



# Oregon Planning

Department of Land Conservation and Development  
(/lcd/OP/)

(/lcd/)

🏠 (/lcd/Pages/index.aspx) > Oregon Planning (/lcd/OP/Pages/index.aspx) > History of Land Use Planning




In order to help contain the spread of COVID-19, DLCD has closed its offices to the general public. Please contact us (/lcd/About/Pages/Staff-Directory.aspx) by email or phone. Read DLCD's Response to COVID-19 (/lcd/NN/Documents/20200407\_COVID-19\_DLCD\_Response.pdf).

☰ Site Navigation

## History of Land Use Planning

### Program History

Oregonians in the 1960s and '70s became concerned as they watched rapid population growth begin to take place around the state. Lawmakers responded with  Senate Bill 100 (/lcd/OP/Documents/sb100.pdf), which Governor Tom McCall signed into law in 1973. At that time, farming and timber harvesting were the state's largest industries and many Oregonians thought eventual development of land for new homes and industries would displace these economic engines. SB 100 tied local planning to a set of guiding statewide principles. The new law created the Land Conservation and Development Commission (/lcd/Commission/Pages/index.aspx) to craft the rules that guide the system.

People and the Land: An Oral History of Oregon's Statewide Land Use Planning Program  
(https://pdxscholar.library.pdx.edu/planoregon\_interviews/)

### Historical Milestones

#### Early 20th Century

Year	Milestone
1899	Oregon legislature declares 30 miles of beach as a public highway from Columbia River to south line of Clatsop County.
1913	Legislature amends 1899 law, and declares all beaches as a state highway.
1918	Portland adopts state's first land use ordinances.






- 
- |      |  |
|------|--|
| 1976 | On December 18, LCDC adopts goals 16-19, protecting coastal resources. Those goals became effective in 1977. |
|------|--|
- 
- |      |   |
|------|---|
| 1976 | On November 2, by a vote of 57% to 43%, the first ballot measure to repeal SB 100 and the Statewide Planning Program is defeated. |
|------|---|
- 
- |      |  |
|------|--|
| 1977 | On July 8, Gilliam County is the first county to have its comprehensive plan acknowledged. |
|------|--|
- 
- |      |   |
|------|---|
| 1978 | On November 7, another initiative to eliminate state oversight of local land use plans is defeated (61%-39%). |
|------|---|
- 
- |      |  |
|------|--|
| 1979 | Portland-area voters create "Metro," the first elective metropolitan council in the United States. Once again, Oregon leads the nation in progressive policies that are future facing and seek to control and plan land use development. |
|------|--|
- 






## 1980s and '90s

Year	Milestone
1982	Despite a deep recession that is blamed on land use planning, the third effort to repeal SB 100 is defeated (55%-45%). The following year, the legislature creates a process for the "periodic review" and update of local land use plans.
1983	Oregon legislature adopts major reforms to Oregon Land Use Law (ORS chapters 197 and 215), including revisions to the "exceptions process" and the EFU zone, and permitting the designation of marginal lands.
1986	Congress enacts the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area Act ( <a href="https://www.fs.usda.gov/main/crgnsa/about-forest">https://www.fs.usda.gov/main/crgnsa/about-forest</a> ).
1987	The Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area Act leads to the creations of the bi-state Columbia River Gorge Commission ( <a href="http://www.gorgecommission.org/">http://www.gorgecommission.org/</a> ). The mission of the CRGC is to: "Establish, implement and enforce policies and programs that protect and enhance the scenic, natural, recreational and cultural resources of the Columbia River Gorge, and to support the economy of the area by encouraging growth to occur in existing urban areas and allowing economic development consistent with resource protection."
1991	LCDC, with support from the Oregon Department of Transportation ( <a href="/ODOT/Pages/index.aspx">/ODOT/Pages/index.aspx</a> ) (ODOT), adopts the Transportation Planning Rule ( <a href="https://secure.sos.state.or.us/oard/displayDivisionRules.action?selectedDivision=3062">https://secure.sos.state.or.us/oard/displayDivisionRules.action?selectedDivision=3062</a> ). The rule creates a partnership program called Transportation and Growth Management ( <a href="/lcd/TGM/Pages/index.aspx">/lcd/TGM/Pages/index.aspx</a> ) (TGM), between DLCD and ODOT to enable the integration of land use and transportation planning.
1992	LCDC adopts amendments to Goals 3 and 4, permitting the identification and designation of high-value and important farm lands, and small scale resource (secondary) lands. Becomes effective August 7, 1993.
1993	Oregon legislature adopts a comprehensive bill to revise Oregon land use provisions for the protection of farm and forest lands, to permit lot-of-record dwellings on such lands, and directs LCDC to repeal its


(<http://www.rules.providing>) for the designation of small-scale resource lands (HB 3661).

Year	Milestone
1994	Metro adopts a 2040 plan, charting a long-term regional vision and framework for future land use plans. The plan designates a series of regional centers, town centers and other land use designations. The 2040 plan provides direction to local governments to change local plans and redirects regional planning and investments emphasizing more compact, pedestrian and transit friendly development within existing urban area, rather than continued expansions of the Metro urban growth boundary.
1997	Oregon Supreme Court upholds LCDC rules that protect high-value farmland adopted to implement HB 2661. (Lane County v LCDC)
1998	The  25th Anniversary ( <a href="/lcd/OP/Documents/25thanniv.pdf">/lcd/OP/Documents/25thanniv.pdf</a> ) of SB 100.

## 21st Century

Year	Milestone
2000	Oregon voters pass Ballot Measure 7 (54% - 46%) to compensate property owners when a government land use regulation causes a devaluation of private property. The Oregon Supreme Court overturns the measure because it would have changes more than one part of the Constitution.
2004	On November 2, Oregon voters pass Ballot  Measure 37 ( <a href="/lcd/OP/Documents/M37_voterpamphlet-11-2004a.pdf">/lcd/OP/Documents/M37_voterpamphlet-11-2004a.pdf</a> ) (61% - 39%). The measure provided that governments must pay owners, or forego enforcement by repealing, changing, or not applying restrictions, when certain land use restrictions reduce property value.
2005	Oregon legislature passes Senate Bill 82 (  The Big Look ( <a href="/lcd/OP/Documents/Big_Look_Report.pdf">/lcd/OP/Documents/Big_Look_Report.pdf</a> )), creating the Oregon Task Force on Land Use Planning. The task force is charged with conducting a comprehensive review of the Statewide Planning Program and making recommendations to the 2009 Legislature for any needed changes to land-use policy.
2005	On October 14, Marion County Circuit Court Judge Mary Mertens James finds Measure 37 to be unconstitutional on several grounds. (MacPherson et al v Department of Administrative Services, et al)
2006	On February 21, the Oregon Supreme Court overturns Judge James' decision and reinstates Measure 37.
2007	On November 6, Oregon voters pass  Ballot Measure 49 ( <a href="/lcd/OP/Documents/M49_voterpamphlet-11-2007_vp.pdf">/lcd/OP/Documents/M49_voterpamphlet-11-2007_vp.pdf</a> ) (62%-38%). Measure 49 modifies Measure 37, clarifying private landowners' rights to build homes; extending rights to surviving spouses; limiting large developments; and protecting farmlands, forestlands, and groundwater supplies.
2011	Oregon's Land Conservation and Development Commission adopts  Recommendations on Greenhouse Gas Reduction Targets ( <a href="/lcd/OP/Documents/GHGTTargets_trac_report_to_lcdc.pdf">/lcd/OP/Documents/GHGTTargets_trac_report_to_lcdc.pdf</a> ) required by Senate Bill 1059 (2010) and House Bill 2001 (2009) direct that set targets for metropolitan areas to plan for reductions in greenhouse gas emissions from cars and light trucks.
2013	The Oregon Legislature passes  HB 2253 ( <a href="/lcd/OP/Documents/HB2253_2013_Enrolled.pdf">/lcd/OP/Documents/HB2253_2013_Enrolled.pdf</a> ), a law providing for a new population forecasting process through Portland State University. Population forecasting relieves local governments from having to perform this expensive and technical task when



- 
- 2015 On January 15, DLCD releases "Preparing for a Cascadia Subduction Zone Tsunami: A Land Use Guide for Oregon Coastal Communities," which is unique in its effort and referenced by coastal communities around the world.
- 
- 2015 On December 4, LCDC adopts new rules regarding the simplification of the Urban Growth Boundary Amendment Process. These rules implement related legislation enacted by the 2013 Oregon Legislature ( [HB 2254 \(/lcd/OP/Documents/HB2254\\_Enrolled.pdf\)](/lcd/OP/Documents/HB2254_Enrolled.pdf)), codified as ORS 197A). The rules are effective January 1, 2016.

## New Legislative Land Use Actions

Each legislative session, new legislation is passed that has enduring outcomes for our land use system. Most changes are small, but some are significant. Significant milestones like those above will be included in the department timeline as they occur. Minor legislative actions are captured in the DLCD Legislative Report, written

after the end of a legislative session. These reports are written to inform stakeholders and counties of land use related bills that might require a city or county to update its code for compliance. Go to the Legislative Information (</lcd/NN/Pages/Legislative-Updates.aspx>) page to see the report and other related information.

## Contact Us

Department of Land Conservation and Development  
635 Capitol Street NE Suite 150  
Salem, OR 97301

---

Phone: 503-373-0050

---

Email Us (<mailto:dlcd.info@state.or.us>)

---

Staff Directory (</LCD/About/Pages/Staff-Directory.aspx>)

## Links

Calendar (</LCD/NN/Pages/Public-Meetings.aspx>)

---

Newsroom (</LCD/NN/Pages/Newsroom.aspx>)

---

Job Openings ([https://oregon.wd5.myworkdayjobs.com/SOR\\_External\\_Career\\_Site](https://oregon.wd5.myworkdayjobs.com/SOR_External_Career_Site))

## Explore

Association of Oregon Counties (<http://oregoncounties.org/>)

---

League of Oregon Cities (<http://www.orcities.org/Home/tabid/6700/language/en-US/Default.aspx>)

(<http://www.oregon.gov>)

 [Land Use Board of Appeals \(LUBA\) \(http://www.oregon.gov/LUBA/Pages/index.aspx\)](http://www.oregon.gov/LUBA/Pages/index.aspx)



[Oregon Legislative Information System \(OLIS\) \(https://olis.leg.state.or.us/\)](https://olis.leg.state.or.us/)

## About Oregon

[Oregon.gov \(https://www.oregon.gov\)](https://www.oregon.gov)

[State Directories \(https://phonebook.dasapp.oregon.gov\)](https://phonebook.dasapp.oregon.gov)

[Agencies Listing \(https://www.oregon.gov/pages/a\\_to\\_z\\_listing.aspx\)](https://www.oregon.gov/pages/a_to_z_listing.aspx)

[Accessibility \(https://www.oregon.gov/pages/accessibility.aspx\)](https://www.oregon.gov/pages/accessibility.aspx)

[Privacy Policy \(https://www.oregon.gov/pages/terms-and-conditions.aspx\)](https://www.oregon.gov/pages/terms-and-conditions.aspx)

[Supported Browsers \(https://www.oregon.gov/pages/supported-browsers.aspx\)](https://www.oregon.gov/pages/supported-browsers.aspx)

[↑ Back to Top](#)

Select Language ▼

Powered by [Google Translate \(https://translate.google.com\)](https://translate.google.com)