



EDUCATION • ARTS • RECREATION •
LIBRARY SERVICES • HISTORIC PRESERVATION
• CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Vision Statement

Our educational, cultural and recreational opportunities strengthen the social fabric of the community. Our top-rated schools offer excellent education and reinforce the value of the community as a desirable place to raise a family. Our outstanding library, parks, and community amenities provide a wide range of programs and special events. Public art and historic resources enrich our cultural identity.

Policy Question to Consider

1. During the first year of public outreach the idea of Lake Oswego as a learning community was raised. What role should the City play in supporting and enhancing community education and learning opportunities?
2. Some of the school locations are noted on the 2035 Vision Map as “neighborhood hubs” or gathering places. What role, beyond their primary role of childhood education, should school facilities play within the neighborhoods and community, and how can these roles help to keep closed schools viable until they can be re-opened in the future?



People, Places and Prosperity

Educational resources support a sustainable Lake Oswego in the following ways:

- **People:** Preserves a well-educated community with strong foundations and lifelong learning opportunities.
- **Places:** Utilizes schools and education centers as places of learning and as gathering places around which a vibrant community may connect, collaborate and cooperate.
- **Prosperity:** Supports education and skills required for individuals to make a living and contribute economically to their community.

Existing Comprehensive Plan Goals

The City shall ensure the availability of administrative and general government services and shall coordinate with efforts of others to provide schools, energy and communication services.

Background

- Lake Oswego School District (LOSD) currently consists of eight elementary schools, two junior highs, and two high schools.
- Total district enrollment in during the 2010 – 2011 school year was 6,750. Enrollment is projected to decline over the next 10 years.
- LOSD is known for its educational excellence and for the fifth consecutive year, all Lake Oswego schools have received the highest rating on Oregon state report cards.
- In 2010, over 90% of high school graduates went on to college.
- Since 1990 when Ballot Measure 5 passed LOSD has not received sufficient state revenue to support its programs and it relies on the community and the LOSD Foundation to help cover costs. The current economic downturn and the defeat of Measure 30 in 2004 have exhausted reserves and prompted millions of dollars of cuts with a continuing shortfall predicted for the future.
- Palisades Elementary School closed down in the 2011-2012 school year and there is planned closure of Bryant Elementary School and Uplands Elementary School in 2012-2013. Palisades Elementary also closed in 1983 and reopened six years later when enrollment increased.
- Private Schools in Lake Oswego: Westside Christian High School; Our Lady of the Lake Church and School; Touchstone School; Christie School; Children’s Hour Academy; Park Academy; West Lake Montessori School; Northwest Montessori School and Lake Oswego Montessori School.
- Post-Secondary Education: Marylhurst University, Oregon's oldest Catholic university has been located at the southeast end of Lake Oswego since 1930. The university provides daytime, evening, weekend and online classes to 932 undergraduate students and 985 graduate students. Lewis and Clark College and the Sylvania Campus of Portland Community College are also located in close proximity, just north of Lake Oswego.
- The City also offers many opportunities for lifelong learning through the Library, Parks and Recreation Department, and the Adult Community Center, including classes for computer programs, digital photography, art, creative writing, performing arts, cooking, and Spanish language. The Library also supports lifelong learning through its informational resources, storytimes, discussion groups and events.

What We’ve Heard

- 80% of respondents from the 2010 Community Survey believe that it would benefit the entire community if more young individuals and families move to Lake Oswego.
- Survey respondents believe that the top three priorities regarding the size and number of Lake Oswego Schools is to draw more families with kids to Lake Oswego (83%), to preserve the size and character of small neighborhood schools (71%), and to recruit out-of-district tuition students (47%).

At the community workshops on October 12 and 16, 2010, participants said the following regarding bringing more young families with children to Lake Oswego:

- More affordable housing for young families including a mix of housing in strategic areas that reflect good design and connectivity to the rest of the community.
- More venues for year-round children’s activities, including a community center.
- Programs/activities that promote community connections and intergenerational interaction.
- Provide alternative transportation connections to get around Lake Oswego, in particular key destinations including downtown, the north and south side of Lake Grove, the schools and outside the community.
- Continue to support and improve education in the community.

Primary Sources

- www.loswego.k12.or.us
- www.marylhurst.edu