

Goal 11 Public Facilities and Services

□ Section 5, Administrative and Government Services, Energy, Communications, and Schools

BACKGROUND

Statewide Planning Goal 11: Public Facilities and Services

"To plan and develop a timely, orderly and efficient arrangement of public facilities and services to serve as a framework for urban and rural development."

Other public facilities and services in addition to sewer, water, transportation and surface water management are important to the well being of Lake Oswego's citizens. The impacts of land use actions can be significant on these "other" facilities and services, which include administrative and general government services, energy and communications and schools.

Administrative and General Government Services

The City of Lake Oswego provides administrative and general government services essential for providing public facilities and services and for conducting the business of municipal government. These services are provided by 11 City departments and divisions including the City Manager's Office, and Departments of Finance, Fire, Human Resources, Library, Maintenance Services, Municipal Court, Planning and Development, Police, Public Works, and Parks and Recreation. While some of these departments are not directly involved in land use planning, their ability to provide services is affected by growth and development. Therefore, it is important that impacts on administration and general government be considered when evaluating land use actions.

Energy and Communication

Several utilities provide energy and communication services to residents and business owners within Lake Oswego's Urban Services Boundary (USB). Portland General Electric provides electricity and Northwest Natural Gas provides natural gas to homes and businesses. US West and General Telephone Company Northwest provide telephone services. TCI and Columbia Cable Television provide cable television and music and data links to a variety of information bases.

Energy and communication services are essential to the community. The City of Lake Oswego coordinates all development applications and public works projects with utilities to ensure service can be provided and to avoid conflicts with existing and future public facilities and services.

Goal 11 Public Facilities and Services

□ Section 5, Administrative and Government Services, Energy, Communications, and Schools

Schools

Public education within the Urban Services Boundary is provided by the Lake Oswego School District. The district operates nine elementary schools, two junior high and two senior high schools. In addition to the public schools, five other private schools are located within the USB. These are: Marylhurst College; Christie School, a non-profit residential school for children with special needs; Touchstone School, a primary grade school and preschool, Our Lady of the Lake Catholic School, and the West Side Christian School.

Public school enrollment has increased commensurate with development activity. In 1994 the District had a total enrollment of about 6,902 students compared to 5,579 students in 1984, an increase of about 24 percent. However, in the foreseeable future it is unlikely the district will experience the enrollment gains that occurred from the mid to 1980s to early 1990s. This is due primarily to the lack of buildable land within the Lake Oswego USB as compared to other cities within the Portland Metropolitan Area. School District growth projections range from a low of 6,897 to a high of 7,806 students by the year 2000. It is expected that growth in the number of students will be evenly distributed within the primary, junior high and high school levels.

The Lake Oswego School District estimates it has the capacity to accommodate 700 additional students at the elementary level, 350 students in existing junior high facilities and 500 students in existing high schools. The District does not own undeveloped lands large enough to build new school facilities.

The 1993 State Legislature adopted SB 908 which was codified as ORS 195.110 which requires cities, counties and schools districts in “high growth areas” to develop school facility plans. “High growth” is defined as any district which “has an enrollment of over 5,000 students and had an increase in student enrollment of six percent or more during the three most recent school years. The purpose of the legislation is to include schools as part of a city or county’s land use planning responsibilities; provide standards to guide such efforts; and identify the respective roles and responsibilities of school district, cities and counties.

The Lake Oswego School District had a total enrollment growth rate in excess of 6 percent during the period 1991 through 1994. During this time the District grew from 6,516 to 6,902 students.

While the required facility plans are to be initiated by the City or County within which the district is located, the intent is for them to be cooperatively prepared. The resultant facility plan is to be adopted as an element of the jurisdiction’s comprehensive plan and must meet all of the requirements of the state’s land use laws.

Goal 11 Public Facilities and Services

□ Section 5, Administrative and Government Services, Energy, Communications, and Schools

Among other things, a school district which undertakes the facility planning effort must assess the capacity of its facilities to handle additional growth based upon “objective criteria” adopted by the school board prior to the assessment. A participating district must also assess improvements needed to bring existing schools up to the minimum standards and also evaluate alternatives to construction of new schools or remodeling.

The accessibility to education and its quality contributes to Lake Oswego’s quality of life. The City and the school district can cooperate in many ways, including coordination of land use actions and joint development of the required school facility plan to ensure continued quality of the school system.

Summary of Major Issues

The following are some of the issues and changed circumstances and conditions which were considered in the update of this element of the Comprehensive Plan:

- Other public facilities and services, including administrative and general government services, energy and communication, and schools are important to the well being of Lake Oswego’s citizens and are often affected by land use decisions.
- Coordination of the provision and installation of energy and communication services is necessary for economy and efficiency and to avoid unnecessary disruption of service.
- Student enrollment in the Lake Oswego School District has grown about 24 percent from 1984 - 94 and approximately 10 percent during the period from 1991 - 94.
- State law requires “high growth” school districts and jurisdictions within which they are located to develop a school facilities plan as part of the Public Facilities Plan.

GOALS, POLICIES AND RECOMMENDED ACTION MEASURES

GOAL

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.

Goal 11 Public Facilities and Services

☐ Section 5, Administrative and Government Services, Energy, Communications, and Schools

POLICIES

1. Ensure administrative and general government services are adequate to support the delivery of public facilities and services to the community.
2. Require energy and communication utilities to be provided to all development.
3. Require developers to establish, and ensure the preservation of easements necessary to provide energy and communication services.
4. Require new energy and communication utilities to be placed underground where practical.
5. Review all residential development proposals for potential impacts on the school system including the adequacy of existing schools and the need for new facilities.
6. Require safe and accessible transportation routes to schools.

RECOMMENDED ACTION MEASURES

- i. Provide adequate financial support for administrative and general government services.
- ii. Coordinate all public facility and capital improvement planning efforts and public works projects with area utilities to promote the orderly and efficient provision of services and to avoid conflicts and service disruptions.
- iii. Encourage local utilities to place existing utilities underground.
- iv. Coordinate the review of new development applications with local area utilities to ensure orderly and efficient provision of services.
- v. Encourage the Lake Oswego School District to develop a schools facility plan in coordination with the City's public facility plan.
- vi. Work with the school district to ensure safe access to schools through methods such as:
 - a. Pedestrian and bicycle paths and routes;
 - b. Traffic safety and management measures; and,
 - c. Traffic patrol and enforcement.

Goal 11 Public Facilities and Services

Section 5, Administrative and Government Services, Energy, Communications, and Schools

- vii. Coordinate the review of the Capital Improvement Program, Public Facility Plan, Comprehensive Plan amendments and relevant land use proposals with the school district.

Goal 11 Public Facilities and Services

**Section 5, Administrative and Government Services,
Energy, Communications, and Schools**

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