

Metro District 5

METRO COUNCIL DISTRICT 5 NEWS



METRO

PEOPLE PLACES
OPEN SPACES

**Metro Council
District 5 includes
Northwest Portland,
North Portland,
Northeast Portland,
downtown Portland,
a portion of
Southwest Portland
and a portion of
Southeast Portland.**

Metro Council awards grants to North, Northwest Portland groups

The Metro Council has announced more than \$150,000 in new grants that will improve public awareness of natural areas in Northwest and North Portland neighborhoods, satisfy safety and security recommendations made for a local community center, and expand English language and computer literacy services for new residents in the area.

Metro's community enhancement grants are funded through a 50-cent surcharge collected on every ton of garbage received at Metro Central Transfer Station, a public garbage facility located in Northwest Portland. The grant program directly benefits residents who live in the geographic area most directly impacted by the garbage facility.

The 2008 grant cycle marks the fifteenth year Metro has invested funds in the community through the program. In that time, more than \$2.8 million has been awarded to help fund 265 neighborhood improvement projects.

Metro partners with local nonprofit organizations, schools, community groups and others in closely linked goals that include:

- rehabilitate or upgrade the area where residents can enjoy vibrant, accessible and physically distinct places to live, work and play
- maintain, improve or enhance environmental health so that wildlife and people can thrive in a healthy urban ecosystem
- contribute to economic vitality so that residents and businesses benefit from a strong and equitable economy.

For more information about Metro's community enhancement projects, a list of the 2008 awards, or to be added to the program notification list, visit Metro's web site at www.metro-region.org/grants or call Karen Blauer at 503-797-1506.

Design competition winners announced Feb. 26

The Portland metropolitan region is set in an exceptional natural landscape. Surrounded by hills and mountains and laced with rivers and streams, it is

a region of national distinction for clean water, clean air, outdoor recreation and an abundance of green; a place where nature is always nearby.



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Design competition

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Later this month, a group of prestigious professionals in the architecture and design industries will gather to judge an innovative competition focusing on maintaining or enhancing this environment. Metro's Nature in Neighborhoods program launched "Integrating Habitats. A Design Competition." as a way to develop inventive, visionary building designs that keep nature in mind.

The competition called for proposals that combine design excellence, ecological stewardship and economic enterprise in three categories:

- neighborhood infill development with a remnant oak woodland/savannah habitat interface
- mixed use development with a riparian habitat interface
- commercial development with a lowland hardwood forest habitat interface

Approximately 100 submissions from around the world have been received. Contributors include multidisciplinary design professionals and students. Winners will be announced at an award event Tuesday, Feb. 26th from 6 to 8:30 p.m. at the Portland Art Museum. The event, which is open to the public, will also serve as the kick-off for the People's Choice category, an online voting system open to the public.

For more information visit <http://www.metro-region.org/integratinghabitats>, call 503-797-1764 or e-mail harlanc@metro.dst.or.us.

The competition and event are sponsored by the City of Portland's Bureau of Environmental Services, Clackamas County Water Environment Services, Clean Water Services, the City of Gresham and the Port of Portland. Salmon-Safe is a non-profit partner. Corporate sponsors include Uncage the Soul Productions, Newland Communities, KPFF, Otak, PB and ESA Adolfsen.

Metro councilors help 'Fork it Over!'

In a state rich in natural resources, the dichotomy of rising hunger rates among individuals and families, and increased waste entering our regional transfer stations seems improbable. However, of all trash deposited in the Metro region each year, 180,000 tons (approximately 14 percent of total trash) is useable food.

Identifying the discrepancy between number of hungry people and the amount of useable food wasted in

the Metro region each year, Metro's Fork It Over! program, the Oregon Food Bank (OFB), and its Fresh Alliance program have developed strategies to alleviate regional hunger.

OFB dedicates itself to fighting hunger throughout Oregon and southwest Washington. Fork it Over! is Metro's umbrella food donation program to reduce hunger and waste in the Portland metropolitan area by working with businesses and individuals to collect food before it hits the trash can. 'Fresh Alliance' is an OFB program that works with grocery chains to recover meat and dairy products that would be otherwise thrown away.

Since 1996, Metro has disbursed approximately \$700,000 in grants to the OFB and the Fresh Alliance program. The grants have supplied freezer and refrigerated trucks, other vehicles, and carts to store food materials, among other resources involved in the food reuse packaging and transport process.

Metro Councilors and senior staff were able to see first hand how these grants helped achieve the missions of both Metro's Fork it Over! program and the OFB's goal of eliminating food insecurity. On Jan. 3, Councilors and staff sorted and re-packaged more than 4,400 pounds of frozen meat for distribution to food reuse agencies throughout the region and state.

For more information about Metro's Fork it Over! program, please visit the website at www.forkitover.org or contact Jennifer Erickson at 503-797-1647.

Metro Council approves Request for Proposals for ten-year waste transport contract

The Metro Council has approved issuing a Request for Proposals (RFP) for transporting waste from the metropolitan region 150 miles east to the Columbia Ridge landfill in Gilliam County, Oregon. Proposals for the ten-year contract, which are due March 12, will be reviewed by an interagency evaluation team.

Proposals may include a variety of transportation modes - truck, rail, barge or a combination of modes. The criteria by which proposals will be evaluated include cost, environmental impacts, socioeconomic impacts and operational considerations/reduction of risk.

The RFP and evaluation criteria incorporated results from a transportation study of possible modes and from suggestions made by the public, government officials, community groups and transportation industry representatives.

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Waste transport contract

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Despite a regional recovery rate of 56 percent in the Metro area, the region still disposes of 1.2 million tons of waste per year. The new contract will provide for as much as 700,000 tons per year to be sent to the Columbia Ridge landfill. The current contract to haul the waste expires on Dec. 31, 2009. The new contract will begin Jan. 1, 2010.

The RFP and associated documents are available on the Metro website at www.metro-region.org (search for "RFP waste transport") or by calling 503-797-1650.

Lake Oswego to Portland Transit Alternative Study moves forward

The Lake Oswego to Portland corridor went under review on Dec. 13 by the Metro Council, when it approved advancing further study of an environmental impact statement for various transportation options. Enhanced bus services and streetcar implementation, as well as a bicycle and pedestrian trail, work tasks related to refining streetcar alignments, and steps in securing funding for the environmental impact statement are all included.

The environmental analysis will be led by Metro beginning in late 2008, to conclude in 2010 with the selection of a single preferred alternative to be advanced into Preliminary Engineering and a Final Environmental Impact Statement.



As part of starting the environmental impact statement, Metro will hold a scoping meeting in spring to inform alert interested parties about the plan to prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement, provide information on the nature of the proposed transit project and invite public participation in the process, including comments on the proposed options.

For more information, visit Metro's website at www.metro-region.org and search for "Lake Oswego to Portland."

Events of note in the district:

9 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 2

Sauvie Island Raptor Road Trip

Explore Sauvie Island in search of magnificent bald eagles, hawks and falcons that spend the winter here. On this special day devoted to raptors, experienced naturalists and hawk experts will host activities at four locations around the island. Entrance to the event is \$5 per vehicle (cash only), which includes a one-day Sauvie Island Wildlife Area parking permit, event guide, birding map and checklist, and picture handouts on how to identify birds of prey. Advance registration not required. For more information, call 503-797-1850.

10 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 2

The mind of a tracker

A tracker's mind creates living maps and stories telling us about an entirely different world moving on the edge of our awareness. Start to build your own stories of the natural world and walk through your edge. \$35. Suitable for ages 14 and older. For more information, visit www.trackersnw.com.

9 a.m. Saturday Feb. 2

Friends of Trees North Portland planting

All events are from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. No experience or pre-registration is necessary. Volunteers are always welcome to help plant trees in neighborhoods and natural areas. Volunteers will be planting in the Cathedral Park, Arbor Lodge, Kenton, Portsmouth, and University Park neighborhoods. Meet at St. Johns Bachelor Club, 8204 N Central St. For more information go to www.friendsoftrees.org/events/planting.php or call 503-282-8846.

10 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 9

Lone Fir historical tour

Enjoy the beauty and tranquility of Metro's Lone Fir Pioneer Cemetery. The tour highlights Portland's founders, early pioneers and nationally renowned figures as well as some beautiful and unusual monument art. Suitable for all ages. Enter at Southeast 21st Avenue and Morrison Street. Advance registration is not required. Suggested donation, \$10. For more information, call 503-775-6278.

9 a.m. Saturday Feb. 16

Friends of Trees North Portland planting

All events are from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. No experience or pre-registration is necessary. Volunteers are always welcome to help plant trees in neighborhoods and natural areas. Volunteers will be planting in the Humboldt, Eliot, and Piedmont neighborhoods. Meeting location to be determined. Call 503-282-8846 or visit their website www.friendsoftrees.org/events/planting.php for meeting location.

9 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 23

Sellwood to Ross Island paddle

Enjoy a winter paddle around Ross Island. Explore this urban river island complex and learn about its past and its future. Bring your own boat or join Willamette Riverkeeper (a \$35 fee) and borrow canoes and gear. Meet at Sellwood Riverfront Park. Paddling experience and registration is required; call Amy at 503-223-641.

10 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 23

Winter birds at Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area

It's a waterfowl wonderland with thousands of ducks, geese and even swans spending the winter in the area. On a good day, you can see a dozen different species of waterfowl and other water birds such as grebes, gulls, coots, cormorants and herons. Free. Advance registration required; call 503-797-1850 option 4.

9 a.m. Saturday Feb. 23

Friends of Trees Northeast Portland planting

All events are from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. No experience or pre-registration is necessary. Volunteers are always welcome to help plant trees in neighborhoods and natural areas. Volunteers will be planting in the Woodlawn, Alameda, Vernon, Beaumont-Wilshire, and Concordia neighborhoods. Meet at Redeemer Lutheran Church, 5431 NE 20th Ave. For more information go to www.friendsoftrees.org/events/planting.php or call 503-282-8846.

12 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 24

Winter paddle at Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area

Bring your own kayak or canoe and personal flotation device. The new water control structure is helping to restore the natural area to a seasonal wetland; the changes are great for wildlife, but they make paddle conditions difficult to predict. Advance registration required; call Troy Clark at 503-249-0482.

7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 27

Mammals of Portland

Did you know you can see mink, beaver, and river otter at Oxbow Regional Park and Smith and Bybee Wetlands? What kind of squirrels are those running around your neighborhood? Are there really mountain lions and bears in Forest Park? Metro naturalist James Davis will show you how to identify the mammals that live in your neighborhood and in Metro's parks and natural areas. Meet in room 370 at Metro Regional Center. Registration and payment of \$10 per person are required in advance; call 503-797-1850 option 4.

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

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David Bragdon

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