

Susan McLain

METRO COUNCIL DISTRICT 4 NEWS



METRO

PEOPLE PLACES
OPEN SPACES

**Susan McLain
represents
District 4, which
includes Northern
Washington
County, Cornelius,
Hillsboro, Forest
Grove, Northwest
Beaverton, Aloha,
Rock Creek, Bonny
Slope, Raleigh Hills,
West Slope, Cedar
Mill and Cedar Hills.**



A message from Susan McLain

The Metro Council's proposed \$227.4 million bond measure asks voters whether or not to direct Metro to protect natural areas and lands near rivers and streams throughout the metro region, safeguarding the quality of our water while managing the impacts of growth and maintaining the area's quality of life for future generations.

Should Measure 26-80 pass, property owners would likely pay 19 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value on property taxes to fund continued acquisitions of, and improvements to, natural areas. For the average homeowner, the total annual cost is likely to be \$30-35.

If voters approve the measure, Metro would acquire properties from willing sellers in 27 targeted areas identified as providing ecological benefits to the entire region. Target areas include the Tualatin River and tributaries in the Stafford Basin, Sherwood and Forest Grove areas and the Rock Creek watershed near Bethany.

Metro would also provide \$44 million to local cities, counties and parks districts—including Hillsboro, Cornelius, Forest Grove, Washington County and Tualatin Hills Park and Recreation District—to purchase land for neighborhood parks and protect water quality and wildlife habitat.

For more information on this bond measure, please visit www.metro-region.org/bondmeasure or contact Ken Ray at (503) 797-1508.

—Susan McLain

A New Look at Regional Choices

Our region is admired the world over for its approach to planning for the future. A decade ago, we adopted a groundbreaking plan, the 2040 Growth Concept Plan, to define what we want to be.

But now, with our region expecting to grow by about a million more people in the next 25 years, we need to create stronger investment strategies that will actually fulfill the vision and make it a reality. To do this, the Metro Council launched its "New Look at Regional Choices" project, to find ways to implement our long-range vision.

On June 23, the Metro Council hosted a New Look Regional Forum to introduce

the project to nearly 300 citizens, elected officials, business leaders, planners, and environmental advocates.

In order to understand the impact of one million more people, attendees were reminded of the many changes in the region during the last time we grew by that much—between 1968 and 2006: I-5 was new and never filled to capacity, TriMet did not exist, the suburbs were much smaller and large farms separated outlying cities.

Participants were then challenged to make hard choices about building a great region that lives up to the vision. Look for results of that work in future newsletters.

Unwind at Twilight Tuesdays

Summer offers a variety of outdoor activities for residents of our region, and one of them is watching other residents—meaning our abundant wildlife. Twilight Tuesdays at Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area with Metro Naturalist James Davis offer a relaxing walk, a way to unwind after work, and the opportunity to easily view animals native to our region.

Dusk is one of the best times to see wildlife, and is about the only time you can see most mammals such as beaver, muskrat, otter, raccoon, deer, and bats. Birds also are more active than during the hot days.

Take advantage of the long summer days and join one of the walks, which take place from 7 to 9:30 p.m. August 8 and 22. All ages are welcome, but participants must be able to be quiet, sneaky, and patient. Bring your binoculars or borrow a pair of ours. Payment of \$5 per adult is required in advance; children are free. Call (503) 797-1715 to register and for more information.

Together our efforts won't go to waste

Metro area residents do a remarkable job of recycling—our recovery rate of 59 percent is one of the highest in the country. The Metro Council's goal of 64 percent by 2009 is attainable, but to help, Metro has recently launched a new public education campaign to remind residents about proper recycling guidelines.

Called "Together Our Efforts Won't Go to Waste," the campaign's message focuses on two frequent practices that render large amounts of otherwise recyclable material useless. These are mixing glass in with other recyclables and placing plastic bags in with curbside plastic recycling.

"Many people assume that the recycling process is the same for all items," said Metro Council President David Bragdon. "We want residents to understand that the recycling process is different for different materials, and that is especially true for glass and plastic."

Plastic bags must be kept out of the recycling bin, as they cause serious problems in the machinery at recycling facilities,

resulting in costly equipment repairs and delays. Additionally, glass must be set out in separate rigid containers so it doesn't break and contaminate other reclaimed materials, especially paper.

Bragdon notes that because of these improper recycling procedures, 20 tons of otherwise recyclable materials are going to the landfill every day. "We know that all diligent recyclers in the region will appreciate learning how to make sure that their efforts don't go to waste," he said.

Events of note in District 4

9 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 5

Noble Woods ivy removal

Launch an assault on ivy at Noble Woods in Hillsboro. Assist the return of native plants in this beautiful park while getting to know others in the community. Meet in the parking lot at 231st Avenue and Baseline Road. Advance registration required; call (503) 629-6305 ext. 2953.

10 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 19

Watershed tour of Beaverton and Johnson South creeks

Explore Beaverton and Johnson South creeks from top to bottom. Speakers will discuss natural history and stream health. A \$5 donation is suggested, but no one will be turned away. Advance registration required; call (503) 629-6305 ext. 2953.

12:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 26

Bug Fest at Tualatin Hills Nature Park

Come to Tualatin Hills Nature Park for the 6th annual Bug Fest. This year's featured critters are ants—one of the earth's most abundant life forms. Games, displays, crafts, live bugs and guided activities await the whole family. You can even bring a bug to be identified. Admission is \$1.50. For more information, call (503) 629-6350.

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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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Susan McLain, District 4
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