

Rex Burkholder

METRO COUNCIL DISTRICT 5 NEWS



A message from Rex Burkholder

I'm excited to announce that Metro will begin work with our regional partners to begin setting regional greenhouse gas reduction targets in order to meet Oregon's greenhouse gas reduction goals set in 2007 by the state legislature. The state's greenhouse gas reduction targets call for a stop to emission increases by 2010, a 10 percent reduction in emissions below 1990 levels by 2020 and a 75 percent reduction in emissions below 1990 levels by 2050.

In order to meet these targets, we need to get to work! Climate change is the challenge of our generation. By working together, we can use our combined smarts and channel our concern to successfully take this challenge on. To this end, Metro will provide regional leadership in coordinating the efforts of local governments, civic groups, university systems and business representatives to develop these targets. Focusing on setting regional targets is one of several strategies of our sustainability initiative that supports the overall goal of achieving economic, environmental and social sustainability in the region.

Elements of the first phase of the climate action plan include conducting a regional greenhouse gas inventory to establish baseline information; surveying existing goals, programs and activities in the region; creating a Climate Change Steering Committee to set regional priorities; and hosting a regional climate change summit to engage the public.

The actual climate action plan will be developed by a task force of representatives from local governments, businesses, environmental advocacy groups and residents who will be responsible for setting greenhouse gas-reduction goals and identifying the programs that will help meet those goals.

– Rex Burkholder

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.

Metro Council approves locally preferred alternative for Portland-Milwaukie Light Rail Project

In July, the Metro Council unanimously approved the Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) for the 7.4-mile Portland-Milwaukie Light Rail Project. The line will provide new transportation options for communities in North Clackamas County, Southeast Portland and the South Waterfront area.

The new line will run from Portland State University and Park Avenue in Oak Grove, and will follow the Tillamook Branch railroad in the North Milwaukie industrial area through downtown Milwaukie. The project includes a Willamette River crossing beginning at SW Porter, ending near SE Sherman Street. The bridge will carry light rail, buses and any future Portland Streetcar routes, and will include 12-foot pathways for cyclists and pedestrians.

The LPA was originally recommended by a steering committee comprised of elected officials from the corridor, based on technical work, a similar recommendation from the Citizen Advisory Committee and responses from a 45-day public comment period.

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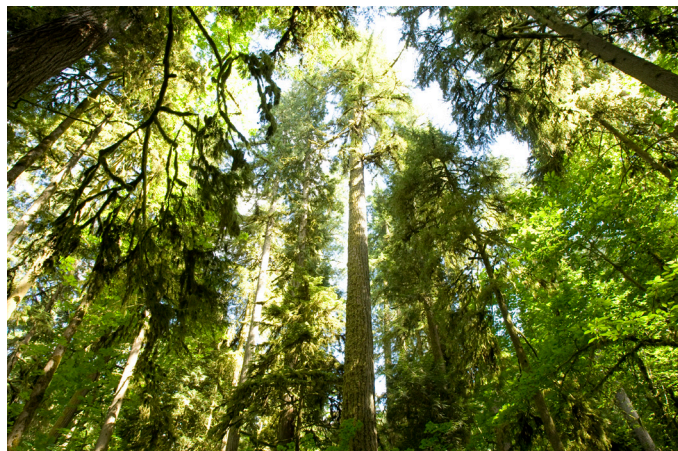
The line is slated to begin construction in 2011 and is projected by 2030 to service 25,000 light rail riders a day. The project is expected to cost between \$1.25 and \$1.4 billion. Funding will come from the Federal Transit Administration, lottery-backed bonds approved by the Oregon Legislature and local shares with contributions from Metro, TriMet, Clackamas County and the cities of Portland and Milwaukie.

Metro and TriMet are leading the Portland-Milwaukie Project in partnership with the Oregon Department of Transportation, the cities of Milwaukie, Portland and Oregon City, and Clackamas and Multnomah counties.

The 36th Annual Special Park Districts Forum comes to Portland

It's an exciting time to be thinking about parks in the Portland metropolitan area. The launch of the Connecting Green Alliance has brought state and local agencies, businesses, non-profits and citizens from across the region together to create the greatest system of parks, natural areas and trails in the world. On the heels of such an exciting adventure comes the 36th Annual Special Park Districts Forum, a gathering of professionals from park, recreation and natural area special districts from across the United States and Canada, co-hosted by Metro Regional Parks and Greenspaces, Portland Parks and Recreation and Tualatin Hills Park and Recreation district. Building on our region's experience in urban planning and sustainability, the 2008 forum is titled, "Connecting Green: Growing Sustainable Parks."

Beginning Monday, September 8, participants will be immersed in three days of tours, networking and partnership building while exploring the region's abundant natural beauty. Forum attendees will have an opportunity to explore some of the region's greatest natural spaces including Metro's Oxbow Regional Park, banks of the Willamette River and the Tualatin Hills Nature Park while learning how to create parks systems that are sustainable now and in the future. Metro is proud to co-host this year's forum and exchange ideas about growing sustainable parks, resource management, planning, education, recreation programs and much more.



Metro Council awards grants to three neighborhood enhancement projects

The Metro Council has dedicated \$389,500 in matching grant funds to improve water quality, support local wildlife and increase access to nature for residents. The Nature in Neighborhoods Capital Grants Program is designed to fund projects that preserve or enhance natural features and their ecological functions on public lands in urban neighborhoods. The grant program strives to help ensure that every community enjoys clean water and nature as an element of its character and livability.

A committee, comprised of citizens, local government officials and natural resource experts from across the region, was appointed by the Metro Council to review grant applications and make recommendations for funding. The projects selected for funding include the creation of a new park designed with native plantings next to a mixed-income housing development in Northern Clackamas County, a nature discovery and demonstration garden called "Conservation Corner" at the new offices of the East Multnomah County Soil and Water Conservation District and restoration of Crystal Springs Creek, a tributary of Johnson Creek, at Westmoreland Park.

For more information on the Nature in Neighborhoods Capital Grants Program, please visit www.oregonmetro.gov/nature.

Metro proposal seeks to increase business recycling

Nearly 300,000 tons of paper and containers are recycled by local businesses annually; yet, opportunities for improvement still remain as commercial sources account for almost half of the annual waste disposal in the region.

Every year, more than 100,000 tons of recyclable paper and containers (aluminum/tin cans, plastic bottles, glass bottles and jars) are improperly disposed. In an effort to increase local business recycling, Metro, in conjunction with other local government organizations, created a free education and technical assistance program called Recycle at Work. Although the program has been successful, there are still a number of businesses that opt not to recycle.

After a lengthy public outreach process that included meetings between local business groups and elected officials, community surveys, and public discussion, a proposal that would require local governments to adopt a mandatory business recycling ordinance was recommended.

Since most businesses already recycle, this requirement would simply formalize what most businesses are already doing. For those businesses that do not recycle, the requirement asks that they recycle the same items residents already recycle at home.

The goal of the proposed ordinance is to recover 80,000 tons of recyclable paper and containers currently sent to landfills, yielding a reduction in greenhouse gases and energy consumption while increasing natural-resource savings.

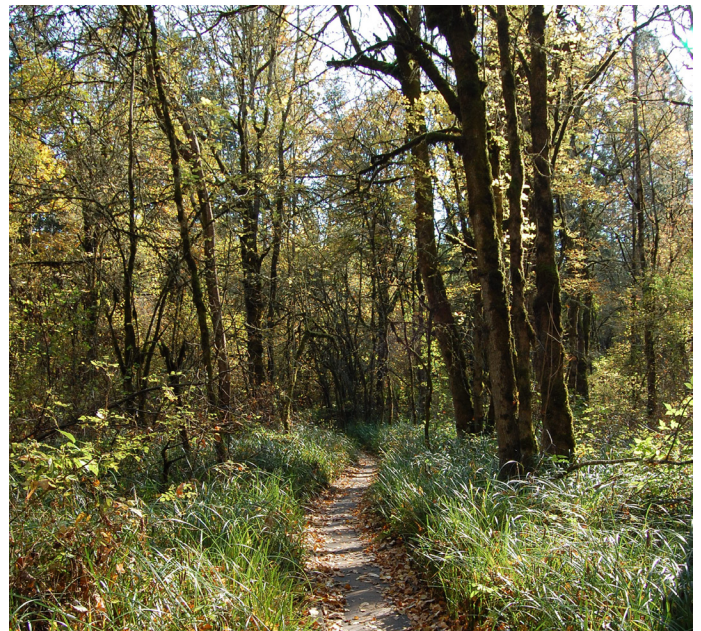
Metro would collaborate with local governments to identify challenges and opportunities for improvement in complying with the business recycling requirements ordinance, rather than adopting a penalty approach.

The Metro Council is scheduled to review the proposed business recycling requirements at its weekly council meetings on September 11th and September 18th. To learn more about the proposal, visit us at <http://www.oregonmetro.gov/businessrequirements>. For free recycling assistance and resources for your workplace, visit www.RecycleAtWork.com or call us at 503-234-3000.

Connecting Green goes to Europe

Metro is participating in a study tour of walking and biking trails in Amsterdam, Netherlands and Copenhagen, Denmark in early October 2008. As part of the Blue Ribbon Committee for Trails and regional trails system initiative, the committee will send a delegation to Europe to learn about some of the world's foremost trail and park systems – systems touted and respected as some of the best walking and cycling systems in the world. Past experience validates there is no substitute for first-hand experience and evaluation by the delegation.

The Blue Ribbon Committee is part of the Connecting Green initiative, where Metro, in partnership with a coalition of government, private and nonprofit partners, is working to develop the world's greatest network of parks, trails, and natural areas. A regional trails network will positively impact the economy, environment, and social networks of our region, while providing a foundation for regional and cross-jurisdictional restoration and recreation.



Events of note in the District

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

Forest, bridge and city hike

9 a.m. to noon

Wednesday, Sept. 10

Join the Forest Park Conservancy and local author Laura Foster to learn more about the human history of Forest Park and its neighboring communities. This guided hike begins in the Whitwood Court neighborhood and crosses the St. Johns Bridge to access Forest Park via the Ridge Trail. Registration and cost is \$10. Advance registration required; call 503-223-5449.

Photography class at the Oregon Zoo: Wild Life Live

8 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 13

Take advantage of the opportunity to take great pictures of eagles, hawks, parrots, and owls. The animals of Wild Life Live are both beautiful and well trained and will be on hand to pose. Where else could you get close enough to count the feathers on a bald eagle's head? Registration and cost is \$65 for zoo members; \$75 for non-members. To register, call 503-220-2781 or visit www.oregonzoo.org.

Walk along the working waterfront

6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Sept. 16

Join GREENWAY on a walk along the future North Portland Willamette Greenway Trail. Explore the location of a cooperage, ship yards, and lumber mill from the 1900s and enjoy views of the working river today. Registration and cost is free; donations accepted. For more information, call 503-823-4524 option 6 or send e-mail to info@npgreenway.org.

Forest Park day of stewardship

9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 20

Help the Forest Park Conservancy celebrate the 60th anniversary of Forest Park with a special volunteer event. Work on a variety of projects from trail maintenance to invasive plant removal at various sites throughout the park. Advance registration required; call 503-223-5449.

Walking bridges using poetry as a compass

8:30 a.m. to noon,

Saturday, Sept. 27

Six Poetry & Bridge Walks Along the Willamette River, sponsored by Portland Parks & Outdoor Recreation. Join Sharon Wood Wortman (author of *The Portland Bridge Book*) for the 2008 season of monthly Poetry & Bridge Walks for Portland Parks & Outdoor Recreation. Sept. 27th will feature Jonah Bornstein, coauthor of *A Path Through Stone and Voices from the Siskiyou*, was nominated for a Pushcart Prize in 2000 for his poem "Night Blooming Men."

Each walk, about a mile long and easy-paced, features an Oregon poet. See eight bridges in all and tour the operator's tower in the Morrison or Burnside bridges, the state's largest mechanical devices. **NO PRIOR REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED.**

Meet at the corner of NW 2nd and Everett in Old Town/Chinatown, Portland's oldest neighborhood. Finishes at noon with a no-host lunch (extra \$). Fee: \$15 for adults and \$10 for students 14 and under. Guide's cell: 503 330-0900/www.bridgestories.com, or Outdoor Rec, 503 823-5132/www.portlandparks.org/register

Urban ethnobotany explorations

10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Sunday, Sept. 28

Explore a new part of Portland each month, by foot, bike or boat and learn the stories of the plants that surround you everyday. Native species, weeds and horticultural plants combine to create amazing plant diversity in the city. Learn identification skills as well as how many of these plants can be used for food, medicine, fiber, tools and more. Suitable for adults and teens 14 and older. Registration and cost is \$40. Advance registration required; call 503-253-5898.

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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