

# NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATIONS

## *Frequently Asked Questions*

### ***What is a Neighborhood Association?***

In Bend, [Neighborhood Associations](#) are organizations formally recognized by the City of Bend as a forum for community members to address issues affecting their neighborhood, particularly relating to land use. Most Neighborhood Associations focus on maintaining and improving the quality of life for neighborhood members living in the city, increasing community member participation in local decision-making, and forming an effective partnership between the City of Bend and neighborhoods. Some Neighborhood Associations provide a space for community building events and neighbor-led projects and programs that endorse strong, vibrant and thriving Bend neighborhoods.

### ***What types of issues do Neighborhood Associations care about?***

Neighborhood Associations are the closest link between individual community members and the greater Bend community. For this reason, Neighborhood Associations can be concerned with any and all issues affecting their neighborhood members, including:

- Land use, or uses of property and zoning regulations.
- Neighborhood street safety, bikeable streets, connected sidewalks, access to public transit.
- Transportation projects and plans.
- Crime and/or wildfire prevention.
- Access to parks, schools, shopping, entertainment and restaurants.
- Art in the neighborhood, beautification projects.
- Community involvement in local decision-making.
- Community building and neighbor-to-neighbor interaction.

### ***How do I find out what Neighborhood Association I'm in?***

To find your Neighborhood Association, use the City of Bend's [interactive Neighborhood Association Map](#) and search for your address. Then visit the [Neighborhood Associations webpage](#), select your Neighborhood Association, and get connected! Most Neighborhood Associations have a registration process for members interested in being engaged on neighborhood issues and events.



## ***Is a Neighborhood Association different than a Homeowners Association?***

Yes! Use the table below to better understand the differences between a Neighborhood Association and a Homeowners Association.

	<b>Funding Source</b>	<b>Represents</b>	<b>Size</b>	<b>In City Code</b>	<b>Key Functions</b>
<b>Homeowners Association (HOA)</b>	Homeowner Dues	Homeowners	Subdivision or smaller area within a Neighborhood Association	No	Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions (CC&Rs) Architectural Review Committee Guidelines Design & Aesthetics Neighborhood Amenities
<b>Neighborhood Association (NA)</b>	City of Bend Tax Dollars	Homeowners, renters, people who run businesses or organizations	Bend is divided into 13 Neighborhood Associations of varying sizes	Yes, <a href="#">Bend Code Section 1.70</a>	Play role in Land Use Conduit between decision-makers and neighbors Community building

## ***Can I be a part of a Neighborhood Association if I'm not a property owner?***

Yes. In Bend, the definition of a Neighborhood Association member is outlined in [Bend Code Section 1.70](#) as any community member 18 years or older, renters, property owners, and any legal entity that operates a place of business, professional office, government agency or nonprofit institution, within the boundaries of a Neighborhood Association. Participation is voluntary and open to everyone who lives or works in the neighborhood boundary area.

## ***What do I do if I reside or own a business within the City limits, but do not fall within a Neighborhood Association boundary?***

Bend is growing fast! At the City, we recognize that some annexed [expansion areas](#) along the City's perimeter are located outside of the 13 existing Neighborhood Association boundaries. If you fall within these areas and are seeking Neighborhood Association representation, contact Makayla



Oliver, Community Relations Manager – Neighborhoods & Civic Engagement at (541) 323-8571 or [moliver@bendoregon.gov](mailto:moliver@bendoregon.gov).

### ***Can I volunteer with my Neighborhood Association?***

Absolutely! Neighborhood Associations are completely volunteer-run organizations, which means they are always looking for volunteers who can offer their skills and connections to the board. All of the neighborhoods operate differently and there are a variety of volunteer opportunities, from traditional board roles to managing a single aspect of operations, like social media, website design, newsletter creation, etc. Contact your Neighborhood Association board to see how you can volunteer!

### ***How is the City of Bend connected to Neighborhood Associations?***

Neighborhood Associations are independent organizations from the City of Bend. The City shows its commitment to Neighborhood Associations by formally recognizing them in the City's municipal code, and offering annual funding for association activities. Each year, the City requires that Neighborhood Associations wishing to continue with formal recognition submit an annual report describing their activities and accounting for the use of grant funds. Funding is determined by the annual budget available from the City, divided by the number of tax lots within each Neighborhood Association. [Neighborhood Association budgets](#) are tracked on the City's website.

### ***How else are Neighborhood Associations connected to the City of Bend?***

The Neighborhood Associations participate in an advisory committee to the Bend City Council. The [Neighborhood Leadership Alliance \(NLA\)](#) provides a direct and continuing means for Neighborhood Association member participation and input to the Bend City Council from a neighborhood and community lens. The committee consists of one member representing each of the 13 Neighborhood Associations. Committee members are recommended by the Neighborhood Association's board and appointed by the Mayor with consent of City Council. The committee is intended to be a conduit between Neighborhood Associations and the City of Bend by bringing neighborhood issues up to decision-makers and informing Neighborhood Associations and their members about potential changes that could impact neighborhoods.

