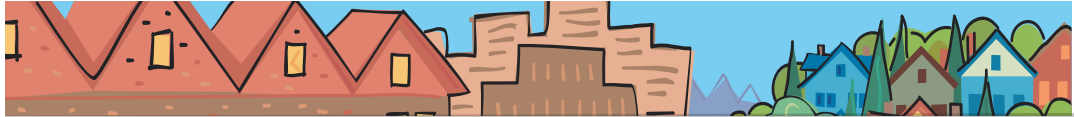


Rex Burkholder

METRO COUNCIL DISTRICT 5 NEWS



METRO

PEOPLE PLACES
OPEN SPACES

**Rex Burkholder
represents District
5, which includes
Northwest Portland,
North Portland,
Northeast Portland,
downtown Portland,
a portion of
Southwest Portland
and a portion of
Southeast Portland.**



A message from Rex Burkholder

I am happy to announce that the Metro Council approved funding a new program that will work with Outdoor Schools in the region to teach young people about conserving resources and reducing how much we throw away. This is an important step to ensuring a permanent funding source for Outdoor School in the Metro region, something I've been working on for the last four years with other supporters of this wonderful, effective and very Oregon program. Outdoor School is invaluable and irreplaceable in reaching a receptive audience with the broad message of environmental stewardship.

This was made possible through a small (less than 2%) increase in solid waste system fees. Participating schools will be able to enhance conservation education programs for their students as these funds will add 6.5 hours of waste reduction and recycling education as part of the traditional three to six day residential program.

While we are in the beginning stages of determining the specifics, the program goals are to:

- Ensure all 6th graders in the region have access and opportunity to attend Outdoor School.
- Increase the level of waste reduction awareness of sixth graders in the region attending Outdoor School by further refining current activities and enhancing the program to add new activities. (Hopefully, students will share their knowledge with their families and help increase recycling rates at home, too!)
- Reach both high school students working as camp counselors and classroom teachers who prep and follow up with the students before and after their Outdoor School experience.

Thanks to all of you who either sent in a letter or came in to testify in support of this program. I was impressed by the passion showed from those who testified. Im excited about this new program because I believe the additional waste reduction education programming will help reduce the amount of waste entering the landfills. At the same time, the additional funding for Outdoor School will ensure schools that are currently sending students to Outdoor School will be able to continue doing so as well as provide an incentive for those schools that are currently not sending students to start up their Outdoor School programs again. Metro will continue to work with partners, including public utilities, to leverage additional funding to provide a stable source of funding for the regions Outdoor School program.

— Rex Burkholder

The Mayors Institute on City Design convenes in Portland

As cities grow and space becomes increasingly limited, thoughtful urban planning and design becomes critical for successful cities. In response, city leaders, design professionals and the public are collaborating to advance sustainable development within their

continued

communities. To support and encourage these partnerships the Metro Council, Portland State University and the University of Oregon co-hosted a 2008 session of the Mayors Institute on City Design (MICD) in Portland, from May 7 to 9. Since 1986, the Mayors' Institute has helped transform communities by preparing and inspiring mayors to be the chief urban designers of their cities. MICD is sponsored through a partnership of the National Endowment for the Arts, the United States Conference of Mayors and the American Architectural Foundation.

This conference brought together mayors from the Western United States who were joined by a resource team made up of a select group of planners, architects, developers and other experts from the United States and Canada. Resource team members included representatives from cities, universities, organizations and businesses throughout the region.

Ten mayors, including five from Oregon, attended the conference. Oregon mayors included Richard Kidd of Forest Grove, Shane Bemis of Gresham, Jim Bernard of Milwaukie, Bob Andrews of Newberg and Alice Norris of Oregon City. Other participating mayors from the West Coast included Sandi Bloem from Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, Len Augustine from Vacaville, California, Marty Blum from Santa Barbara, California, Ken Miyagishima from Las Cruces, New Mexico and Kaaren Jacobson from Bozeman, Montana. Each participating mayor brought unique perspective and lessons based on their city's experiences and challenges adapting to population growth.

The session commenced with a welcome reception at the University of Oregon's new facilities in the renovated White Stag building in Old Town Portland. Portland Mayor Tom Potter and Metro Council President David Bragdon opened the reception with a welcome address, which was followed by a panel discussion moderated by Randy Gragg, editor of Portland Spaces. Metro Councilors Kathryn Harrington, Carlotta Collette, Robert Liberty and Rex Burkholder also attended the reception.

The rest of the sessions took place at the American Institute of Architecture's new facility in the Pearl District where the mayors were able to speak candidly about issues confronting their communities and gain insight from discussions with their peers and members of the resource team.

The successful conference ended with an outdoor dinner at the Portland Chinese Garden. Participating mayors, the resource team, Metro Council, city leaders, MICD representatives and partners from Portland State University and the University of Oregon gathered to reflect on the lessons learned and share design solutions to common growth issues many communities share.

Metro has a new website address

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.

Highlights of the new site include a number of interactive maps and tools. You can plan bicycle trips using [ByCycle.org's](http://ByCycle.org) trip planner and view Metro bike maps with Google Earth. There are also matching tools for locating garbage haulers, recyclers, and food rescue programs. Answering a few simple questions will create a list of resources and companies tailored to you based on the answers to these questions.

An interactive calendar allows you to locate events, workshops, and other activities. A variety of filters, such as type of activity or Metro district, allow you to locate events in your area or activities focused on the things that interest you; whether that be volunteer opportunities or kid-friendly outings.

Another area of note is the Who are You section found at the bottom of the home page. You can select a category best suited to your situation, such as Parent/Teacher or Developer. This will take you to a page of links highlighting resources and information geared towards this category of interest.

Visitors to Metro's former web address - www.metro-region.org - will automatically be redirected to the new site for the foreseeable future.

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 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 world's 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 www.oregonmetro.gov/committees

Events of note in District 5

Cycle the well field

9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Saturday, June 14

Join the Columbia Slough Watershed Council and the Portland Water Bureau for a 16-mile bicycle tour through the groundwater protection area and discover the mysteries of groundwater. Bring your bike, helmet, water and snacks. Suitable for ages 12 and older. Cost is free. Advance registration required; call Katie at 503-281-1132 or send e-mail to katie.meckes@columbiaslough.org.

50th Anniversary of the Zoo Railway and the ZooLiner

10 to 11 a.m., Saturday, June 14

Join the celebration of 50 years of railway service. Special activities are being planned. For more information, call 503-226-1561, or visit www.oregonzoo.org.

Summer solstice paddle at Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area

noon to 4 p.m., Saturday, June 21

Bring your own kayak or canoe and personal flotation device. The new water control structure is helping to restore the natural area to a seasonal wetland; the changes are great for wildlife, but they make paddle conditions difficult to predict. The trip leader will contact participants if it is necessary to cancel the trip due to low water levels. Cost is free. Advance registration required; call Dale at 503-285-3084.

Sunday parkways

8 a.m. to 2 p.m., Sunday, June 22

Celebrate America's most walk- and bike-friendly city. All are invited to walk, bike, skateboard and run on six miles of traffic-free North Portland streets, connecting four beautiful parks -- Arbor Lodge, Peninsula, Unthank and Overlook. Enjoy music, food and activities like hula hooping, yoga, a kids' circus and more. Cost is free. For more information, visit www.GettingAroundPortland.org.

Winter vegetable gardening class

9 to 11:30 a.m., Saturday, June 28

Winter gardening means summer planting. Join Portland Community Gardens for a free winter gardening class and learn what you can plant now to be eating through the fall, winter and early spring. To register, call 503-823-1612.

For a complete list of events, check out our online calendar, <http://calendar.oregonmetro.gov>.

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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

Auditor
Suzanne Flynn

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