



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. How can the library continue to support and enhance the city's vibrancy and sense of community?
2. How can the library enhance accessibility to library resources for all community members?

### **People, Places and Prosperity**

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

- **People:** Provides opportunities for lifelong learning, self-education, arts and culture enrichment and community interaction.
- **Places:** Provides community gathering and place for sharing of information and ideas; as a physical facility, can work to reduce its ecological footprint and maximize savings over time.
- **Prosperity:** Supports Lake Oswego's reputation for educational quality, sense of community and thoughtful leadership.

## **Existing Comprehensive Plan Goals**

The current Comprehensive Plan does not contain a goal or policy for library services. The current 2035 vision statement for Community Culture recognizes “Our outstanding library, parks and community amenities provide a wide range of amenities and cultural events.” Goals and policies developed through the Comprehensive Plan process would support uphold that vision. New goals and or policies will need to be developed to support library services.

## **Background**

The Lake Oswego Public Library (Library) offers informational, cultural and recreational opportunities for the community.

- The Library was established in 1930 and was located in City Hall. In May, 1962 a new, 7000 square foot Library was dedicated at Fourth and D. After a period of rapid growth, a new library was constructed on the same site, and in 1983 a library of 27,100 feet was opened.
- The Library has the highest annual per capita library use in the State of Oregon. It serves over 1,000 visitors daily, and circulation of over 1.4 million items per year. The Library is busy, and it represents a 7 day a week function that creates foot traffic and parking needs, and community engagement opportunities beyond 8-5 Monday to Friday.
- The Library provides current, high-demand materials, both fiction and non-fiction, in a variety of formats and media for persons of all ages, to meet the informational, cultural and recreational needs of the community. As technical options have expanded, the Library has added new materials to the book collection such as DVDs, Books on CD, and EBooks.
- In 2010, the Library was again ranked first overall for Oregon Libraries in Hennen’s National Library Report.
- The Library maintains and builds upon a local history collection of maps, oral histories, newspaper stories, historic photographs, and some physical items representing the history of the city and its surrounding community.
- The library also provides opportunities for community gathering and personal enrichment with many events throughout the year, including the Lake Oswego Reads program; music, performing arts and author series; discussion groups; and computer classes.
- The library is supported with help from the Friends of the Lake Oswego Public Library, an all volunteer non-profit association that has been helping the Library since 1953. Their bookstore, the Booktique at Mercantile Plaza, has raised over \$900,000 to support the library.
- In 1988, a citizen Task Force on Library Growth found that “the present library facility...has essentially reached its designed capacity. It will be inadequate for the population in a few years...” Since then, several studies have explored library facility needs.
- In 2010, the Lake Oswego Redevelopment Agency began to consider plans for a 60,000 square foot Library facility at 1st and B Avenue downtown.
- One of the long-noted major deficiencies of the current site is that of a community space; i.e. an auditorium or large meeting room. Other additions to a new library would include a dedicated teen room space, a local history room (which addresses part of the Library mission to archive and provide access to materials relating to local history) and study/small meeting rooms.

## **What We’ve Heard**

Library space and particularly community-center type gathering space was mentioned several times in the October, 2010 community workshops. October workshop participants also mentioned LEED gold building standards; and considering a Library branch location in Lake Grove.

## **Primary Sources**

Library Background Report