

# Noise Management



**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.



Noise Management is part of the **Promoting Health, Wellness and Safety** core area.



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

Noise pollution can negatively impact quality of life and contribute to a number of health issues. The City can play an important role in managing excessive and harmful noise through policy, land use planning, and urban design.

## Background

Noise is a natural outcome of the daily activities that make Hillsboro a great place to live, work, and play. However, noise pollution can negatively impact quality of life and contribute to a number of health issues. While noise is unavoidable, the City of Hillsboro can play an important role in limiting excessive and potentially harmful noise through policy, land use planning, and design.

## Issues and Challenges

The City faces a number of challenges in its efforts to address issues related to noise management, including:

- **Lack of Data** — The City does not have a comprehensive noise management program, making it difficult to know whether noise pollution is a significant issue, where noise-mitigation efforts, should be focused, and what policies should be pursued.
- **Growth** — Hillsboro is growing faster than any other city in Washington County, which is itself the fastest growing county in the Metro region. With fast growth comes increased noise generated from additional traffic, construction, and industrial activity.
- **Subjectivity** — Individuals have different levels of sensitivity to noise and its intensity, frequency, duration, and time of day. This subjectivity presents a challenge when writing policies intended to limit noise disturbances in Hillsboro as a whole.

## Emerging Trends and Opportunities

There are a number of opportunities for Hillsboro to address unwanted, excessive, or harmful noise. These opportunities include:

- **Noise Mapping** — Noise mapping allows communities to identify where noise pollution is a problem, pinpoint primary noise producers, and plan

future development with an awareness of potential noise conflicts.

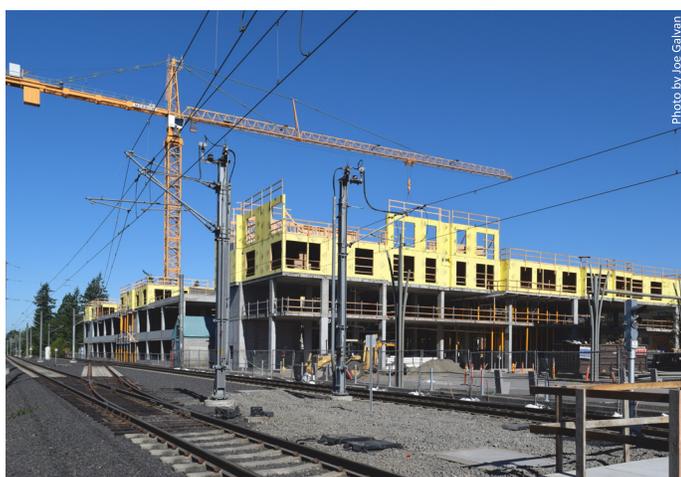
- **Railroad Quiet Zones** — The noise from train horns can cause considerable disturbance, especially between the hours of 10 pm and 6 am. The City could follow the Federal Railroad Administration guidelines for the establishment of a Railroad Quiet Zone, which would prevent train horns from being sounded at rail crossings in Hillsboro.

## Recommended Updates and Policy Considerations

The Comprehensive Plan update represents an opportunity for the City of Hillsboro to manage excessive noise through policy, land use planning, and urban design.

Recommended updates include the following:

- **Conduct periodic noise measurement, mapping, and monitoring exercises to support noise management efforts.**
- **Ensure compatibility between land uses by separating and buffering noise-producing and noise-sensitive land uses.**
- **Pursue the establishment of a train horn quiet zone in Hillsboro.**



### 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