

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.**



Environmental stewardship: Teaching that our resource choices have impact

Earlier this summer, the Metro Council approved the agency budget for the next fiscal year, 2008-2009. One small but important element of that budget, which I supported, is a new program that will work with outdoor schools in our region to teach young people the significance of conserving resources and reducing the amount and types of materials that we throw away. The purpose is to ensure that all sixth grade students in our region have the opportunity to attend this program, which teaches our young people how our ongoing use and disposal of various materials impact our environment. The students also gain further direct experience with nature: the outdoor part of outdoor school.

Participating schools will be able to enhance their conservation education programs, as these funds will add 6 1/2 hours of waste reduction and recycling education as part of the traditional three- to six-day outdoor school program. The funding comes from a small (less than 2 percent) increase in our solid waste system fees. For example, households are likely to see a 7 cent increase per month on monthly garbage bills that range from \$16 to \$22 in our region.

Our goals for this program include:

- ensuring that all sixth graders in the region have access and opportunity to attend outdoor school
- increasing the level of waste reduction awareness of sixth graders in the region attending outdoor school by further refining current program activities and adding new educational activities
- expanding engagement with high school students who work as camp counselors and classroom teachers, prepping and following up with the sixth graders before and after their outdoor school experience
- ensuring that schools currently sending students to outdoor school will be able to continue doing so and providing an incentive for schools that are currently not sending students to start up their outdoor school programs again.

Outdoor school provides invaluable direct experience with nature to a very receptive young audience. Expanding the natural resource 'cause and effect' aspect of the program can provide life long learning – environmental stewardship lessons that will stay with the students for the long term. Testimony before the Metro Council included parents sharing how the experience of their children helped reduce the consumption and disposal patterns of their families, thereby reducing the amount of waste entering area landfills. We will continue to engage partners with similar interests in promoting conservation, such as public utilities, to leverage additional funding to provide a stable source of funding for the region's outdoor school programs.

continued

I believe that you would agree that this small investment in environmental stewardship education will provide large impacts for the short-term and the long-term.

—Kathryn Harrington

Metro presents region's first walking guide

In July, Metro unveiled a new regional walking guide designed to connect residents with newly protected natural areas, scenic parks, historical sites, main streets and commercial districts throughout the Portland-Vancouver area. The 240-page Walk There! guidebook, indexed by city, offers 50 detailed routes organized by walk type and color-coded regional sections.

Thanks to support from Kaiser Permanente, local governments and community groups, Metro developed this comprehensive walking guide with every level of walker in mind. A number of routes in the guide are suitable for individuals with mobility assistance devices or strollers. Each section offers a detailed map and description that explores the location's rich history and landscape.

Pocket-sized copies of Walk There! can be picked up at no charge at Metro or other venues, including Kaiser health education classes and other programs, community walking events and DriveLess/Save More booths. The guide can also be ordered online for a \$5 shipping fee at www.oregonmetro.gov/walk. Visitors to the web site can find pick-up locations or download all 50 featured walks.

Metro begins process to identify next 30 years of high capacity transit projects

The Portland metropolitan region is home to a pioneering transit system. Over 30 years ago, the region decided to grow differently than other cities when elected leaders and citizens rallied against construction of freeways through developed neighborhoods and instead directed resources to a light rail project along I-84. Since then, the region has constructed 44 miles of light rail, with an additional 6.5 miles of light rail and 14.7 miles of commuter rail currently under construction.

Metro is launching a study to consider where the next 30 years of high capacity transit investments should go. High capacity transit is characterized by routes with fewer stops and some separation from regular traffic and could mean light rail, commuter rail, streetcar or buses on a dedicated right of way.

In planning for future high capacity transit routes, Metro is not starting from scratch but building on a legacy of planning work that is captured in the 2040 Growth Concept and the Regional Transportation Plan. The 2040 Growth Concept calls for high capacity transit service to regional centers like Oregon City and town centers such as Tualatin. The plan will be adopted by the Metro Council in spring 2009 after review by community members, elected officials and technical staff from around the region.

Get involved!

Attend a workshop to learn more about the project and provide input about what areas should be served with high capacity transit in the future.

5 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 12
Walters Cultural Arts Center
527 E. Main St., Hillsboro

5 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 13
Oregon City Pioneer Center
615 Fifth St., Oregon City

5 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 14
East Portland Community Center
740 SE 106th Ave., Portland

To learn more about the project or get on the mailing list, call 503-797-1755, send an e-mail to trans@oregonmetro.gov, or visit the project web site at www.oregonmetro.gov/goingplaces.

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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