

Brian Newman

METRO COUNCIL DISTRICT 2 NEWS



METRO

PEOPLE PLACES
OPEN SPACES

Brian Newman represents District 2, which includes a portion of Southwest Portland and much of urban Clackamas County including Gladstone, Johnson City, Lake Oswego, Milwaukie, Oak Grove, Oregon City, Rivergrove and West Linn.



A message from Brian Newman

On June 23, the Metro Council convened a Regional Forum at the Oregon Convention Center to discuss our effort to update the 2040 Growth Management Plan and the Regional Transportation Plan. The forum was very well attended with over 350 citizens, elected officials, business leaders, and environmental advocates.

Council President David Bragdon opened the forum by stating what the “New Look” is about and, as importantly, what it is not about.

“Today is not about vaguely describing a vision—been there, done that. Today is about building a great region which lives up to that vision, and that means very different tools need to be used and very different people need to be involved.”

In other words, the 2040 Plan was about developing a vision, but the New Look is about developing a strategy to fulfill that vision. The 2040 Plan was about “planning” and the New Look is about “doing.”

Those who attended the forum rolled up their sleeves and participated in group exercises where they drew on maps the areas that need additional public investment, areas that are appropriate for future growth, and areas that should be preserved. It was the beginning—not the end—of a long process, but I am encouraged by the productive feedback we received from several hundred citizens.

—Brian Newman

Citizen input helps shape region’s waste reduction plan

Metro is currently revising the region’s Waste Reduction Plan in order to help protect the environment and conserve resources.

This spring, Metro invited public comment on the draft plan by creating an on-line survey, which included background information describing proposed strategies and approaches to help reduce waste and conserve resources. More than 400 people gave input on the plan’s overall vision and on key strategies to achieve the vision.

In addition to support for the plan’s vision and values, we found strong support for several major themes, including a focus on waste prevention, not just recycling; improved access to recycling services, such

as adding materials to curbside recycling; more emphasis on education and outreach for all sectors of the population; and ensuring that responsibility for the recycling of hazardous and difficult-to-recycle products is shared by those who produce, distribute and use the products.

Metro will post results of the survey at www.metro-region.org/letstalktrash. The Metro Council will consider the plan for adoption in July or August 2006.

Oxbow Regional Park: outstanding camping in your own backyard

As gas prices continue to climb over \$3 per gallon, camping under the stars next to a rushing river may seem out of reach—but if you look close, it’s not. Consider Metro’s

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Oxbow Park camping

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Oxbow Regional Park, a spectacular 1,200-acre natural area located eight miles east of Gresham within the Sandy River Gorge.

The 67 wooded campsites, available all year on a first-come, first-served basis, have a cooking grill, picnic table and fire pit. The campground also has restrooms with hot showers.

There is plenty to do—hiking in an ancient forest, mountain biking, fishing, boating, swimming and wildlife watching are just a few of the activities. Ball fields and play yards for children are also available. Friday nights typically feature local musicians playing bluegrass and folk music; Saturday evening programs feature storytelling and naturalists talking about local area wildlife.

The camping fee is \$15 per night plus the \$4 park entry fee per vehicle on the first day. Two group camp areas are available by reservation. Firewood is sold at the campground for \$4 a bundle. For the safety of wildlife, pets are not allowed at Oxbow Regional Park or any of Metro's parks or natural areas.

Visit www.metro-region.org/parks for a complete listing of guided tours, classes and campfire programs.

ZooTeens spur re-opening of interactive Insect Zoo

There's a big, bizarre and beautiful world of animals waiting to be discovered, and if Jamie Klein, a ZooTeen at the Oregon Zoo has her way, the zoo will build a new exhibit to showcase specimens from all over the globe.

But Klein isn't focusing on large critters, instead, she's got her eye on arthropods—the crustaceans, millipedes, centipedes, insects, and arachnids of the world.

Because of budget cuts, the Insect Zoo, established in the 1970s, has been open, but not staffed. But this summer, expert staff will be on hand to answer questions and explain why they believe the crawly creatures are cool, not creepy.

"The Insect Zoo had been an interactive exhibit," said Klein. "We talked with visitors, especially kids, explaining why insects are so important. But the structure is in pretty sad shape," said Klein. "It's only

a matter of time before it will have to be demolished."

That means no more chances to rub noses with an Australian walkingstick, shake a leg with a Mexican red-kneed tarantula, hiss with a Madagascar hissing cockroach or tickle the senses with a giant African millipede. Such prospects are unthinkable to Klein, and that's what spurs her on.

Klein and other bug-loving ZooTeens are attempting to raise the estimated \$250,000 needed for a new insectarium.

"I'll be surprised if they don't succeed," said Zoo Director Tony Vecchio. "The teens are intelligent, enthusiastic and, most importantly, persistent."

Events of note in District 2

9 a.m. Saturdays, July 8 and 22

Ivy removal at Tryon Creek

Help enhance Tryon Creek State Natural Area by removing invasive species that compete with native plants and harm the park's trees. Bring gloves and sturdy shoes. Meet at the nature center. Advance registration is not required. For more information, call (503) 636-4398.

9 a.m. Saturday, July 15

Plant center work day

Help out at Metro's native plant materials center near Tualatin. Activities will depend on conditions. All ages welcome. Come prepared to get dirty and dress for the weather. Gloves, tools, snacks and water will be provided. Advance registration is required; call (503) 797-1715.

8 p.m. Saturday, July 22

Night hike at Tryon Creek

Come to Tryon Creek State Natural Area for a night hike led by a park ranger to learn about the fascinating adaptations of nocturnal animals. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Free. Advance registration required; call (503) 636-9886 ext. 25.

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
Brian Newman, District 2
Carl Hosticka, District 3
Susan McLain, District 4
Rex Burkholder, District 5
Robert Liberty, District 6

Auditor
Alexis Dow, CPA

Councilor Brian Newman contact information

Address	600 NE Grand Ave. Portland, OR 97232
Phone	(503) 797-1887
Fax	(503) 797-1793
E-mail	newmanb@metro.dst.or.us
Assistant	Amelia Porterfield
Phone	(503) 797-1543
E-mail	porterfielda@metro.dst.or.us
Web	www.metro-region.org

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