

Department: Community Services

Program Contact: Jim Clayton

Program Offer Type: Operating

Program Offer Stage: Adopted

Related Programs:
Program Characteristics:

Program Description

The County Surveyor's Office plays a vital role in maintaining accurate land records and ensuring responsible land development within Multnomah County. Work is guided by state law, which mandates several core functions. The office maintains and restores public land survey corner monuments – physical markers that define property lines. This is critical because all property descriptions in Oregon are tied to these survey corners. The County Surveyor's Office also serves as the central repository for survey records, requiring that all surveys establishing permanent property markers be filed with the office. This ensures a comprehensive and reliable record of land divisions and boundaries within the county. Finally, the office conducts thorough reviews of all land division plans, including subdivisions, partitions, and condominiums. This helps ensure compliance with state and local regulations and contributes to responsible development that addresses community needs.

The primary goal is to provide accurate and accessible land information to the public, promoting transparency and informed decision-making. The County Surveyor's Office maintains a comprehensive and reliable record so that all land development activities adhere to legal and ethical standards. This commitment to accurate information supports equity, ensuring everyone has access to the same property data. The office is a valuable resource for the community, providing expertise and assistance on property-related matters.

The office maintains a robust online records retrieval system that allows easy public access to critical land information. This system is essential for surveyors, developers, title companies, and anyone needing property data. The County Surveyor's Office also provides surveying support for capital improvement projects on county roads and bridges, contributing to mobility and access, community health and safety, and resilience by ensuring these projects are built on accurate and reliable property information. The office also offers surveying support and expertise to other County departments and local agencies, fostering collaboration and efficient project delivery. In all work, the County Surveyor's Office strives to be good stewards of public resources, reflecting a commitment to asset stewardship.

Performance Measures

Measure Type	Performance Measure	FY24 Actual	FY25 Budgeted	FY25 Estimate	FY26 Target
Output	Number of public land corner visits performed	139	100	130	100
Outcome	Outcome Percent of plats reviewed within 21 days	97.3%	95%	95%	95%
Output	Number of plats reviewed for approval	222	150	200	150
Output	Number of images added to SAIL website	1,123	1,000	1,200	1,000

Performance Measures Descriptions

The Surveyor's Office performs regular maintenance on over 1,000 public land survey corners on a roughly 10-year cycle, addressing other work on these corners as needed, and approves all land division plats in the county. Our goal to review plats within 21 days of submission represents an ambitious timeline allowing projects to move forward quickly. The Surveyor's Office makes survey-related records available to the public on our Survey and Assessor Image Locator (SAIL) website, adding new images weekly.

Legal / Contractual Obligation

The County Surveyor position is mandated by state statute. The duties of the County Surveyor are mandated by ORS Chapter 209, including those related to Public Land Corners. Plat review and approval are mandated by ORS 92.100 and ORS 100.115. Certain work regarding county roads is mandated by ORS 368.

Revenue/Expense Detail

	Adopted General Fund	Adopted Other Funds	Adopted General Fund	Adopted Other Funds
Program Expenses	2025	2025	2026	2026
Personnel	\$0	\$1,615,047	\$0	\$1,706,196
Contractual Services	\$0	\$50,000	\$0	\$29,999
Materials & Supplies	\$0	\$62,965	\$0	\$61,252
Internal Services	\$0	\$515,796	\$0	\$614,630
Unappropriated & Contingency	\$0	\$2,043,192	\$0	\$1,689,923
Total GF/non-GF	\$0	\$4,287,000	\$0	\$4,102,000
Program Total:	\$4,287,000		\$4,102,000	
Program FTE	0.00	10.00	0.00	10.00

Program Revenues				
Other / Miscellaneous	\$0	\$1,020,000	\$0	\$1,020,000
Interest	\$0	\$89,000	\$0	\$59,000
Beginning Working Capital	\$0	\$2,748,000	\$0	\$2,488,000
Service Charges	\$0	\$430,000	\$0	\$535,000
Total Revenue	\$0	\$4,287,000	\$0	\$4,102,000

Explanation of Revenues

This program generates \$310,699 in indirect revenues.

This program generates \$310,698 in indirect revenues. The County Surveyor's Office is self-supporting. All revenues are from user fees or charges for services. Maintenance and restoration of Public Land Corners make up the largest part of our program. Other/Misc Revenue consists of a fixed filing fee of \$475 per map filed in the survey records, a fixed recording fee of \$10 per recording of a property-related deed document, and Offset Project Overhead Revenue collected from working for Transportation Capital projects. Interest is an estimate of interest revenue earned on the BWC of \$2.49M. Service Charges reflect funds collected for the review of Condominium, Partition, and Subdivision plats, which are based on actual costs incurred and are estimated based on previous years and projection for FY 2026 work.

Significant Program Changes

Last Year this program was: FY 2025: 90012 County Surveyor's Office

No significant changes