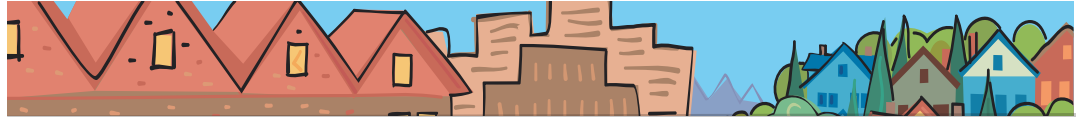


# Robert Liberty

## METRO COUNCIL DISTRICT 6 NEWS



**METRO**

PEOPLE PLACES  
OPEN SPACES

**Robert Liberty**  
represents  
**District 6, which**  
includes portions of  
**Northeast, Southeast**  
and **Southwest**  
**Portland.**



### The Summer Fruits of Policy

When I returned home from the grocery store a few days ago, I was confronted with the consequences of impulse buying—three different bags

of locally grown fruit.

Because I am a policy wonk, the fruit reminded me of some statistics recently issued by the Oregon Department of Agriculture.

In 2006, Marion, Clackamas and Washington counties, which surround the fast-growing Portland metropolitan area, were the top three counties in agricultural production in Oregon. These counties produce an amazing variety of food products as well as plants and seeds for the landscaping around homes and businesses across the nation.

The fact that farming can still thrive adjacent to our state's biggest urban area is the fruit of more than thirty years of effort by citizens and elected officials to adopt, implement and improve the land use laws that promote vibrant, compact cities and protect the land needed by farmers and ranchers.

The other reason that agriculture succeeds in Oregon is the diversity and creativity of the farmers themselves. They are developing new crops, new ways of marketing their crops and indeed, creating new markets for those crops and providing jobs both in the country and the city. (My friends Anthony and Carol Boutard, who farm near Gaston, are good examples. Anthony's essay about the

challenges and rewards of farming is posted on my [website](#).)

I worry about whether the lands used for farming will still be providing the fruits of summer in the coming decades. There is tremendous pressure on these lands for urban development, for hobby farms, for gravel mines, for resorts, for roads connecting our cities and a hundred other uses.

When 2040 dawns, will there still be enough land for farmers to succeed? What can we do to use our land in cities more wisely and efficiently so that we don't need to use the land farmers need?

But thoughts of policy and problems fade as I sit in our backyard on a warm August night, drinking a cold local beer (or wine), savoring local cherries, filberts and cheese, looking out on the rhododendrons and vine maple in our yard. All of this was produced right next door to the city.

The fruits of policy have made for a great meal, a beautiful yard and a very special region. August is a wonderful time to savor all of them.

— Robert Liberty

### Mark your Calendar! Corridors versus Centers debate Wednesday, September 26

Two university professors from Vancouver, British Columbia, who are very familiar with the Portland area, are coming to town on September 26 to debate different strategies for implementing the 2040 plan for our region.

Professor Patrick Condon from the Department of Landscape Architecture of the University of British Columbia will debate Gordon Price, former Vancouver City Councilor and now a member of the faculty of Simon Fraser University.

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## Corridors versus Centers debate

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Price is a strong supporter of the strategy that emphasizes growth in high-energy, high-density centers that include plenty of greenspaces and community amenities. (For Professor Price's professional biography see [www.sfu.ca/city/bioGordon.htm](http://www.sfu.ca/city/bioGordon.htm).)

Condon favors low and mid-rise development along transit corridors—three- and four-story mixtures of housing, stores, restaurants, professional services and offices. (Professor Condon's professional biography is at [www.larc.ubc.ca/whoware/html/faculty\\_pcondon.html](http://www.larc.ubc.ca/whoware/html/faculty_pcondon.html).)

Either approach is consistent with our region's 2040 plan. (See Councilor Liberty's July 2007 column entitled "What flavor of 2040 would you prefer?" [www.metro-region.org/article.cfm?ArticleID=15776](http://www.metro-region.org/article.cfm?ArticleID=15776).)

Of course, being Canadian, their debate is certain to be very polite and likely to lead to broad areas of agreement.

The debate will be held on the evening of Wednesday September 26 and will include time for questions and answers. The debate is currently scheduled for the Metro Council Chamber, at the Metro Regional Center, 600 NE Grand Avenue, accessible by bus and from the NE Seventh Avenue MAX stop.

## 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](http://www.metro-region.org/naturalareas).

## Event of note in District 6

**Marquam Nature Park restoration work party 9 a.m. Saturday, August 25**

Join Friends of Marquam Nature Park and the West Willamette Restoration Project for a morning of urban forest renewal. For more information, call (503) 699-9825.

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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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