

Police & Fire Services



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.



Police and Fire Services is part of the **Promoting Health, Wellness and Safety** core area.



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

Public safety is paramount to the viability of any City and is a foundation of strong communities. Effective police and fire services play a critical role in sustaining Hillsboro's future growth, livability, and prosperity.

Background

Hillsboro's current Comprehensive Plan considers police and fire services in the context of broader public facilities policies. As part of the Plan update, police and fire services will be broken out into its own topic area, reinforcing the importance of effective police and fire services in developing safe and livable communities, and reflecting significant public input that shows the value of public safety in the community. Goals and policies in this topic area are intended to address only the aspects of public safety that relate to land use planning and development; goals and policies will not generally address departmental operations or programming.



Issues and Challenges

Hillsboro faces the following challenges in providing effective police and fire protection:

- matching ongoing growth with service coverage
- demographic changes and aging populations

Emerging Trends and Opportunities

There are several opportunities for Hillsboro to improve public safety through land use and development policy. These opportunities include:

- **Consideration of Public Safety in the Design and Review of Development** — Coordination between the Planning, Fire, Police, and other departments when reviewing development proposals is critical to ensuring that new development can be adequately protected. There are a variety of measures that can be taken at the design and construction stages which can have a significant impact on public safety.
- **Addressing Service Challenges Through Incentives and Public-Private Partnerships** — One option for extending public safety services in new development and redevelopment would be to explore options to collaborate with the private sector to build new public safety capacities into new development.

Recommended Updates and Policy Considerations

The Comprehensive Plan update represents an opportunity to advance Hillsboro’s public safety efforts.

Recommended plan updates include the following:

- **Expanded policies to incorporate design efforts to improve public safety, including Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design principles.**
- **New policies to ensure that sites for new police and fire facilities are identified in connection with new development and redevelopment.**
- **More explicit policies to facilitate community policing, public engagement, and awareness.**
- **New policies to extend the City’s ability to respond to emergencies.**
- **New policies to allow the City and developers to creatively respond to public safety challenges in new development and redevelopment.**
- **Stronger policies to address safety in the design of transit stations, parks, and other public places.**

