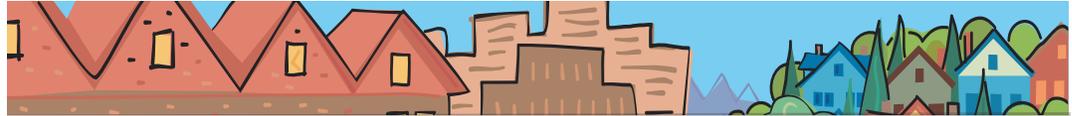


Kathryn Harrington

METRO COUNCIL DISTRICT 4 NEWS



METRO

PEOPLE PLACES
OPEN SPACES

**Kathryn Harrington
represents
District 4, which
includes Northern
Washington
County, Cornelius,
Hillsboro, Forest
Grove, Northwest
Beaverton, Aloha,
Rock Creek, Bonny
Slope, Bethany,
Raleigh Hills, West
Slope, Cedar Mill
and Cedar Hills.**



Planning the future of our urban communities and rural lands

We live in a special place. We have vibrant communities and town centers interwoven with beautiful natural areas that enable wildlife to thrive and provide us with extraordinary recreational activities close to home. And we have a diverse agricultural community that plays an important role in our region's economy.

This did not happen by chance. For more than 30 years, as this region has grown by more than a million people, we've made conscious decisions to reinvest in our existing communities, protect nature, use land more efficiently and minimize the impact of new development on farm and forest land while accommodating population growth and welcoming the economic opportunities it offers.

Although our efforts to manage our land and natural resources more efficiently have made us a national model for other metropolitan regions to emulate, the current process for making urban growth management decisions has also been highly contentious. It has offered no predictability or certainty for the protection of valuable rural lands, and it has not considered a variety of factors for accommodating growth in ways that strengthen local communities. It also does not weigh the costs of new development in expansion areas against those for redevelopment of existing downtowns and main streets within the current urban growth boundary.

For these reasons, the 2007 Oregon State Legislature gave Metro and the three counties of our region new tools with which to better plan for urban growth. Along with Washington County Chair Tom Brian, Clackamas County Commissioner Martha Schrader and Multnomah County Commissioner Jeff Cogen, I have the privilege of leading a regional Reserves Steering Committee that will study and designate areas outside the current urban growth boundary that are suitable for housing and job growth over the next 40 to 50 years (urban reserves), as well as areas that should be preserved and protected for agricultural and natural resource purposes for a similar period (rural reserves).

Our goal throughout this effort will be to more predictably facilitate growth in areas that are better suited to accommodate it while providing more significant protection for the farmland, forestland and natural areas that define this region. This will be a highly collaborative process that engages many stakeholders, including representatives of local cities, neighboring communities, business groups, developers, farmers, land use advocates, environmental organizations and members of the public. Metro and the three counties will coordinate public outreach efforts and will be seeking your input and guidance as we help shape this region for the next 50 years. More information about this effort can be found online at www.metro-region.org/reserves. I hope you will get involved with and stay informed about this important work.

— Kathryn Harrington

Metro offers 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 healthy, thriving 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 our region and ecosystem. For more information, visit www.metro-region.org/garden or call Metro Recycling Information at 503-234-3000.

Metro protects 40 acres and views on Chehalem Ridge

A Tualatin valley family has agreed to the sale and donation of 40 acres of rare oak and madrone forest on the western slope of the Chehalem Ridge to support Metro's Natural Areas Program. The property is located within the Chehalem Ridgetop target area, one of 27 areas that voters directed the Metro Council to preserve and protect through the 2006 natural areas, parks and streams bond measure.

Oak and madrone forest habitat is rare in the Northern Willamette Valley and is found in only a small percentage of the region's system of protected natural areas. The large, mature Oregon white oak and madrone trees on the site provide valuable habitat to many important wildlife species.

Protecting the forested hillsides on the western flank of the Chehalem Ridge will help to protect water quality in Wapato

Creek, which flows into the Tualatin River. The views stretch down the valley and overlook the planned Wapato Lake Wildlife Refuge. This acquisition is a start toward creating a new public asset in the community.

Metro will manage the property, which is located on SW Burgarsky Road, north of Dixon Mill Road near Gaston. The site's natural resources are currently in good condition with a large part of the area primarily a closed-canopy, diverse forest supporting a mix of large Douglas fir, Oregon white oak and madrone trees.

The Metro Council's 2006 Natural Areas Program 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 Portland metropolitan area. For more information, visit www.metro-region.org/naturalareas.

Integrating Habitats Peoples' Choice Awards

Cast your vote. Shape the future! Metro's Integrating Habitats design competition received more than 107 submissions combining 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.

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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.

Your Metro representatives

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David Bragdon

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

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