

Community Culture Action Area
Education
Background Report
02/10/12

Existing Comprehensive Plan Goal and Policies

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.

Current Policies related to schools:

1. Review all residential development proposals for potential impacts on the school system including the adequacy of existing schools and the need for new facilities.

2. Require safe and accessible transportation routes to schools.

People, Places and Prosperity (show nested diagram)

As the City develops key elements of the Comprehensive Plan update, sustainability – defined for Lake Oswego as meeting the vital human needs of the present without compromising our ability to meet future needs – is an important consideration. Strategic questions will aid in the decision-making framework moving forward. Planning in a sustainable way means looking at the community as an interrelated system that includes places around us (the natural and built environment), people (that live and work here), and prosperity (of the local economy) that supports society’s needs. As an example, planning for our educational resources supports a sustainable Lake Oswego in the following ways:

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.

Introduction

Education is a core value of this community. Many people moved to Lake Oswego so their children could attend the top rated schools here. Lake Oswego also has a higher number of college graduates living here than in other parts of the state. The city is also surrounded by an number of top-notch post secondary institutions.

EXHIBIT F-5 LU 12-0002

Background

Public Schools:

Lake Oswego School District (LOSD) currently consists of 8 elementary schools, two junior highs, and 2 high schools. Total district enrollment in during the 2010 – 2011 school year was 6,750. Enrollment at the City's last public review was approximately 6,900. District enrollment's peak was in 1996 at 7,250 students.

LOSD is known for its educational excellence and for the fourth consecutive year, all 13 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.

While LOSD schools are among the strongest in Oregon, it has not come without challenge. In 1990, soon after the last Comprehensive Plan update, Ballot Measure 5 was passed which transferred the responsibility for school funding from local government to the state on a per pupil funding basis, to equalize funding between districts. Since then, LOSD has never received sufficient state revenue to support its programs. For perspective, in 1990 spending per student was \$10,150 (*2011 dollars*), in the 2004-2005 school year state spending per student was \$5,878 (*2011 dollars*).

The implementation of the property tax limitation in 1990, along with state revenue shortfalls due to the recent economic downturn, forced the district to downsize, cutting millions of dollars in programs and services. During periods of downsizing, the district has relied on the school Foundation and community to contribute additional revenue to protect teaching positions and core curriculum. State funding will never reach a level sufficient for building back the breadth of programs and services this community desires for its students. As the district seeks to build back programs instead of downsizing, community support will continue to be essential.

LOSD Foundation and Community:

- In 2000, the community approved \$85 million facilities improvement bond to upgrade high schools and address infrastructure needs at all schools
- A 5-year local option levy was renewed in 2008 to supplement state funding
- The 2009 – 2010 school year the LOSD Foundation raised over \$1.3 million to support additional teaching positions at all schools

Despite community and Foundation support of Lake Oswego School District's educational resources the magnitude of the current economic downturn and the defeat of Measure 30 in February 2004 to create a state surcharge on Oregon income tax have exhausted reserves and prompted millions of dollars of cuts over the past two years, with a continuing shortfall predicted for the foreseeable future.

For the current 2011-12 school year a budget shortfall of \$5-8 M prompted the school district, community and City to explore ways to bridge the gap. In Spring 2010, the City Council approved a one-time financial contribution of \$2 million to assist the district with its 2011 - 2012 budget shortfall.

Other actions to address the shortfall included the closure of Palisades Elementary School for the 2011 - 2012 school year and the planned closure of Bryant Elementary School and Uplands Elementary

School for the following year. Remaining elementary schools will be reconfigured to grades K-5, and Waluga Jr. High and Lake Oswego Junior High School reconfigured to grades 6-8 middle schools. Students that do not reside within the LOSD boundary but that do reside within the Lake Oswego Urban Services Boundary (LOUSB) may attend LOSD schools for an annual tuition of \$3,250 (2011-2012 school year). Students that do not reside within the LOSD boundary and are outside of the LOUSB may attend Lake Oswego Schools for \$6,500 a year (2011 – 2012 school year). The LOSD boundaries include areas that are within Lake Oswego's Urban Services Boundary, but not within Lake Oswego's city limits. Students living in those areas are not required to pay tuition.

In 2002, the City adopted a zone change ordinance that brought all public facilities into a new Public Functions (PF) zone (LOC 50.13A). Prior to that zone change, public school properties were zoned residential and were subject to residential zoning regulations. All schools are still subject to a conditional use review process.

Public School Summary:

Elementary Schools

- 8 small neighborhood schools, grades K-6
- Tuition-based full day kindergarten or fee-based extended kindergarten day available
- Spanish immersion kindergarten available in 2010-11
- Classroom teacher/student ratio of 1:24 for grades K-2, 1:27 for grades 3-4, 1:28 for grades 5-6
- PE specialists, music specialists, counselors at each school
- Math and reading specialist at each school
- Over 95% of students meet or exceed state standards for reading and math

Middle Level

- 2 junior high schools, grades 7-8, approx. 500-600 students
- Classroom teacher:student ratio of 1:28
- Students grouped into teams for block scheduling and maximum teacher support
- Challenging academic core curriculum and broad elective offerings
- After-school athletics and extra-curricular programs
- Both schools rated Outstanding by the state of Oregon.

High Schools

- 2 high schools, grades 9-12, approx. 1000-1200 students
- Classroom teacher:student ratio of 1:28
- College-prep academic curriculum
- Over 90% of graduates go to college: [list of schools they're attending](#)
- 13 AP courses offered at each school
- Class of 2010: 16 National Merit Finalists
- Average SAT score for the class of 2009 was , with an average score of 1720 (national average 1509, state average 1547).
- Strong emphasis on visual and performing arts, including AP art and performing show choirs
- Highly competitive athletics and activities: the district's two high schools have won 18 state championships over the past eight years

- Modern, substantially remodeled schools with state-of-the-art gyms, auditoriums, and visual arts studios

Private School Summary:

- 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
- 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.

Vicinity Schools

Lewis and Clark College is located just outside of Lake Oswego’s boundaries to the northeast. The college first opened its doors in 1860 and in 1942 moved to its current location. Through a gift-sale made possible by the generosity of the Lloyd Frank family, the trustees acquired a tract of 63 acres in Portland’s southwest hills. The deeply forested landscape was home to Fir Acres, a grand estate developed in the 1920s by Lloyd Frank and designed by Herman Brookman. It’s a private institution with three schools—the College of Arts and Sciences, the Graduate School of Education and Counseling, and the Law School that serves approximately 3500 students.

Portland Community College has its largest of three campuses, Sylvania, located just over the northwest boarder of Lake Oswego. The campus opened in 1968 and rests on Mount Sylvania, bordered by a Douglas fir forest and several quiet neighborhoods. The Sylvania Campus is home for the PCC nursing and dental programs, which have national reputations for excellence and serves approximately 26,700 students annually.

Oregon Health and Science University (OHSU) is a mere 7miles to the north of Lake Oswego. As the state's only health and research university, OHSU brings together patient care, research, education of the next generation of health care providers and scientists and community service to improve the health and well-being of all Oregonians. OHSU is Portland’s largest, and the state’s fourth largest employer (excluding government).

Portland State University (PSU), a 50-acre campus located in downtown Portland, is a nationally acclaimed leader in sustainability and community-based learning. The University's position in the heart of Oregon's economic and cultural center enables PSU students and faculty to apply scholarly theory to the real-world problems of business and community organizations. Portland State offers more than 220 undergraduate, master's, and doctoral degree options, as well as graduate certificates and continuing education programs. PSU is Oregon's largest and most diverse university, with some 30,000 students who come from all 50 states and from nearly 100 nations around the world.

Emerging Issues and Trends

Cities and school districts all over the nation are feeling the crunch of the economic downturn. They are also forming ways in which to balance, trade, and create solid outcomes in the face of challenges. While the City of Lake Oswego has limited involvement with the funding and management structures of LOSD the City does have the opportunity to ensure quality lifelong education for all Lake Oswego residents. Access to appropriate facilities, a diverse mix of students, strong neighborhood connections, and opportunities for learning outside of the classroom all contribute to a well-performing school and district. Through its role in providing planning and infrastructure, the City can create an environment that supports lifelong learning.

Examples of another city taking the opportunity to serve its residents well is Minneapolis, Minnesota. Their city policies in relation to education resources are focused on:

- Supporting a variety of public and private educational choice
- Working with institutions to ensure safe, accessible and functional uses for diverse programming
- Connecting residents to educational opportunities at all levels and ages
- Developing partnerships between City departments and educational institutions to connect students to the community via internships, projects, and other opportunities
- Encouraging partnerships between educational institutions and private sector employers to promote training and other opportunities
- Providing infrastructure (sidewalks, crosswalks, signage, etc.), education, and enforcement to ensure safe routes to neighborhood schools

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.
- The concept of Lake Oswego as "Learning Community" was developed based on feedback from the community. This concept envisions a network of local education, culture and civic institutions that provide rich opportunities for lifelong learning and creative expression.

Sources

- www.loswego.k12.or.us
- www.maryhurst.edu
- www.pdx.edu
- www.ohsu.edu
- www.pcc.edu
- www.lclark.edu