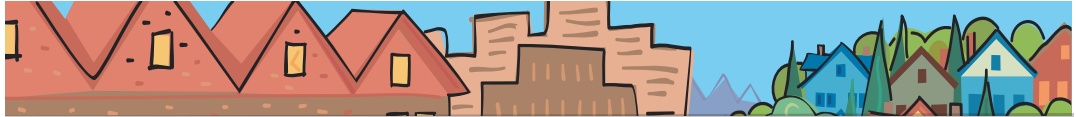


# Kathryn Harrington

## 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.**



### **Metro Council and leaders discuss region-wide system of parks and natural areas**

The Portland region has a well-deserved reputation for natural beauty. Our forested uplands, rivers, streams, buttes, clean water and mountain views are a rare gift — indeed they are gems sprinkled around this spectacular region. Much of our way of life is based on this natural inheritance, from the way we enjoy the outdoors to how we make a living.

The Metro Council has taken a series of steps to acquire, protect, restore and reforest more natural areas and open new parks for recreational use. The ultimate extension of these efforts would be the creation of an interconnected system of ecologically healthy natural areas and parks overseen cooperatively by current park owners and managers.

This was the subject of a day-long “Connecting Green” summit last month, at which 150 political, parks and business leaders gathered to discuss a regional effort to link our rivers, parks, forests, streams and buttes.

“Today is not just about what nature gave us. It’s mostly about what we do with nature. About not squandering the gift,” Metro President David Bragdon said at the opening of the summit. “Today is about making natural connections — not just connections with nature — but connections among human organizations.”

Our region currently has more than 50,000 acres of parks and natural areas in public ownership. A few years ago, Metro’s Greenspaces Policy Advisory Committee (GPAC) envisioned what they hope will be the best interconnected system of natural areas and greenspaces in the world.

The Metro Council is committed to the spirit of GPAC’s vision and creating a region-wide parks network that would surpass any other. Strong participation from leaders of local governments and businesses will be paramount to this effort. We look forward to this challenge and invite you to join us in connecting our individual gems into a necklace of green surrounding our region.

### **Metro’s design competition supports nature-friendly development**

The Portland metropolitan region is famous for its unique natural habitats, which draw attention from people 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 builders and architects to create 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 implemen-

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## Design competition

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tation of designing 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 site plans typical of the Portland metropolitan region have been chosen. They include:

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 then be included in a Design Guide to be published as the definitive resource on protecting and restoring nature in new and re-developments. In addition, citizens and communities will select their favorite designs through the People's Choice Awards, a web-based gallery voting system.

An online registration form and further information are available at [www.metro-region.org/integratinghabitats](http://www.metro-region.org/integratinghabitats). Interested organizations and businesses can take the opportunity to be part of this unique competition by joining as a sponsor. A sponsor registration is also available on the web page.

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

The Oregon Zoo reached an exciting milestone. For the first time ever, annual attendance topped 1.5 million people. This is the highest attendance in the zoo's 120-year history — and broke 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.

The zoo has also achieved notable progress in its Oregon silverspot butterfly and 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 nearly 60 acres in Johnson Creek watershed with 2006 bond measure funds

Metro purchased two forested parcels totaling nearly 60 acres in the Johnson Creek watershed in Southeast Portland with 2006 Natural Areas bond measure funds. They are wildlife habitat corridors and important to water quality in Johnson Creek.

Both properties are south of SE Foster Road. One tract of 49 acres on the north face of Clatsop Butte 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. A ten-acre tract near Powell Butte will help to restore Johnson Creek and maintain habitat for wild salmon and other local species at risk. For more information, visit [www.metro-region.org/naturalareas](http://www.metro-region.org/naturalareas).

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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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