

How Does the City Plan for Future Growth?

First thing to know: Oregon is different than other states

When it comes to city planning, Oregon is different. Unlike most other states, Oregon regulates how its cities are built. Cities must grow to protect farm, forest, open space, and recreation land. This is done through



urban growth boundaries (UGBs), which contain urban development. Think of a UGB as an invisible line around each city. Cities can only grow up to that point; beyond it, land remains rural, natural, or agricultural.

We plan based on forecasted population growth

As more people move to Bend and more children are born, our population grows. If you've lived here long, you've probably seen a lot of change. Our population increased by 392% between 1990 and 2020. The State of Oregon tracks this and forecasts future population growth for Bend. When Bend is projected to grow, we must plan for more houses and jobs for the next 20 years. Population forecasts estimate 155,806 to 167,332 people will live in Bend between 2045 and 2050. The state also requires Bend to plan for nearly 32,000 new housing units in the next 20 years at various prices and affordability.

What planning will be taking place over the next few years?

The City will complete a growth plan for the next 20 years, addressing housing, economic development, transportation, and climate. This project will include robust public engagement. The growth plan is a major update to Bend's Comprehensive Plan and an opportunity to shape Bend's future.

When the growth plan is completed, the next step is to implement the vision of these documents through projects and policy initiatives. This is prioritized every two years through the Council goal setting and budget processes.

Can't we just stop growth?

Per Oregon state law, Bend cannot stop growth – there is no way to prevent people from moving here or having more children. We have room to grow inside the City but might need to expand. We will continue to add housing and jobs inside our UGB and will likely need to expand in the future because we are a growing community.



How does Bend plan and manage its infrastructure, including transportation and water?

The City does long-range plans for water, sewer, and transportation to match our land use plans. These are regularly updated, and all projects around town are included in these plans. Most residents' homes and businesses are included to ensure safe and high-quality water, sewer, and transportation systems. These projects are funded through various sources, including grants and state money. Our



water plan shows we have sufficient water for the future, but additional conservation will be required. Our Transportation Systems Plan (TSP) formed the basis for current projects. In 2020, Bend voters passed Transportation Bond Measure 9-135 with 58% support. The community prioritized congestion and neighborhood safety, helping design the project list. A group of residents also prioritizes which projects get built sooner.

How do I get involved with the planning process?

Public involvement is critical in Oregon's land use planning. Many community members get involved when they see something they disagree with being built. The most effective time to have a say is during long-range planning projects, like a UGB expansion. In 2016, community members recommended to the City Council how to manage future growth by growing up in some areas, and

out in other areas. This was done through an update to Bend's comprehensive plan.

This plan, completed with heavy community input, ensures Bend has enough land for housing, jobs, schools, and parks. It also designates where growth should take place. New buildings in Bend are built according to this plan and other codes.

How does the City reach out and receive input?

When the City works on a plan, we involve the community through meetings, surveys, and events. Some specific projects require community notification and public input. All plans involve the community and are approved by City Council. The City also coordinates with other local organizations. Our growth and comprehensive plan are based on Oregon's Statewide Planning Goals. When the City updates its plans, the community determines how to balance these goals and meet state laws. New state rules around housing and transportation will also affect our future, requiring Bend to plan for housing at different price points and a transportation system that supports walking, biking, and driving to achieve climate goals.

