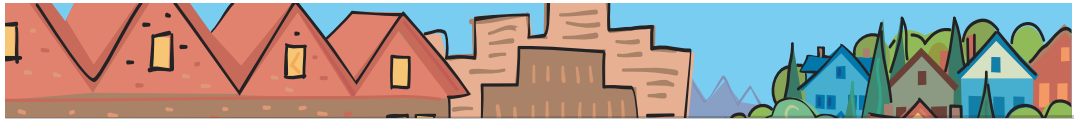


Robert Liberty

METRO COUNCIL DISTRICT 6 NEWS



METRO

PEOPLE PLACES
OPEN SPACES

**Robert Liberty
represents
District 6, which
includes portions of
Northeast, Southeast
and Southwest
Portland.**



Our Place in the Global Economy Could Be a Great Place to Live

Twenty years ago many prominent people believed that the protection of our region’s natural resources – its working and natural landscapes, its air and waters – was an obstacle to economic development and diversification in a highly competitive national economy.

How times have changed!

At the state and regional level our environmental protections and environmental values have been embraced as part of an economic development strategy that allows us to compete in the global economy.

It seems to me that this strategy has many parts. They include:

- (1) Attracting human capital (highly educated young workers) by offering a lifestyle that combines nature with urbanity;
- (2) Promoting the growth of local companies that already provide environmentally progressive services such as green building architectural design or making “green” products, such as streetcars;
- (3) Promoting products and services that are associated with both our special place on earth and our environmental values, such as high-quality organic produce and outdoor recreation equipment; and
- (4) Attracting boomer retirees lured by our quality of life amenities who will end up investing some of their (financial) capital in local businesses.

The Portland area, along with our neighbors in the Cascadia region, has a head start on this strategy. Much bigger and older places are now trying the same strategy, including New York, Los Angeles and Chicago. These cities are aggressively engaged in promoting mass transit, planting trees and increasing environmental protection efforts.

If we beat the competition we will not only have a stronger, more diversified economy but also a great place to live.

— Robert Liberty

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

This year the Metro Council awarded \$420,685 in grant funds for nature-friendly projects as part of Metro’s Nature in Neighborhoods grant program. Grants in District 6 include:

- Johnson Creek Watershed Council: \$44,688 for two grants; Youth Engaged, a program connecting at-risk youth with restoration projects within the Johnson Creek Watershed and for a watershed-

wide effort to improve the riparian area of Johnson Creek by removing noxious weed species

- Three Rivers Land Conservancy: \$37,050 for the West Willamette restoration partnership project, which will restore a wildlife corridor by removing invasive species and garbage
- Cedar Sinai Park (senior center): \$8,145 to restore the Al Lewin Legacy Trail in

continued

Nature in Neighborhoods grants

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the Fanno Creek watershed and near the senior center through the addition of native vegetation and the removal of invasive weeds

For a complete list of grants awarded or for more information on grant recipients and their projects, check Metro's website at www.metro-region.org/nature or call (503) 797-1550.

Public invited to discuss options to improve transportation between Lake Oswego and Portland

After analyzing a wide range of transit and trail alternatives, Metro staff and various advisory committees narrowed the wide range to a few that best address transportation needs in the Portland to Lake Oswego corridor. They include a no-build option, a Bus Rapid Transit line on Highway 43 and a streetcar on the Willamette Shoreline right of way, Macadam Avenue or parts of both.

One of the three alternatives or combinations of alternatives will advance for further study in the next phase of the project.

Citizens will have from June 27 to August 17 to offer their comments, by:

- Attending an open house
- Sending email comments to trans@metro.dst.or.us
- Recording comments on Metro's transportation hotline at (503) 797-1900, option 3
- Mailing comments to LOAA, 600 NE Grand Ave., Portland, OR 97232.

Open houses will take place on the following days:

Wednesday, June 27, 6 to 8 p.m.
US Bank Building
120 N State St., Lake Oswego

Thursday, June 28, 5 to 7 p.m.
David Evans and Associates
2100 SW River Pkwy., Portland

A mid-July public hearing will also provide an opportunity for testimony before the project Steering Committee. The Steering Committee will then forward its recommendation to project partners for

a vote sometime this summer. A final vote by the Metro Council will take place in fall 2007.

To learn more, visit www.metro-region.org/lakeoswego or call (503) 797-1756.

Metro holds open house on natural areas bond measure investments in SE and SW Portland

In November 2006 voters directed the Metro Council to extend a regionwide program to protect water quality and fish and wildlife habitat and to provide the public with future opportunities for greater access to nature. Now it's time for the Metro Council to refine priorities in the 27 regional natural areas and trail corridors targeted for land acquisition.

Come to an open house in June to view maps, learn about the specific strategies for protecting these areas and offer the Metro Council your comments. We need to know: Do we have it right? What have we missed? Which objectives are most important to you? A virtual open house, where you can view maps and rank the choices, will be available online beginning June 12.

Wednesday, June 13, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.
Councilor Robert Liberty will host an open house requesting comments on Johnson Creek and Watershed, the Springwater Corridor, Willamette River Greenway, Fanno Creek Links and Trail. The open house will be held at the Metro Regional Center, 600 NE Grand Avenue, in Portland (three blocks from the red and blue lines on Max.)

For information on all of the open houses, see www.metro-region.org/article.cfm?articleid=24507.

Councilor Robert Liberty contact information

Address	600 NE Grand Ave. Portland, OR 97232
Phone	(503) 797-1552
Fax	(503) 797-1793
E-mail	libertyr@metro.dst.or.us
Assistant	Amelia Porterfield
Phone	(503) 797-1543
E-mail	porterfielda@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
Kathryn Harrington, District 4
Rex Burkholder, District 5
Robert Liberty, District 6

Auditor
Suzanne Flynn

June 2007 dch/final

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