

Project Consistency with City Master Plans

The proposed subdivision is precisely the type of development that is encouraged by Portland's Comprehensive Plan. It meets multiple comprehensive plan goals, including at least the following, each of which is discussed in more detail below:

FUTURE LAND USE PLAN

- Encourage orderly growth and development in appropriate areas, making efficient use of public services and preventing development sprawl. (State Goal A, Comprehensive Plan, Vol. I, Portland's Goals and Policies for the Future, p. 21);
- In the R-6 zone, encourage the existing compact lot development pattern typically found on the peninsula. (Comprehensive Plan, Vol. II, Future Land Use Plan, p. 65)

HOUSING POLICIES

- Advance the overall goal of maintaining a 25% share of Cumberland County's population, taking advantage of the City's capacity to accommodate more people (Comprehensive Plan, Vol. I, Portland's Goals and Policies for the Future, p. 21-22);
- Create new housing to support Portland as an employment center and to achieve an improved balance between jobs and housing, (Comprehensive Plan, Vol I, Portland's Goals and Policies for the Future, pp. 21-22);
- Ensure that an adequate supply of housing is available to meet the needs and preferences of all Portland households, including a continuum of options across all income levels. (Comprehensive Plan, Vol I, Portland's Goals and Policies for the Future, p. 44);
- Promote residential densities that are consistent with past development patterns. (Housing: Sustaining Portland's Future, p. 27);

SUSTAINABILITY

- Increase efficient use of transportation resources by avoiding decentralizing land use trends and supporting land use patterns that favor density and concentration. Comprehensive Plan. Vol I, Transportation Resources, T-7-8);

- Design housing to use new technologies and materials that reduce costs and increase energy efficiency. (Comprehensive Plan, Vol 1, Portland's Goals and Policies for the Future, p. 22)

A. Future Land Use Plan

In accordance with the mandate of the State Growth Management policies, the City designated all properties zoned R-6 as part of the growth area, however, the Future Land Use Plan went beyond that simple designation to assert that Portland needs growth to sustain it as a healthy city and to maintain its role as the economic, cultural and residential center for the region. (p. 55). Ideally, that growth will "provide housing near employment centers, support public transportation, attract families with children, expand the tax base, and stabilize neighborhoods." (p. 55)

In looking at where that growth can be accommodated within Portland, it found that only 9.75% of land in all residential zones is vacant, and in the highest density residential zone, the R-6 zone, only 2.77% of the land is vacant. As a way to foster the growth necessary to a healthy future, the Future Land Use Plan specifically endorses the recommendation, first made in Housing: Sustaining Portland's Future, to "rewrite[e] the zoning ordinance to encourage new housing and eliminate[e] barriers to development by allowing greater housing density and more efficient use of vacant land, infill lots, and redevelopment opportunities."

B. Housing Policies

Increased residential housing is viewed as a key to maintaining the health of the City. It is not sufficient for it merely to be an employment center for people to commute to by day, while living in and paying real estate taxes to suburban towns, The housing component of the comprehensive plan, Housing: Sustaining Portland's Future, calls for Portland to accommodate housing for more people so that the City increases to and then maintains a 25% share of the county's population. (p. 53)

One fundamental housing goal is to increase the supply of housing. To further that goal, the housing plan states the City should strive to ensure the construction of a diverse mix "that offers a continuum of options across all income levels." (p. 29) The City should also encourage higher density housing, "particularly located near services, such as schools, businesses, institutions, employers, and public transportation." (p. 30) Particular emphasis is placed on encouraging infill development, and housing within and adjacent to the downtown. In furtherance of the goal of developing a broad range of housing, it states the City should "[e]ncourage opportunities for the development of homes that are attractive to those households moving up in the real estate market . . . so Portland can remain competitive with surrounding suburban communities. (p. 32) Additional supply-based

objectives include "identify[ing] vacant land and redevelopment opportunities throughout the city to facilitate the construction of new housing" and "[p]romot[ing] Portland as a Pro-Housing Community." (p. 33) While some parts of the housing plan emphasize affordable assisted housing, it states "the need for market rate housing for mid and higher income households is also critically important to Portland's future. Eliminating barriers to housing development and supporting market rate projects through the approval process can assist in this." (p. 62b)

Another basic housing plan goal is to maintain neighborhood stability and integrity. The plan calls for the City to "[e]ncourage innovative new housing development which is designed to be compatible with the scale, character, and traditional development patterns of each individual residential neighborhood." (p. 44) The plan advocates "work[ing] with owners and developers to find productive uses for vacant and underutilized lots." (p. 45) The plan makes it clear that it is not trying to encourage suburban, single-story ranch house infill development that was typical of prior periods. Instead the 2002 plan values traditional patterns of development and residential density, and criticizes the fact that (particularly in the R-6 zone) the traditional development pattern cannot be replicated under the zoning then in effect. (p. 27) Since that date, the City has implemented the R-6 small lot provisions so that infill development can replicate the traditional character and pattern of development.

C. Sustainability

The land use policy promoting infill development and increased housing stock in close proximity to downtown, discussed above, has been identified by the City as an important part of creating environmental and economic sustainability. ("Sustainable Portland", Final Report of the Mayor's Sustainable Portland Taskforce, November, 2007). The proposed development is consistent with these goals.

Similarly, the Sustainability Report identified green building as an important means for reducing pollution and our collective carbon footprint. (Id., p. 6) This building is designed to have numerous green features including: all landscaping requires no irrigation; roof water treated on site; building envelope sealed to prevent air leaks with insulation well above present construction standards; energy efficient windows located for cross natural ventilation, without air-conditioning systems; energy efficient systems and appliances, and air exchangers; low VOC paints, glues and sealants; light roof color to prevent heat buildup; and green building materials, flooring, siding, and recycled products.