

# 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.**



### **Summer fun for you and your family – without spending a lot!**

As warm summer weather approaches it's time to plan some summer fun activities for you and your family. We have a wealth of beautiful places right here in our region where families can have fun in the sun and enjoy our remarkable natural resources, without spending a lot of money.

Blue Lake Park, a Metro Regional Park, features a 64-acre natural lake fed by underground springs. Blue Lake provides opportunities for boating, fishing and swimming, and makes a beautiful backdrop for hundreds of family picnics. It includes a water spray ground designed for children ages 1-10, for interactive fun and cooperative play. With admission of only \$4 per carload (free if you have an annual pass), you and your family can have hours of fun and cooling off on hot summer days! On the Fourth of July, bring the family for music and fireworks (\$6 per carload on that date). The park is open from 8 a.m. to legal sunset. Blue Lake Regional Park is located on the east side of Portland, between Marine Drive and Sandy Boulevard off Northeast 223rd Avenue.

If you are looking for more of a woods experience, why not check out Oxbow Regional Park? Fifteen miles of trails invite you to explore an ancient forest with centuries-old trees and ridges and ravines carved by volcanic and glacial flows. The park also offers a wooded campground (open year round), picnic shelters you can reserve, playgrounds, equestrian trails, and a number of environmental education opportunities. During the summer, enjoy free live music around the campfire on Friday nights and captivating nature presentations and storytellers on Saturday nights. The park is open from 6:30 a.m. to legal sunset, and here too, you get in free with your annual pass or pay \$4 per car.

How about a guided tour or other activity such as the Tualatin River Discovery Day on Saturday, June 23, the Bull Run watershed tour on Saturday, June 23, the Painted Turtle walk on Saturday, June 30, or the Natural Gardening Techniques tour on Sunday, July 15? Maybe you and your family want to try camping — why not try the “Let’s go camping” instructional overnight camp-out, Saturday, July 28 and Sunday, July 29?

Last but not least, don't forget to look at all of the events and activities offered by the Oregon Zoo. Visit [www.OregonZoo.com](http://www.OregonZoo.com), click “KidsZone,” and then “Parties and Events.” The zoo always has something new and interesting for the whole family.

As you can see, there is a lot of summer fun to be had and many events are free! To find listings of what might work for your interests and schedule, visit the Metro website online calendar, [www.metro-region.org/greenscene](http://www.metro-region.org/greenscene).

I hope you and the family will find interesting and enjoyable ways to take advantage of our most beautiful place to live.

Wishing you a fun and safe summer season!

— Kathryn Harrington

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

Twenty-one groups received a total of \$421,682 in funds for nature-friendly projects through Metro's Nature in Neighborhoods grant program. Organizations receiving funding included citizen groups, businesses, nonprofit organizations, school groups, neighbors, government agencies and service organizations.

The grants, announced May 24, were awarded for projects focusing on restoration, conservation education and other innovative ways to motivate communities to protect the nature of our region. 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. Funding for the two-year program was provided by Metro excise taxes collected on solid waste disposal during the last several years.

An award in Metro Council District 4 was made to the Tualatin Hills Park and Recreation District, which received \$17,000 for restoration of native Oregon white oak woodland habitat.

A full list of grant recipients is posted on Metro's website: [www.metro-region.org](http://www.metro-region.org).

## Natural areas open houses in June

Last November, voters of the region approved a \$227.4 million bond measure directing Metro to purchase property and conservation easements to preserve natural areas and protect rivers and streams at the regional, local and neighborhood level.

Residents of the region are invited to attend any of eight open houses in June or to log on to an online, or virtual, open house, to learn more about the 27 specific areas throughout the region where Metro plans to purchase. Councilors and Metro staff will review plans and seek input at these meetings.

Meeting times and more information are posted online at [www.metro-region.org/naturalareas](http://www.metro-region.org/naturalareas). Residents can also call (503) 797-1741.



## Nature in Neighborhoods

### Events of note in District 4

**9 a.m. . Saturday, June 9**

#### **Great blue heron hike at Jackson Bottom 2600 SW Hillsboro Hwy., Hillsboro**

Take a leisurely walk with a naturalist to the east side of the preserve to see the great blue herons in their nests high in the Douglas fir trees. Wear shoes that can get wet and muddy. \$3 per person. Advance registration required; call (503) 681-6278.

**11 a.m. Sunday, June 24**

#### **Natural gardening seminar: Green, "green" lawns – perfect lawns without poisons Cornell Farms, 8212 SW Barnes Rd., Portland**

Learn cutting-edge, professional techniques for turf grass management using natural lawn care products. Your lawn will look great, your children and pets will be safe and you will protect local lakes, rivers and streams from pollution. Hear tips for water savings and selecting green lawn-care products and services.

See a list of all natural gardening seminars at [www.metro-region.org/garden](http://www.metro-region.org/garden) and learn how you can grow a healthier garden using "greener" methods. All natural gardening seminars are free. Reservations are required and limited to 60 participants. To register, call Metro Recycling Information at (503) 234-3000.

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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.

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