Who We Are

- Friends of Marion County was organized in 1998 to watch over land use decisions in rural and urban Marion County.
- We are a 501(c)3 non-profit, non-partisan volunteer organization. We do not endorse or oppose political candidates.
- We are affiliated with 1000 Friends of Oregon, which was founded in 1975 to enforce land use laws, encourage local governments to make sound planning decisions, protect farm and forest lands, and improve urban livability.

What We Do

- Friends of Marion County works to safeguard our farm and forest lands, and keep their economies strong for the future.
- We support smart development and work to make existing communities livable by opposing wasteful sprawl and unnecessary highway projects that threaten the integrity of our towns.
- We monitor compliance by builders and developers with state and local land use planning requirements.
- We encourage public participation in the land use planning process to determine where new urban growth should go, how it should be designed, and how best to protect our rural lands.
- We provide public information and education, as well as advocacy before local planning bodies and elected officials.

Please join Friends of Marion County and help to save our home.

Marion County’s population currently is 341,000 and is projected to be 410,000 by 2030.

How can we plan for and accommodate this growth and still save Marion County’s unique qualities?
Successes and Action Highlights

• We successfully opposed the application for an industrial gas-fired power plant in the City of Turner.

• We testified before the Salem-Keizer Area Transportation Study against a proposed interchange at Cordon Road and Highway 22 because of the sprawl and increased traffic it would produce.

• We successfully opposed the proposal surrounding the Ankeny National Wildlife Refuge for an application to permit a very large regional outdoor concert during peak harvest season.

• We led the opposition to permit an industrial installation on high-value farmland that would have interfered with farming and transportation routes on local county roads.

• We successfully fought the proposed expansion of the Aurora Airport because it conflicted with local land use plans and would have taken prime farmland out of production.

• We testified in opposition to a proposal to convert prime farmland to a major truck stop near Talbot.

• We helped pass Measure 24-78 in Salem that prohibits local officials from voting in matters benefiting large contributors to their election campaign.

• We opposed the development of big box shopping centers at the Kuebler Blvd. and Chemawa Road freeway interchanges because of economic impacts to the downtown areas, traffic, and sprawl. Unfortunately local governments approved these damaging proposals.

Among Oregon Counties, Marion County ranks

#1 in gross farm and ranch sales,
#1 in greenhouse and nursery sales,
#1 in strawberries, blackberries, boysenberries, and blueberries,
#1 in snap beans for processing productions,
#3 in gross milk sales,
#2 in acres of hazelnuts planted, and
#5 in wine grape production.

For more information contact:
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