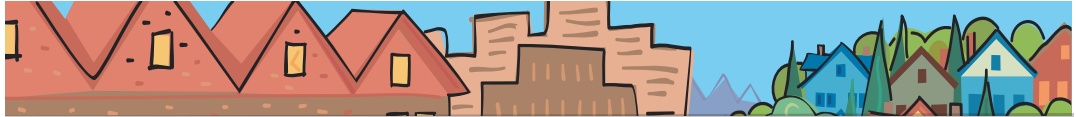


Kathryn Harrington

METRO COUNCIL DISTRICT 4 NEWS



METRO

PEOPLE PLACES
OPEN SPACES

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



The natural areas bond measure: Targeting your investment for maximum benefit

On Nov. 7, 2006, voters in the region approved a \$227.4 million bond measure directing Metro to purchase property and conservation easements from willing sellers to preserve natural areas and protect rivers and streams at the regional, local and neighborhood level. The regional part of the three-part measure provides Metro with \$168.4 million in bond funds to acquire, on your behalf, approximately 3,500 and 4,500 acres of land in identified regional target areas. The goal is to protect lands around local rivers and streams, preserve significant fish and wildlife habitat, enhance trails and wildlife corridors, and connect urban areas with nature.

The bond measure approved by voters identified specific regional target areas, which were selected based upon their natural resource value. The regional target areas are broadly defined, and don't list specific areas or resources to be protected. Metro has initiated a public refinement process to narrow the scope of attention to specific areas and natural resources that merit protection within the target areas. Metro will gather information and public input, and develop specific objectives and detailed acquisition options for each regional target area.

Metro will then meet with the owners of key properties within those specific areas to find out if they are willing to sell to Metro either a conservation easement or the property outright. Our goal is to make your tax dollars go as far as possible to protect as many of the identified areas and resources as possible.

Metro's responsible financial management has earned our regional government a superior bond rating from the major rating services. This allows us to sell bonds for more money, with a lower interest rate. As a result, your tax rate for this program will be lower than anticipated.

Your input for this refinement process is important to us. During the month of June, the Metro Council will host public meetings for each of the regional target areas in order to seek your ideas. A subset of the list is provided below with the full list available on the Metro website. The Metro website will also host a virtual open house. I hope that you will join me, as well as my fellow councilors, at the public meetings in June.

For more information, visit the natural areas bond measure page at www.metro-region.org/naturalareas. Click the link for "Regional Natural Areas" to view the regional target areas for the refinement process.

— Kathryn Harrington

Metro to host open house meetings on natural areas

In June, residents of the region are invited to attend any of eight open houses and a virtual open house to learn more about the specific areas Metro plans to purchase with funds from its 2006 natural areas bond measure (see message above). Councilors and Metro staff

will review plans and seek input. At press time, these meetings are planned, but may be subject to change. To confirm meeting information and see a full list of meetings during which the 27 target areas will be discussed, visit www.metro-region.org/naturalareas. The virtual open house will debut on Metro's website June 12. At that time citizens can find additional

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Natural areas open houses

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information, view maps and take online surveys about each of the target areas.

6 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, June 12, Portland Community College Rock Creek Campus Event Center (Bldg. 9, Room 122) 17705 NW Springville Rd., Portland
Hosts: Metro Councilors Kathryn Harrington and Rex Burkholder
Regional target areas featured:

- Forest Park
- Rock Creek Headwaters and Greenway
- Westside Trail

6 to 8 p.m. Thursday, June 14, Tualatin Hills Park and Recreation District Nature Park 15655 SW Millikan Blvd., Beaverton
Host: Metro Councilor Carl Hosticka
Regional target areas featured:

- Cooper Mountain
- Tualatin River Greenway
- Lower Tualatin Headwaters
- Tonquin Geologic Area and Trail
- Fanno Creek Linkages and Trail
- Westside Trail

6 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, June 26, Forest Grove Community Auditorium 1915 Main St., Forest Grove
Hosts: Metro Councilors Kathryn Harrington and Rod Park
Regional target areas featured:

- Killin Wetland
- Dairy and McKay Creeks Confluence
- Gales Creek
- Chehalem Ridgetop to Refuge
- Wapato Lake and Council Creek

Metro purchases 93 acres in Washington County to protect water quality

In April, the Metro Council purchased a 93-acre parcel near the confluence of Dairy and McKay creeks in Washington County as part of the natural areas, parks and streams bond measure that voters approved in November. Located west of Hillsboro and east of Cornelius, this purchase provides opportunities to protect water quality, restore a wetland system and provide a natural buffer between the two communities.

The property features almost one mile of creek frontage, a significant floodplain and

waterfowl habitat. The acquisition resulted after the owner approached Metro and offered the property for sale. Although the land will continue to be farmed, in the future, the riparian areas could be restored and the floodplain could be used for flood storage, contributing to overall improvement in water quality.

Oregon Zoo hosts fun, family-oriented events in May

Spring has sprung, and it's time to get outside to enjoy some of the fun events at our Oregon Zoo. Enjoy a brunch on Mother's Day, a day-long event called Celebrating Wildflowers, Bear Fair and even a visit from Spider-Man!

Treat mom to the Zoo's Mother's Day Brunch Sunday, May 13 at the Cascade Crest Banquet Center. The event is so popular that we recommend reservations. Call (503) 525-4299 to reserve a spot from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

If you've already got plans for Mother's Day, then consider visiting the zoo on Saturday, May 12, when Marvel Comic's Spider-Man swings by for autographs and photos to help kick off the zoo's summer of Backyard Habitat activities. One of those activities is "Celebrating Wildflowers," which takes place on the same day. Learn how plants in your own backyard are beneficial for animals, and help the zoo plant some habitat for all of the birds, insects, squirrels and other animals that live there. Both events are free with zoo admission.

At Bear Fair on Saturday, May 19, everyone is invited to bring their teddy bear or other stuffed buddies to visit the zoo's bear exhibits and activity stations. Activities include a repair-a-bear vet station, games, storytelling and a teddy bear picnic. Free with zoo admission.

For more information on these and other events, call the zoo at (503) 226-1561.

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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

Metro Council President
David Bragdon

Metro Councilors
Rod Park, District 1
Brian Newman, District 2
Carl Hosticka, District 3
Kathryn Harrington, District 4
Rex Burkholder, District 5
Robert Liberty, District 6

Auditor
Suzanne Flynn

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