

Housing 101: Location matters

Oregon laws are designed to ensure housing is placed in towns and cities near the things folks need to access regularly—like school, jobs, parks, and services. And those laws restrict housing development where it does not make sense, such as sprawling across farmland and natural areas.



Courtesy Metro

Keep the following in mind while planning new housing

Do

Prioritize infill development: Developing workforce housing within existing neighborhoods can provide benefits such as reduced transportation costs, reduced carbon emissions, greater community connectivity, lower infrastructure costs, and lower natural hazard risk.

Protect existing affordable housing: As we develop new housing, it's important not to destroy existing affordable housing or to displace communities. This [anti-displacement toolkit](#) helps communities be thoughtful about which policies will allow for good development without causing unintentional harm.

Build near transit: Some Oregon cities use incentives to encourage more development near transit routes. This has a variety of benefits to residents, including improved health, reduced transportation costs, and fewer carbon emissions.

Don't

Sprawl: Every Oregon city has an Urban Growth Boundary (UGB), which constrains the growth of urban areas and distinguishes them from rural lands. UGBs encourage communities to grow upward and inward, rather than sprawling outward into protected farm and forest lands. Read more: [More Extensive is More Expensive](#)

Create natural hazard risk: Many communities in Oregon face natural hazards like wildfire, flooding, and sea level rise. We can minimize threats to human life and wellbeing in our communities by siting development outside of these high-risk areas. For example, the wildland-urban interface (WUI) are those areas more prone to wildfire, and therefore we should refrain from expanding our towns and cities into the WUI. Instead, these areas should generally be reserved for farm and forest uses and natural habitats. Read more: [A New Vision for Wildfire Planning](#).

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Since 1974, 1000 Friends of Oregon has worked with Oregonians to enhance our **quality of life** by building livable urban and rural communities, protecting family farms and forests, and conserving natural areas.



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