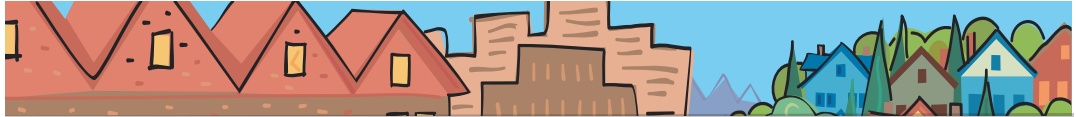


# Rod Park

## 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

In May, the Metro Council approved the acquisition of two key parcels of land in east county through its 2006 Natural Areas, Parks and Streams

bond measure. The first is a result of a sale and donation by the Persimmon Development Group, an east metro business. They have agreed to the sale of 84 acres and the donation of eight acres on a butte top which also contains the headwaters of Hogan Creek. This purchase is important because this parcel of land could have become large view homesites for a few. Instead it will provide a natural area and views for many. In the future the butte could provide the public with scenic trails and overlooks such as those planned for Gresham's Butler Ridge. The forested hillsides will continue to protect water quality in Hogan Creek, a tributary to Johnson Creek.

The second parcel is a 37-acre property within the city of Gresham, located north of Butler Road and west of SE Regner Road in an area commonly referred to as Gresham Butte. This 37-acre acquisition is one of a few key privately-owned parcels that interrupts Metro's and the City of Gresham's ownership which, if developed, would become obstacles to wildlife movement within the natural area and prevent Metro and the city of Gresham from achieving their shared goal of creating a contiguous intact habitat corridor.

Over the next several months, our staff will be working with the sellers to finalize these purchases. With the growth that we have been experiencing, I am pleased that we can continue to protect the valuable natural areas that are so important both to wildlife and to our residents.

Lastly, I would like to remind you that you are invited to attend any of eight open houses and a virtual (online) open house to learn more about the 27 target areas Metro plans to purchase with funds from its 2006 natural areas bond measure. Residents will have an opportunity learn about the areas targeted for purchase, ask questions and provide their input on what they feel the highest priorities for Metro's land acquisition plans should be in each area.

There are several open houses in District 1:

#### **June 21, 6-8 p.m., Gresham City Hall**

**Host: Metro Councilor Rod Park**  
Regional target areas featured:

- Sandy River Gorge
- Johnson Creek
- Gresham to Fairview Trail

#### **June 25, 6-8 p.m., Boring Grange Hall**

**Hosts: Metro Councilors Rod Park and Brian Newman**  
Regional target areas featured:

- East Buttes (includes Damascus buttes, Scouter Mountain and Mt. Talbert)
- Clackamas River Bluffs and Greenway
- Deep Creek and Tributaries
- Clear Creek
- Cazadero Trail

To confirm meeting information (or to see a full list,) visit [www.metro-region.org/naturalareas](http://www.metro-region.org/naturalareas).

— Rod Park

## Metro Council awards \$421,000 in Nature in Neighborhoods grants

Interested citizen groups, businesses, non-profit organizations, school groups, neighbors, government agencies and service organizations submitted 30 applications for \$420,685 in funds for nature-friendly projects through Metro's Nature in Neighborhoods grant program.



## Nature in Neighborhoods

The grant program is part of the Nature in Neighborhoods initiative, the Metro Council's commitment to protecting fish and wildlife habitat in the region.

Grants in Districts 1 include:

- The Nature Conservancy: \$60,000 for the Sandy River riparian habitat protection project
- Johnson Creek Watershed Council: \$24,233 for Youth Engaged, a program connecting at-risk youth with restoration projects within the Johnson Creek Watershed
- Johnson Creek Watershed Council: \$20,455 for the Johnson Creek riparian restoration program, a watershed-wide effort to improve the riparian area by removing noxious weed species
- City of Gresham: \$25,000 for the Gresham natural area encroachment mediation program targeting Butler and Johnson Creeks
- Wilkes Neighborhood Association: \$5,800 for the Wilkes Creek bridge and path project
- The Confluence Project: \$17,500 to support habitat enhancement tied to a nationally significant art project at the Sandy River Delta

The grants, announced May 24, were awarded to 19 groups for 21 projects focusing on restoration, conservation education and other innovative ways to motivate communities to protect the nature of our

## Metro acquires unique natural areas in Washington County

Metro recently purchased two additional natural areas in Washington County with funds from its 2006 natural areas bond measure.

Both are examples of wet prairie; one is a 44-acre parcel along SW Hillsboro Highway in Scholls adjacent to Metro's Gotter Prairie natural area. The purchase provides an opportunity to protect a remnant of Oregon white oak habitat as well as restoration of the river's floodplain.

The other recent acquisition in the valley, two parcels totaling 53 acres located off Scholls-Sherwood Road, protects the area where Heaton and Baker Creeks meet and includes more than one-and-three-quarter miles of stream frontage.

Three of the top goals of Metro's natural areas program are to safeguard water quality, protect valuable wildlife habitat and conserve or restore native ecosystem. These purchases allow Metro to meet all of those goals.

## Events of note in District 1

9 a.m. Saturday, June 9

### Sandy River Gorge work party

Just 20 miles east of Portland, this preserve hosts pristine habitats, including an old-growth forest, and provides a home to native salmon, elk, river otter and other wildlife. Help remove invasive species. Includes a strenuous 3-mile round-trip hike with an 800-foot elevation gain. Time to be determined. Advance registration required; call (503) 802-8100.

## 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

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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