



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. Should the City consider exploring ways to encourage historic preservation through strategies such as developing incentives (such as, priority permitting, grant façade improvements,) for requiring/allowing:
 - a. Deconstruction of historic buildings instead of demolition
 - b. More adaptive reuse (reusing an old site or building for a purpose other than which it was built or designed for) of historic structures and older buildings
 - c. Incorporation of new energy saving building materials into historic buildings
2. Archaeological resources are referred to in the current historic goal and polices in the current plan. In the past, the only action the City has taken to preserve and enhance “archaeological resources” is to call the state which has a specialist on staff to handle the issue. Should the City consider the cost and benefit to taking on more responsibility for protecting archaeological resources?

People, Places and Prosperity

Planning for our historic resources supports a sustainable Lake Oswego in the following ways:

- **People:** Preserves unique community heritage, culture, sense of civic pride
- **Places:** Identifies buildings with unique structures and historic attributes; adaptive reuse and careful demolition conserve resources
- **Prosperity:** Supports neighborhood revitalization, “main street” type redevelopment, historic tourism, visitors and education

Existing Comprehensive Plan Goals

The City shall preserve the historical, archaeological and cultural resources of the community.

Background

The City participates in a preservation partnership with the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office and the National Park Service as a “certified local government,” (CLG) which requires the City to maintain certain qualifications such as:

- Maintaining a preservation commission.
- Administering the preservation code.
- Updating and expanding the state’s historic building inventory.
- Review of demolition permits.
- Reviewing the National Register of Historic Places nominations.

The City has used matching grants for a number of preservation projects including documenting the City’s iron industry history, documenting the City’s mid-century architecture, and updating and expanding the City’s inventory of historic buildings.

The City completed and adopted a Citywide Cultural Resources Inventory (CRI) in 1989. It included more than 160 properties that were determined to have potential historical and architectural significance. Not all of those structures are included on the City’s Landmark Designation List of 73 properties. Forty more sites were inventoried in 2008. Some buildings have been altered significantly and are no longer significant. Others’ owners do not want to be formally listed as a Landmark.

- There are currently 13 historic properties within the City on the National Historic Register.
- The City initiated a Preservation Grant Program which allocates \$5,000 to rehabilitate, restore or repair homes listed on the City’s Landmark Designation List in 2011.
- The City owns two historic resources: the Iron Furnace and the Iron Workers’ Cottage.
- Luscher Farm which is outside the City limits, but is owned by the City is on the County’s CRI.

What We’ve Heard

In the 2010 Community Vision and Values Survey, 64 % of the respondents said that the preservation/rehabilitation of existing housing is the most important way to accommodate future housing needs. October workshop citizens mentioned that is important to reduce the amount of materials going the landfill and suggested encouraging deconstruction of buildings rather than demolition. Citizens also expressed a desire to encourage energy efficient buildings.

Primary Sources

- Historic Resources Advisory Board
- National Trust for Historic Preservation