

Brian Newman

METRO COUNCIL DISTRICT 2 NEWS



METRO

PEOPLE PLACES
OPEN SPACES

Brian Newman
represents District
2, which includes a
portion of Southwest
Portland and much
of urban Clackamas
County including
Gladstone, Johnson
City, Lake Oswego,
Milwaukie, Oak
Grove, Oregon City,
Rivergrove and
West Linn.

Metro sponsors Integrating Habitats nature-friendly design competition

The Portland metropolitan region is famous for its unique natural habitats, which draw attention from around the world. And like many urban areas around the country, Portland is experiencing rapid growth, triggering the need for thoughtful, environmentally sound building designs that protect or enhance our environmental assets.

In order to promote the use of nature-friendly designs, Metro is sponsoring an international competition that will inspire developed and natural spaces that maximize biodiversity and water quality. This June, Metro unveiled “Integrating Habitats. A Design Competition” to challenge participants to balance development in the region with conservation of our much-loved natural areas.

Sponsored by Metro’s Nature In Neighborhoods program, Integrating Habitats will generate greater awareness and inspire us all to design the built environment with nature in mind. The competition is open to individuals from a variety of disciplines including landscape architecture, urban design and planning, stormwater management, architecture, engineering, water quality, ecology, wildlife biology and development. Three design challenges typical of the Portland metropolitan region have been chosen:

1. A mixed-use development adjacent to a creek and riparian corridor. A light rail transit stop and multimodal trail are proposed for the area.
2. A large-scale commercial development adjacent to a wetland complex.
3. A residential infill development with restoration of a contiguous oak habitat corridor.

A world-renowned, international jury from a wide range of disciplines will select the best designs, which will be published in a Design Guide that will serve as a definitive resource on protecting and restoring nature in new and re-developments. In addition, citizens and communities will select their favorite designs through the web-based People’s Choice Awards.

To register for the competition, join as an organizational or business sponsor, or for more information, visit www.metro-region.org/integratinghabitats.

Zoo attendance is highest in 120-year history; conservation programs enjoy success

The Oregon Zoo has reached an exciting milestone. For the first time ever, annual attendance has topped 1.5 million people. This is the highest attendance in the zoo’s 120-year history, breaking the 2000-2001 record of 1,367,940 visitors. A number of factors this year, including good weather, new exhibits, camps, concerts and family-friendly events have contributed to the record-breaking growth in attendance.

In addition to summer concerts and popular exhibits, the zoo is proud to be participating in conservation projects for endangered species.

The Oregon Zoo is one of four California condor breeding facilities in the country. Three chicks have hatched this year alone, bringing the total to 15 since the program was established.

continued

Record zoo attendance

continued from page 1

The zoo has also achieved notable progress in its Oregon silverspot butterfly and the western pond turtle programs. For the first time, silverspot caterpillars raised in the zoo's butterfly conservation lab were released into the wild.

Western pond turtles have nearly disappeared from Washington, largely due to predation by non-native bullfrogs. Working collaboratively with Seattle's Woodland Park Zoo, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Oregon Zoo "head-starts" newly hatched turtles gathered from wild sites, and releases baby turtles into the wild yearly. To date, nearly 250 have been released.

Metro purchases two Johnson Creek watershed properties with funds from 2006 bond measure

Nearly 60 acres of land in the Johnson Creek watershed have been purchased for preservation through Metro's Natural Areas program. The two forested parcels were identified as wildlife habitat corridors and are important to water quality in Johnson Creek.

Johnson Creek is the most densely urbanized creek in the Metro region, flowing 26 miles from its headwaters near the Sandy River to its confluence with the Willamette River in Portland. Its drainage area encompasses 54 square miles.

One property, a ten-acre tract east of Barbara Welch Road and south of Foster Road near Powell Butte, is an extinct cinder cone volcano and Portland city park near the headwaters of Johnson Creek. The newly protected area will help to restore Johnson Creek and maintain habitat for wild salmon and other local species at risk.

The other tract, 49-acres, is one of the largest remaining intact habitats within the Portland city limits. Its densely forested hillsides and creek frontage will retain important habitat, maintain scenic views and protect water quality in Johnson Creek. The property is located south of Foster Road and west of Barbara Welch Road on the north face of Clatsop

Butte. The property is home to a mix of native plants and trees including maples, cedars, Douglas firs, red alder, Oregon grape, huckleberry, elderberry and sword fern. The area supports a wide variety of wildlife including deer, fox, coyote, migrating flicker, pileated woodpecker and other local and migratory birds.

Both sites will be managed by the Portland Bureau of Parks and Recreation through an intergovernmental agreement with Metro.

Metro identified 27 target areas to be protected with funds from the 2006 natural areas bond measure. The measure funds land acquisition and capital improvements that protect water quality and fish and wildlife habitat, enhance trails and wildlife corridors, and provide greater connections to nature in urban areas throughout the greater Portland region. For more information: www.metro-region.org/naturalareas.

Events of note in District 2

Fridays in August, 10:00 a.m.

Story and stroll at Tryon Creek

Join a park naturalist for nature story time and a stroll through the park. This program is geared toward families with children ages 3-6, but all are welcome. Free. For more information, call (503) 636-9886 ext. 225.

Saturdays and Sundays in August, 1:00 p.m.

Junior ranger program at Tryon Creek

Children ages 6-12 are invited to join a park ranger to learn how to help protect our natural resources, plants and animals. Participating in nature games, nature crafts and park explorations will help junior rangers earn their badge. Parental permission slip is required. Free. For more information, call (503) 636-9886 ext. 225.

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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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