



2040 SHERWOOD COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

STRONG COMMUNITY, CULTURE AND HERITAGE

DRAFT BACKGROUND REPORT



AUGUST 28, 2019

Introduction

Context

Over the past 30 years, Sherwood has been one of the fastest growing cities in Oregon. While a bedroom community in the Portland/Vancouver Metropolitan Region, Sherwood's population grew from about 3,000 residents in 1990 to nearly 20,000 residents in 2019. Despite this record growth, Sherwood maintains an exceptional quality of life, driven by access to renowned schools, quality medical services, high level of public safety, a unique park and recreation system, a revived central business district, and excellent cultural facilities and community events.

Community Vision and Goals

In 2018, the City conducted a visioning process for the Comprehensive Plan Update and the community identified the desire to maintain a *"Strong Community, Culture and Heritage."* This theme will constitute a section of the City's updated Comprehensive Plan. The vision states that in 2040:

"Sherwood successfully retains its treasured small-town character and strong sense of community while welcoming new businesses and residents. Old Town preserves its historic atmosphere as an attractive place to shop, dine and gather. The library and the performing arts center play a vital role as a place of learning and sharing, and art and creativity are woven into the fabric of the city. A variety of community events uphold a legacy of bringing the community together and giving Sherwood a sense of place."

The vision statement is supported by three goals:

1. *Value Sherwood's heritage, traditions, and diverse community wisdom by working together and thinking creatively through meaningful, informed and innovative participation by all.*
2. *Actively explore accessible, and effective methods of communication and participation to foster transparency and connection to the community.*
3. *Foster a culture of collaboration and partnership between residents, community groups, businesses, service providers and government.*

Purpose

The City of Sherwood is preparing a series of background report intended to inform community conversations about Sherwood's future. This report explores a variety of topics related to the Community, Culture and Heritage theme, including the regulatory framework, current assets and practices, and emerging opportunities and trends. The final section of the background report poses key policy questions for the community to consider. The key topics covered in this report include:

- Public Involvement
- Historic Resources
- Public, Civic and Cultural Spaces

Regulatory Context

Public Involvement

Public involvement is the first of Oregon's Statewide Planning Goals, and several laws and regulations from federal to regional levels compel local governments to conduct public involvement efforts. Proactive and effective public involvement is a cornerstone of planning practice, and focused public engagement is crucial to achieve success in land use and transportation planning initiatives that impact the entire community.

Federal

Public involvement in local land use processes is not explicitly regulated at the federal level, although the City should be prepared to address specific requirements in cases where they are applicable, often due to federal funding being used for a particular project. These requirements concern public outreach plans and programs, a broad identification of interested parties, public meetings and events, mechanisms for comment, advisory panels and public access to documents and technical information. Some key federal acts that direct public involvement efforts and/or meaningful access to information include the Civil Rights Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act, and the Age Discrimination Act.

Statewide

Of Oregon's 19 Statewide Planning Goals, Citizen Involvement is Goal 1. It requires municipalities to ensure the opportunity for the public to have meaningful involvement throughout the land use planning process. Goal 1 identifies six key components of a public involvement program:

- **Citizen Involvement:** An officially-recognized committee for public involvement broadly representative of geographic areas and interests related to land use and land-use decisions to provide for widespread public involvement;
- **Communication:** Mechanisms for effective two-way communication between the public and elected/appointed officials;
- **Influence:** Opportunities for the public to be involved in all phases of the planning and decision-making process;
- **Technical Information:** Access to technical information used in the decision-making process, provided in an accessible and understandable format;
- **Feedback Mechanisms:** Programs to ensure that members of the public receive responses from policy-makers and that a written record for land-use decisions is created and made accessible; and,
- **Financial Support:** Adequate resources allocated for the public involvement program as an integral component of the planning budget.

In addition, Oregon has a Public Meetings Law which requires meetings held by public bodies, such as the Planning Commission, to be in locations and formats that are accessible to people with

disabilities. In addition, the law requires that records of these meetings be retained and made available to the public.

Regional

Metro implements its own public involvement program apart and separate from city or county public involvement programs required under Goal 1. Metro codes guide public involvement programs for the regional government itself, and do not generally place additional requirements on member municipalities. Metro ordinances have set guiding principles for public involvement and actions to ensure diversity and equity in its community engagement activities. Although compliance with these ordinances is not explicitly required, these principles and objectives should be considered when setting City goals for public engagement.

Local

Consistent with Statewide Planning Goal 1: Citizen Involvement, the City adopted a Citizen Involvement Program (CIP) that helps ensure the opportunity for its residents to be involved in planning processes. The goals of the CIP include:

1. To insure the opportunity for citizens to be involved in all phases of the development and implementation of Sherwood's Comprehensive Plan.
2. To provide information that enables citizens to identify the issues and suggest alternative approaches to addressing identified needs and problems.
3. To provide a local citizen participation structure which may be used by federal agencies, LCDC, Metropolitan Service District and other agencies involved in the Sherwood urban area.
4. To assure effective two-way communication between citizens and elected officials on planning related matters.

To enact and uphold the CIP, the City established the Sherwood Planning Commission. Among other duties, the Planning Commission is charged with evaluating the CIP on a periodic basis, including at the time of an update to the Comprehensive Plan. The Planning Commission adopted its own bylaws which include the following organizational goals:

1. To assist City government in making decisions regarding land use by providing information based on available citizen input.
2. To provide a forum for the development of ideas and concepts that benefit the Sherwood community as a whole by careful monitoring and continued use of the Comprehensive Plan.
3. To create an awareness of the planning process, and to encourage citizen involvement so that the citizens decisions reached reflect the broadest technical opinion.
4. To speak to those issues involving the community as a whole, rather than specific areas that may be affected by growth decisions.

Historic Resources

Historic sites and cultural facilities maintain continuity with the City's past and provide places for people to congregate and enjoy cultural activities. Topics related to natural resources, scenic and open spaces are discussed in separate background reports.

Statewide

The City's historic resources inventory was created in response to a mandate of Statewide Planning Goal 5: Natural Resources, Scenic and Historic Areas, and Open Spaces.

Goal 5 requires local governments to adopt programs that will "protect natural resources and conserve scenic, historic and open space resources for future generations," declaring that "these resources promote a healthy environment and natural landscape that contributes to Oregon's livability." Guidelines for historic resources in Goal 5 include the following:

- Plans providing for open space, scenic and historic areas and natural resources should consider as a major determinant the carrying capacity of the air, land and water resources of the planning area. The land conservation and development actions provided for by such plans should not exceed the carrying capacity of such resources.
- The National Register of Historic Places and the recommendations of the State Advisory Committee on Historic Preservation should be utilized in designating historic sites.

Local

Historic resources in Sherwood are regulated by historic landmark protection standards in the City's Development Code. Special resource and overlay zones, like the Old Town Overlay District, establish objectives and define a set of standards to guide physical development for the preservation, protection and management of the historic or cultural resource. In absence of a Historic Landmarks Commission to administer these standards, Sherwood's Planning Commission acts as the Landmarks Advisory Board (LAB). The LAB is the designated review and approval authority for historic and cultural landmarks.

To comply with Goal 5, the City of Sherwood undertook a Cultural Resources Inventory process in 1989. Resources were evaluated according to four broad criteria: historic significance, architectural significance, integrity and use considerations.

Public, Civic and Cultural Spaces

There are few regulations which govern the provision of public, civic and cultural spaces from a land use planning perspective. This includes education, arts, government, civic and cultural centers. These facilities are not addressed in statewide planning goals, and there are no Metro regulations that apply. Other public facilities, such as police and fire services, utilities, and infrastructure (transportation, water, sewer, stormwater) are mandated by Statewide Planning Goal 11: Public Facilities and Services and discussed in separate background reports. However, many of these public, civic and cultural facilities are planned for as best practice through infrastructure master plans, community concept plans and transportation system plans.

Education facilities are an exception as school districts are required by the state to create a school facility plan covering a period of at least 10 years. School facility plans must include identification of desirable school sites, financial plans to meet school needs, site acquisition schedules, and an analysis of land supply within the UGB that is suitable for school facilities. Should the analysis conclude that an inadequate land supply exists within the UGB, the school district, in coordination with affected jurisdictions, is required to identify and take the necessary actions to remedy the deficiency. The state mandate further requires cities or counties with large school districts to:

- Include as an element of its comprehensive plan a school facility plan prepared by the district in consultation with the affected city or county.
- Initiate planning activities with a school district to accomplish planning as required under ORS 195.020 (Special district planning responsibilities).

In 2014, the Sherwood School District completed a Strategic Plan, setting forth a vision for the district's yearly School Improvement Plans.

Current Assets and Practices

Public Involvement

The Sherwood Planning Department conducts many public involvement activities including:

- Public notification of land use applications. ORS 197 dictates Land Use notification requirements that includes the following: notice to adjacent parcels (1,000 feet notice area), publication in a local newspaper, site posting, and posting in five public locations around town.
- Meetings and events for various planning projects, including the formation of community advisory committees and outreach activities catered to the specific needs of the project.
- Providing public information available at the counter, on the City's website, and on social media.
- Conducting research and producing reports to understand how the City is growing and how to involve the public in guiding that growth.

City Council

Sherwood City Council's adopted mission statement, as of January 2019, states: "Provide high quality services for all residents and businesses through strong relationships and innovation in a fiscally responsible manner."

The mission statement is accompanied by a set of core values and overarching goals and activities. Citizen Engagement is listed as the first of eight core values. The activities listed under the Council's overarching goal for Citizen Engagement includes:

- Align and codify all Boards and Commissions legislation
- Consider Adding Youth Advisory Board
- Consider Adding Senior Advisory Board
- Develop and implement improved Citizen Engagement Strategies

Planning Commission

The Sherwood Planning Commission is appointed by the City Council. The Commission reviews development applications and planning objectives based on an understanding of the zoning and development code and Comprehensive Plan. The Sherwood Planning Commission also acts as the City's Committee for Community Involvement (CCI) and oversees the Citizen Involvement Program.

The Commission consists of seven members appointed to a four-year term. Commissioners must be Sherwood residents or reside within the Urban Growth Boundary (limited to two individuals per commission). The Commission meets the second and fourth Tuesday of each month and meeting materials and agendas are made available to the public one week prior to each session.

Sherwood Citizens University

To further government transparency and education, the City developed the Sherwood's Citizen University. Taught every year in the fall, the program is a series of classes for Sherwood residents who are interested in learning more about how city government operates. Classes are taught by various City leaders and staff with the goal of engaging Sherwood residents and helping them to prepare to serve in a range of civic leadership capacities within the city. The program runs for approximately 7 sessions across three months and accommodates up to twenty participants.

Volunteer Program

The City of Sherwood has a strong volunteer program. In addition to hosting community-wide volunteer events like Trashpalooza, tree plantings and neighborhood clean-ups, the City also hosts volunteers across six City departments and facilities: City Hall, Library, Public Works, Sherwood Center for the Arts, Police Department, and the Senior Center. In 2018, the City documented a total of 12,166 volunteer hours. This includes the Senior Center (57%), Library (20%), Police Department (11%). Public works (6%), City Hall (4%) and Sherwood Center for the Arts (2%). In 2019, the estimated volunteer count by City department or facility included:

- City Hall: 2, plus an additional 10 during the summer months for additional events and programs (like Music on the Green, Movies in the Park);
- Library: 67, plus an additional 10 during the summer months for additional events and programs (like Summer Reading Program Performances, Storytime in the Park);
- Public Works: 13 groups (Adopt-a-Road), 2 individuals
- Sherwood Center for the Arts: 3
- Police Department: 12
- Sherwood Senior Center: 50

The minimum age requirement to be a regular, weekly volunteer is 14, depending on the position. Many volunteers are students from Sherwood High School earning community service hours for National Honor Society, Key Club, Interact Club, etc. Sherwood High School also hosts a Police Cadet program in coordination with the Police Department. The City hosts an appreciation event during National Volunteer Appreciation Week in April.

The Sherwood community is also home to many civic groups, organizations, clubs, non-profits and churches. This include, but are not limited to:

- Eagle Scouts
- Rotary Club
- American Legion
- Booster Club
- Sherwood Community Garden

Historic Resources

The 1989 Sherwood Cultural Resource Inventory identified 132 potential historic landmarks of varying value, categorized into four broad themes: agriculture, commerce/industry, culture and government.

- Agriculture: 9 resources account for 6.8% of the inventory. This primarily includes barns and farm structures.
- Commerce/industry: 7 resources, accounting for 5.3% of the inventory. This includes several brick and wooden commercial buildings located within the original Sherwood plat and important to the advent of the railroad through town.
- Culture: 113 resources, accounting for 85.6% of the inventory. These are primarily buildings or properties that housed social, religious, educational, professional/medicinal, fraternal activities, or have are within the classic 19th/20th century architecture. These buildings range in date from 1868 to 1937.
- Government: 1 resource in the inventory; the City's first post office.

The largest concentration of historic sites in Sherwood is in Old Town and surrounding neighborhoods. The Sherwood development code establishes special resource zones to provide for the preservation, protection and management of these unique historic and cultural resources. Old Town is a special resource zone implemented as an overlay district. The City also has a process to designate and protect historic landmarks, overseen by the Planning Commission. The code also identifies a landmark alteration process if there is a proposed alteration of a designated historic or cultural resource.

Public, Civic and Cultural Facilities

Sherwood owns and operates many government buildings and civic facilities. In addition, the community benefits from other public and private amenities, as well as events, festivals and activities that lend to the quality of life and sense of community. Popular community events include the Saturday Market, Center for the Arts Film Series, Sherwood Robin Hood Festival, Music on the Green, Movies in the Park, the Cruisin' Sherwood Classic and Custom Car Show, as well as the Wine Festival and Artisans Fair. Key public, civic and cultural facilities include, but are not limited, to the following:

City Hall

Sherwood City Hall was built in 2005, in conjunction with the Library. City Hall is the hub of government and civic operations. It hosts Community Services Department and Municipal Court offices, as well as conference rooms and a community room that can accommodate groups of up to 80 people.

Sherwood Public Library

Sherwood's first library started as a dedicated shelf of books in the local drugstore in 1935 and became a department of the City in 1969. In 2005, a new 14,400 square foot library facility was built in conjunction with City Hall. The location offers free internet access, 13 public internet stations, a fireplace reading room and spaces to study and play. The library serves a population of 22,000 in the greater Sherwood area. Over 11,000 community members have an active library card and each month nearly 20,000 visits to the library are made. Total annual circulation of library materials exceeds 356,000. In 2017, the library provided 625 programs with 25,000 participants—15,000 of those in youth programs. The total value of library services provided last year is estimated at \$8,360,000—a nearly 8-fold return on the annual budget. As of 2018, recently completed projects and programs include a Book Match program, interior wayfinding signage in English and Spanish, additional Adult Book Discussion Groups, increased budget for popular materials, a new Spanish language web portal, new furniture, a bi-annual user survey, and Project Outcomes assessment of its Storytime and Book Match programs. The library employs the full-time equivalent of 11.2 staff and has a strong volunteer base of over 40 community members. As a City department, the Library Advisory Board is made up of 9 voting members, including a rural representative and a high school representative, in addition to a City Council Liaison.

Sherwood Schools

The Sherwood School District (SSD) is the public educational service provider within City limits. Sherwood has four elementary schools (J. Clyde Hopkins, Middleton, Archer Glen, Edy Ridge), two middle schools (Sherwood Middle School, Laurel Ridge), and one high school, Sherwood High School, in the Sherwood School District. As of the 2017-2018 school year, there were between 500 and 600 students attending each of the four elementary schools, 490 students at Laurel Ridge Middle School, 686 at Sherwood Middle School, and 1,712 students enrolled at Sherwood High School, for a total of 5,288 students in the entire district. The Sherwood School District also sponsors

a program for at-risk youth in high school and has an alternative school for teens with drug or alcohol abuse, and caters to students in trouble with law enforcement. Within City limits, there is a private grade-school, a public charter k-8 school (Sherwood Charter School) as well as two private religious schools (St. Francis Catholic School and St. Paul Lutheran School). The 2017-2018 Oregon Department of Education Report Card rates the Sherwood School District as outstanding. High School graduation rate is 95%, compared to 77% for the state, and individual student progress year-to-year is rated “high” for grades 3-8. The district employs 17 administrators, 242 teachers, 82 educational assistants, 13 counselors and 7 librarians, spending an average of \$9,591 per pupil.

In 2016, a capital bond measure was passed to fund the construction of a new high school on a site just outside of the urban growth boundary. Metro approved the expansion of the Urban Growth Boundary to include the proposed site and it was annexed in 2018. Construction of the school is expected to be completed by fall 2020. The new high school will address issues of overcrowding and keep Sherwood a one-high school community for the foreseeable future. The existing high school site will become a middle school.

Sherwood Center for Performing Arts

Built in 2015 through urban renewal funds, the Sherwood Center for the Arts is the centerpiece for community arts and culture. The 15,000 square foot center offers a 400-seat amphitheater, classrooms and retail space. It serves as an event center and venue for various visiting theater, dance and music performances. The Center offers its own education and art enrichment programs, including the Family Matinee Series, Classic Film Series, Arts Education Classes & Camps and the Gallery Program. In 2018-2019, the Sherwood Center for the Arts welcomed 32,278 community members for classes, event rentals and other activities, nearly 5,000 more than the previous year.

Marjorie Stewart Senior Community Center

The Marjorie Stewart Senior Community Center offers exercise, education, games, and camaraderie for elderly in Sherwood. The center offers daily meals and special programmed events. In summer 2019, the City created a Senior Advisory Board to advise on senior service programming, policing, planning, management and engagement in services.

Other Community Gathering Spaces

Sherwood is home to many more community, cultural and arts facilities outside of those spaces which the City owns or operates. Sherwood residents find a sense of community through many mediums and across a variety of gathering spaces, like parks, sports fields, churches, coffee shops, etc. Other facilities include, but are not limited to:

- **Field House:** The Sherwood Field House offers practice and game space for adult and youth indoor soccer leagues, as well as field rentals for sports and birthday parties.
- **YMCA – Skate Park:** Slated to open in September 2019, the Sherwood Skate Park will be a 13,240 concrete park that will be located next to the Teen Center at the YMCA. The skate park design incorporates a mixture of street and transitional style skateboarding.

- **Sherwood Ice Rink:** Sherwood Ice Arena is a one of four skating facilities in the Portland metro region. It offers public skating sessions, public and private lessons, and “Learn to Play Hockey” classes for all ages. Sherwood Ice Arena is an NHL-sized 85’x200’ arena and hosts the largest weekly adult hockey program in the northwest, featuring nightly games.
- **Sherwood Heritage Center:** The Sherwood Heritage Center is a museum and living history site with two historical buildings and a train exhibit. It is dedicated to preserving and interpreting the history of Sherwood and Oregon. They offer monthly workshops and exhibits that allow visitors to understand Oregon history in an educational format.

Opportunities and Trends

Public Involvement

Opportunities

- **Departmental Public Involvement Plan.** The Planning Department does not currently have a centralized, departmental Public Involvement Plan from which public involvement activities can be planned, implemented, and evaluated. Without such a plan in place, efforts to foster innovation and continual improvement are complicated. A departmental Public Involvement Plan (informed by, but separate from, the Comprehensive Plan and Vision) should address how the department approaches public involvement in a variety of scenarios, segments of the community, and types of projects. The Plan also should specify what sort of research and data-gathering should be conducted prior to beginning projects, such as demographic research, identification of key desired outcomes, and unique barriers/assets to participation, and how evaluation of individual projects is used to enhance future efforts.
- **Multilingual Content.** The department does not produce public notices or most meeting materials in Spanish. Web site information is available to be translated via Google Translate. If requested, the department can offer translation services at public hearings, meetings, and events, but requests for translation are rare. Other than the Web site, no materials are translated to languages other than Spanish. The lack of materials available in Spanish or other languages may be a barrier to participation for Spanish speakers. Comments collected from the public in Sherwood 2040 Vision clearly indicate the community's desire to expand engagement with its diverse communities; thus, the City may need to expand the amount of multilingual information that it makes available.

Trends

- **Collaborative Community Engagement.** Some local governments are beginning to turn to a more collaborative approach to community engagement, particularly for projects that need to focus on outreach to historically underrepresented communities in order to be successful, or where the broadest possible involvement throughout a community is desired. In a collaborative arrangement, the city partners with existing organizations performing outreach to the target communities, providing subject-matter expertise, resources, and sometimes even funding to the partner organization, who then coordinates the outreach activities.
- **Youth Engagement.** There are over 1,700 high school students enrolled at Sherwood High School. City Council's 2019 Goals and Activities list the creation of a Youth Advisory Council as a key activity in order to encourage youth involvement and civic engagement. Harnessing the participation of youth leaders on project-based and standing advisory committees, or even in governing bodies themselves, could lend an important and innovative perspective to existing public involvement efforts. Some cities have included youth-specific events and

materials in their public involvement for long-term planning projects, including working with local schools to engage students and their families about cities and land use planning. Other cities have expanded youth participation beyond project-based engagement and into the governing bodies themselves, in both voting and advisory capacities. Locally, the City of Tualatin allows (but does not require) appointment of a youth representative to the Planning Commission.

- **Web and Mobile Technologies.** Sherwood, like most cities, maintains a Web site to provide access to meeting agendas, ordinances, application forms, maps, and other information. While the City website is well-used, content is typically static text, pictures, and diagrams. Feedback from Sherwood 2040 Vision indicated desire for enhanced access to web resources for City services and the use of technology as an engagement tool. Offering enhanced Web services bolsters communication, community engagement, public information, and innovation. Cities seeking to extend the capabilities of their websites have also integrated more interactive tools such as games and discussion forums, online surveys, streaming video of meetings or other presentations, and multilingual content. In addition, mobile technologies present an exciting opportunity to expand awareness and engagement. Typically, mobile technologies are oriented toward improving awareness (for example, using GPS to show information about resources or projects nearby) or engagement (for example, by allowing users to interact with the City on their phone). Providing mobile-specific content, applications and services would be an effective way to connect with Sherwood's connected audiences, particularly youth.
- **Open Data and Civic Technology.** Open data multiplies the effectiveness of the City's technology investment by enabling interested community members to use City public data to build new tools and applications that can address issues in the communities. These grassroots public-private partnerships with "civic technologists" can yield innovative and scalable solutions that the City is unlikely to be able to efficiently implement on its own. Data sets could include land use applications, natural resource inventory information or long-range plan data. For example, King County, Washington, has published a public data set of all 27,000+ planning applications received, including the case file number and address. The department also could publish data that it is already collecting internally – population growth, demographics, and development history are just some examples. Even small steps toward open data are beneficial. For example, the City does have current land use projects online, but lack a way to query currently pending land use applications. Providing additional transparency into planning decisions supports transparency and engagement directives from Goal 1 and addresses Vision comments encouraging better use of technology.

Historic resources

Opportunities

- **Updating the Cultural Resource Inventory.** The Cultural Resource Inventory has not been updated since 1989. In the 30 years lapse since, additional structures could be potentially eligible for inclusion.
- **Expand the Sherwood Old Town Façade Grant.** Most of Sherwood's historic resources are found in Old Town. The City's Urban Renewal District has a Façade Grant program, offering incentives for owners to upgrade and renew commercial buildings. While the District is expected to close in 2022, a re-energized Façade Grant program could add much needed visibility and support for historic preservation not only in the commercial area, but in the adjacent residential neighborhoods.
- **Educational Opportunities for Owners.** Several for profit and nonprofit organizations in the Portland Metro area provide educational programs on maintaining and restoring older homes. With staff support, this information could be brought to Sherwood owners via distribution of printed materials or workshops. Such preservation classes also could be opened to historic site owners in adjacent communities, strengthening relationships among Washington County cities.
- **Support the Sherwood Heritage Center.** The Sherwood Heritage Center may actively be seeking partnerships with other heritage and humanities organizations and funding for staff and website development. An active society would be a willing partner in any City historic preservation efforts.

Trends

- **Adaptive Reuse of Historic Properties.** Adaptive reuse is the process of adapting historic structures for purposes other than those for which they were originally built. Allowing more options in reusing historic buildings has provided economic incentives to save structures.
- **Social Media.** More and more historic preservation organizations and advocates are using social media to organize events, raise funds and increase awareness, especially among younger audiences. For example, the National Trust for Historic Preservation has co-sponsored a "Partners in Preservation" campaign whereby historic sites "compete" for grants by generating points on social media.
- **Integration of Historic Preservation with Other Heritage / Humanities Programs.** Across the country, heritage and humanities (arts and culture) groups are coordinating their programs and outreach to reach broader, and in most cases, overlapping audiences. Locally, the following groups are potential candidates for cooperative efforts with the Sherwood Historic Society on historic preservation: Washington County Museum / Washington County Historical Society, Regional Arts and Culture Council, Washington County Visitor's Association.

- **Building Codes.** Generally, building code standards are easier to apply in new construction and more difficult to apply to existing historic structures, but some cities have made specific provisions in their own ordinance to provide some relief from these requirements. This includes relaxed seismic upgrade requirements, waiving some ADA requirements, allowing single pane wooden windows for remodels in historic houses and providing Code handbooks to help explain various building code provisions.

Public, Civic and Cultural spaces

Opportunities

- **Service Planning and Delivery.** With an array of special districts, City departments, private franchises, and other jurisdictions providing facilities, utilities and services to City residents, the City must ensure effective collaboration and planning. Many facilities, utilities and services are subject to state and federal regulations and must be kept in compliance with these requirements. While public facilities like water, sewer and stormwater are described in more detail in a subsequent background report, the City can benefit from collaborative planning between these types of service providers for new and expanding civic, institutional, and cultural services. Colocation of infrastructure and facilities, such as an underutilized school field being made available to the public through a park department, can increase capacity and address the need for more civic and community facilities. In the Sherwood 2040 Visioning process, increasing the number and capacity of community meeting space was identified as an important community need. By incorporating these needs into public facility, utility and service planning, the City can better coordinate with service providers to address gaps in public, civic and cultural spaces.
- **School District Coordination.** Coordination between the City and school districts is critical to successful facilities planning. Procedures should be implemented to allow school districts to become aware of large developments which may impact school capacity and/or provide opportunities for siting new school facilities. In some cases, the City may require the dedication or reservation of land for a future school in accordance with a school district's facility plan. The City also should consider the location of actual or planned major capital investments by school districts when making its own infrastructure investments in order to complement and leverage these projects. To keep up with projected increases in enrollment numbers coupled with rising land costs, school districts may need to employ new approaches. For example, they may find it necessary to reevaluate assumptions about space and land needs, education delivery methods, and district/agency partnerships. The City should be prepared to assist school districts in planning for new and expanded facilities as needed, including long-term forecasting, coordinating with developers on site acquisition, evaluating UGB expansion options, and creating detailed growth strategies.

Trends

- **Expanding the scope of a Public Facilities Plan.** Although the state requires only a select set of public services to be addressed in a Public Facilities Plan (PFP), the City may choose to expand the scope to include others such as schools, parks, library, and civic buildings for better service planning and delivery. The City may consider developing the PFP as a tool to align community goals with future investments and as a means to balance maintenance with new construction needs.
- **Coordinating school facility siting.** As the City has seen rapid growth over the past few decades, school enrollment has grown. The Sherwood School District has been planning, expanding, and constructing facilities in addition to modifying their attendance boundaries in order to keep up with changing student needs. School siting can be a complex endeavor as districts attempt to accommodate anticipated growth in locations that will be proximate to the increasing student populations. As cost and parcel size are key determinants in new facility site selection, school districts have sought to acquire future school sites located outside the UGB, where suitably-sized parcels can often be found at much lower costs than inside the UGB. However, planning for a new school outside the UGB offers coordination challenges including timing and uncertainty of UGB expansion, ability of service providers to extend infrastructure and services, and costs associated with such extension.
- **Demand for flexible community space.** There is anticipated continued demand for working and gathering space in the community. For example, the role of the library as a community gathering space is even more essential as the ability to access information online increases. Both in Sherwood and in communities across the country, the library remains a key place for community members to meet, work, and connect. As telecommuting becomes a more viable option for workers in Sherwood, key community spaces like the library may consider capturing that interest and expanding services to include dedicated work desks and study space.

Policy Questions

The City can play a key role in supporting efforts and initiatives around community engagement, heritage preservation and civic and cultural services and amenities. Based on the City's current assets and practices, as well as the opportunities and trends, the following key questions are proposed to guide the development of thoughtful policy:

Public involvement

1. How does the community prefer to get information about happenings in the City?
2. How does the community like to be involved in public decision-making?
3. What community members does the City need to make a greater effort to engage?

Historic resources

1. What historic, scenic or natural resources should the City protect or enhance?

Public, Civic and Cultural spaces

1. What other types of events, services or activities could the City host or provide to help build community in Sherwood?
2. How can the City support the arts, culture and heritage communities?