

**GOAL 5 – OPEN SPACES, SCENIC AND HISTORIC AREAS  
AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

Troutdale is blessed with a unique and physically attractive setting. Open spaces and scenic views, proximity to the Columbia Gorge, and the presence of urban “wilderness areas” contribute to the special character of the community. The City strongly supports preservation of its open spaces, especially the Beaver Creek and Sandy River Canyons.

**OPEN SPACES AND SCENIC AREAS**

The City’s Parks Master Plan designates the Beaver Creek and Sandy River corridors as a public open space/greenway system and identifies other sites under public ownership that provide a network of open space throughout the City.

Troutdale has a particularly scenic location, with views of points outside the community including the Columbia River, Mt. St. Helens, Mt. Adams, Mt. Hood, Broughton Bluff, Silver Star Mountain, as well as Beaver Creek and Sandy River Canyons within the City.

**TROUTDALE’S HISTORY AND HISTORIC RESOURCES**

A community with a rich historic past, Troutdale is located at the confluence of the Sandy and Columbia Rivers, and was originally occupied by Native Americans who fished and camped along the banks of the rivers. The first Euro-American to explore the region was British Lt. William Broughton who noted this area in the autumn of 1792 on his exploration voyage of the Columbia River. Broughton Bluff, the point immediately across the Sandy River from current-day Troutdale, was named after the lieutenant. Fourteen years later, explorers Lewis and Clark camped along the Sandy River Delta on their way to the Oregon Coast.

The earliest settlers arrived in 1850 and 1851. Some of the earliest Donation Land Claims were filed by John Douglass, David F. Buxton, Benjamin Hall, James M. Stott, and Felix G. Hicklin. Family records credit David F. Buxton as Troutdale's true founder; he filed a donation land claim in 1853 in the center of the present city of Troutdale. However, it was Captain John Harlow, a former sea captain from Maine and successful Portland businessperson, who conceived a plan for the town. In 1872, he purchased part of Buxton's land to build his country home. Because he raised trout in ponds on his farm, he called his farm "Troutdale." He convinced the railroad to build a depot at the site of his farm and on November 20th in 1882, Troutdale had access to a rail line, an important step in becoming a bonafide town.

After John Harlow's death in 1883, his widow Celestia began platting a town with blocks and streets. Much of the city was built in 1890 and 1891. The first edition of Troutdale's newspaper announced the opening of Aaron Fox's new store, a restaurant, and included ads for a hardware

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store, surgeon, notary public and blacksmith. The town's major industry was the American Dressed Meat Company, later sold to become Portland's Swift and Company. Other industries that rose were a lumber mill, a hotel and a distillery. The distillery burned in what was reported as a "bright blue flame" in the 1890's.

Aaron Fox was instrumental in incorporating the City in 1907 and became its first mayor. The same year, a disastrous fire swept through the city burning the 1890's buildings. A church built on a hillside two blocks from the business district was one of the few 1890's buildings that survived. In 1914, two years after women won the right to vote in Oregon; Clara Latourell Larsson became mayor of Troutdale and was one of Oregon's earliest woman mayors.

The Columbia River Highway was built and extended through Troutdale in 1916. Enterprising residents opened businesses, restaurants, tea rooms, hot dog stands and dance pavilions to feed and entertain the travelers. In 1924, another woman was elected mayor when Laura Harlow, daughter-in-law of Captain John Harlow, took office. A year later, a second fire mostly destroyed the business district. The Tiller Hotel and Helming's Saloon, both built after the first 1907 fire, are two of the first buildings erected after the fire.

In the 1920's, Troutdale claimed the title of the "Celery Capital of the World" as a result of prize winning celery grown here. But farmers also grew wonderful produce and gladiola bulbs grown in the area's fertile, sandy soil and shipped all over the nation by rail. A new city hall was completed in 1923. The building still serves as the Troutdale City Hall complete with the original wood dance floor.

John Harlow's original house was torn down in the 1920's. The only original building remaining on the farm site was the home of his son, Fred, built in 1900. That building is now the Harlow House Museum of the Troutdale Historical Society and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The original rail depot burned in 1907 and was replaced by a second depot that is now the Rail Museum. It was moved from its original location to its present site in 1979.

Troutdale celebrated its Centennial in 2007, and in conjunction with that milestone, a local historian, Sharon Nesbit, wrote of Troutdale's history in the book, It Could Have Been Carpdale (2007 Pediment Publishing).

*[There are no changes to the narrative under Natural Resources]*

**POLICIES**

1. Conserve open space by limiting development that will have adverse impacts.
2. Conserve domestic groundwater and surface water resources from potential pollution through a variety of regulatory measures relating to land use, transportation, and hazardous substance management.
3. Control the storage, manufacture, use, transportation, and disposal of hazardous substances, especially in groundwater sensitive areas used for water supplies.
4. Conserve groundwater sensitive areas, such as aquifer recharge areas and areas of influence through such mechanisms as storm drainage, dry wells, recharge sites, a detaining/retaining ponds, etc.
5. Conserve and enhance drainageways for the purpose of containing and regulating stormwater runoff and, where appropriate, as natural corridors which allow the passage of wildlife between natural areas throughout the City, as well as providing wildlife habitat characteristics including food, water, cover, breeding, nesting, resting, and wintering areas.
6. Prepare a list of properties desirable for public acquisition to ensure long-term natural resource conservation.
7. Require mitigation, resolution, or other means of maintaining a balance of important natural resource values in areas where adverse impacts cannot be practicably avoided.
8. Conserve significant areas and encourage the creation of new developments which maintain the variety and quantity of fish and wildlife throughout the City in a manner compatible with existing and future urban development.
9. Notify and coordinate development proposals within natural resource areas with other local, state, and federal agencies.
10. Mitigate environmental disturbances resulting from aggregate resource extraction.
11. Work with local, state and federal historic preservation agencies and organizations to identify, preserve, and protect historic resources.
12. Whenever possible, newly created streets shall be given historically significant names.

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13. Appoint a Historic Landmarks Commission to actively promote preservation of Troutdale's historic landmarks and resources and to reasonably protect historic landmarks and resources from inappropriate exterior alterations and untimely demolitions.
14. Apply to the State Historic Preservation Office for Certified Local Government (CLG) certification to assist in the implementation of historic resource protection and preservation goals when desired.
15. Maintain and periodically update the inventory of historic resources and update the inventory as owner requests for historic landmark designation are received by the City.
16. Maintain effective historic landmark designation standards and procedures within the Historic Landmark Protection Overlay district that are consistent with state law and National Register of Historic Places evaluation criteria.