

LAND AND WATER USE ELEMENT

CP.005. General Plan Philosophy and Policy Statement.

The City of Astoria's 1979 Comprehensive Plan was revised under the requirements of Oregon Revised Statutes Chapter 197. The State Planning Law, generally referred to as Senate Bill 100, requires that local comprehensive plans:

1. Must be adopted by the governing body;
2. Are expressions of public policy in the form of policy statements, generalized maps and standards and guidelines;
3. Shall be the basis for more specific rules, regulations and ordinances which implement the policies expressed through the comprehensive plans;
4. Shall be prepared to assure that all public actions are consistent and coordinated with the policies expressed through the comprehensive plans; and,
5. Shall be regularly reviewed, and, if necessary, revised to keep them consistent with the changing needs and desires and desires of the public they are designed to serve.

Although the City's Plan was revised to comply with the Statewide planning goals and guidelines, including the coastal goals pertaining to estuarine resources and coastal shorelands, the Plan is addressed to local concerns and problems.

The Comprehensive Plan is not a fixed document. The original planning period was generally considered to be to the year 2000, however, it was recognized that many changes may take place during the next 20 years. In 2011, the City completed a Buildable Lands Inventory with relevant changes in the Comprehensive Plan. The updates in 2011 are considered to be for the planning period through 2027. Changes in the Plan may be made with appropriate findings of fact. Major legislative changes in the Plan shall be made no more frequently than at two year intervals; minor changes shall be considered on a yearly basis.

All City ordinances, policies and actions must be consistent with the Comprehensive Plan. Where there is a conflict between the Plan and ordinances and other City policies, the Plan shall prevail. The comprehensive Plan is intended to be consistent with itself and coordinated with other plans. That is, the various policies are intended to interrelate not only with each other, but with those of Clatsop County and special districts within the Urban Growth Boundary. Where inconsistent policies are found, they must be corrected by a Plan amendment.

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In the preparation and adoption of the 1979 Comprehensive Plan, the City Planning Commission and City Council involved local citizens and property owners and other governmental agencies in the planning process. These efforts have included holding public workshops and public hearings, distribution of background materials and draft policies, the mail-out of a community-wide questionnaire, and local media coverage. All special districts, State and Federal agencies were notified of Plan statements or policies which affected them by the local coordinator. Through the Columbia River Estuary Study Taskforce (CREST) program, State and Federal agencies have been heavily involved in the preparation of the shorelands and estuary element.

It is the basic philosophy of the Plan that all Plan changes, amendments or revisions must be done in an open, well-publicized manner.

[Section CP.005 amended by Ordinance 11-07, 7-5-11]