

Councilor Burkholder is continually updating his contact list, so you may be receiving this newsletter for the first time. If you have any questions about the content of this newsletter or wish to be taken off this list, please contact Kathryn Sofich at kathryn.sofich@oregonmetro.gov. [Requires that your e-mail be set to HTML view.]



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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.

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1. A message from Rex Burkholder

It's All In The Numbers

8%. 1%. 10%. 25%. 60%. 25%. 37%. 70,000. 37,000. 10,000. 20%.

8%. The number of Portland residents who say that a bicycle is their primary transportation according to the City Auditor's survey from this fall. This is up from about 1% from 1990, when the [Bicycle Transportation Alliance](#) was formed and bicycling was first taken seriously by governments in Oregon. This is when bike lanes and bicycle

parking started showing up around the region. And people responded. 1% is also about what portion of our transportation budget we spend on bicycle facilities. What might happen if we spent 10% or 25% of our transportation budget on cycling and really built cycling facilities so that more of us would feel safe riding. (research shows that 60% of us would ride more if we felt safe on the road). 25% is how much Clackamas County residents said that they thought was right to spend on cycling, according to a recent public opinion poll.

37%. The portion of Copenhagen residents using a bicycle every day. Copenhagen is even closer to the Arctic Circle than we are, with short, wet winter days yet bicycling is common and growing. I joined the [Regional Blue Ribbon Committee on Trails](#) for a German Marshall fund sponsored study tour of Amsterdam and Copenhagen.



Blue Ribbon Committee on Trails in Copenhagen

In the 1970s, 70,000 Copenhageners rode to the Danish Parliament to protest a new freeway and won a commitment from the government to promote cycling as a way to protect their city's livability. Every major street, in the city and the suburbs, has "cycleways" on both sides of the street (think of a sidewalk for bicycles). Intersections have signals for cyclists as well, creating a system that feels and is much safer than what we have here.



Suburban Street with Cycleway

One bridge has 37,000 cyclists a day (compare that to 10,000 cyclists a day on the Hawthorne bridge). While Amsterdam was impressive (they are building underground parking at the central train station for 10,000 bicycles—the 7000 existing spaces aren't enough!), Copenhagen feels more like our community and holds lots of lessons for us here, both in how to really support bicycling and how trails can be used to link communities, nature, and people.



Copenhagen Rush Hour

20% is my last number for this newsletter. I saw a presentation by the Editor in Chief of National Geographic on [global climate change](#). Dennis Dimick (an OSU grad and Oregon native) is an eloquent speaker, aided by the spectacular photos that National Geographic magazine is so well known for. 20% is the summer shrinkage of Arctic ice from 1994 to 2005. 20% is also the how much the Arctic ice cap shrank in one year from 2006 to 2007. These scary facts emphasize how important it is that each of us do what we can to reduce how much we drive and that governments continue to make cycling (and walking and transit use) real options for everyone in the region.

You can help influence future transportation investments by letting us know what your thoughts are. We are in the midst of a major update of the [region's transportation plan](#) that will set the next 30 years of transportation investments. Alternative scenarios of the future have been modeled comparing the effects of highway, transit, demand management and community access, including greenhouse gas emissions and cost of transportation. Its your future so speak up!

-Rex Burkholder

2. 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 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.

3. 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.

4. Green building expert Larry Coffman visits Metro

Larry Coffman’s resume provides insight into why Metro invited him to speak at the most recent “Green From the Ground Up” series seminar. Coffman is considered one of the nation’s leading experts on low impact development technology for water resources and ecosystem restoration. Coffman spoke to builders, developers, designers, stormwater engineers, practitioners and jurisdictional staff from around the region. Demonstrating low impact business practices, he showed participants how to lower development costs while raising value.

Coffman hails from Chesapeake Beach, MD, where he pioneered the innovative stormwater management practice of bioretention or “rain gardens.” He was also the principal author and architect of Prince George’s County, Maryland’s national award winning “Low Impact Development Design Strategies, An Integrated Design Approach,” an alternative “decentralized at the source” approach to urban stormwater management. In 2004 he was one of the top 50 “trendsetters” by Public Works magazine, and has over 33 years of experience in stormwater management, water resource protection, and environmental restoration. Coffman has conducted hundreds of Low Impact Development workshops and training seminars across the country and around the world.

On October 29th at the Home Builders Association offices in Lake Oswego, Coffman gave a presentation based from a case study on a residential project that used low-impact development practices. By presenting this project, he illustrated multiple practices that translate directly to current and future developments for participants from the Metro region.

Other “Green from the Ground Up” seminars in the series include advice from marketing experts, information on the basic principles behind low impact development, and the benefits and costs associated with these practices. The seminars intend to show interested

audiences that “green” development practices conserve fish and wildlife habitat and environmental health while also adding value to properties.

For more information on “Green from the Ground Up” seminars contact Corie Harlan, Nature in Neighborhoods coordinator, at (503) 797-1764 or Corie.Harlan@oregonmetro.gov. For more information about Larry Coffman, visit his website at Larrycoffman.com.

5. Grant workshop offered by Metro helps communities invite nature into neighborhoods

An upcoming workshop about Metro’s Nature in Neighborhoods grants program hopes 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.

Schools, neighborhood associations, community groups and nonprofit organizations as well as cities, counties and public park providers that seek to create, enhance or restore natural areas are encouraged to apply. 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.

Nature in Neighborhoods Grants Workshop II—Project Review

Saturday, Nov. 15

9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Metro Regional Center

600 NE Grand Ave.

Portland, OR 97232

To RSVP for one of these workshops, please contact Mary Rose Navarro, Natural Areas Grants Coordinator, at 503-797-1781, MaryRose.Navarro@oregonmetro.gov or Janelle Geddes, Restoration Program Coordinator, at 503-797-1550, Janelle.Geddes@oregonmetro.gov.

6. Events of Note in the District

Forest Park volunteer work party

Saturday, November 15

9a.m. to 1p.m.

Join the Forest Park Conservancy for a variety of small projects, including trail maintenance and invasive plant removal. No previous experience necessary. Equipment and snacks provided. For more information, call Stephen at 503-223-5449.

Groundwater 101 workshop

Saturday, November 15

9a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Learn groundwater basics including local geology and hydrology, what role groundwater plays in our drinking water system and what needs to be done to protect this important resource. Casual classroom-style setting with groundwater experts. Cost is free. Advance registration required; call 503-281-1132.

Friends of Trees neighborhood trees Portland crew leader training

Saturday, November 22

8:30a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Learn how to plant large street and yard trees and how to lead volunteer planters. Crew leaders guide small groups of volunteers at four weekend plantings between November and April. Advanced registration required; call 282-8846 ext. 12.

Urban ethnobotany explorations

Sunday, November 23

10a.m. to 3p.m.

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.

7. Councilor Rex Burkholder's Contact Information

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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

For more information, call the Metro Council at (503) 797-1540, fax (503) 797-1793 or send e-mail to metro council@oregonmetro.org. The hearing impaired can call TDD (503) 797-1804.