

Historic Resources



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.



Historic Resources is part of the **Enhancing Livability and Recreation** core area.



The full background report is available at plan.hillsboro-oregon.gov/livability

Historic and cultural resources provide important context for what Hillsboro was and what it will become. In addition to preserving local history and character, investment in historic and cultural resources enriches community identity and enhances Hillsboro's livability.

Existing Activities

In connection with Oregon Statewide Planning Goal 5, which requires local governments to adopt programs that will "protect natural resources and conserve scenic, historic and open space resources for future generations," Hillsboro addresses historic and cultural resources in existing Comprehensive Plan goals and policies.

The Historic Landmarks Advisory Committee (HLAC) plays a critical role in the preservation of historic and cultural resources in Hillsboro. HLAC, which was created under the Hillsboro 2020 Vision and Action Plan, provides public education on historic sites, makes recommendations to the

Planning Commission and City Council, offers technical and economic information to property owners, and develops local preservation financing programs.

Issues and Challenges

The issues and challenges affecting the success of historic and cultural resource management in Hillsboro include:

- the “passive destruction of a building through abandonment or lack of maintenance,” also known as demolition by neglect
- economic pressure to redevelop “country estates” originally located on large lots
- preservation code enforcement
- building community support for preservation
- lack of dedicated staff resources

Emerging Trends and Opportunities

There are a number of opportunities that the City could explore to improve historic and cultural resource preservation. These include:

- updating the Cultural Resource Inventory
- extending preservation grants
- supporting downtown revitalization programs
- revising the code to reduce enforcement issues
- providing educational opportunities for owners of historic sites
- cooperative efforts with the Hillsboro Historic Society
- creating community centers on City-owned historic and cultural sites

These opportunities can be enhanced by taking advantage of current trends in historic preservation, including:

- repurposing historic properties for purposes other than those for which they were originally built, also called adaptive reuse

- promoting preservation efforts through social media
- integrating historic preservation with other heritage and humanities groups



Recommended Updates and Policy Considerations

The Comprehensive Plan update provides an opportunity to address and resolve several issues related to maintaining and managing Hillsboro’s historic resources through implementation items and plan updates.

Recommended updates include the following:

- **Establish a specific Comprehensive Plan goal and accompanying policies that address the preservation of historic and cultural resources.**

Find Out More

For more information, including upcoming events and opportunities to get involved, please visit plan.hillsboro-oregon.gov.

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