



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 Questions to Consider**

1. What strategies (including new technologies and social media) are needed to ensure all segments of the community are able to participate in local government decision-making?
2. What is the best way to get you involved in your neighborhood association and local government?

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

Providing the opportunity for civic engagement supports a sustainable Lake Oswego in the following ways:

- **People:** Civic engagement activates civic pride, innovation and community dialog.
- **Places:** Civic engagement fortifies a sense of stewardship and increased awareness of the City's role in the community, public resources and limitations.
- **Prosperity:** Civic dialog and engagement recognizes and supports community organizations focused on prosperity and economic vitality such as the Chamber of Commerce and other organizations that work to support a thriving business community.

## **Existing Comprehensive Plan Goals**

1. *Create opportunities for every interested citizen to be involved in all phases of the planning process to ensure that their concerns are heard;*
2. *Encourage broadly based public participation including all geographic areas and diverse interests; and,*
3. *Ensure regular and ongoing two-way communication between citizens and City elected and appointed officials.*

## **Background**

- Citizen Involvement Guidelines have existed since 1975, with the intent of having a better informed citizenry and providing a framework for government and citizen involvement in land use and growth management. The first Citizen Involvement Guidelines (CIG) was adopted by the City Council in August 1991. They were last updated in April 2009.
- The development of the original Plan adopted in 1978 and subsequent updates in 1994 and this update have involved substantial citizen engagement efforts. Each update has had a goal of organizing the Plan so it is easy for the community to understand and use.
- There are currently 22 recognized neighborhood associations and 12 City Boards and Commissions.
- Since the late 1990s the Planning Commission has served as the Committee for Citizen Involvement (CCI). Its purpose is to assist in the development, implementation and evaluation of citizen involvement programs.
- City of Lake Oswego methods for providing information include: notices in public places and newspapers, summaries of City documents, flyers, brochures, neighborhood newsletters, informational meetings, presentations, mailings, a citizen information center, City Council digest and dispatch, Facebook, Twitter, RSS, Code Red Emergency Notification, HelloLO, LO-Down newsletter, and listservs.
- City of Lake Oswego methods for gathering information include publicly advertised meetings, statistically valid surveys, public comment at meetings, pre-application conferences, neighborhood meetings, focus groups, ad-hoc citizen advisory committees, the City's web-based "Open City Hall," and citizen information center.
- Quality of Life Indicators provide some insight into recent levels of participation.
  - 2009 – 62% of residents are registered voters
  - 2008 – 89% of registered voters participated in general elections
  - 2005 – 56% of residents volunteered
  - 2003 – 59% of residents volunteered
- Volunteerism: in 2010-2011, Parks logged 39,609 volunteer hours and the Library had 535 volunteers.

## **What We've Heard**

The 2010 community vision and values survey received 823 responses. Below is information on who took the survey.

- Gender: 62% Women and 38% Men
- Households with children under the age of 18: 56% Yes and 44% No
- What neighborhood do you live in? Top 3 responders were: Palisades NA (13.5%), Mt. Park (13.5%) & First Addition/Forest Highlands (7.5%)
- How old are you? Top 3 responding age groups: 25-44 (32.1%), 45-54 (31%) & 55-64 (22.3%)
- Of the responses, the top 3 groups they would most likely be involved with in Lake Oswego Included: School based (49.8%), Placed-based like neighborhood association (48.3%) & Sports or Recreation (41.4%)

## **Primary Sources**

- *Citizen Involvement Guidelines*, City of Lake Oswego, 2009.
- *Innovative Civic Engagement Tools and Practices in Land Use Decision-Making*, Cogan Owens Cogan, LLC, 2010.
- International Association of Public Participation [www.iap2.org](http://www.iap2.org)
- City of Lake Oswego Quality of Life Indicators
- Community Vision and Values Survey, September 2010.