

Inspiring Spaces & Places

VISION STATEMENT

Our architecture and natural setting inspire people to live here. Development respects the physical environment and meets the highest quality of community design to preserve and foster the distinctive character and beauty of this special place.

EXISTING GOALS

Lake Oswego's 1994 Comprehensive Plan identifies two goals related to inspiring spaces and places: land use and urbanization.

Land Use

Existing Goal - *Community Design and Aesthetics*

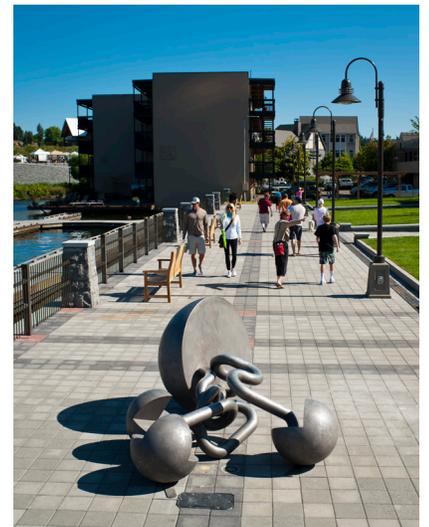
The City shall maintain and enhance the appearance and design quality of Lake Oswego.

WHAT WE'VE HEARD

The 2010 We Love Lake Oswego community survey which received 823 responses provided the following information:

- 87% of the respondents agreed with the following statement:
"Our built environment and natural setting inspire people to live here. The City is a regional leader, making conscientious decisions that protect our quality of life and unique place in the region. Development respects the physical environment and meets the highest quality of community design to maintain the distinctive character and beauty of this special place."
- 69% said they choose Lake Oswego for its "small town feel" and 65% for its "scenic beauty."
- 70% said that "connections to the lake, river, and hiking trails" is the most important aspect of the City's public spaces that should be maintained and improved.

At the October 2010 workshops citizens indicated that streetscapes (paving, benches, plants, etc.) and architectural quality are important ways to improve public spaces, provide a sense of privacy, comfort and to develop a unique sense of place.



PEOPLE, PLACES AND PROSPERITY

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.

People: *Land use planning promotes public health and safety.*

Places: *Effective land use planning supports great places to live, work and play.*

Prosperity: *Land use planning helps to secure a community’s future by helping ensuring coordinated development.*

BACKGROUND

- Lake Oswego is a largely developed, or built-out community.
- The impacts of small land divisions and infill development in established neighborhoods have been increasingly important.
- The region is known nationally for its compact urban form, integrated land use and transportation planning and other leading planning practices.
 - Within the region, Lake Oswego has a reputation for its exceptionally high quality of life.
- Effective planning in Lake Oswego must balance the desires of local residents to preserve Lake Oswego’s existing character with regional and statewide land use regulations with which local jurisdictions must comply.
- Two primary impacts of Metro’s 2040 Growth Concept and Urban Growth Management Functional Plan on land use planning in Lake Oswego are:
 - More intensive land uses in the city’s two primary commercial areas (downtown Lake Oswego and the Lake Grove Village Center commercial area), both of which are designated “Town Centers” by Metro. In the 2040 Growth Concept, “Town Centers” are described as compact, well-connected community hubs providing essential services for residents within a two- or three-mile radius.
 - Increased infill and redevelopment in established residential neighborhoods.

SOURCES

Draft Lake Oswego Housing Needs Analysis, City of Lake Oswego, 2011

Community Vision and Values Survey, 2010

Metro 2040 Growth Concept

Neighborhood Plans

Lake Grove Village Center Plan