

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

This past month, Metro and area school districts began a dialogue about the elements of great communities and the roles that schools play. At Metro, we recognize that schools are a key building block of the region's various communities and that they are focal points around which people gather, just like local parks and main streets.

The discussion focused on the increasing attention being given to the importance of schools as well as the challenges they face. Enrollment numbers are shifting across districts. Surprisingly, some districts with declining enrollments are surrounded by neighborhoods that are revitalizing. Other districts struggle with aging school buildings, in need of repair and maintenance, yet adequate resources are not available under our current state school funding to support rehabilitation. For example, over half of the schools in the Gresham-Barlow school district are in need of repair even as their enrollment is expected to increase by 2,000 students over the next eight years. Reynolds and Centennial Districts are at capacity or beyond. People are realizing that placing schools away from neighborhoods decreases their potential to serve as cornerstones of community building. Not only do schools provide places for educating our youth, they provide a place for all to walk, enjoy open space and provide a venue for neighborhood events. As I mentioned in my last message, it is not sustainable to build "green" school buildings that then require long distance commutes. We are hoping this dialogue with school districts will allow us to continue to work together to address how the region grows.

- Rod Park

Condors raised at Oregon Zoo to be released into the wild

In early 2007, four condors hatched at the Oregon Zoo were sent to the Peregrine Fund's World Center for Birds of Prey in Boise, Idaho. The center has been preparing the birds for release into the wild in Arizona later this month. Among these birds is Tatoosh, the second condor to be hatched in Oregon in more than a century.

Last year was a record year for Oregon Zoo condors: an unprecedented seven eggs were laid, including two by condor pairs who had never before produced eggs. Unfortunately, an abundance of eggs doesn't guarantee an abundance of chicks; three eggs were infertile and a fourth proved to be unviable partway through incubation.

The Oregon Zoo's condor recovery efforts take place at the Jonsson Center for Wildlife Conservation, located in rural Clackamas County on Metro-owned open space. The remoteness of the facility minimizes the exposure of young condors to people, increasing the chances for captive-hatched birds to survive and breed in the wild.

continued

In 2001, the Oregon Zoo became the third zoo in the nation to join the California Condor Recovery Program, and was the recipient of the Wildlife Society's Conservation Award for "creating the nation's fourth California condor breeding facility" in April 2005.

For more information about the Oregon Zoo's California condors, visit www.oregonzoo.org.

Free Natural Gardening seminars

Your garden can impact regional water quality. Rain can wash even the smallest amount of chemicals from your garden into regional streams, creeks, and rivers. Pesticides may help grow the largest tomato on the block – but at a cost.

You can do simple things in your garden to keep it beautiful, healthy and safe for your family, pets and the environment. Metro offers free natural gardening seminars to help residents grow beautiful, abundant gardens without harmful chemicals.

These annual seminars, held from March through June, are free but reservations are required given limited spaces. Seminars include a range of natural gardening topics including: Four season flower gardens, Growing nature in your garden, Why waste the rain?, Grow a golf course-quality lawn and Gardens of eatin'. Additionally, group seminars are available year-round for garden clubs and other organizations.

Natural gardening is just one component of improving and sustaining the livability of our region and ecosystem. For more information, visit www.metro-region.org/garden or call Metro Recycling Information at 503-234-3000.

Integrating Habitats Peoples' Choice Awards

Cast your vote. Shape the future! Metro's Integrating Habitats design competition received more than 107 submissions for buildings that combine design excellence, ecological stewardship and economic enterprise. Now we want to know which ones you like best.

Metro is asking the public to vote for their preferred designs that best demonstrate how habitat can be restored and protected

in mixed-use, retail and residential infill development scenarios. To vote, go to www.metro-region.org/integratinghabitats. Winning designs will be featured in the Integrating Habitats Design Guide. Voting closes April 8.

Metro's Blue Lake Regional Park's annual Bunny Bonanza is Saturday, March 22

Celebrate spring with the whole family at Blue Lake Regional Park's Bunny Bonanza Saturday, March 22 from 10 a.m. to noon. Children ages 2-4 years will search for candy eggs starting at 10:30 a.m. Children ages 5-10 years will hunt for candy eggs starting at 11:00 a.m. There will be fun activities including free face painting and coloring activities under covered shelters. Join us for a hoppin' good time rain or shine. All activities are free with an annual pass or \$4 per car or \$7 per bus for park entrance. Registration is not required. For more information, visit www.metro-region.org/parks or call 503-665-4995.

Show off your garden

Metro is soliciting gardens for its 10th annual Gardens of Natural Delights tour. Residents who maintain their own gardens using organic and other natural methods can apply to be one of the showcased gardens on Metro's 2008 tour. Beautiful gardens of all sizes, ages, and styles are sought to showcase how natural gardening techniques can be successful.

This year's free tour will be 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, July 13. Applications are due by 5 p.m. Tuesday, April 1. For more information, visit www.metro-region.org/garden or call Metro Recycling Information at 503-234-3000.

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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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