Farming inside the line – thinking outside the box

Rail~Volution
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Boston, Mass.

Rod Park
Metro Councilor, District 1
Portland, Ore.
What is Metro?
Manages regional facilities (Zoo, Convention Center, Performing Arts, Expo)

Unique MPO – Transportation and Land Use authority is directly connected as we allocate federal transportation funds to 25 cities and 3 counties as well as TriMet and Port of Portland.
History of land use in Oregon
Park’s Nursery – Rod’s story
The issues

Urban and rural activities *can* but don’t always complement each other.
The issues
Rural economic trends

Average Age of Principal Operator


46 48 50 52 54 56 58
The issues | Where and how to grow?

Making the Greatest Place

• Encourage development within existing urban growth boundary
• Maintain and make the most of existing infrastructure
• Ensure there are good jobs available now and in the future.
The issues | how to grow?

- Sustainability Practices being applied to land use decisions. Can we do better?

The Pearl District Before and After Redevelopment
The issues | providing outdoor opportunities
Solutions
Solutions | integrating habitats

Oregon to Washington Connection Concept Design with “Green Lid”

Transit Oriented Development

Eco-roof
Solutions | Integrating Habitats
Solutions
Creating Natural Areas within Development
Solutions | Walking the Talk
Community Gardens at Portland City Hall
Solutions | Humboldt Learning Garden

- Humboldt Garden Sign
- Outdoor Classroom
- Future Shelter
- Humboldt Garden Sign
- Native Planting
- Metal Garden Fence
- Existing Tree - Typical
- Locked Gate - 10' wide for truck access
- Existing Retaining Wall
- Crushed Rock Path - 5% - Many of the student designs used an crossed path pattern that I used as a basis for this circulation.
- Stormwater Swale - The swale on the SE corner can filter stormwater overflow from the cistern.

Organizational Strategy:
The raised beds and outdoor classroom are located on high points on either side of the garden to maintain a vision corridor. The outdoor classroom is visible from the street and will not block views into the garden. The fence, gates and grade have been pulled back at both entrances to create clear transitions and views into the site.
Solutions | UO Sustainability Design Competition
Solutions | Regional Food Economy
Solutions | Hybrid developments
Blue Lake Nature and Golf Learning Center
Food For Thought
Can we build a community around farming just like we do golf courses?
Food for Thought
Reclaiming Golf Courses For Natural Use
Urban Agriculture
1. Thompson Farm - annual crops
2. Thompson Farm - perennial crops
3. Thompson Farm - greenhouses
4. Community Gardens

Commercial Venues
5. Thompson Farm Fresh Market
6. Berry's Treasures Restaurant
7. Neighborhood General Store

Community Amenities
8. Living Machine Learning Center
9. Community Preservation Kitchen
10. Day Care
11. Athletic Fields
12. Community Commons
13. Nature & Farm Trail System
14. Barn
15. Restored Wetland

Site Plan
Scale: 1" = 200'
Re-thinking the urban landscape
Re-thinking the urban landscape
For Further Information:

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