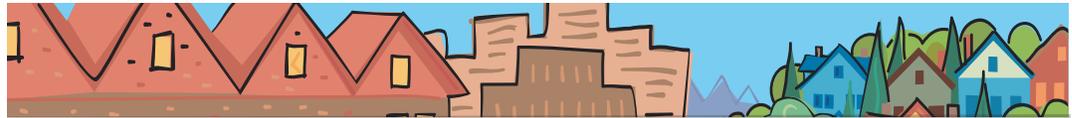


Rod Park

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

As I reported to you earlier this year, Metro and Clackamas, Multnomah and Washington counties are leading a regional effort to designate urban reserves (areas designated for the next 50 years of growth) and rural reserves (areas which would be protected from growth) to accommodate future growth and protect valuable farmland, forest land and natural areas that define the character of this region. A steering committee of local elected officials, business leaders, farmers, conservationists and others has been meeting since January. Their role is to oversee the study of potential urban

and rural reserves and advise the Metro Council and county commissions on the formal designation of these areas.

Open houses are being held around the region to provide you with an opportunity to learn more about this effort and to advise Metro and the counties on which areas should be studied for designation as either urban or rural reserves. I wanted to let you know of two open houses taking place either in or near District 1. The first one will be held on Monday July 7th, from 5:00-8:00pm at the Multnomah County East Building, located at 600 NE 8th St., Gresham. The second one is taking place on Wednesday July 16th from 5:00-8:00pm at the Clackamas County Public Services Building, Rooms 369 A & B, 2051 Kaen Rd. in Oregon City. I encourage you to attend one of these meetings and follow this effort. Together we have an opportunity to identify areas that make sense for future urban development and which lands are most suited to remain natural areas or working farms and forests for the next 50 years. Would you like to see development from Gresham to Sandy or to have a green corridor of nurseries and farms in between? This is an example of the hard questions your public officials will have to decide. Please come share your thoughts with us.

— Rod Park

Newly Launched Metro Blue Ribbon Committee Considers Regional Trail Investment

To the delight of trail champions, citizens and local leaders, an investment in a connected system of regional trails could be closer to fruition if the newly launched Blue Ribbon Committee 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 exciting event included a presentation on the history of non-motorized vehicles, a video introducing regional trails, and visual displays of



continued

the 20 proposed regional trail packages. A trails “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 possible strategies for trail expansion.

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 committee is charged 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 will continue to hold monthly meetings, on the first Monday of the month, from 4pm to 6pm.

For more information on the Blue Ribbon Committee for Trails, please visit <http://www.oregonmetro.gov/committees>



Metro Council Approves \$1.4 Million for Outdoor School Waste Reduction Curriculum

In May, the Metro Council approved a proposal dedicating \$1.4 million to waste reduction curriculum at outdoor school programs in the region. The funding allocation was made possible through an annual solid waste fee, which will be directed to schools as reimbursement for their conservation education programs.

Outdoor School is an environmental education residential program designed to teach local sixth-graders the importance of outdoor appreciation and environmental stewardship. The newly approved financial designation will assist local schools and outdoor school programs in enhancing their conservation education programs - adding 6.5 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, Parks and Solid Waste departments; however, by partnering with the Outdoor School program, Metro will reach up to 15,000 additional students, including high school counselors, while fulfilling its mission of encouraging conservation and sustainability efforts throughout the region.

The \$1.4 million contribution comes at a much-needed time as many outdoor school programs have seen a decrease in funding. Metro will to 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 into effect on 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.

The updates aim to increase usability, promote public participation, and make the most popular information easier to find. They were also designed to make the site accessible to Internet users of all skill levels; from novice to professional programmers.

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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

Metro Council President
David Bragdon

Metro Councilors
Rod Park, District 1
Carlotta Collette, District 2
Carl Hosticka, District 3
Kathryn Harrington, District 4
Rex Burkholder, District 5
Robert Liberty, District 6

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