

Climate Friendly Areas Themes from Public Outreach – July 1-Nov. 30, 2023

Public comment on Climate Friendly Areas (CFAs) was gathered throughout the summer and fall of 2023. This document summarizes conversations and online comments. Engagement opportunities included: nine in-person pop-ups in neighborhoods throughout Bend, an online questionnaire, and an in-person and online open house with questions and comments available.

Opportunities to participate were promoted through social media, City newsletters, the project Interested Parties list and a press release. Engagement options were also announced during meetings with community partners, stakeholders and City Committees and Commissions. The equity focus group and CFA Work Group were also encouraged to let their networks know about ways to participate.

In-person events included hundreds of conversations and over 400 respondents to the online questionnaire. Community members that are choosing to participate are overwhelmingly supportive of the concept of walkable, connected neighborhoods with a mix of commercial and housing. The following themes have emerged and continue to be re-enforced regardless of the outreach format.

THEMES & OPPORTUNITIES

There is hope that designating CFAs will lead to better bike networks. Pedestrian connectivity is also wanted specifically safe crossings and access to daily needs (neighborhood commercial).

Supportive transit is needed.

Protecting “what we love about Bend” including natural resources and outdoor access.

A mix of housing options and income levels within CFAs.

Generally supportive:

TRANSPORTATION

- Overwhelming interest in improved bike infrastructure: safer and better-connected routes, expanded connectivity between routes/hubs, better maintained existing routes, winter maintenance, protected bike lanes.
- Interest in bike/ped only streets.
- Importance of transit in supporting CFAs: expanded routes and more frequency. Transit will help limit short car trips and helps people with mobility issues. Need for free shuttles/trams/eco-friendly transit.
- Need for regional and local connectivity: between CFAs and CFAs and the rest of Bend, safe routes between Bend/Redmond/LaPine (outside scope but could plan where those routes would connect locally).

NATURAL RESOURCES

- Protecting what we have: tree protection, natural resource protection, lessening impacts of development on environment and habitat, water protection and conservation. Prioritize trails, parks and natural areas.

- Supportive of incentivizing/requiring sustainable practices within CFAs: sustainable/zeroscape landscaping, water retention/grey water recycling/natural filtration, EV charging, limiting/removing parking and parking garages, asphalt removal, dark skies policies.

EQUITY AND ACCESS

- Interest in making CFA financially accessible to multiple income levels. Interest in affordable and work-force housing locating in CFAs and not luxury/high-end units only. Programs for homeownership, low-income and limited English speakers.
- Incentivize/encourage locating “daily needs”/small commercial in CFAs: grocery stores, childcare, health care.
- Consider accessory commercial and tiny homes.
- Hope for areas to create community.

LOCATION OF CFAs

- General support of using CFA designation as a tool including designating all of Bend. Support for using secondary CFA as a tool and allowing for neighborhood-scale commercial/CFA.
- Additions to CFA study areas including: NE/area around Butler Mkt. Rd., SE (near Alpenglow Park), Galveston/Newport, Midtown.
- For CFA locations the eastside generally (not just the candidate area) has overwhelming support. Extending the eastside candidate area to the hospital and adding neighborhood-scale CFAs have support in the SE and NE.
- More limited support for raising density and heights while considering “what we have” such as natural areas, access to trails and viewsheds.

Generally not supportive:

- Community members were concerned that residents were not asked if CFAs were wanted. The money could be better spent elsewhere.
- Old Mill is enough.
- The most concern is related to parking and wanting more parking.