



EAST PORTLAND ACTION PLAN Multnomah County Executive Summary

The East Portland Action Plan (EPAP) acknowledges community strengths and supports existing efforts, while looking strategically at opportunities to improve livability and at policies to address some of the challenges facing East Portland. The EPAP committee was convened by the City of Portland, Multnomah County, and now U.S. Senator Jeff Merkley, for the specific task of providing “leadership and guidance to public agencies and other entities on how to strategically address community-identified issues and allocate resources to improve livability for neighborhoods in the East Portland Neighborhood Office (EPNO) coalition area.”



East Portland – generally east of Interstate 205, is a changing community that is home to 28% of the City of Portland population. Some of the fastest growing neighborhoods in the City of Portland are in East Portland and this growth is creating a transition from a suburban and semi-rural environment into a more urban community. People are moving to the area in part because of the supply of existing and new affordable housing and the reputation for high quality schools. Racial, ethnic, and cultural diversity has increased in recent years (surpassing that of other areas of Portland), offering exciting opportunities and the challenge of inclusive multilingual and cultural community building.

Unfortunately, this rapid growth is straining the area resources: lack of sidewalks; insufficient road ways; inadequate community services; need for localized commercial main streets; and underdeveloped school facilities. The design and quality of new housing is sometimes inconsistent with the desired neighborhood character and livable environments for families. Parks and green space are less prevalent than in other parts of Portland and established facilities are often sorely underdeveloped.



To address the need for East Portland improvements will require creative thinking and action specific to this area that has developed differently and at times separately from the remainder of the City (e.g. sidewalks were historically not required with development; increased housing costs in inner-Portland have lead to displacement of families to the more affordable neighborhoods of East Portland).

We need YOU to make the improvements identified in the East Portland Action Plan become real in our community! A copy of the complete 51-page or 25-page abbreviated EPAP document can be found at: www.eastportlandactionplan.org



Don't ask what the Action Plan can do for you; decide that you will work with us to make the actions and strategies become a reality. The **East Portland Action Plan group meets every fourth (4th) Wednesday of the month at 6:30 PM in the David Douglas School District Office, Board Room at 1500 SE 130th Ave.** (130th at SE Market between Division and Stark). Food is provided and with one week notice, childcare and language interpretation will be arranged. Lore Wintergreen, EPAP staff Advocate, can be reached at: 503.823.4035 or lore.wintergreen@portlandoregon.gov.



To help ensure equal access to City programs, services and activities, the City of Portland will reasonably modify policies/procedures and provide auxiliary aids/services to persons with disabilities. Call 503-823-4000 or the City's TDD at 503-823-6868, or the Oregon Relay Service at 1-800-735-2900 with such requests no less than five (5) business days prior to the event.

East Portland Action Plan

Together we can make the identified improvements become real:

The Action Plan was developed by the community for the community. Over an eight month process with the City of Portland Bureau of Planning and Sustainability, 268 action ideas were identified. The result contains **Strategies** and **Actions** that provide guidance and direction to public agencies, non-profit organizations, businesses and individuals to address the opportunities and challenges facing East Portland. **Funding for future actions will be determined based on agency and community priorities and budget allocations made available through your advocacy.**

We have already shown success:

- Four targeted graffiti removal days in neighborhoods east of I-205
- \$50,000 distributed in East Portland through the EPAP Grants Program
- The Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) used federal stimulus funds for new lighting on the I-205 multi-use path and got a \$416,436 grant to partner with Friends of Trees to “green” the corridor by planting hundreds of trees.
- EPAP representatives are now on several City of Portland Budget Advisory Committees, influencing how and where Portland’s money is spent.
- The following EPAP prioritized Action Plan items were funded by the City of Portland (to be eligible for “shovel ready” funding, a plan needs to be approved):



Expanded storefront improvement program for businesses (\$115,000)



Implemented Safe Routes to School + Traffic Safety improvements (\$60,000)



Planning for 122nd Ave. to create a more convenient, walkable neighborhood (\$30,000)



Planning “Gateway Green” (I-205/I-84) development of public space (\$45,000)



\$50,000 initiated a Powell Blvd. Improvement planning project that was matched by a \$330,000 ODOT grant



Hired an EPAP Advocate to support project implementation (\$125,000)

East Portland Action Plan

Actions and Strategies

The following are strategies identified in the East Portland Action Plan – each strategy includes a set of action items to be addressed by **Multnomah County (when MC is the lead agency, it is designated in the left-hand column)**.

HOUSING AND DEVELOPMENT POLICY

HD.4 *Review and assess public policies and incentives for housing development*

HD.4.1	Explore policies and mechanisms to address timing and funding of services when development occurs (including schools, parks, streets, etc).
HD.4.3	Review and assess housing development tax abatement benefits and impacts in East Portland; consider adjustments as warranted.

COMMERCIAL AND MIXED USE

CM.2 *Promote vital and healthy multi-use commercial areas*

CM.2.3	Scope projects and support pedestrian infrastructure improvements in business districts.
CM.2.7	Develop public spaces and community uses in commercial areas.

TRANSPORTATION

T.1 *Improve transit service throughout East Portland*

T.1.1	Develop prioritized list for improvements to existing transit stops.
T.1.2	Study potential to increase north-south lines and improve frequency of transit service to serve far East Portland neighborhoods.
T.1.3	Explore opportunities for expanded transit service and improved connections between East Portland neighborhoods and Columbia Corridor employment areas.
T.1.7	Expand City of Portland and TriMet partnership linking sidewalk improvements with transit stop improvements.

T.2 *Increase safety and convenience of walking throughout east Portland*

T.2.1	Prioritize East Portland schools for Safe Routes to School sidewalk and crossing improvements. (see T.7.1)
T.2.2	Study, identify and scope funding for pedestrian crossing safety improvements on Glisan, Halsey, Stark, Division, 122nd, and Foster.
T.2.3	Review policies and procedures to ensure pedestrian improvements concurrent with all new development.
T.2.4	Review policy: prioritize adding sidewalk connections over expanding/widening existing connections.

T.3 *Increase safety and accessibility of bicycling in East Portland*

T.3.3	Develop complete and more well-defined bike system plan for East Portland; consider/incorporate safety innovations such as divided bike lanes, "bike boxes", path systems.
T.3.4	Improve and promote Springwater Corridor trail as commuting route; consider adding trailheads/parking.

T.3.5	Provide bike outreach info with East Portland focus.
T.3.6	Assess bike safety issues in key areas - Mall 205, Lents, and Division Street; implement improvements.

T.4 *Improve safety and multi-modal function of arterial and collector streets throughout East Portland*

T.4.2	Implement Powell Boulevard Safety Improvements: 122nd Avenue to 136th Avenue.
T.4.7	Develop and implement safety improvement plans for collectors adjacent new development areas: 117th and 136th Avenues.
T.4.10	Initiate Sandy Boulevard street improvement planning; consider TGM grant to begin process.
T.4.15	Advocate to make improvements to Powell Boulevard (US 26) east of I-205 a regional priority.

T.5 *Improve the unimproved local streets in East Portland*

T.5.1	Develop best practices pilot project to accelerate local street improvements; explore funding options, design standards, criteria for qualification.
T.5.2	Develop information and outreach campaign to residents along unimproved streets to increase participation in Local Improvement Districts (LIDs).
T.5.3	Evaluate and modify policy and administration for building sidewalks on public streets during development process (address waiver of remonstrance issue).
T.5.4	Study and develop an alternative street standard for local streets in East Portland.

T.6 *Improve connectivity in East Portland*

T.6.1	Develop a complete and more well-defined future street plan for East Portland.
T.6.2	Develop priorities for decision-making on transportation improvements; consider connections to parks/open space/schools, "green street" design, public safety needs.
T.6.3	Initiate a Powellhurst-Gilbert connectivity and urban form study. (see H.6.3)
T.6.5	Institute policy and develop plan to provide accessible transportation options (sidewalks, streets, connections) for people with physical disabilities.
T.6.6	Acquire property and develop streets in Central Gateway.

T.7 *Foster equity in transportation decisions and services*

T.7.1	Prioritize East Portland schools in "safer routes to school" funding and implementation. (see T.2.1)
T.7.2	Identify and prioritize East Portland street improvement projects.
T.7.3	Prioritize transportation safety improvements at high-crash intersections.
T.7.6	Study impact of Urban Growth Boundary expansion on future traffic on Foster Road, Powell Boulevard and other key streets. Develop regional funding approach for necessary improvements.

PARKS AND OPEN SPACE

P.1 Increase schools/parks joint use facilities in East Portland

P.1.1	Expand partnerships between school districts and Portland Parks to increase joint use and expand recreation opportunities.
P.1.2	Develop and implement a school/parks master plan for key opportunity locations.
P.1.3	Explore partnership opportunities to create and sustain "community-center" activities at key schools.

P.2 Improve existing parks in East Portland

P.2.1	Seek private funding partnerships for parks improvements, including foundation grants, donations, etc.
P.2.2	Develop and improve facilities at East Portland parks that are currently undeveloped.
P.2.3	Improve Lents Park sports fields to optimize play time and children safety.
P.2.4	Expand community gardens throughout East Portland parks; continue partnerships with farmers markets and Oregon Food Bank.
P.2.5	Improve facilities that support multi-modal access to parks: bike storage, ADA-compliant and convenient paths, transit orientation.
P.2.6	Increase number of skate parks and other teen-oriented facilities at East Portland parks.
P.2.7	Prioritize funding for development of unimproved park spaces: Beech, Clatsop, Parklane, Eastridge, and East Holladay.

P.3 Improve existing trails in East Portland

P.3.1	Plan and develop Springwater Trailhead facilities at key locations.
P.3.2	Fill gaps and extend the Columbia Slough Trail.
P.3.3	Fill gaps and extend the Marine Drive Trail.
P.3.4	Explore feasibility of a mountain bike area on Powell Butte to reduce conflict with hikers/walkers.

P.4 Develop new parks and community facilities in facility-deficient areas throughout East Portland

P.4.1	Identify and fund a "community-built park" as per VisionPDX: pilot program in East Portland.
P.4.2	Study the need for an additional community center in East Portland.
P.4.3	Develop a community facility and/or outdoor pool in East Portland.
P.4.4	Continue planning and promotion of "Gateway Green" open area.
P.4.5	Purchase land for park development; prioritize neighborhoods with parks deficiency.
P.4.6	Consider and develop 'small-site' park standards and plan for East Portland.
P.4.7	Continue and expand installing park improvements on Water Bureau properties.
P.4.9	Prioritize acquisition and development of parks in existing underserved areas or where significant residential development is anticipated: Gateway, Powellhurst/Gilbert, MAX station areas.

P.5 Develop new multi-use trails and green corridors

P.5.1	Identify streets that can provide north-south connections for linear parkways that combine bike trails and walkways (such as 139th Avenue).
P.5.2	Develop the Sullivan's Gulch trail.

P.6 Create access to and develop facilities for water bodies

P.6.1	Develop a low-cost paddling facility near the I-205 bridge to access Government Island.
P.6.2	Consider, plan, and develop launch points along Johnson Creek.
P.6.3 lead	Create access to Fairview Lake/Mud Lake for light watercraft.
P.6.4	Develop access/easement plan to maintain access to Columbia slough and river as area develops.

NATURAL AREAS AND ENVIRONMENT

NA.1 Improve environmental function of urbanized areas and mitigate impacts

NA.1.3	Develop standards to maximize application of "green streets" to serve multiple neighborhood objectives: stormwater management, pedestrian safety, green space.
NA.1.4	Develop Citywide Tree Code initiative to address tree code and development issues.
NA.1.5	Expand school composting program.

NA.3 Increase public access to natural areas

NA.3.2	Develop opportunities for increased public access to BES/City-owned properties for passive recreation.
NA.3.3	Purchase land in the Lava Domes area to begin "Forest Park East."
NA.3.4	Support Zenger Farm outreach and wetland restoration programs.
NA.3.5	Develop and implement East Portland natural areas public education program to increase awareness and use (where appropriate).

NA.4 Attain environmental equity in East Portland

NA.4.1	Increase active and passive recreation space on par with citywide recreation space and best practices standards.
NA.4.2	Require incorporation of environmental sustainability practices for all projects receiving public funding.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND WORKFORCE TRAINING

EC.1 Develop and implement a comprehensive economic development plan and policy agenda

EC.1.1	Undertake a comprehensive assessment of East Portland's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats for economic development, including work skills profiles.
EC.1.4	Develop an advocacy agenda for promoting economic development in East Portland. Identify opportunities to influence public policy, planning, and funding decisions that affect economic development and investment in the area.

EC.4 Increase and promote workforce training and employment opportunities for East Portland residents

EC.4.2	Develop and build relationships between business community and other community organizations for mentoring, skill building, fundraising and development.
EC.4.3	Develop clearing house/program to connect East Portland residents with workforce training and education programs that lead to career track, living wage jobs.
EC.4.4	Develop a comprehensive plan to train, place and advance East Portland residents in career track, living wage jobs.
EC.4.5	Connect East Portland residents to family-wage employment outside of the area by identifying and removing barriers, such as limited transportation options.

EDUCATION INFRASTRUCTURE AND PROGRAMS

L.2 Increase availability of youth-focused programs

L.2.1 lead	Encourage needs-based funding for SUN schools - prioritize where indicators warrant resources (i.e., poverty).
L.2.2	Start "Mentor East" campaign with a focus on recruiting local seniors. Create alliance with other organizations such as Big Brother/Big Sister organizations to increase mentoring, especially within minority communities.
L.2.4 lead	Increase funding to after-school programs such as Boys and Girls Club, Police Activities League, etc.
L.2.5 lead	Increase access to community-based youth athletics; reduce barriers such as registration fees.
L.2.6	Develop a teen center in East Portland.

L.3 Strengthen stability and quality of East Portland K-12 schools

L.3.2 lead	Develop connections between high school students and higher education and workforce development, such as SUN schools' business consultants.
L.3.3 lead	Create a County service provider forum to develop student "wraparound" services plan for East Portland.

L.4 Increase the academic success of East Portland K-12 students

L.4.1	Include East Portland youth in education planning activities.
L.4.2	Identify at-risk students and develop targeted services, alternate education opportunities through community colleges.

L.7 Increase parental involvement in and access to public K-12 schools

L.7.1	Identify issues and develop program to reduce cultural barriers to school/parent interaction.
L.7.2	Provide bi-lingual, bi-cultural staff at schools with large immigrant populations to serve as parent involvement coordinators and liaisons.

L.8 Increase community library services and facilities

L.8.1 lead	Study library service needs and develop plan to increase branch Library services for underserved parts of East Portland.
L.8.2 lead	Explore restoring the library at Parkrose High School.

L.8.3 lead	Add book drops, activity center or small scale "storefront" or branch libraries to broaden service in the area.
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PUBLIC SAFETY

PS.1 *Develop a public safety “messaging” program to increase community policing efforts*

PS.1.1	Increase community reporting of livability crimes through non-emergency phone number: Multi-lingual “It’s OK to Call” campaign.
PS.1.2	Increase and broaden domestic violence outreach through culturally-specific messaging campaign.
PS.1.3	Expand community policing outreach to engage non-English/ethnic/minority and faith communities.
PS.1.4	Institute a "311" phone system that allows residents to place a single phone call for information and services.

PS.3 *Expand availability of gang preventions programs and equitable allocation of resources toward such programs*

PS.3.1	Audit resource allocation for gang prevention in East Portland - adjust based on findings.
PS.3.2	Increase resources for gang prevention focus on East Portland.
PS.3.3	Continue and expand inter-jurisdictional partnerships to ensure borderless crime-fighting.

PS.4 *Increase comprehensive, sustained graffiti prevention and clean-up programs*

PS.4.2	Use Multnomah County Corrections work crews for graffiti and garbage cleanup as appropriate.
PS.4.5	Develop youth fundraising and graffiti clean-up program - provide seed money to community groups for monthly clean-ups.

PS.6 *Increase public safety through design and physical improvements*

PS.6.1	Audit street lighting levels in key neighborhood crime “hot spots”; Identify needed improvements.
PS.6.2	Conduct Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) assessments for key high crime business districts; identify needed improvements including sidewalks.
PS.6.3	Make safety and aesthetic improvements along the Springwater Corridor, especially at trailheads.

HOUSING ASSISTANCE AND SAFETY NET SERVICES

SN.1 *Assist in stabilizing low income residents/families*

SN.1.1	Increase energy assistance for low income residents in East Portland.
SN.1.2	Pilot a rent assistance program to assist families to remain in one home throughout the school year.
SN.1.4 lead	Increase funding and outreach for home maintenance assistance to low income homeowners.
SN.1.5 lead	Develop new and expand existing weatherization grants program to fund energy efficiency upgrades in exchange for guaranteed rents.

SN.1.6 lead	Support safe, convenient, and cost-effective childcare throughout East Portland.
SN.1.7	Increase services for single, homeless adults in East Portland.

SN.3 *Increase support for independent elderly and disabled people*

SN.3.1	Create a good neighbor program through block captains, tailored to reach out to elderly and disabled residents.
SN.3.2 lead	Provide funding assistance for seniors to make energy efficiency upgrades.

SN.4 *Establish 'resident activities coordinators' at multi-family dwellings*

SN.4.1	Institute policy requiring ongoing provision of coordinator for publicly-financed housing properties.
SN.4.2	Develop mechanism to require or provide incentives for the hiring of a coordinator at existing multi-family housing, public and private.
SN.4.3	Develop recreation and interaction activities for younger multi-family housing residents.

SN.5 *Provide life skills training and education opportunities for East Portland residents*

SN.5.1	Institute the Portland Police Bureau's Project Clean Slate in East Portland and fund on an on-going basis.
SN.5.2	Develop an outreach program to parents to educate them on their rights to advocate for their children.
SN.5.3	Expand availability of English language learning and civics education classes for parents.

SN.6 *Promote healthy communities in East Portland*

SN.6.1 lead	Use Health Impact Assessments to evaluate and mitigate impacts of the built environment on public health in East Portland.
SN.6.2 lead	Increase information about health clinics in East Portland.
SN.6.3	Expand participation in schools/parks Summer Lunch Program.

COMMUNITY BUILDING

CB.2 *Empower and engage East Portland residents and businesses in civic decision-making*

CB.2.2	Host Elected Officials week or Leaders Forum in East Portland.
CB.2.3	Develop and hold leadership and civic engagement classes/programs for East Portland citizens to build capacity for participating in lobbying, advocacy, board participation, partnerships, etc.
CB.2.4	Develop an ongoing program to assess and improve East Portland's participation in City and County policy making and budget setting activities.

CB.4 *Create community gathering places in East Portland to increase community identity and pride*

CB.4.4	Support East Portland as the location for a citywide Multicultural Center.
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CB.6 *Strengthen and increase participation in neighborhood services*

CB.6.2	Develop and implement outreach program to residents typically underrepresented in East Portland neighborhood associations: renters, youth, disabled, diverse race and ethnicities, etc.
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CB.6.3	Create an advocate position to seek funding for livability improvements, neighborhood associations and groups.
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EQUITY

EQ.1 *Foster and equitable distribution of public resources for East Portland*

EQ.1.2 lead	Initiate county audit of resource allotment in East Portland - tax contribution/ use and service needs alignment.
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EQ.2 *Foster regional equity in the distribution of affordable housing*

EQ.2.1	Explore ways to balance regional affordable housing supply and promote fair share for different parts of Portland.
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EQ.3 *Implement Actions in the East Portland Action Plan*

EQ.3.1	Create an ongoing group to monitor EPAP progress and advocate for action.
EQ.3.2	Annual review of agency budgets vis a vis EPAP priorities.

