



COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE TOPIC OVERVIEW

Natural Hazards



GROWING GREAT THINGS

Comprehensive Planning: The Hillsboro Way

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.



Natural Hazards is part of the **Promoting Health, Wellness and Safety** core area.



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

A thorough understanding of the potential impact of natural hazards in Hillsboro can help the City mitigate risks to human safety, property, and the environment.

Background

Hillsboro and its surrounding areas are subject to a variety of natural hazards, including earthquakes, landslides, volcanic activity, wildfires, droughts, floods, winter storms, and wind storms. Critical public facilities as well as City and regional infrastructure—including transportation routes, bridges, and utilities—are vulnerable to these potential hazards. The City’s Comprehensive Plan establishes policies that impact the vulnerability of people, property, and public facilities to natural hazards.

Issues and Challenges

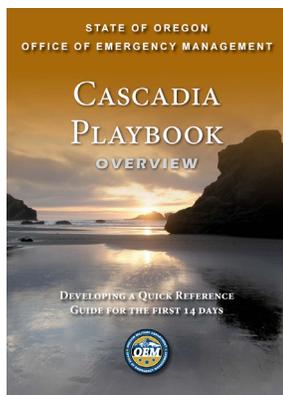
The current issues and challenges related to mitigating the impacts of potential natural hazards include:

- a limited approach to risk assessments, which does not evaluate or address the effects of hazards on all departments and processes within the City
- insufficient operational planning
- difficulty reaching and educating all segments of Hillsboro’s diverse and growing population

Emerging Trends and Opportunities

There are a number of opportunities for Hillsboro to reduce the City’s vulnerability to natural hazards. These opportunities include:

- **The Cascadia Playbook** — In 2015, the Oregon Office of Emergency Management updated *The Cascadia Playbook*, an emergency management tool designed to coordinate statewide disaster recovery efforts following a catastrophic event. Within the *Playbook*, each play, or step in the disaster recovery process, is accompanied by specific roles and responsibilities as well as a prioritized list of actions. The *Playbook* provides organizational clarity that can aid Hillsboro’s emergency planning efforts.
- **Resilience Planning** — Resilience planning is used to help cities plan for and quickly recover from disasters and hazard events. It involves identifying and implementing urban design, transportation, and other planning solutions that minimize the impact to human health and well-being following a disaster. The Oregon Resilience Plan identifies three priorities for resilience planning: assessing infrastructure, upgrading and retrofitting public structures, and upgrading lifeline transportation routes.



Recommended Updates and Policy Considerations

The Comprehensive Plan update represents an opportunity to advance Hillsboro’s efforts to prepare for natural hazards.

Recommended updates to Hillsboro’s Comprehensive Plan include the following:

- **Improve hazard planning coordination between public and private sector organizations.**
- **Update how programs, plans, and policies are impacted by hazards using current data.**
- **Support the preservation and maintenance of natural resources with consideration for natural hazard impacts, such as planting trees to mitigate impacts from windstorms.**
- **Enhance codes and policies that limit the impact of floods on people and property.**
- **Make the language of hazard preparation and response a regular part of the planning and permitting conversation.**
- **Support measures to protect historic and cultural resources from damage caused by natural hazards.**

Find Out More

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

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