

Existing Comprehensive Plan Goal Statements, Objectives, and Policies & Vision Statements - Block 3: Natural Resources

Current Comprehensive Plan Language	Is the Current Language Obsolete, Outdated, Redundant or still Relevant?	What is Some Potential Language to Improve/Replace Existing Policy?	Are there related Vision Goal Statements or Actions or Other City Plan Policies that Should be Incorporated/Added?	What are Examples of Good Policy Language from Other Cities' Comprehensive Plans?
Chapter 3 – Environment and Natural Resources				
<p>OPEN SPACES, SCENIC AREAS, AND NATURAL RESOURCES ELEMENT GOAL STATEMENT: To conserve open space and protect and enhance natural and scenic resources in order to create an aesthetically pleasing urban environment, while preserving and enhancing significant natural resources.</p>	Still relevant.	The urban environment is about more than aesthetics. Conservation, protection, and enhancement of natural resource areas also provide public health benefits.		
<p>Objective #2 – Natural Resources To preserve and maintain important natural habitats and vegetation by protecting and enhancing major drainageways, springs, existing wetlands, riparian areas, water bodies, and significant tree and vegetative cover while retaining their functions and values related to flood protection, sediment and erosion control, groundwater discharge and recharge, aesthetics, education, recreation, vegetation, and wildlife habitat. Regulate development within designated water bodies, riparian areas, wetlands, uplands, and drainage areas.</p>	Still relevant	Consider adding language/policies that discuss restoration.	<p><i>Goal Statement Planet 1: The entire city nurtures a connected canopy of trees planted and stewarded by its residents. Smart and focused development honors and prioritizes life-sustaining natural resources.</i></p> <p><i>Planet 1.1: Implement city programs, incentives and development code amendments that promote sustainable development and help to better integrate the built environment and natural environment.</i></p> <p><i>Planet 1.4: Develop a strong tree ordinance that incentivizes tree protection, has equitable tree replacement standards, and provides adequate flexibility for property owners.</i></p> <p><i>Planet 2.1: Develop a Natural Resource Plan and examine funding mechanisms for the restoration of Kellogg and Johnson Creeks and the removal of the Kellogg Dam.</i></p> <p><i>Planet 2.2: Implement a plan and funding strategy for stormwater improvements that focuses on natural stormwater management and ensures that by 2040 all stormwater is treated before it is discharged into our creeks and river.</i></p>	<p>Hillsboro CP: <u>(NR) GOAL 1 ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY.</u> Protect and enhance the function, quality, and diversity of the City’s natural resources and ecosystems. <u>(NR) GOAL 2 FISH & WILDLIFE HABITAT.</u> Protect habitat areas for fish and wildlife species that live and move through the City. <u>(NR) GOAL 3 WATERSHEDS.</u> Support healthy watersheds and resilient floodplains. <u>(NR) GOAL 4 URBAN FOREST.</u> Support the role of trees in enhancing the ecological health, attractiveness, and livability of the City. <u>(NR) GOAL 5 REGULATORY FRAMEWORK.</u> Establish a sensible, balanced regulatory framework that protects natural resources while supporting development. <u>(NR) GOAL 6 COMMUNITY STEWARDSHIP.</u> Promote natural resources as shared and critical community assets.</p>
<p><u>Policy 1.</u> Protect designated natural resources and their associated values through preservation, intergovernmental coordination, conservation, mitigation, and acquisition of resources.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notify and coordinate review of development proposals and plans within natural resources with affected State, local, and federal regulatory agencies. • Develop a review process for development within natural resources, which requires mitigation or other means of preservation of natural resource values. • The City shall pursue funding for the acquisition, protection, or enhancement of natural resources through private 	Still relevant, although we lack programs to implement the intent of some of these policies and others have been completed (second bullet)	<p>More discussion of development impacts on natural resources and how to minimize those impacts. Create policies with implementation actions/policies to address the matter (i.e. tree ordinance).</p> <p>Should we place more responsibility on developers, as opposed to having to rely on private environmental groups, federal or state agencies, or local group.</p>	<p><i>Planet 1.4: Develop a strong tree ordinance that incentivizes tree protection, has equitable tree replacement standards, and provides adequate flexibility for property owners.</i></p> <p><i>Planet 1.1: Implement city programs, incentives and development code amendments that promote sustainable development and help to better integrate the built environment and natural environment.</i></p>	<p>Hillsboro CP: <u>POLICY NR 1.3 Design with nature.</u> Support site development and design practices that incorporate and promote natural ecosystem elements, including native trees and vegetation, minimize effects on natural resources, and that avoid the degradation or loss of wetland, watershed, and ecosystem services. <u>POLICY NR 5.5 Flexible development options.</u> Provide flexibility in the division of land, the siting and design of buildings, and design standards as appropriate to reduce the impact of development on environmentally-sensitive areas and to retain healthy native and beneficial vegetation and trees.</p>

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<p>environmental groups, federal or State agencies, or local groups.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regulate activities within natural resources that may be detrimental to the provision of food, water, and cover for wildlife. 		<p>Consider incentivizing uses that give back to nature (e.g. living buildings, urban agriculture/community gardens, etc.)?</p> <p><i>TS: "Regulate activities within natural resources that may be detrimental to the provision of food, water, and cover for wildlife." → Stronger/more specific language to be committal about the city's stance on environmental health and sustainability. Incorporate language from vision statements above in updated policies.</i></p> <p>Update third bullet as needed to ensure it still reflects current policy or practice.</p> <p>Consider re-wording last bullet to incorporate more contemporary policy language.</p>		<p><u>POLICY NR 5.7 Low impact development and best practices.</u> Promote the use of low impact development practices, habitat-friendly development, and green infrastructure, where appropriate.</p> <p><u>POLICY NR 5.9 Efficient regulations and processes.</u> Create permit application processes that emphasize efficiency, standardize data collection and mapping requirements, minimize the use of jargon, and include documentation or educational materials to aid applicants.</p> <p><u>Tigard. Nat Resources Chapter. Policy 3.</u> The City shall provide options to conventional construction and site planning techniques, and incorporate sustainable and low-impact building and site planning technologies into City codes and standards as they become available.</p> <p><u>Multnomah Co. Policy 5.2</u> Protect natural areas from incompatible development and specifically limit those uses which would significantly damage the natural area values of the site.</p>
<p><u>Policy 2.</u> Provide protection to important wetland and water body areas through designation of riparian area buffers between natural resources and other urban development activities. Restrict non-water dependent development within the riparian buffer area.</p>	<p>The first half is still relevant, although we have already done the designation and need to now focus more on enforcement and regulation. We don't restrict non-water development uses unless they are in Greenway.</p>	<p>Revise policy language to reflect status – i.e., revise "through designation" to "through continued implementation" or something similar.</p>		<p><u>Hillsboro POLICY NR 3.1 Floodplain management.</u> Manage floodplains to protect and restore associated natural resources and functions, and to minimize the adverse impacts of flood events.</p> <p><u>Multnomah Co. Policy 5.6</u> Protect vegetated riparian corridors in order to maintain their water quality functions including the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Providing shade to maintain or reduce stream temperatures to meet state water quality standards; Supporting wildlife in the stream corridors; Minimizing erosion, nutrient, and pollutant loading into water; Maintaining natural hydrology; and Stabilizing slopes to prevent landslides that contribute to sedimentation of water.
<p><u>Policy 3.</u> Maintain and improve water quality of wetlands and water bodies by regulating the placement and design of stormwater drainage facilities.</p>	<p>Still relevant.</p>	<p>Consider expanding to include other means of controlling runoff like bioswales. Either use broader language or detail in the policy what "stormwater drainage facilities" are so that grey infrastructure isn't always utilized. Maybe use policy to</p>		<p><u>Multnomah Co. Policy 5.11</u> Protect water quality of streams by controlling runoff that flows into them.</p> <p><u>Multnomah Co. Policy 5.13</u> Update erosion and stormwater management regulations to include Low Impact Development (LID) standards to reduce the impact</p>

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		prioritize use of green stormwater management techniques.		of built areas, promote the natural movement of water within an ecosystem and better protect riparian areas, streams, wetlands, and watersheds.
<p><u>Policy 4.</u> Protect existing upland areas and values related to wildlife habitat, groundwater recharge, and erosion control.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage the development of open spaces and increased vegetation for wildlife habitats. • Protect steep slopes from erosion through the use of vegetation. • Provide protection between the resource and other urban development. 	Still relevant, although we don't have code for steep slopes.	Expand to include other methods of preservation of upland areas.		
<p><u>Policy 5.</u> The City will continue to work with Metro and other jurisdictions to establish and implement drainage plans and policies for Johnson Creek, designated by Metro as an area of Significant Environmental Concern.</p>	Outdated. Not sure what some of it means, including the Metro area of Significant Environmental Concern.			<p><u>Multnomah Co. Policy 5.12</u> Limit visible and measurable erosion from development in substantial compliance with the water quality standards of Title 3 of the Metro Urban Growth Management Functional Plan.</p> <p><u>Multnomah Co. Policy 5.18</u> Designate as areas of Significant Environmental Concern, those water areas and adjacent riparian areas, streams, wetlands, and watersheds that warrant designation as a protected Goal 5 resource or have special public value in terms of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Economic value, including ecosystem services value (the benefits people derive from ecosystems, including but not limited to: nutrient recycling, air purification, climate regulation, carbon sequestration, water purification, food, temperature regulation, and aesthetic experience); 2. Natural area value (areas valued as habitats for plant, animal or aquatic life, or having a state or federally listed plant or animal species); 3. Recreation value, where compatible with underlying natural area value; 4. Educational research value (ecologically and scientifically significant lands), or; 5. Public safety (municipal water supply watersheds, water quality, flood water storage areas, vegetation necessary to stabilize river banks and slopes).
<p><u>Policy 6.</u> Maintain and improve existing stormwater detention and treatment standards to ensure that the impact of development does not degrade water quality and wildlife habitat.</p>	Still relevant		<p><u>Planet 2.2:</u> Implement a plan and funding strategy for stormwater improvements that focuses on natural stormwater management and ensures that by 2040 all stormwater is treated before it is discharged into our creeks and river.</p>	
<p><u>Policy 7.</u> Provide protection to inventoried natural resource sites currently outside the City limits as these sites are annexed.</p>	Still relevant	Is this policy language still needed? How is this implemented?		

Big Ticket Questions	What is Missing?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In what manner and level of detail should urban forestry be integrated into the Comprehensive Plan? Some cities—such as Hillsboro and Portland—have incorporated urban forestry as a distinct policy sub-group within the natural resource or environmental health chapters of their Comp Plans. How can the Comp Plan ensure that trees are seen as necessary components of livability in the Milwaukie community? Because of the differences between developed property, streetscapes, parks, and other areas, Milwaukie’s urban forest should not be viewed as a single unit for management purposes, it should be integrated. • How can the City connect urban forestry goals with related Statewide Planning Goal 5 requirements, including protection of upland forest habitat? The City should consider possible responses including a Goal 5 resources inventory, ESEE analysis, protection measures, land use policies, or administrative decisions. • What is the best approach to achieving the City’s 40% tree canopy goal? Should it focus planting and protections in higher value areas (e.g., natural resource areas), in areas with less existing canopy, or in under-served areas to address inequity in canopy cover? Or should the City apply a consistent approach to tree planting and protections across all areas? The Urban Forest Management Plan recommends actions that align with each of these approaches, but the City may have to prioritize strategies based on available resources. • How should Comprehensive Plan policies emphasize protection and integration of natural resources into new and existing development, while also balancing competing goals regarding housing and economic development, in order to best guide future development around environmentally sensitive areas? Being holistic and integrating goals is essential. • The City should examine the lens through which it sees interactions between natural resources and development, and consider how that relationship is expressed in local policies. Natural resources may pose a challenge to development, but development and the built environment is a massive challenge to natural systems, with the potential of changing them irreversibly. • City rights-of-way are currently exempt from natural resource protections. Is that appropriate, or should these publicly-owned areas be subject to similar limitations as private property? How should the Comp Plan connect its goals and policies around climate change with those for natural resources? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tree Preservation - Urban forestry and tree protection has been a growing concern and topic of discussion amongst Oregon jurisdictions. The City recently adopted an Urban Forest Management Plan with robust goals for tree protection. The importance of tree preservation and urban forestry should be emphasized in the comp plan policies, and urban forestry goals should be connected to Goal 5 requirements for Natural Resources. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Examples: Hillsboro Urban Forest Policies <i>POLICY NR 4.1 Urban forest. Promote efforts to improve the quantity, quality, and distribution of Hillsboro’s urban forest through plans and investments.</i> <i>POLICY NR 4.2 Tree preservation. Support the preservation of viable specimen trees, mature groves, and forested areas where appropriate.</i> <i>POLICY NR 4.3 Resiliency. Facilitate use of local and climate resilient native trees and vegetation that are consistent with the area’s ecosystem, particularly within urban habitat corridors.</i> <i>POLICY NR 4.4 Urban tree regulations. Explore and review alternative best practices, including additional policies, codes, and standards, before considering establishing regulations related to urban trees.</i> • Equity/access of natural resources to all – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Policy Example: Hillsboro <i>POLICY NR 6.2 Equity. Prevent or reduce inequities in access to and benefits from natural resources and open spaces, through plans and investments.</i> • Ecosystem services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Policy Example: Portland <i>Policy 7.3 Ecosystem services. Consider the benefits provided by healthy ecosystems that contribute to the livability and economic health of the city.</i> • Habitat connectivity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Policy Example: Portland <i>Policy 7.10 Habitat connectivity. Improve or support efforts to improve terrestrial and aquatic habitat connectivity for fish and wildlife by using plans and investments, to:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Prevent and repair habitat fragmentation.</i> • <i>Improve habitat quality.</i> • <i>Weave habitat into sites as new development occurs.</i> • <i>Enhance or create habitat corridors that allow fish and wildlife to safely access and move through and between habitat areas.</i> ○ • <i>Promote restoration and protection of floodplains.</i> • Educating the community to improve awareness of importance of preservation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Hillsboro. <i>POLICY NR 6.5 Educational opportunities. Support opportunities to use natural resources as informative and educational resources to spread awareness of local natural resources and build community stewardship.</i> • Periodic Updates – periodic assessment of preservation policies and programs, ensure mapping is up to date, tracking and implementing state, federal, and regional policies. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Example: Tigard Nat Resource. <i>Policy 5. The City shall utilize periodic assessments of the effectiveness of the City’s programs and regulatory structures to guide future decisions regarding natural resource protection, management, and restoration.</i>