

# Rod Park

METRO COUNCIL DISTRICT 1 NEWS | February 2009

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

There are as many viewpoints about our region as there are citizens. One perspective that helps guide me is to visualize the region as a “portfolio of stocks,” owned by the citizens in their individual cities and counties. Why does this help me? Because I think the citizens, “the stockholders,” should judge the decisions of their elected “fund managers” as to how our actions affect the value of their “stock.” I am not talking just about jobs, property or business value but equally important the environmental and social values too.

In the coming year, the Metro Council, working with our partners across the region, will be engaged in a number of decisions about where we decide to invest our limited public and private resources. It is the job of the Metro Council to work with you, the stockholders, to understand where we should be investing. Vibrant centers and safe neighborhoods help ensure that the value of property will increase. Amenities such as parks, greenspaces and neighborhood schools also increase this value. The balance of where we invest helps to create equal opportunities of accessing these amenities. Prior infrastructure built to serve these areas must be maintained in order for the value of areas to be maintained.

And there are tradeoffs that have to be made. As we think about the future, should we invest in existing areas in need of maintenance and attention, or do we invest in areas that are yet to be built? Are their needs the same, and is there room to do both? These are some of the investment questions my colleagues and I will be wrestling over the next several years. Your input will be necessary to help us build the sustainable region of the future.

– Rod Park

## Metro Council expands waste reduction education to outdoor immersion programs

Waste reduction education will be made available to sixth grade students throughout the region in collaboration with outdoor school immersion programs starting spring 2009. By integrating waste reduction practices and curriculum into the formative experience of outdoor school, the decision-makers of tomorrow will learn how they can protect the environment, laying the foundation for a sustainable future for our region.

The Metro Council voted in 2008 to make a small increase in solid waste disposal fees to pay for a day of waste reduction education at outdoor school in order to achieve the waste reduction and recycling goals adopted by the region in the Regional Solid Waste Master Plan. Metro waste reduction educators worked with a team of sixth grade teachers and outdoor school immersion program providers to develop

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curriculum that aligns with and supports state science and social studies benchmarks and standards. The content will include 6.5 hours of waste reduction education that will be integrated into the outdoor school learning experience.

Why outdoor school? Studies have found that immersion experiences, such as outdoor school, increase the amount of information retained by the students. When students leave outdoor school they are then able to relate their hands on experiences to everyday life, creating a greater impact on them and the environment. Lack of funding is one of the primary reasons that schools either currently don't participate in outdoor immersion programs or participate in a shortened program. One of the goals of this program is to enable every sixth grader in the region to attend outdoor school, where they will be able to learn about waste reduction and the environmental impacts of everyday choices.

Schools located within the Metro boundary that participate in outdoor immersion programs can request a credit from approved outdoor school providers. For more information, contact Freda Sherburne at 503-797-1522 or send e-mail to [Freda.sherburne@oregonmetro.gov](mailto:Freda.sherburne@oregonmetro.gov). Information is also available on Metro's website at [www.oregonmetro.gov/outdoorschool](http://www.oregonmetro.gov/outdoorschool).

## Final chance to weigh in on the 2010-13 regional flexible funding recommendation

On January 30, 2009, the Transportation Policy Alternatives Committee (TPAC), which provides technical advice to the Joint Policy Advisory Committee on Transportation (JPACT), released a draft final recommendation for Metro's 2010-13 regional flexible funding allocation. Release of the draft recommendation kicked off an informal public comment opportunity that ends with a formal joint JPACT/Metro Council public hearing at 4 p.m. on February 12, 2009.

The public is urged to first review the proposed programs, projects and recommendations by visiting the project web site at [www.oregonmetro.gov/regionalflexiblefund](http://www.oregonmetro.gov/regionalflexiblefund) and then submit comments in one of the following ways:

- online through the project web site
- e-mail [trans@oregonmetro.gov](mailto:trans@oregonmetro.gov) (regional flexible funding in the subject line)

- fax 503-797-1930 (regional flexible funding in the subject line)
- mail to Regional flexible funding allocation, Metro Planning and Development Center, 600 NE Grand Ave., Portland, OR 97232
- in person at the public hearing on February 12, 2009. To ensure the accuracy of the public record, please also submit a written version of your testimony. Make sure your name is on all written material.

The hearing is scheduled to begin at 4 p.m. in the Metro Council Chamber, 600 NE Grand Avenue, Portland. Oral testimony is limited to three minutes. Testimony times are assigned on a first-come, first-served basis.

Metro is ADA accessible. Listening devices for the hearing impaired are available upon request at the hearing. Interpreter services for limited English speakers or the hearing impaired may be arranged with a 48-hour notice. To request these services, call Pat Emmerson at 503-797-1551 or T.D.D. (503) 797-1804.

## Visitors flock to zoo in record numbers despite rain, snow, recession

A yearlong recession? One of the coldest, wettest springs in recent memory? The biggest batch of snow in 50 years? It all sounds like bad news for a mostly outdoor, fee-based attraction, right? Maybe not for the Oregon Zoo.

For the third year in a row, and the fourth time in the past five years, the zoo broke its all-time calendar-year attendance record, with 1,593,907 visitors in 2008. This marks the second time zoo attendance has topped 1.5 million in a calendar year. The previous record, set in 2007, was 1,503,565 visitors.

### Councilor Rod Park 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

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David Bragdon

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