

Draft Vision of Lake Oswego in 2035 (shaded text)
With Comments and Suggested Revisions from Boards and Commissions
June 2010

Vision in General

Development Review Commission

- Fairly comprehensive - - seemed to hit the right points

Natural Resources Advisory Board

- Vision is all over the place. Disparate ideas stuck together. Need to bring it together in cohesive way. Is there a typical structure or flow for visions?
- Should scrap the existing vision and start over.
- Really like the Boise example. Should use that template.
- Use back-casting as approach.
- Statement should reflect the triple bottom line, natural resources as interconnected.
- Process should define community's core values.

Parks & Recreation Advisory Board

P+R Staff:

- As a non-resident of Lake Oswego but an employee who has a vested interest in the city, I feel that the Vision Statement is too ambiguous and I am not sure the differences between where we are now and will be then. It seems we are already there in a lot of categories.
- Something that acknowledges the needs of an aging population in LO should be said rather than implied.

Lake Oswego is recognized nationally as a model of livability—a unified city with a vital downtown, a strong sense of neighborhoods, and a sustainable environment. Our lives are enriched by a wide range of choices in transportation, housing, recreation, and culture. Our infrastructure is sound, our finances stable, and our citizens engaged.

Parks & Recreation Advisory Board

- In the opening paragraph, the vision should add that our strong community and excellent public schools also enrich our lives.
- Education: recognition that a strong public school system in LO is vital to the community. Families continue to come to LO and stay in LO because of the schools.

Sustainability Advisory Board

Suggested revisions:

- A Specific Sustainability Policy is included in the Comprehensive Plan with “back-casting” from each section of the plan to insure its inclusion.
- There is a lens of Sustainability through which we view all items in the Comprehensive Plan. Lake Oswego is 100% fulfilling the Triple Bottom Line of being fully sustainable

Environmentally, Economically, and Socially---People, Planet, Profit by 2030 and each year progress toward that goal is measured and reported. The City has planned for resiliency and adaptability in an unpredictable and rapidly changing world.

50+ Advisory Board

- City should maintain its safe, small town feel.
- Keeping the friendliness and welcoming feel is important.
- There is value in living in a small community. Easy proximity to everything. Few hassles, low traffic, sense of community and beauty. Just a community to live in without the big town feel. She fears that this will change as the high density plans and the need or desire to develop grows.
- Financial sustainability is important for the City.

Our full-service downtown is the center of our city, offering business opportunities, convenient shopping, housing and cultural attractions. Millennium Plaza Park is a focal point, and a walkway stretches south along the bay. The Foothills district east of Highway 43 has been redeveloped as a mixed use neighborhood, including affordable, sustainably-constructed housing. The Lake Grove village center has been improved with multi-modal transportation options, pedestrian access, gathering places and mixed uses and supports a thriving business district.

Library Advisory Board

Suggested revision:

- Our full-service downtown areas are the centers of our city life,

Parks & Recreation Advisory Board

- In the "full-service" paragraph, we should consider broadening the concept of the center of our city to include several "hubs", including Downtown & Lake Grove; potentially also including our well maintained parks and public spaces.

Sustainability Advisory Board

- The City becomes a collection of sustainable mixed use neighborhoods with many more services within walking or biking distance. Building and Development Codes are expanded year by year to achieve a Living Building Standard for all buildings by 2030. Sustainable electric and non-carbon-burning transportation is increasingly available and ultimately 100% non-carbon burning by 2050 or sooner. An Amsterdam level safe bike system, truly smart charging stations for cars and delivery vehicles are everywhere. Open space is expanded and mixed with higher development density for energy efficiency and downsizing of an aging population. Variable code density developments are allowed and encouraged.

We foster diverse, family-friendly neighborhoods, each retaining its unique character.

Compatible redevelopment in mature neighborhoods is assured through fair and open processes: Homeowners have some flexibility in upgrading existing stock, and infill blends with the surrounding environment. Affordable housing choices are available. Stafford is developed thoughtfully (if at all), reflecting the livability of Lake Oswego.

Historic Resource Advisory Board

- The text of this vision is generally not true in light of the possibility of increased densities in the Foothills, Stafford Basin and Old Town areas.
- How are possible increased densities consistent with being family friendly and blending in the surrounding environment. This passage is not consistent with “Growing in harmony with our natural setting.

Planning Commission

- Why include the statement “Stafford is developed thoughtfully (if at all), reflecting the livability of Lake Oswego if the City’s position is to not develop Stafford?

Parks & Recreation Advisory Board

- Under neighborhoods/affordable housing, I would consider adding something language such as: "We maintain excellent public schools and strive for affordable housing and recreation options to keep Lake Oswego affordable to young families and continue to build a multi-generational community"

50+ Advisory Board

- Need more options for aging in place
- Affordability is threatening to seniors. Property taxes will double in the future and the fixed income seniors will struggle. And she doesn’t see how seniors will be able to afford it.
- Some families are moving away as soon as their children finish school due to affordability and the changes occurring in the City.

Residents have a variety of transportation options. Many modes of travel, such as bus, streetcar, water transportation, bike paths, pathways, and well-maintained roads connect our neighborhoods, strengthen our sense of community, and offer choices for moving around and beyond our city.

Planning Commission

- What is the reference to water transportation?

Parks & Recreation Advisory Board

- Consider moving the paragraph about transportation options to be part of our infrastructure section.

Transportation Advisory Board

- I would like to see a statement supporting an efficient transportation system, maintaining capacity on arterial streets, balancing needs of all transportation modes on local and neighborhood streets and providing connectivity. This recognizes most residents travel by car and that limited arterial capacity results in increased volumes on local streets (as has been seen on Quarry and in First Addition)
- Do we really believe water transportation is an option? I believe it is more of a recreation opportunity.

50+ Advisory Board

- Accessible services and stores needed.
- Ambling little roads
- No need for sidewalks
- Should decrease traffic
- Topography makes it hard for seniors to get around without a car

We grow in harmony with our natural setting. We treasure natural beauty, open space, and a close connection to the clean water in our rivers, streams, and lake. A green necklace of trails surrounds us and interlaces our neighborhoods. Our Willamette riverfront includes connected pathways, marina, and water recreation. Residents enjoy visual access to the lake along walkways and public spaces. We maintain a strong tree code, and develop greenways, green boulevards, landscaped medians, and pathways. All new development is compatible with the environment, and the community has reached its goal of climate neutrality.

Natural Resources Advisory Board

- Should reflect integrated, comprehensive, holistic approach to natural resource management.
- Watershed could form context – its unique characteristics, and ecosystem it supports.
- Clean streams, sensitive lands, water conservation should all integrated as part of watershed health.
- First thought that Boise put environmental stewardship as their no. 1, top priority goal.
- May want to advocate that NR should be the city's top priority.
- Natural resource stewardship should form the basis of decision-making for the city. Healthy NR Community that understands and supports resource protection as a core value (education + action), so that decision-making relates to this value automatically
- Personal + shared responsibility for NR stewardship
- Healthy and accessible lake and Willamette where people can go swimming
- Safe, local food systems
- Ecosystem services: ecosystem as green infrastructure, and need to support the benefits it provides to the community

Parks & Recreation Advisory Board

P+R Staff:

- Though the wording under “We grow in harmony w/ our natural setting” mentions open spaces, trails, pathways etc. “Parks” are never specifically mentioned. Parks are part of the natural setting.

Sustainability Advisory Board

- We think of ourselves as part of Nature and not outside it. We think in terms of ecosystems--we know that everything and everyone is connected. We move to 100% green chemistry use without toxic substances within the City based on the Pre-Cautious Principle---we have chemical standards to back it up. We move to 100% atmospheric climate neutrality by 2030---as a whole, Lake Oswego cleans as many global warming gases from the air as it produces. Tree codes expand to deep diverse ecosystem habitat restoration and interact with solar access to produce the best of both worlds---clean local energy within biodiversity and cool forests. Local Sustainable Agriculture becomes increasingly integrated with the community---local organically grown food becomes the new normal. The town as a whole becomes part of Nature.

Transportation Advisory Board

- What do we mean by "all new development is compatible with the environment"? Some would interpret no development as being compatible with the environment. I think better language would address a balance between jobs and the environment.
- How do we define climate neutrality and what needs to be done to meet that goal? Is this really proper to address at the city level? I would prefer a goal of encouraging sustainable development and practices and providing/encouraging alternate transportation modes to reduce emissions.

We provide a variety of quality recreational and cultural opportunities. Lake Oswego is a center for entertainment and culture, crowned by the arts center. Our Community Center is open to all citizens and recreational opportunities are available for people of all ages and abilities. We value aesthetic qualities that enhance our livability.

Library Advisory Board

- We provide a variety of quality recreational, cultural, and educational opportunities. Lake Oswego is a center for entertainment, culture and education, crowned by the arts center and new library. Our Community Center is open to all citizens and recreational opportunities are available for people of all ages and abilities. We value aesthetic qualities that enhance our livability.

- “We envision providing the residents of Lake Oswego an excellent level of services and programs and to meet the informational, cultural and recreational needs of the community.”
- “The Library will take a leadership role in providing services and programs to meet the informational, cultural and recreational needs of the community.”

Parks & Recreation Advisory Board

- In the recreational/cultural paragraph: Parks/recreation are not emphasized enough and the wording "crowned by the arts center" seems limiting. Suggest "We provide a variety of recreational, entertainment, educational and cultural opportunities through our portfolio of parks, recreation centers (including golf & tennis), arts center and community programs." "These offerings are designed to be family oriented and multi-generational".

P+R Staff:

- I think a little more inclusion of recreation programming, facilities, and community health benefits language should be included. As the complexities and high costs of health care continue to be a major issue with people it is important that the City highlight its’ commitment to providing healthy activities and opportunities through its great Parks system. It is also important to highlight the fact that, with an aging population, we are committed to providing excellent healthy living options for our seniors. It seems to us that the best part of living here is the unique lifestyle citizens have come to expect and are willing to pay a little more for.
- Health / Wellness for the aging population
- Pathways that connect natural areas and parks
- In the natural setting paragraph it is very detailed w/ a list of what this includes. In the recreation & cultural paragraph it only mentions arts center & community center.
- Is there a way to explain/enhance in the vision statement what we mean by recreational opportunities with limited words? (maybe some visionary examples) An arts center and entertainment come across as the priority in the current vision statement.
- Instead of stating the basic available to people of all ages & abilities , maybe this could be re-stated with something about opportunities that meet the changing/aging demographics while still creating opportunities for kids & teens of this community.
- In current vision statement it could ‘envision’ (mention) athletic fields, skate parks/spots incorporated in master plans of parks.

Sustainability Advisory Board

- Please add the concept of diverse entertainment, culture and art.

50+ Advisory Board

- Beautiful natural pathways and parks.
- LO park system is more than adequate for our city.

Our quality of life is supported by the best infrastructure in the region—water, sewer, storm water, roads, and public facilities. Our police and fire departments provide quick response to all calls. The City generates sufficient revenues to guarantee financial stability and joins with others in the private and public sectors to make the most of our public investments. We pay City staff fairly and retain quality employees for years.

Sustainability Advisory Board

- Infrastructure becomes part of Nature. Water is captured from the sky, used frugally, reused often, and never wasted. Our drinking water far exceeds the minimum health standards set by law with lower tolerable levels for a much wider range of toxic chemicals. Storm-water runoff is slowed and managed everywhere to reduce chemical runoff, flooding, erosion etc. Solid waste is harnessed to produce methane to power City and Garbage vehicles. Buildings have energy skins and systems that react to weather. Codes and rates for water, sewer, garbage, and road use are increasingly based on amount of use--- based on size of the footprint. Energy and water supplies are increasingly distributed--generated and collected onsite. Redesign, transition to new materials, and thinking in closed systems without the concept of “throwing away” lead to net zero waste by 2030. The City is prepared for a world with less water, higher temperatures, economic shortfalls, more disease, and severe natural disasters like earthquakes, forest fires, and floods.

Active citizens of all ages work together for the good of our united community.

No specific comments on this statement.

New Topics or Issues to Address

Parks & Recreation Advisory Board

- I believe the concept of safety would be appropriate for both transportation (safe mode of travel) and when we talk about our police & fire departments (e.g. we create an environment of public safety in the community through our excellent police and fire departments...).
- Strongly support either adding technology as a part of the infrastructure paragraph or creating a new paragraph addressing technology. One suggestion could be: LO has leveraged advances in technology to provide universal wireless connectivity and affordable Internet access for its residents.
- Financial stability is a concept that should be included in the document.

P & R Staff:

- The one thought I had on this is that it lacks an emphasis on education. I recognize that the City does not directly control the formal education system (so it might not be important from a planning aspect), but I think that the majority of residents consider it one of their

highest priorities. This community prides itself on having one of the best public education systems in Oregon, and I know this is essential to future vision.

- Additionally, education is not just about the youth's public school system--citizens throughout this community value education as a lifelong journey. LO Residents are very intelligent and well-versed in numerous topics and issues. I believe this is because there are so many opportunities throughout the community for educational enrichment. There are classes to improve skills (improve your financial portfolio, get your boating license, etc.), and opportunities to learn new sports (lacrosse, yoga, pilates, fishing, etc.). There are even forums to help educate the community (ie. The Sustainability Department constantly educates the public on how to be more green, the City hosted a forum to help educate the community on how to handle Coyotes, etc.). A Future Vision should emphasize a continuation of learning opportunities and educational enrichment.
- The most important issue is home affordability for both ends of the age spectrum. Retirees need affordable smaller homes that they can manage. Young families need homes they can afford to buy and raise families in. Scores of big empty houses and acres of empty apartment complexes do not generate the tax revenue to pay for the described vision of livability.

Sustainability Advisory Board

- The City deposits all public moneys in a new Oregon state bank or a community bank backed by the Oregon state bank (based on the Bank of North Dakota). Leverage is limited, and lenders concentrate on sustainable local lending.

Transportation Advisory Board

- I would like to see some language in support of business development. The only reference is to a thriving Lake Grove business district. How will the City encourage/support businesses? LO has industrial land and the Kruse Way corridor has a lot of employment, but these are not addressed.