

Rod Park

METRO COUNCIL DISTRICT 1 NEWS | November 2008

Rod Park represents District 1, which includes Fairview, Gresham, Happy Valley, Maywood Park, Troutdale, Wood Village, Damascus and portions of East Portland.



A personal message from Councilor Park a·men·i·ties

1. The quality of being pleasant or attractive; agreeableness.
2. Something that contributes to physical or material comfort.
3. A feature that increases attractiveness or value, especially of a piece of real estate or a geographic location.

How do you find amenities for activities in your neighborhood? What is that “something” that contributes to your physical or material comfort like a stroll in the park, a good cup of coffee or a store to buy groceries? What are the features that increase the value of your home or business? Curious about how one area compares to another?

One quick and easy way to find out is to log onto www.walkscore.com. This free website allows you to enter an address and discover what activities are available in a neighborhood. You may not be surprised that the Pearl District in Portland or Nob Hill in San Francisco has a high score for walkability. However, you may find it surprising that downtown Gresham isn't far behind.

I encourage you to see what makes these areas desirable and what can be done to increase the amenities in your neighborhood. Learning more is just one quick click away.

– Rod Park

25th Anniversary of Salmon Festival at Metro's Oxbow Regional Park inspires people to value and protect wild salmon and their habitat

More than six thousand people celebrated 25 years of Salmon Festival and six million years of salmon in the Sandy River at Metro's Oxbow Regional Park in October. The annual event celebrates the special connection between people and wild salmon and inspires us to value clean water and healthy watersheds. Co-hosted by Metro, Mt. Hood National Forest, Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, the Portland Water Bureau, PGE and the Bureau of Land Management, the festival offered an exciting opportunity to welcome home the salmon that have long been central to the culture and daily life of people in our region.

This year's festival offered activities and exhibits to help us better understand the challenges of managing the region's fish, wildlife and water resources while balancing the needs of a growing metropolitan region. It also featured children's activities, horse-drawn wagon rides, a salmon bake, arts and crafts, environmental exhibits and a food court. Visitors came to the festival from all over the region with a large percentage attending from central Portland neighborhoods.

New to the festival this year was the Sandy River Fall Chinook timeline, chronicling 400 million years of geologic activity and six million years of salmon in the Sandy River. The timeline provided a visual



www.oregonmetro.gov

representation of the story of the salmon and connected key events to sites in the park visitors could walk to.

Every fall the Chinook salmon make their way upstream, coming home to spawn in the Sandy River. We look forward to celebrating another 25 years of returning salmon and healthy watersheds throughout the region.

Sustainable Metro Initiative launched in October

With the goal of continuing Metro's mission to make the Portland metropolitan area an extraordinary place to live, work and play, the Metro Council launched the Sustainable Metro Initiative (SMI) on October 1st. The initiative reorganizes Metro's internal operations to increase productivity, facilitate the implementation of standardized management practices and align business and operational functions organization-wide.

Metro has long been recognized nationally and internationally as a leader in civic innovation. With one million additional residents expected in the next 30 years, plus climate change and a globalizing economy, it's time to raise the bar. Through the SMI, Metro will increase effectiveness by integrating related functions, elevating sustainability goals and increasing transparency.

"The Sustainable Metro [Initiative] is more than a shuffling of deck chairs," noted Ethan Seltzer, director of the Toulon School of Urban Studies and Planning at Portland State University, in his Oregonian editorial on August 29. "It's a promise that our desire to create the most livable metropolitan region in North America will be effectively and thoughtfully supported in the years to come."

The Metro Council strives to provide leadership from a regional perspective through civic engagement, conservation stewardship and innovative planning to maintain a high quality of life for everyone living and working in the region. Successful programs like Nature in Neighborhoods and the award-winning Transit Oriented Development program reflect the agency's commitment to achieving these goals. Through the launch of the SMI, Metro will position itself to meet the increasingly complex challenges of the future.

While some of the agency's work teams and directors have changed as a result of this initiative, the services Metro provides will continue and improve. For more information

about these changes, go to www.oregonmetro.gov, type the word "management" into the web site's search engine and click on the "Management and work teams" page. That page features the members of the new senior leadership team, a Metro-wide organizational chart and the link to Ethan Seltzer's opinion editorial.

Grant workshops offered by Metro help communities invite nature into neighborhoods

An upcoming workshop about Metro's Nature in Neighborhoods grant programs hope to inspire innovative projects and partnerships in communities wishing to improve livability through greater access to nature at the neighborhood level.

Metro's Nature in Neighborhoods capital grants program funds projects that preserve or enhance natural features and their ecological functions on public lands in neighborhoods and help ensure that every community enjoys clean water and nature as an element of its character and livability. The Metro Council kicked off this new grant program in August, awarding approximately \$390,000 to three capital grants projects.

Find out more about the grant programs, and learn about the projects that are receiving grant funding from Metro by visiting www.oregonmetro.gov/grants.

Workshop II—Project Review

Saturday, Nov. 15

9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Metro Regional Center

600 NE Grand Ave., Portland

To RSVP for this workshops contact Mary Rose Navarro, at 503-797-1781 or e-mail maryrose.navarro@oregonmetro.gov or Janelle Geddes at 503-797-1550 or e-mail janelle.geddes@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

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