

# Carlotta Collette

METRO COUNCIL DISTRICT 2 NEWS | February 2009

Carlotta Collette represents District 2, which includes the cities of Gladstone, Johnson City, Lake Oswego, Milwaukie, Oregon City, Rivergrove and West Linn and a portion of Southwest Portland.



## A personal message from Councilor Collette

The Canemah Bluff Natural Area in Oregon City is one of those very special places for which our region is famous. A rocky outcrop, cliffs overlooking the Willamette River, meadows blue in the spring with native Camas lilies, white oaks and madrones, a pioneer cemetery at the far end. In 1996, Metro began purchasing what would eventually amount to more than 134 acres on Canemah Bluff that was slated for development into more than 200 homes.

Metro's plan is to restore the land to its original white oak woodland habitat and encourage native plants and wildlife to thrive there. The area is an important part of a growing system of natural areas, trails and greenways that Metro is working to protect and manage in partnership with local governments, citizens and nonprofits.

But it's one thing to purchase the land and altogether another to protect it from vandals and other ravages. Voter-approved bonds provided the finances for land acquisition, but ongoing maintenance can often be a very different challenge.

At Canemah Bluff, as at many Metro natural areas, the adjacent neighborhood has stepped forward to watch and protect this special place. The Canemah Neighborhood Association collaborated with Metro and retired Clackamas County deputy sheriff Mark Koberstein to recruit and train volunteers who are now distributing information to visitors, patrolling the area on a regular basis, and gathering data to help guide future park planning. This winter's storms provided a terrific opportunity to observe the Park Watchers in action.

After ice, snow and powerful winds knocked down several trees on the bluff and left others hanging precariously as "widow makers," neighborhood volunteers walked the many trails and took note of where downed trees could present potential safety hazards. Neighborhood leader Paul Edgar reported the damage to Metro staff, and Metro's arborist, Howard Rasmussen, responded.

Metro's manager of volunteer services, John Sheehan, thanked the volunteers "who somehow managed to get out and walk the natural area, despite holidays, an epic snowstorm and torrential rains." Four volunteers logged more than 27 hours of service during the storms. This is the kind of collaboration that really builds communities as much as it enhances natural areas. Thank you to the Canemah Bluff Park Watchers for all their help making our region such a great place to live.

– Carlotta Collette



[www.oregonmetro.gov](http://www.oregonmetro.gov)

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

Starting spring 2009, Metro will assist outdoor school immersion programs to help sixth grade students throughout the region learn to be better environmental citizens. With Metro's newly approved funding, students will learn how their family's choices affect the environment, experience how to reduce their "garbage footprint" and learn about better use of the Earth's scarce resources.

Metro believes that through 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 a small increase in solid waste disposal fees to pay for a day of waste reduction education at outdoor school to help 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 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).

## 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.

Holidays in general were huge for the zoo in 2008, with record turnouts during the long weekends around Presidents Day, Labor Day and Thanksgiving. Attendance on Thanksgiving Day was the second-highest of any single day in the zoo's history: More than 15,000 visitors braved the rain, taking advantage of a free "open house" held in appreciation of the public's support for a \$125 million bond measure to improve outdated exhibits and make the zoo more sustainable.

For additional information on the Oregon Zoo, visit [www.oregonzoo.org](http://www.oregonzoo.org) or by call 503-226-1561.

## Events to Note

### Salmon in the City Friday, February 13, 1 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Hosted by Salmon-Safe, this free public event will highlight the most recent innovations in ecologically sustainable development. New research regarding the impacts of urban stormwater on salmon and watersheds will be presented, and Salmon-Safe will unveil its newest initiative – the nation's first certification program focused on the watershed impacts of large-scale residential development. Metro Councilor Carlotta Collette is a primary speaker at the event.

## 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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