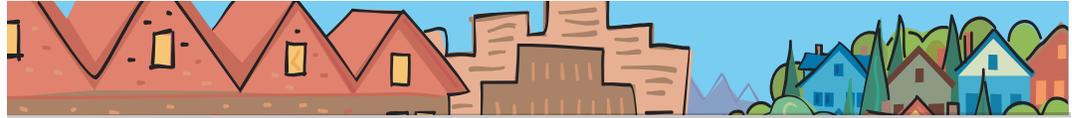


Rod Park

METRO COUNCIL DISTRICT 1 NEWS



METRO

PEOPLE PLACES
OPEN SPACES

Rod Park represents District 1, which includes Fairview, Gresham, Happy Valley, Maywood Park, Troutdale, Wood Village, Damascus and portions of East Portland.



Message from Rod Park

Green and sustainable – and I’m not just referring to farming. The Portland region has been a leader in promoting sustainable practices. Metro has played and will continue to play a role in providing a framework for creating a sustainable region.

While much attention is being paid to “green” building and producing “green” products, these efforts must also fit within the context of a thriving region that has hundreds of thousands of homes, commercial buildings and other built structures already in place. With a predicted one million people moving to the region over the next few decades, we have a responsibility to ensure that the way we grow lessens not only their environmental footprint but ours as well. If we build “green” schools and shopping centers in places that are only accessible by automobile travel, is that sustainable?

Being green and sustainable is not only focusing on how new or redeveloped buildings are constructed but also where they are built. Design and configuration choices about regional, city and neighborhood will have as much - or more – to do with how our region succeeds or fails to address environmental challenges, such as maintaining local food sources, climate change, energy usage and preserving our connection to natural areas. Upcoming decisions about efforts to invigorate more of our downtowns and main streets and possible areas for long term urban growth and rural preservation of farm and forest lands will all require the same public involvement and creative problem solving that draw such interest and headlines as dramatic new building construction standards.

In the end, our region will be judged as sustainable not only by the greenest buildings and settings, but where we place them. We must create communities where we can live, work and play with the greatest amount of choices and least impact on the environment.

- Rod Park

Design competition winners announced Feb. 26

Our region is set in an exceptional landscape. Surrounded by hills and mountains and laced with rivers and streams, it carries national distinction for clean water, clean air and an abundance of green; a place where nature is always nearby.

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. Approximately 100 submissions from around the world have been received. Contributors include multidisciplinary design professionals and students. Winners

continued

will be announced at an award event Tuesday, Feb. 26 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, call 503-797-1764, visit www.metro-region.org/integratinghabitats or send e-mail to harlanc@metro.dst.or.us.

Metro Council helps 'Fork it Over!'

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

Identifying the discrepancy between the number of hungry people and the amount of food wasted each year, Metro's Fork It Over! program, the Oregon Food Bank (OFB), and its Fresh Alliance program have developed strategies to alleviate 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 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 nearly \$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 food reuse packaging and transport.

Metro Councilors and senior staff were able to see firsthand 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, call 503-797-1647 or visit www.forkitover.org.

Metro Council approves Request for Proposals for 10-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 10-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 and socioeconomic impacts and operational considerations/reduction of risk.

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

Despite a recovery rate of 56 percent, the metro 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 at www.metro-region.org (search for "RFP waste transport") or by calling 503-797-1650.

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
Carlotta Collette, District 2
Carl Hosticka, District 3
Kathryn Harrington, District 4
Rex Burkholder, District 5
Robert Liberty, District 6

Auditor
Suzanne Flynn

Councilor Rod Park contact information

Address	600 NE Grand Ave. Portland, OR 97232
Phone	503-797-1547
Fax	503-797-1793
E-Mail	parkr@metro.dst.or.us
Assistant	Kathryn Sofich
Phone	503-797-1941
E-Mail	sofichk@metro.dst.or.us
Web	www.metro-region.org

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