

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.**



Integrating habitat into local development opportunities

As urban areas expand, the pressures of increased development threaten natural areas, clean water in streams and valuable fish and wildlife habitat. How can we achieve a balance between development and conservation? What are the best ways to accommodate growth, while enhancing livability for generations to come?

To help generate innovative solutions to these challenges, Metro recently sponsored a design competition, "Integrating Habitats." Design competitions serve to heighten awareness within the development community, and provide opportunities for architects, design professionals, local community development personnel and students to learn from each other and share creative ideas. The Integrating Habitats design competition set out to show that every building in which we live, work, shop and play can include places for both people and nature.

Winning designs were selected by a world-renowned jury, looking for designs that optimally foster balance between conservation and development, maximizing biodiversity and safeguarding water quality. The design categories were:

1. **Neighborhood infill development** with a remnant oak woodland/savannah habitat interface
2. **Mixed use development** with a riparian forest habitat interface
3. **Commercial development** with a lowland hardwood forest habitat interface

I bet that if you sit back and think about your daily travels between home and work, local areas that include majestic oak trees or pockets of forest habitat will come to mind. These areas need not be destroyed with new development, if they can be wisely integrated in ways that enable the important natural habitat to co-exist with complementary development.

The international competition drew 107 submissions from as far as Australia, Italy and Japan. Awards were announced at a celebration on Feb. 26, with 650 people attending.

A group of students from Arizona State University in Tempe won first place in the Mixed Use category for their submission, "Nature in Neighborhoods - Development as a Catalyst for Restoration." Their apartment homes feature roof gardens, permeable paving, and vegetated bioswales and basins to manage stormwater on site. The development uses prefabricated modular construction in a compact arrangement of both residential and commercial space.

A collaborative group from Portland won first place in the Commercial Development category for "Urban Ecotones - Transitional Spaces for Commerce and Culture." Their design illustrates how innovative home building centers can thrive economically, adapt to

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anticipated urban growth and provide a model for restoring habitat corridors. The group consists of GreenWorks PC, Bruce Rodgers Design Illustration, Ankrom Moisan Associated Architects, ESA Adolphson and SWCA Environmental Consultants.

First place in the Neighborhood Infill category went to Portland's Constructive Form Architecture and Design, LLC for "Urban Savannah, Alley Midlands, Understory Dwellings." Their design considers habitat preservation and restoration, main streets and alleys of varying widths. It holds homes, studios and workshops, shared semi-public open spaces, and landscape design that provides wildlife with areas for shelter and food, as well as corridors between them.

To explore these innovative designs directly, visit www.metro-region.org/integratinghabitats. I hope you find them as fascinating as I do.

— Kathryn Harrington

Metro Council on the road!

Every year, the Metro Council chooses locations around the region for offsite meetings, to enable people to more easily attend. Three offsite meetings are planned for April and May in Washington and Clackamas counties, and you are invited to attend. Please check the Metro website, www.metro-region.org/council, for calendar updates and meeting agendas:

2 to 5 p.m. Wednesday, April 16
Greatest Place Council Work Session
Tigard Auditorium
Public Works Building
8777 SW Burnham St., Tigard

2 p.m. Thursday, April 17
Council Meeting
Wilsonville Council Chamber
29799 SW Town Center Loop East,
Wilsonville

2 p.m. Thursday, May 15
Council Meeting
Forest Grove Community Auditorium
1915 Main Street, Forest Grove

Metro debuts new illegal dumping signs at SOLV IT

Since 1990, SOLV IT volunteers have removed more than 13 million pounds of waste and litter from illegal dumpsites, neighborhoods and natural areas. This year at SOLV IT, one of the largest Earth Day events in the nation, Metro will debut signs for the Report Illegal Dumping (RID) Patrol program.

Illegal dumping of household garbage, old tires, hazardous waste and other refuse threatens human health, wildlife and the environment. Metro's RID Patrol program partners with local government agencies, law enforcement and community members to ensure that illegal dumps on public land are quickly cleaned up and investigated. New signs to deter dumping and provide information about how to deal with dump problems will be posted at public areas throughout the region.

On Saturday, April 19, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., thousands of volunteers will converge on approximately 100 sites throughout the region, including Metro natural areas. Other Metro activities include trail maintenance at Cooper Mountain Nature Park in Beaverton, ivy removal at Newell Creek in Oregon City and plantings at Metro's Native Plant Center in Tualatin.

For more information about Metro's RID Patrol, call Metro Recycling at 503-234-3000 or send e-mail to mri@metro.dst.or.us. To become a SOLV IT volunteer, register online at www.solv.org or call 503-844-9571.

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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