

# 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

Sometimes you have to be careful for what you wish for lest it be granted. In this case, our region wished for more tools to plan for the growth coming to the Portland Metro area, and it was granted. It was not easy, and Metro worked closely with local governments, business interests, farmers and others to pass the needed legislation.

First, House Bill 2051 provides Metro with a two-year delay—to 2009—to review and consider if and how more capacity is needed within the urban growth boundary (UGB). This provides us with valuable time to reassess how we manage growth.

Second, Senate Bill 1011 enables the creation of urban and rural reserve areas so Metro and local governments in concert with the state can set aside areas suitable for growth while protecting valuable farmland and natural areas from development.

These two bills provide for some ambitious restructuring as to how we manage growth in the greater region. Rather than focusing on a mandatory 20-year raw land supply requirement (as current law requires), we want to make growth management decisions based on how efficiently we use land within the existing UGB and how we can promote vibrant communities. We also want to create reserve areas that provide greater predictability over how and where we will grow and what areas we will protect. We also have to work with our neighboring cities, Sandy, Estacada, Canby, Newberg, Scappoose, etc., so they don't become overloaded with growth spilling out of the Metro region.

We have a lot of work ahead of us. We need to plan for and designate urban and rural reserves. We need to develop a performance-based system for managing growth that is tied to the types of communities we want to create.

This is not Metro's responsibility alone. We will collaborate with local governments, the business community, farmers, environmental advocates, and citizens to ensure that the region remains the greatest place to live and work. I look forward to working with you and many partners across this region to protect our quality of life and enhance our communities for future generations. Feel free to contact me if you would like to receive additional information about what this legislation will mean for you and your community.

— Rod Park

### Metro Council appoints citizen committee to review Natural Areas Program

To ensure efficient administration of its Natural Areas Program, the Metro Council has appointed an oversight committee. Chaired by Peter Krainock, the 15-member Performance Oversight Committee will serve as an outside review to help Metro protect water, fish and wildlife in the region. The committee will meet twice annually.

“The composition of this committee demonstrates that we have successful business leaders in our region who care passionately about making the most of our natural settings and are willing to volunteer their time to constructively advise our government,” said Metro Council President

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## Natural Areas oversight committee

*continued from page 1*

David Bragdon. “In forming this important committee, the Metro Council is keeping its promise to voters who passed the 2006 bond measure and providing accountability to all of our residents.”

Committee members from a range of professional fields will work to ensure that expenditures from the bond measure are effective and efficient. The committee will review program performance and progress in implementing the strategies and objectives for natural area acquisition and protection.

The Metro Council’s 2006 Natural Areas Program funds land acquisition and improvements that protect water quality and wildlife habitat, enhance trails and wildlife corridors, and provide greater connections to nature in neighborhoods throughout the metropolitan region. For more information call (503) 797-1741 or visit [www.metro-region.org/naturalareas](http://www.metro-region.org/naturalareas).

## Metro honored with awards for sustainability, salmon restoration

Metro has recently been honored with two important awards. For its overall commitment to sustainable actions, Metro was given an Exemplar Award in the first ever Oregon Sustainability Award ceremony. This annual event is hosted by the Oregon Sustainability Board and the Oregon Economic and Community Development Department. Councilor Rod Park accepted the award from Governor Ted Kulongoski and Secretary of State Bill Bradbury last month. The Exemplar award recognizes an organization for its comprehensive commitment to sustainability as reflected in its vision, strategy, policies and day-to-day operations.

Metro also was given a 2007 Spirit of the Salmon Partnership Award from the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (CRITFC) for its “tireless work in salmon restoration,” and Metro was one of seven organizations honored at CRITFC’s 7th annual Wy-Kan-Ush-Pum Gala last month.

Specifically, Metro was honored for its commitment to protecting healthy streams and waterways in the Portland region, for efforts in educating the public about the importance of natural areas and environmental

protection, for facilitating residents’ and business’ efforts to protect the environment, and for its decades-long support of the Salmon Festival at Oxbow Regional Park.

## Summer programs at Oxbow Regional Park

Celebrate and enjoy nature at Oxbow Regional Park this summer and get involved in Metro-sponsored campfire programs and summer adventures at the park. Metro’s Oxbow Regional Park offers rare access to many of the region’s natural wonders and provides opportunities for a range of activities. Visitors can swim, raft, kayak, hike, and experience ancient forests and wildlife.

Oxbow Adventures is a series of nature programs for children ages 5-10 led by Metro naturalist Elisabeth Neely. These excursions allow children and families to explore and understand different aspects of the park from land formation and volcanoes to the different species that inhabit the area.

Attending Oxbow’s Campfire programs is another great way to enjoy and learn about this natural area. On Friday nights, come listen to great music suitable for all ages; on Saturday nights, attend hands-on educational talks presented by local naturalists. Afterwards, visitors have the option of spending the night at the park. Campfire programs are held in the outdoor forest amphitheater across from the campground, but you do not have to camp to enjoy them.

There is a \$4 per vehicle entry fee for the park. Please check the park’s website, [www.metro-region.org/oxbow](http://www.metro-region.org/oxbow), for details and check Metro’s online calendar at [calendar.metro-region.org](http://calendar.metro-region.org) for directions and more descriptions of the programs.

### 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

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David Bragdon

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