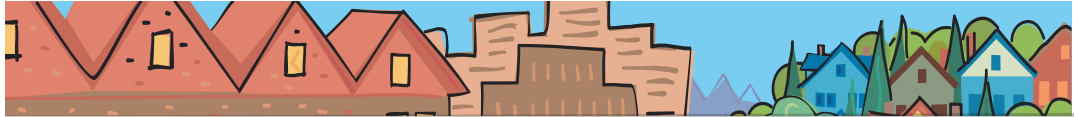


Rex Burkholder

METRO COUNCIL DISTRICT 5 NEWS



METRO

PEOPLE PLACES
OPEN SPACES

Rex Burkholder represents District 5, which includes Northwest Portland, North Portland, Northeast Portland, downtown Portland, a portion of Southwest Portland and a portion of Southeast Portland.



A message from Rex Burkholder

A government-mandated air quality test required as part of the Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP) has proven to be good news for the Portland Metro region. To remind you, MTIP funds two years' worth of federal transportation projects in the metropolitan region. This year, nearly \$45 million for 32 projects were allocated. MTIP funds are spent on highway, transit, bicycle and pedestrian facilities throughout the region.

According to the "Air Quality Conformity Determination," the projects most recently funded as part of the MTIP program will help keep our region's air clean. This measurement, while very technical, is an important tool to help inform us on how our land use and transportation planning affects our air quality. The criteria that guide MTIP project selection emphasize a variety of transportation modes, including road, freight, green streets, pedestrian, transit, and bike projects. Emphasizing this mix of projects ensures that we have real choices in how we travel, thus reducing the amount of emissions released into our air.

I'm excited about the results of this seemingly routine measurement not because I'm a transportation geek, but because of the story buried underneath the data. Meeting these air quality standards even with continued economic and population growth is a sign that the Metro Council and our regional partners are making good decisions. For example, considering the connection between land use and transportation ensures that we look at the whole picture. We consider where people want to go and where these places are located. Will they need to drive there or can we make sure that what they need is nearby? As my fellow councilor, Carl Hosticka, stated, "We need to bring there, here". The better we are at planning complete communities, the less people will have to rely on traveling by car. That leads to cleaner air. The more travel options we can provide people for when they do need to travel outside their neighborhood, the cleaner the air. Our Council is committed to continue this work, allowing us all to breathe a little easier.

— Rex Burkholder

Metro announces Integrating Habitats design competition

The Portland metropolitan region is world-famous for its unique natural habitats. 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.

continued

Integrating Habitats design competition

continued from page 1

Sponsored by Metro's Nature In Neighborhood program, Integrating Habitats will generate greater awareness and implementation 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:

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 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. Interested organizations and businesses can take the opportunity to be part of this unique competition by joining as a sponsor. A copy of the sponsor registration form can also be found on the webpage.



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 — and broke the 2000-2001 record — when the zoo attracted 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 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.

continued

Johnson Creek properties

continued from page 2

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 5

For a complete list of events, check out our online calendar at calendar.metro-region.org.

Saturday, Aug. 11, 9:30 a.m.

Intermediate animal tracking practice at Smith and Bybee Wetlands

Join Metro volunteer naturalist John Halsell as he illustrates the ancient art of tracking on sand, mud and the forest floor. Look for evidence of beaver, deer, coyote, raccoon and rabbits. Most of the time will be spent walking on sand or paved trail to find and discuss tracks. Participants will get the most from the class if they have previous tracking experience. Suitable for adults and teens. Meet in the parking area on North Marine Drive. Free. Advance registration required; call (503) 797-1715.

Saturday, Aug. 11, Noon

Smith and Bybee Wetlands paddle trip

You'll need your own kayak or canoe and personal flotation device. While the



new water control structure is helping to restore this seasonal wetland, the paddle conditions are difficult to predict, so the trip leader will contact you if it is necessary to cancel. Meet at the parking lot on North Marine Drive. Advance registration required; call Dale Svart at (503) 285-3084 or send e-mail to dsvart@earthlink.net.

Tuesdays, Aug. 14 and 28, 7 p.m.

Twilight Tuesdays at Smith and Bybee Wetlands

This relaxing walk takes advantage of long summer days for wildlife viewing. Dusk is one of the best times to see wildlife, and is about the only time you can see beaver, muskrat, otter, raccoon, deer and bats. Metro naturalist James Davis teaches the basic techniques of wildlife watching and identification. Bring your binoculars or borrow a pair of ours. Suitable for adults and children age 10 and older; participants must be able to be quiet, sneaky and patient. Registration and payment of \$5 per adult are required in advance; call (503) 797-1715.

Councilor Rex Burkholder contact information

Address	600 NE Grand Ave. Portland, OR 97232
Phone	(503) 797-1546
Fax	(503) 797-1793
E-Mail	burkholderr@metro.dst.or.us
Assistant	Kathryn Sofich
Phone	(503) 797-1941
E-Mail	sofichk@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

August2007 dch/final

Printed on recycled paper