

# Design & Development



## Where does this topic fit within the new Comprehensive Plan?

Hillsboro's updated Comprehensive Plan is organized around seven core topic areas. These core areas cover broad, interconnected subjects that help define and guide the future growth and development of Hillsboro.



Design and Development is one of the six topics within the **Enhancing Livability and Recreation** core area.



The full background report is available at [plan.hillsboro-oregon.gov/livability](http://plan.hillsboro-oregon.gov/livability)

Urban design and development together shape the environment in which Hillsboro residents, employees, and visitors experience day-to-day life. Good urban design combines planning, architecture, and landscapes that focus on people and improve their quality of life.

## Existing Activities

The City of Hillsboro has several community plans and projects that place a strong emphasis on design and development. Each area is unique and each plan utilizes a different set of urban design tools to create cohesive, efficient, and attractive neighborhoods with their own distinct character. What's missing is an overall vision for urban design that addresses the entire city.

## Issues, Challenges, and Opportunities

The issues, challenges, and opportunities relating to design and development in Hillsboro include:

- **Rapid Growth** — Hillsboro has experienced remarkable growth over the past several decades. While this has brought many positive benefits, including an expanded tax base and new community facilities, it also creates challenges. As Hillsboro grows into one of the largest communities in the region, it is increasingly difficult to maintain a sense of identity.



- **Wayfinding** — The current directional signage in Hillsboro is a jumbled array of sign types, colors, and configurations. The City is working to transition to a strategic and consistent city-wide wayfinding system over the next several years.
- **Complete Streets** — The streets of cities and towns are an important component of livability. In Hillsboro, some areas of low-density residential development are linked by busy, high-speed, multi-lane roadways that are not comfortable environments for all users.
- **Sustainability** — A number of new programs encourage and support sustainable design and development.

## Recommended Updates and Policy Considerations

Hillsboro’s existing Comprehensive Plan does not include a stand-alone design and development section. As such, each of the recommended design and development goals and policies are new.

Suggested Comprehensive Plan additions include the following:

- **Build compact, walkable places with distinct identities and design characteristics.**
- **Develop an urban design framework that reflects the unique character of neighborhoods and places.**
- **Pursue employment areas with innovative site design elements that contribute to the public realm.**
- **Plan, develop, and maintain an active public realm that enriches the lives and health of the community.**



### Find Out More

For more information, including upcoming events and opportunities to get involved, please visit [plan.hillsboro-oregon.gov](http://plan.hillsboro-oregon.gov).

Civic Center, 4th Floor  
150 E Main Street  
Hillsboro, OR 97123

503-681-6153