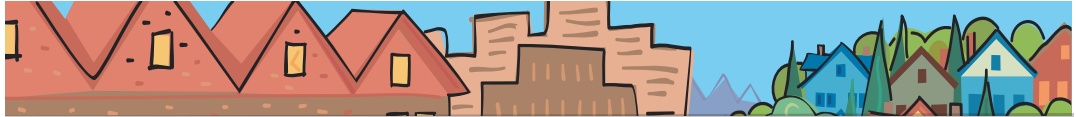


Carl Hosticka

METRO COUNCIL DISTRICT 3 NEWS



METRO

PEOPLE PLACES
OPEN SPACES

Carl Hosticka
represents
District 3, which
includes portions
of Washington and
Clackamas counties
and the cities of
Beaverton, Durham,
King City, Sherwood,
Tigard, Tualatin and
Wilsonville.



Seeing is believing in Vancouver, BC

In early June, Metro organized a study tour for local officials, planners, architects and developers to visit Vancouver, BC to learn about successful mixed-use development and planning in urban and suburban areas. I was very impressed with the obviously vibrant, lively urban areas and highly developed urban villages in suburban settings. These developments showed me what is possible through creative public-private partnerships and livable-community design standards.

Similarities between our region and that of Vancouver are striking: that city has a population of approximately 600,000, which is slightly more than the population of Portland at 562,690. Their metropolitan area has two million people, which is about equal to that of the greater Portland-Vancouver, WA region at 1.9 million. By the year 2035, our regional population is projected to be 2.6 million, and theirs is expected to be 2.7 million. Both areas are regional centers located on a major river on the Pacific Rim. We have outlying suburban areas and the MAX light rail, and they have suburban areas connected by an elevated SkyTrain.

Yet the Vancouver, BC region accommodates its population in half the land area, while still being recognized as an international leader in livable communities. We saw that density in centers and urban villages not only can co-exist with natural areas, but actually helps make it possible to have more natural areas readily accessible to a greater number of people. In central Vancouver, more than 20,000 people walk to work. Thousands of people have greenways and waterfront right outside their doorstep. With fewer cars in the business centers, they are quiet and peaceful.

Even as Vancouver achieves higher levels of density, its economy is booming, with international investment demand remaining high. Government involvement in shaping development helps facilitate that success. They have developed a cooperative culture where developers and government work together to achieve a desired type of community.

Some of the officials and planners from one of our local cities came away from the tour with a new vision for their downtown. They were so inspired by one of the smaller cities that they want to take another trip with their city council and planning commission to see it. For them, it embodied what they want for their city, but had not seen before or been able to articulate.

Seeing certainly is believing, and after this trip, it is much easier for me to believe that we can create vibrant, livable communities that are both compact and full of green natural areas. Finding ways to fund such development will continue to be a challenge, but our Canadian counterparts have developed a model of success that we can learn from and emulate.

— Carl Hosticka

Metro and partners succeed with land-use law reforms

Recently, Metro — working closely with local governments, business leaders, agricultural interests and others — achieved passage of important state legislation that will enable us to better plan for growth in the years ahead.

Every five years, the state requires that Metro review its urban growth boundary (UGB) for possible expansion to make certain that it contains a 20-year supply of land to accommodate growth. Oregon House Bill 2051 provides Metro with a two-year delay — to 2009 — to review and consider its current expansion.

Oregon Senate Bill 1011 enables the creation of urban and rural reserve areas, allowing Metro and local governments to set aside regions that may be suitable for growth over the next 40 to 50 years, while protecting valuable farmland and natural areas from expansion and development for the same period of time.

The two bills provide greater flexibility for the development of vibrant communities within the region's existing UGB, while protecting resource land and natural areas outside the boundary. Rather than focusing on an arbitrary 20-year land supply requirement, Metro will make growth management decisions based on how efficiently land within the existing UGB is used. In addition, the ability to create reserve areas now provides greater certainty and predictability for how and where population and employment growth will or will not occur.

Once both bills are signed into law, Metro will work with its regional partners to develop a more flexible and comprehensive growth management process, with the goal of more effectively implementing the 2040 Growth Concept, the region's long-range growth management plan.

Metro Council awards District 3 Nature in Neighborhoods grants

For the second year, the Metro Council awarded grants to local organizations for projects to protect fish and wildlife throughout the region. A total of 21 projects received funds from the Nature in Neighborhood program; three were from Metro District 3.

A total of \$420,682 was awarded to 19 groups. The funding is from a two-year, \$1 million grant program for nature-

friendly projects, and is part of the Nature in Neighborhoods initiative, the Metro Council's commitment to protecting habitat for fish, wildlife and people. Funding for the program was provided by Metro excise taxes collected on solid waste disposal during the last several years.

Grants awarded in District 3 included:

- \$3,155 to the Beaverton School District for restoration of the 12-acre Whitford Woods on the Whitford Middle School campus
- \$18,640 to the Fans of Fanno Creek for restoring oak prairie and turtle habitat at Fowler Middle School in the Tigard-Tualatin School District
- \$25,000 to the city of Wilsonville for the second phase of the Boeckman Creek fish passage and stream restoration project

Because grants required matching funds, this year's round of Metro funding leverages a total of \$1.5 million for local projects. Grant dollars awarded over the two-year program total \$980,000, leveraging nearly \$4.6 million toward grass roots, on-the-ground protection and restoration projects.

Since the grant program's inception in 2006, 52 citizen groups, businesses, nonprofit organizations, school groups, neighborhoods, government agencies and service organizations have received grants for projects focusing on conservation or projects to restore, enhance or create wildlife habitat.

Nature in Neighborhoods is an incentive-based program to inspire residents, businesses, nonprofit organizations and governments to safeguard water quality, protect valuable wildlife habitat and conserve or restore native ecosystems.

A full list of region-wide grants can be found at www.metro-region.org/nature.

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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