

Carl Hosticka

METRO COUNCIL DISTRICT 3 NEWS



METRO

PEOPLE PLACES
OPEN SPACES

Carl Hosticka
represents
District 3, which
includes portions
of Washington and
Clackamas counties
and the cities of
Beaverton, Durham,
King City, Sherwood,
Tigard, Tualatin and
Wilsonville.



Bring nature back to your neighborhood

The first sunny days of summer bring our neighborhoods, parks and trails back to life. Dog walking is enjoyable again, the little leagues are tee-ing up and picnic baskets have come out of storage. We are lucky to live in such an exceptional natural landscape that gives us so much enjoy – and each one of us has a responsibility to help keep our natural areas pristine. To foster the connection between citizens and natural areas, Metro created the Nature in Neighborhoods restoration and enhancement grants program in 2006.

Over the past two years, Metro has awarded more than \$980,000 to support nonprofit community groups, schools, businesses and local government agencies that are working to restore and enhance nature in urban areas.

On May 8, in the third round of grant awards, eleven projects received funding. The selected projects represent innovative partnerships that range from curriculum and outreach campaigns to habitat restoration and riparian protection.

Do you have a natural area in your neighborhood that you want to improve? The Nature in Neighborhood restoration and enhancement grant program is one way in which YOU can make a difference. These funds are reserved for local projects that help create livable communities.

Spend your next sunny day working on a project in your neighborhood! For more information on how to apply for a grant, visit www.oregonmetro.gov/grants. Or, to volunteer on a restoration project in one of Metro's natural areas, visit www.oregonmetro.gov/volunteer.

See you in the field!

– Carl Hosticka

Evaluating regional trail investment

To the delight of trail champions, citizens and local leaders, investments in a connected system of regional trails could be closer to reality if the newly launched Blue Ribbon Committee for Trails deems it a high priority for the region.

On Monday, May 7, the newly formed Blue Ribbon Committee for Trails held its first meeting followed by a reception, drawing over 70 interested citizens, business leaders and trail advocates. The meeting included a presentation on the history of non-motorized vehicles, a video introducing regional trails and visual displays of the 20 proposed regional trail packages. A trail “package” is a proposed trail or set of proposed trails that achieve a particular objective. For example, the “40 Mile Loop” is a trails package that completes a trail “hub” around the region.

As part of the Connecting Green initiative to “create the worlds greatest system of parks, natural areas, and trails,” Metro launched the Blue Ribbon Committee in April to consider the value an off-street trail system could bring to the region and strategies for trail expansion.

continued

Dave Yaden, a public official with 35 years of service, will chair the 20-member committee that includes business and nonprofit leaders, health professionals and elected officials from throughout the metropolitan region. In addition to assessing the benefits of an enhanced trail system, the Metro Council has charged the committee with determining the level of commitment that should be dedicated to trail expansion and developing funding and policy strategies required to initiate improvement.

Over the next six months, from May to October, the Blue Ribbon Committee for Trails will continue to hold monthly meetings, on the first Monday of the month, from 4 to 6 p.m.

For more information on the Blue Ribbon Committee for Trails, visit www.oregonmetro.gov/committees.

To find a trail near you, visit www.oregonmetro.gov/parks.

Metro Council approves \$1.3 million for outdoor school waste reduction curriculum

In May, the Metro Council approved a proposal dedicating \$1.3 million to waste reduction curriculum at outdoor school programs in the region.

Outdoor school is a residential environmental education program designed to teach local sixth-graders the importance of outdoor appreciation and environmental stewardship. The newly approved financial designation will assist local schools in enhancing their conservation education programs – adding eight hours of waste reduction and recycling curriculum to the traditional three- to six-day residential program.

Metro currently offers smaller conservation education programs through the Oregon Zoo as well as parks and solid waste departments; however, by partnering with the outdoor school program, Metro will reach up to 15,000 additional students while fulfilling its mission of encouraging conservation and sustainability efforts throughout the region.

The \$1.3 million funding allocation was made possible through an annual solid waste fee, which will be directed to schools

as reimbursement for their conservation education programs. The contribution comes at a much-needed time as many outdoor school programs have seen a decrease in funding. Metro will work with members of the solid waste and public utility industry to raise additional funds for this very important education program.

Metro's website renamed

Metro's new online address, www.oregonmetro.gov, went live May 1st. The change from the old ".org" address to the new ".gov" address is a key step in ensuring Metro's recognition as a governmental body. In addition, the website has been updated with a friendlier look and feel.

Urban and rural reserves calendar

A calendar of events has been added to the urban and rural reserves web site at www.oregonmetro.gov/reserves that lists upcoming meetings, including public open houses scheduled over the summer to gather comments and feedback on a draft study area map and to learn more about this important effort.

Open houses scheduled for June are:

5 to 8 p.m. Monday, June 16
Beaverton Resource Center, 12500 SW Allen Blvd.

5 to 8 p.m. Thursday, June 26
Forest Grove Community Auditorium, 1915 Main Street

For more information on these open houses, please contact Marcia Sinclair at marcia.sinclair@oregonmetro.gov or 503-797-1814.

Councilor Carl Hosticka contact information

600 NE Grand Ave.
Portland, OR 97232
503-797-1549 | 503-797-1793 fax
carl.hosticka@oregonmetro.gov

Emma Stocker, policy coordinator
503-797-1939
emma.stocker@oregonmetro.gov
www.oregonmetro.gov

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

Metro Councilors
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Carl Hosticka, District 3
Kathryn Harrington, District 4
Rex Burkholder, District 5
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