

Rod Park

METRO COUNCIL DISTRICT 1 NEWS | December 2008

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



Tis the season - to recycle!

The holiday season can generate a lot of waste – from giving gifts to buying decorations. I encourage you to find ways to reduce your waste and recycle the waste you cannot avoid. You can reduce the trash associated with the holidays in a number of ways:

- purchase gifts with little or no packaging;
- buy recycled-content gift-wrap;
- avoid foil or plastic-coated paper;
- take someone to a play, concert or the zoo;
- give gifts that benefit the environment; and
- teach someone a skill you possess — knitting, woodworking or music.

Many of these tips will also help you reduce the amount of money you spend on gifts as well. Once the holidays have passed you can also recycle your Christmas tree. Fairview, Gresham, Portland, Maywood Park, Troutdale and Wood Village offer curbside tree recycling collection. For specific instructions, call your local solid waste and recycling office, your garbage hauler, or Metro Recycling Information at (503) 234-3000. The hearing-impaired can call TDD (503) 797-1804. Look online at www.oregonmetro.gov in the Sustainable Living and Waste Reduction section of our website for additional tips and links to guides for recycled content and sustainable gifts.

I wish you and your family a safe and festive holiday season!

– Rod Park

High Capacity Transit System Plan enters screening phase – District 1

Feedback from residents, businesses, community organizations and elected officials identified 192 potential connections in approximately 55 corridors around the region. Suggestions were requested as part of the update to the Regional High Capacity Transit System Plan. Metro is currently working to screen and evaluate viable corridors for the next phase of public review and input.

The system plan will help prioritize high capacity transit investments in new corridors and changes to existing corridors over the next 30 years. The system plan tells Metro where the best locations are for major rail and bus transit capital investments based on evaluation criteria derived from the Regional Transportation Plan. The results will be incorporated into the Regional Transportation Plan, the Portland metropolitan area's blueprint for a multi-modal transportation system.

During July through November, more than 50 stakeholders were interviewed, more than 150 people attended public workshops and more than 200 people were informed about the project and offered suggestions at farmers markets and other public events. More than 200 people participated in an interactive questionnaire on Metro's web site from Aug. 12 to Oct. 1, 2008.



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District 1 was represented by online survey respondents; participants at the Gresham Farmers' Market; and interviews with Clackamas County, the cities of Damascus and Gresham, The Columbia Corridor Association, Friends of the Columbia Gorge and Elders in Action.

The screening process will assess potential corridors based on existing and future potential ridership, corridor availability and cost, environmental impacts, equity considerations, connectivity to the current system, congestion reduction, and support for regional 2040 land-use designations, among other measures. It is estimated that 10 to 20 viable corridors will pass the screening criteria and be evaluated at a more detailed level.

In spring 2009, Metro will share evaluation results with the public and begin discussing tradeoffs, choices and priorities. An interactive web survey and other public outreach events will happen at this time.

To learn more about the system plan or to sign up for project updates, visit www.oregonmetro.gov/goingplaces.

When the animals go to bed, the lights come out to play: the 21st Annual ZooLights festival kicks off

The Zoo lights are back with more than a million bright bulbs illuminating the zoo for the 21st annual ZooLights festival, which began Nov. 29 at 5 p.m. This family tradition, presented by the Boeing Company, features life-size animal silhouettes and moving light sculptures on display throughout the zoo. Families can expect to see their old favorites as well as some new surprises - including unicorns, dinosaurs and an animated, roaring lion in honor of the upcoming Predators of the Serengeti exhibit, scheduled to open in 2009.

Other new displays include dinosaurs, a baby elephant and a California condor chick, which are only a few of the new features this year. The most impressive is that many of the lights are made of LED's, which use about a tenth of the power of normal iridescent bulbs.

Music fans can enjoy the highly animated light silhouette of Mick Jaguar, who performs near the picnic area with his all-star animal band, including: Packy Pachyderm tickling the ivories, Richard Lion playing guitar, Gerri Giraffe on bass, Billy Bear on trumpet, Orville Orangutan on drums and Willy Wildebeest on sax. The Ostrich Sisters add backing vocals. Live music will resound throughout the zoo as

well, with more than 100 schools, churches, professional groups and local dance troupes performing holiday musical selections.

Popular costumed characters and elves will greet zoo visitors and pose for pictures. Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer is one of the many popular guests for kids. Some of the zoo's animals will also be visible, including mountain goats, elephants, primates, and approachable sheep and goats.

To see a preview of the light display, visit www.oregonzoo.org/Events/ZooLights/preview.htm.

Natural Areas Program Oversight Committee findings

Voters across the nation and here at home have consistently showed their support for land conservation. In November 2006 voters approved Metro's \$227.4 million bond measure to protect natural areas, safeguard water quality and ensure that citizens have access to nature close to where they live.

Recently, a citizen oversight committee reviewed Metro's progress implementing the 2006 Natural Areas Program and concluded that "Metro is conducting the Natural Areas Program in a way that is accountable and transparent." The committee report stated that Metro has been successful in purchasing targeted acquisitions and that administrative costs are well under national benchmarks.

Find out more about these protected natural areas by visiting www.oregonmetro.gov/naturalareas or come see them yourself by participating in a special "sneak preview" tour hosted by Metro and local elected officials. To get on the invitation list send email to naturalareas@oregonmetro.gov or call 503-797-1545.

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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