



Natural Hazards and Resiliency

In 2050, Sandy is resilient in the face of natural hazards. As stewards of clean air, water, and land resources for future generations, Sandy guides the design of the built environment to protect, enhance, and be integrated with natural systems. The threat of natural hazards like wildfire and earthquakes is mitigated through emergency preparedness, education, and proactive planning. Sandy collaborates with local agencies, including Fire Districts, Clackamas County, and regional partners to plan for actions that can lessen the impact of natural disasters, ensuring the City and its partners have long-term strategies for protecting the community.

COMMUNITY PREPARATION

Goal 1: Prepare Sandy residents and business owners for wildfire and volcano risk.

- Policy 1.1 Work with Clackamas Fire District 1, Clackamas County Disaster Management, and other community partners to engage with Sandy residents, especially those with disabilities, so they are enrolled in the emergency alert system and ready to evacuate using the Ready, Set, Go readiness framework.
- Policy 1.2 Work with Clackamas Fire District 1 to educate the public and business owners about how to reduce wildfire risk to their homes and businesses, providing direct assistance to low-income residents.
- Policy 1.3 Adopt state level Wildfire Hazard Mitigation regulatory requirements and building codes that reduce fire risk for new construction.
- Policy 1.4 Work with Clackamas County and the State of Oregon to enforce OSHA rules regarding wildfire smoke and provide equitable access to education and protective gear for local businesses.
- Policy 1.5 Help residents address wildfire smoke through education, assistance with indoor filtration, and the identification of public facilities that can serve as smoke shelters during smoke events.
- Policy 1.6 Work with Clackamas County Disaster Management to further develop and educate the public regarding evacuation procedures.

Policy 1.7 Work with PGE, the Oregon Trail School District, and other community partners to develop and implement a plan for extended power outages caused by Public Safety Power Shutoffs to address wildfire risk for all City managed facilities and infrastructure.

Goal 2: Prepare Sandy residents and business owners for earthquakes, floods, landslides, and other extreme weather events.

Policy 2.1 Implement public education and training programs so that residents are capable of sheltering in place for at least 14 days in an emergency with little to no outside assistance.

Policy 2.2 Develop and implement a plan for extended power outages caused by extreme weather events for all City managed facilities and infrastructure.

Policy 2.3 Collaborate with Clackamas County, community-based organizations, and state agencies to educate and enforce health and safety measures during extreme heat and cold events.

Policy 2.4 Partner with community organizations to identify facilities that can act as air quality shelters during smoke events and inclement weather shelters during extreme cold events.

Policy 2.5 Explore participation in the National Flood Insurance Program’s Community Rating System.

COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

Goal 3: Protect public and physical assets of the community from natural hazards.

Policy 3.1 Assess public buildings and City managed facilities, utilities, open spaces, and park lands for wildfire, drought, flooding, earthquake, severe winter storms, and landslide risk.

Policy 3.2 Implement risk reduction projects beginning with structures that are needed for emergency sheltering, and essential emergency services.

Policy 3.3 Partner with PGE, the Oregon Trail School District, and other community-based organizations to disseminate communications regarding evacuation procedures.

Policy 3.4 Promote and protect the use of naturally flood prone open space or wetlands as flood storage areas.

Policy 3.5 Restrict development in high-risk areas and educate residents and businesses about the risk of property investment in these areas.

- Policy 3.6 Promote innovative site and building designs that create defensible space and reduce the adverse impacts of development on steep slopes and in other natural hazard areas.
- Policy 3.7 Designate and map areas of steep slopes (25% or greater) and other known hazard areas in the 2017 urban growth boundary expansion area.
- Policy 3.8 Monitor and mitigate blowdown that blocks natural flow patterns in creeks or creates fuel loading hazard for adjacent areas.

Goal 4: Partner and coordinate regionally to reduce risk from natural hazards.

- Policy 4.1 Regularly update the City's emergency response plan.
- Policy 4.2 Actively participate in Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan updates and plan implementation processes to ensure that the changing resilience needs of Sandy residents are reflected in revised plans.
- Policy 4.3 Engage with other communities across the region to implement the Clackamas Community Wildfire Protection Plan.
- Policy 4.4 Coordinate with Clackamas County Disaster Management to ensure that emergency management and community plans are well understood by residents, are produced in multiple languages, and the City is clear about its role in implementing those plans regarding known hazards.
- Policy 4.5 Engage with PGE and Clackamas County Disaster Management to ensure the City understands the utility's approach for Public Safety Power Shutoffs to reduce wildfire risk, the County's plan to address emergencies that will arise from those shutoffs, and the City's role in such situations.
- Policy 4.6 Engage with the U.S. Forest Service and Oregon Department of Forestry regarding updates to forest management and timber harvest plans to ensure consideration of the needs of Sandy residents and strengthen relationships ahead of natural disasters, particularly wildfire.

Goal 5: Build community resilience to increasingly frequent natural disasters and other chronic stressors.

- Policy 5.1 Implement water conservation measures at City facilities and encourage and support water conservation efforts among residents and local businesses to reduce the strain of more frequent and severe droughts.
- Policy 5.2 Encourage and support the local agriculture economy to reduce vulnerability to climate change-driven disruptions.

- Policy 5.3 Work with the Chamber of Commerce and other local organizations to assess risks and plan for chronic environmental stressors to protect the viability of local festivals and celebrations.
- Policy 5.4 Work with the Chamber of Commerce to support local businesses in developing natural disaster resilience plans and ensuring that they are adequately insured in the event of an emergency.
- Policy 5.5 Partner with community organizations to attract more health care providers and services to Sandy to prevent the community's healthcare system from being overwhelmed by increasingly frequent and severe natural disasters.
- Policy 5.6 Work with the State of Oregon, Clackamas County, and community partners to improve access to mental health care services, and help residents understand how natural disaster risk is changing and what they can do to protect themselves and their property.
- Policy 5.7 Partner with community organizations to provide opportunities for youth to volunteer and engage in the community as a means of reducing anxiety about natural disasters and other chronic stressors.

Parks, Trails, and Natural Resources

In 2050, Sandy's natural and scenic landscape is an extension of the community. Clean rivers, healthy trees, and wildlife habitats are carefully conserved to promote biodiversity. Forested areas within the City are protected as parks, trails and natural open space. Sandy preserves the unique character and charm of beloved assets like Meinig Memorial Park, Sandy River Park, the Tickle Creek Trail, and Jonsrud Viewpoint. The City continues to develop recreation programs and a diverse and accessible park and trail system that is clean, safe, and functional, serving the needs of residents.

PARKS AND TRAILS DEVELOPMENT

Goal 1: Develop parks, amenities, and recreation opportunities that are equitably distributed across the city.

- Policy 1.1 Fill service area gaps so that all residential areas are served based on the Parks and Trails Master Plan's (PTMP) levels of service.
- Policy 1.2 Develop a new community park with multi-purpose sports fields.
- Policy 1.3 Improve geographic distribution of key amenities such as dog parks, community gardens, and splash pads.
- Policy 1.4 Improve existing undeveloped park land such as Champion Way, Deer Point, Ponder Lane, and the Sandy Community Campus.
- Policy 1.5 Revitalize parks, including Tupper Park, Sandy Bluff Park, and Meinig Park, by renovating outdated equipment such as playgrounds, sport courts, and paths.
- Policy 1.6 Prioritize inclusive and universally accessible playground upgrades that cater to various mobility types, special needs, and age groups as parks and amenities are developed or improved.
- Policy 1.7 Prioritize the development of parks that include unique amenities not currently offered in the City parks system such as a pump track, pickleball courts, a disc golf course, sensory gardens, nature play areas, sports field(s), and other features.
- Policy 1.8 Prioritize the development of neighborhood and community park types instead of mini parks when land is available and minimize acquisition and development of mini parks to only highly constrained areas and small service area gaps without options for larger park types.
- Policy 1.9 Evaluate and incorporate natural areas, wildlife habitat, and native pollinator gardens into parks where appropriate.

Goal 2. Create a looped network of trails connecting parks, neighborhoods, and natural open spaces that provides opportunities for alternative transportation and recreation throughout the city.

- Policy 2.1 Improve trail connections and pedestrian transportation outlined in the PTMP to connect neighborhoods with key destinations including schools, other parks, and commercial areas.
- Policy 2.2 Provide safe pedestrian crossings on busier streets such as Highway 26, Highway 211, and Bluff Road through signalization and over-or-under-passes.
- Policy 2.3 Renovate existing paths and trails throughout the city to provide accessible routes to parks and amenities in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act Standards for Accessible Design.
- Policy 2.4 Pursue a public access easement with the Oregon Trail School District to allow access to future public trails south of the high school.
- Policy 2.5 Connect natural open spaces through multi-purpose trails identified in the PTMP.

Goal 3. Secure funding for land acquisition, recreation development, operations, and maintenance.

- Policy 3.1 Regularly update the System Development Charge Methodology and the fee in lieu calculations to optimize funding from these sources.
- Policy 3.2 Ensure methods for acquisition of community park land, such as fee-in-lieu and system development charges (SDCs) are regularly updated to reflect current land and development costs.
- Policy 3.3 Study the implementation of a General Obligation/Revenue Bond to help fund park development and major renovation projects identified in the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP).
- Policy 3.4 Study the implementation of a Parks Utility Fee to help fund park maintenance and operations.
- Policy 3.5 Study the application of stormwater user fees to maintain stormwater facilities that reside in parks.
- Policy 3.6 Develop an asset management program that includes a detailed inventory and assessment of existing city-wide parks infrastructure and amenities to help plan for and prioritize life-cycle renovation and replacement for these systems.
- Policy 3.7 Evaluate the cost efficiency and effectiveness of balancing contract services with increased staffing levels, including additional volunteer coordinator positions, to match system growth.
- Policy 3.8 Support non-profits and volunteers to acquire land, obtain donations, secure grants, and engage local groups and residents to help build and maintain parks and trails.
- Policy 3.9 Advocate for fuel reduction funding to support proactive measures that mitigate wildfire risks, ensuring community safety and the preservation of Sandy's parks, trails, and natural resources.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Goal 4: Protect forest, river, and wetland ecosystems and the native species they support.

- Policy 4.1 Partner with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, US Forest Service, and other large landowners to improve forest and watershed health ahead of impacts due to extreme heat, reduced snowpack, wildfire, and drought.
- Policy 4.2 Safeguard natural waterways by utilizing water conservation measures and programs that limit water demand from the City of Sandy, its residents, and local business owners, particularly during late summer when natural flows are the lowest of the year.
- Policy 4.3 Partner with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Soil and Water Conservation District, and other local organizations to develop projects to protect native species at risk due to increased pests and species migration driven by changing climate conditions.
- Policy 4.4 Favor the use of natural drainage systems and other non-structural methods to treat, convey, and dispose of rainwater runoff.
- Policy 4.5 Update mapping of approximate areas of known stream corridors, wetlands, and associated buffers.
- Policy 4.6 Where feasible, preserve natural vegetation resource sites through public acquisition, conservation easements, or other available methods to permanently limit development.

Goal 5: Protect and sustain Sandy's urban forest.

- Policy 5.1 Update the City urban forestry code to integrate consideration of changing climate conditions and invasive species.
- Policy 5.2 Develop an urban forestry plan that provides direction for the maintenance and improvement of Sandy's urban tree canopy.
- Policy 5.3 Adopt procedures for City properties and rights-of-way that promote the use of drought tolerant, native trees and plants.
- Policy 5.4 Educate residents regarding how to address invasive species, implement drought and fire-resistant plants, and protect tree health on their property.
- Policy 5.5 Develop incentives to encourage the preservation of significant trees.

Goal 6: Protect and conserve open space.

- Policy 6.1 Identify and inventory open space corridors within the Sandy urban growth area. Open space shall include lands useful for fish and wildlife habitat, trails, public access to natural resource lands and water, and protection of environmentally sensitive areas.
- Policy 6.2 Employ development regulations to preserve and protect open space and environmentally sensitive lands, integrate the natural environment of Sandy into project designs, minimize the creation of impervious surface, and incentivize the protection of native trees and other vegetation.
- Policy 6.3 Wherever possible, establish native growth protection areas along Highway 26 at both the east and west entries to the city. These areas are intended to provide a pleasant entry to the city, screen industrial uses from the highway, and provide a buffer between the highway and other land uses.
- Policy 6.4 Where appropriate, connect public open space or private protected open space to other open space corridors established by other agencies and by private development.
- Policy 6.5 Work with property owners and developers to preserve open space along Tickle Creek as part of the Tickle Creek Greenway.
- Policy 6.6 Where feasible, restore and maintain the system of parks and open space in the city to serve the habitat and migratory needs of fish and wildlife in the Sandy River and Clackamas River basins.
- Policy 6.7 Develop forest vegetation management plans for City-owned open space along Sandy River and Tickle Creek to address noxious weeds, mitigate blowdown, and support drought-tolerant vegetation.
- Policy 6.8 Employ fuel mitigation measures to reduce wildfire risks, protect lives and property, and preserve natural landscapes for future generations.

Goal 7: Ensure ecologically sound development.

- Policy 7.1 Maintain environmental quality by guiding future development and land use activities such that allowed activities will not significantly deteriorate the existing high quality of air, water, and land resources.
- Policy 7.2 Notify applicable state and federal natural resource protection agencies of development proposals potentially impacting important natural features.
- Policy 7.3 Identify and inventory significant natural features during the development process to preserve natural features or mitigate losses by placing conditions upon development using city, state, and federal government regulations to achieve this objective.

- Policy 7.4 Promote innovative site and building designs which reduce the adverse impacts of development on stream corridors by encouraging projects that protect, maintain, enhance, and restore the natural functions and values of stream corridors.
- Policy 7.5 Require development and construction projects to minimize disturbance of and adverse impacts to native tree stands and other areas of significant vegetation and promote innovative site and building designs to meet these objectives.
- Policy 7.6 Require appropriate reforestation efforts in open space areas to help mitigate the adverse impacts of development.
- Policy 7.7 Prioritize and encourage both infill development and brownfield development to protect the environment and promote urban revitalization.
- Policy 7.8 Advocate for the use of xeriscaping as a water-wise landscaping practice that conserves water, reduces maintenance needs, and enhances sustainability.