

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.**



A message from Rod Park

Lately, I've been reminded of "Abandon Ship," a classic movie where the captain of a luxury liner is suddenly faced with life or death decisions when his ship sinks, leaving himself and a few survivors floating at sea in an overcrowded lifeboat without enough food and water to support them all. The captain, a decent fellow, initially intends to save everyone. But it soon becomes clear that this is impossible. We are facing a similar situation with our transportation system. Granted, our transportation decisions are not quite that dire, but the challenge is about allocation of resources. It has become clear that our needs outweigh current funding streams and hard decisions will have to be made. Do we prioritize taking care of what we have or do we continue to build new facilities? Or do we make the hard decision to increase our funding of both approaches?

Needless to say, this will not be an easy decision.

As part of this process, I think it's important to keep an open line of communication with you to help guide Metro's policy making on transportation. After all, you are out there trying to get from Point A to B, living in neighborhoods between those points and beyond. In addition, we are trying to keep the economy humming along by getting goods and services where they need to be. It is our quality of life and pocketbook that is affected largely by the transportation options – or obstacles – that we face every day.

Believe me, there is a gap and it can only be filled by either cutting back or increasing fees. Other efficiencies such as land use design and building smarter can take us only so far.

It's more important than ever that we look critically at all investments – whether they be for basic maintenance, or building much needed new projects – and evaluate them on the basis of the outcomes that they produce – safety, congestion relief, community development, freight movement, or environmental benefit.

I would appreciate hearing from you on what you think.

— Rod Park

Metro to unveil winners of Earth Day billboard designs at April 5 celebration

On Saturday, April 5 Metro will announce the winners of this year's Earth Day billboard design competition. Students from Clackamas, Multnomah and Washington counties were invited to design a billboard encouraging people to conserve and protect resources through waste prevention, recycling, composting or using fewer toxic products. Approximately 200 entries were selected as finalists. That artwork is displayed in the lobby at Metro's Regional Center.

continued

Grade-level category (K-2, 3-5, 6-8 and 9-12) winners have been selected to have their artwork and name, and the name of their teacher and school displayed on billboards throughout the metro region for Earth Day. Winning and honorable mention artists will be announced for the first time and presented with their framed original artwork at an art show and unveiling ceremony on April 5.

For more information about the elementary school participants, call Freda Sherburne at 503-797-1522 or send e-mail to sherburnef@metro.dst.or.us. For more information about the middle and high school participants, call Amy Wilson at 503-797-1521 or send e-mail to wilsona@metro.dst.or.us.

Metro's Community Cleanup Guide now available online

Oregonians are known for their commitment to the environment. We care about pristine natural areas and healthy urban areas that welcome people and wildlife. Metro's Community Cleanup Guide was created for people who put their environmental and community values into action by helping clean up their communities. Metro – with funding from the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality and support from dozens of community members and government staff – has created a resource that will help involved citizens build better communities and keep nature in neighborhoods.

The Community Cleanup Guide focuses on two types of events - neighborhood cleanups and natural area or civic event cleanups. The cleanup guide compiles the best resources, tips and planning tools available to assist organizers in planning events with a strong emphasis on community involvement, waste prevention, reuse and recycling.

The guide is designed to help new coordinators and veteran volunteers improve recycling and waste prevention at cleanup events; improve effectiveness of community volunteers through training and recognition; inspire community; and ensure best use of Metro disposal vouchers and local government grants.

To download all or part of the guide visit www.metro-region.org/recycling. To request a copy, call Metro Recycling Information at 503-234-3000.

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. Four offsite meetings are planned for April and May and you are invited to attend. Please check the Metro website, www.metro-region.org/council, for calendar updates, agendas and meeting packets:

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

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

2 p.m. Thursday, April 24
Metro Council Meeting
Native American Youth Association
5135 NE Columbia Blvd., Portland

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

District 1 events of note

Wild foods of Oxbow
1 – 5:00 p.m., Sunday, April 20
Learn about the wild foods of trees, shrubs and herbs at Oxbow Regional Park on the Sandy River. Find a diversity of edible wild plants including fiddlehead fern, elderberries, Solomon's seal, fairy bells, nettles, red huckleberries and salmonberry. Registration and cost: \$22 per person. There is a \$4 per vehicle entrance fee to the park. Advanced registration required; call 503-775-3828. Call for meeting location and directions.

For more information on this and other events, visit www.metro-region.org/calendar.

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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