

## **Character of the Area**

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Have you ever sat on your porch in the early evening hours after a long day of work? When the hustle and bustle of the day has finally slowed down and you've a chance to debrief, reflect and relax from the day's events? A place of solitude when the evening breeze can only be enhanced by the sounds of nature it carries with it? A mile away, the neighbors dog barks. A horse clops along the rural roadway. The evening solitude is broken with a backyard party and friendly laughter. Walking to pick up the mail, a pair of young bicyclers are chatting away on a casual summer ride politely acknowledge your presence with a friendly smile. Local runners pass them up as they feel the freeness of space and peace. And all of these are still enveloped with the sounds of silence.

This is not a movie or a book description. This is the tranquility of the community and specifically the street on which we live and work. A safe harbor from the pace of the cities and towns in the distance. A place that has been protected, until now, by the zoning codes put in place by Multnomah County and Metro. Limited growth and type of activity has been at the core of this protection. For decades, Multnomah County has insured this community, supported by resident-voted zoning, that it would protect the nature of this peaceful, rural lifestyle.

The Meyer family purchased land along Dodge Park and Carpenter Lane in the 1920's and began its union with the land. Strawberries and cattle were raised here. Those crops have long been replaced with one of Oregon largest commodities, nursery stock. The community was farmland then, and for the most part, remains as such.

Though the products have changed, the relationship with the land has not changed. There is a respect for it that cannot be understood by urban dwellers. The purity and simplicity of nature, the soil, the habitat, and of course, the lifestyle. Mornings start with a herd of deer eating apples fallen from our trees. Bear, elk and coyote prints spatter the fresh garden soil. At days end, the expansive night sky sparkles like jewels. Once prostituted to industrial use, these will be gone forever, never to return. A 45-acre industrial plant cannot blend into this type of community in anyone's imagination or movie script, let alone in reality.

The character of this rural community can best be described only through images and sounds. It is more than a few lines on a map, so impartial and one dimensional. It has color and texture, hills and valleys. It has streams and dirt, wildlife and human life, all existing in reasonable harmony. I implore you to watch a short video, linked below and created to give a sense of what the community encompasses. To get a true understanding of how it looks and sounds, and then imagine for one moment, interjecting a 45+ acre industrial plant right in the middle, complete with lights and the buzz of industry, 24/7.

So, to ask the question, would an industrial plant built in a rural community affect the character and lifestyle of the community, almost seem rhetorical, unless one is devoid of the experience of living in such a community. For those, there is no value in this most precious part of the Oregon experience, living in community with the land. But, for those of us that choose to embrace the lifestyle, allowing an industrial plant to pillage a rural community is counter to what Oregonians have held so precious and fought so hard to protect.

We urge you to deny the land use application for the Portland Water Bureau Treatment Plant on Carpenter Lane, and we respectfully submit images showing the nature of the community in its communal habitat

Video submission: [https://youtu.be/RbKeMa\\_t8nc](https://youtu.be/RbKeMa_t8nc)

Sincerely,  
Doug and Pat Meyer