

Housing Resource Document for the City of Oregon City Comprehensive Plan

Prepared For:

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1 Introduction

Adequate, affordable housing is one of the most important elements of any community. Housing provides our daily shelter as well as supplying a personal identity to a neighborhood and the community at large. An adequate supply of affordable housing and a variety of housing options to meet the needs of Oregon City residents are important components of a thriving community. Ensuring that all residents are able to secure housing and offering housing choices that attract new residents are ways to build a community's future.

We are largely a nation of homeowners. According to the 2000 Census, nationwide, approximately 66 percent of all households own their homes. In the Portland Metropolitan Area,¹ about 62 percent of all households are owner-occupied; Oregon City is very similar at 60 percent. For the homeowner and the renter, housing costs are a significant economic investment. Housing also plays a vital role in the national economy by generating jobs. For local government, housing is a primary source of income (property taxes) and the major recipient of expenditures to provide public facilities and services (water, sewer, transportation, police and fire).

Oregon City is unique in the region for its role in Oregon history and for the age and diversity of its housing stock. In Oregon City, housing has always been at the center of the community. Many older homes and buildings have historical significance. Therefore, housing planning in the city is aimed at both development of new housing units and preservation or careful redevelopment of older historic housing units. This requires a keen understanding of the current housing stock. Because Oregon City, like many other communities in the Willamette Valley, has grown quickly in the last decade, more units are needed to accommodate new residents, or residents wishing to move into another type of housing.

The Housing Element covers:

- Demographics that gives an overview of Oregon City residents compared to the region;
- Housing Stock that describes the current number of housing units
- Projected Land Capacity that describes the amount of vacant, partially vacant and potentially redevelopable residential land and its projected housing capacity; and
- Land Needs/Surplus that describes the needed housing mix and land needs be housing type.

2 Existing Conditions

2.1 *Demographics*

2.1.1 Population Trends

Oregon City has experienced population booms and busts over its long history. In the last twenty years Oregon City, like many communities in the Willamette Valley, has seen more accelerated

¹ The Portland Metropolitan Area includes the Multnomah, Clackamas, and Washington Counties, unless otherwise noted. The U.S. Census Bureau considers the three-county area a Primary Statistical Area.

growth, growing faster in the 1990's than in the 1980's. Table 1 illustrates the rate of growth for several communities in the Willamette Valley. Oregon City grew very little in the 1980's, when recession and lack of employment opportunities drew few new residents. In the 1990's, Oregon City began to grow at a much faster rate than it had in the 1980's, and along with other cities in the Willamette Valley, far surpassed the growth rates seen in the 1980's. In the 1990's, Oregon City was one of the fastest growing cities in the Willamette Valley, increasing its size by nearly 82 percent between 1990 and 2000. Clackamas County and the state also grew at much faster rates in the 1990's, increasing in population by approximately 24 percent and 22 percent, respectively.

Table 1. Population Change of Oregon City and other Willamette Valley Jurisdictions

Jurisdiction	1980	1990	% change (1980-1990)	AAGR (1980-1990)	2000	2001	% change (1990-2001)	AAGR (1990-2001)
Oregon	2,633,156	2,842,321	7.9%	0.8%	3,421,399	3,471,000	22.1%	1.8%
Clackamas Co.	241,919	278,850	15.3%	1.4%	338,391	345,150	23.8%	2.0%
Oregon City	14,673	14,698	0.2%	0.0%	25,754	26,680	81.5%	5.6%
Albany	26,511	29,540	11.4%	1.1%	40,852	41,650	41.0%	3.2%
Dallas	8,530	9,422	10.5%	1.0%	12,459	12,650	34.3%	2.7%
Forest Grove	11,499	13,559	17.9%	1.7%	17,708	18,380	35.6%	2.8%
Gladstone	9,500	10,152	6.9%	0.7%	11,450	11,438	12.7%	1.1%
Gresham	33,005	68,249	106.8%	7.5%	90,205	91,420	34.0%	2.7%
Lebanon	10,413	10,950	5.2%	0.5%	12,950	13,190	20.5%	1.7%
McMinnville	14,080	17,894	27.1%	2.4%	26,499	27,500	53.7%	4.0%
Milwaukie	17,931	18,670	4.1%	0.4%	20,550	20,490	9.7%	0.8%
Newberg	10,394	13,086	25.9%	2.3%	18,064	18,280	39.7%	3.1%
Salem	89,233	107,793	20.8%	1.9%	136,924	139,320	29.2%	2.4%
Tualatin	7,483	14,664	96.0%	7.0%	22,791	23,270	58.7%	4.3%
West Linn	11,358	16,389	44.3%	3.7%	22,261	23,090	40.9%	3.2%
Woodburn	11,196	13,404	19.7%	1.8%	20,100	20,410	52.3%	3.9%

Source: U.S. Census (1980, 1990, and 2000 Decennial Census); Portland State University Population Research Center, 2001

2.1.2 Age

The age of a population is a factor in determining what types of housing units are needed.

Younger residents are likely to live with families or in apartments. When residents begin to have children, housing needs change from smaller units to single-family homes with rooms for the children to play. When residents no longer need the large house because their children have left, housing needs change again, often when the care of a larger home is burdensome or when more medical care is necessary. Currently, the highest percentage of residents in Oregon City and the Portland Metro area are between 25 and 54, the ages when residents are starting families or have older children still living at home (Table 2). Many residents in this age bracket earn more money as they become established in their careers and are able to afford more expensive housing.

Oregon City has a slightly younger population than the Portland Metro area, with a median age of 32.7 compared to the Portland Metro area at 34.9. Oregon City has a higher percentage of residents under 10 than the Portland Metro area, indicating that many Oregon City residents have young families.

Table 2. Age

	Oregon City		Portland PMSA	
Age	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Under 5	2,160	8.4%	108,004	6.9%
5 to 9	2,019	7.8%	109,949	7.0%
10 to 14	1,763	6.8%	108,194	6.9%
15 to 19	1,740	6.8%	105,762	6.7%
20 to 24	1,913	7.4%	107,383	6.8%
25 to 34	4,239	16.5%	249,314	15.9%
35 to 44	4,135	16.1%	259,557	16.5%
45 to 54	3,433	13.3%	233,748	14.9%
55 to 59	1,145	4.4%	74,198	4.7%
60 to 64	696	2.7%	51,236	3.3%
65 to 74	1,147	4.5%	80,269	5.1%
75 to 84	931	3.6%	62,108	3.9%
85 and older	433	1.7%	23,049	1.5%
Median Age	32.7		34.9	

Source: 2000 Decennial Census, Profile of Selected Economic Characteristics

2.1.3 Race

Oregon City is less diverse in its racial and ethnic composition than the state or the Portland Metro area; over 90 percent of Oregon City's population is white. Table 3 includes the percentage of residents by race for Oregon, Metropolitan Portland, and Oregon City. Oregon City's minority population is composed primarily of Hispanics or Latinos, with smaller numbers of residents identifying themselves as two or more races. Asian residents make up just over one percent of the city's population. This is less than the Portland Metro area where nearly five percent of the population is Asian. In Oregon City, as in the state and the Portland Metro area, the largest minority group is Hispanic or Latino.

Table 3. Race as a Percentage of Population

	Oregon	Oregon City	Portland MSA
White (%)	83.5%	90.8%	81.6%
Black/African Am.(%)	1.6%	0.6%	2.6%
Am. Indian, Eskimo, Aleut (%)	1.2%	0.9%	0.8%
Asian (%)	2.9%	1.1%	4.5%
Hawaiian/ other Pacific Islander (%)	0.2%	0.1%	0.3%
Some other race (%)	0.1%	0.0%	0.1%
Two or more races (%)	2.4%	2.2%	2.7%
Hispanic/Latino(%)	8.0%	5.0%	7.4%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 (SF-1).

Note: The total percentage of Oregon City residents does not equal 100 percent due to rounding.

2.1.4 Group Quarters

Group quarters are not considered standard housing units because the units do not have individual kitchens, but this is still an important source of housing for certain populations. The population in group quarters is broken into institutionalized (prisons, nursing homes, hospitals, etc.) and non-institutionalized (college dormitories, halfway homes, etc.) populations. In Oregon City, about 91 percent of the population in group quarters is institutionalized, either in correctional institutions (61 percent), nursing homes, or assisted living facilities (39 percent). Table 4 shows the total number of people (institutionalized and non-institutionalized) living in group quarters. Oregon City has a higher percentage of its total population in group quarters (3.5 percent) than the Portland Metro Area (1.8 percent). The number of residents seeking housing in groups quarters (nursing or residential care facilities) is likely to increase as the population ages over the next 20 years.

Table 4. Number and Percentage of People in Group Quarters

Area	1990		2000		1990-2000 Change	
	Number	% of Total Population	Number	% of Total Population	Number	Percent Change
Oregon City						
Group Quarters	362	2.5%	903	3.5%	541	149.45%
Total Population	14,698	100.0%	25,754	100.0%	11,056	75.22%
Portland PMSA						
Group Quarters	23,080	1.9%	28,939	1.8%	5,859	25.39%
Total Population	1,239,842	100.0%	1,572,771	100.0%	332,929	26.85%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1990 (STF 1); 2000 Decennial Census, Profile of Selected Economic Characteristics

2.1.5 Poverty

Oregon City residents who fall below the federal poverty level have a more difficult time securing adequate housing than those with higher incomes. Table 5 shows the poverty rate for all residents in Oregon City by relationship. Overall, the percentage of individuals below the poverty level in Oregon City is lower than the Portland Metro area, although female householder families are having a harder time making ends meet. The percentage of all families in poverty in Oregon City (6.5 percent) is slightly higher than families in poverty in the Portland Metro area (6.2 percent).

Female-headed households are much more likely to live in poverty than other families. The percentage of female-headed households in Oregon City in poverty is significantly higher than the Portland Metro area, with nearly 25 percent of female-headed households in Oregon City living in poverty. This compares to just over 20 percent in the Portland Metro area as a whole. The biggest concern is female-headed households with children under five. Over 41 percent live below the poverty line in Oregon City compared to about 39 percent for the Portland Metro area.

Table 5. Poverty in Oregon City (2000)

Category	Oregon City	Percent of Population	Portland PMSA	Percent of Population
Individuals	2,173	8.9	147,501	9.5
Persons 18 years and older	1,404	7.8	103,152	8.9
Persons 65 years and older	167	7.5	11,877	7.4
All families	438	6.5	24,605	6.2
With related children under 18	368	10.1	19,860	9.6
With related children under 5	183	11.7	10,939	13
All female householder families	293	24.9	11,529	20.2
With related children under 18	271	32.5	10,569	26.8
With related children under 5	118	41.4	5,355	39.1

Source: 2000 Decennial Census, Profile of Selected Economic Characteristics

2.2 Households

While population characteristics are important, the characteristics of households define residential need. A household is all people living in a residential unit. A single person living alone in an apartment is considered a household, as is a family with children.

The U.S Census distinguishes between family and non-family households. Family households are made up of people related by blood or marriage. Non-family households are made up unrelated individuals (roommates). In 1990, Oregon City had 5,479 households with almost 70 percent in family households and about 30 percent in non-family households (Table 6). A comparison of the 2000 Decennial Census to the 1990 Census showed that there was very little change in the breakdown between family and non-family households, even though the 2000 Census reported a 73 percent increase in total households from 5,479 to 9,471 in 2000. Family households did grow slightly faster than non-family households, with single parent households showing the biggest increases.

Table 6. Household Type in Oregon City

	1990		2000		Percent Change 1990-2000
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Total Households	5,479		9,471		72.9%
Family households	3,803	69.4%	6,669	70.4%	75.4%
With own children under 18	2,153	39.3%	3,469	36.6%	61.1%
Married Couples with family	2,946	53.8%	5,024	53.0%	70.5%
With own children under 18	1,565	28.6%	2,410	25.4%	54.0%
Female householder, no husband present	649	11.8%	1,166	12.3%	79.7%
With own children under 18	453	8.3%	769	8.1%	69.8%
Male householder, no wife present	208	3.8%	479	5.1%	130.3%
With own children under 18	135	2.5%	290	3.1%	114.8%
Non family households	1,676	30.6%	2,802	29.6%	67.2%

Source: U.S. Census, 1990 (STF-1); U.S. Census, 2000 (SF-1); 2000 Decennial Census, Profile of Selected Economic Characteristics

2.2.1 Household Size

Another characteristic that will affect the type of housing needed by a household is its size. Average household size has declined nationally and in Oregon over the past 50 years. Table 7 shows that in 1950, the average household size in Oregon was 3.10, but sharp declines in the 1970's dropped the average household size to 2.60 in 1980. The decline in average household size has slowed over the last 20 years, but has still fallen to 2.51 for Oregon.

Table 7. Average Household Size

	Oregon		Oregon City	
	Average	Percent Change	Average	Percent Change
1950	3.10		2.90	
1960	3.10	0.0%	2.90	0.0%
1970	2.90	-6.5%	2.90	0.0%
1980	2.60	-10.3%	2.66	-8.3%
1990	2.52	-3.1%	2.62	-1.5%
2000	2.51	-0.4%	2.62	0.0%

Source: 1950-1970: "1940-1970 Population and Housing Trends, Cities and Counties of Oregon," Bureau of Government Research and Service, University of Oregon; 1980 Census of Housing, , Bureau of the Census, August 1982; 1990 Census, (Summary of Population and Housing Characteristics); 2000 Census (SF-1)

The Portland Metro area mirrors the state average at 2.51 percent in 2000. Oregon City had a smaller average household size than the state in 1950 (2.90), and also saw sharp declines in the 1970's, but did not decrease as fast as the state. Oregon City has continued to maintain a 2.62 average household size through 2000, the same as in 1990. Smaller household size means more units are needed even if the population remains unchanged.

2.2.2 Income

The most important household characteristic for determining housing need is income. Household income in Oregon City is generally increasing, with the biggest increases at the higher income levels. Table 8 indicates that the majority of Oregon City households earned between \$25,000 and \$74,999 (about 57 percent), which is similar to the Portland Metro area, where the majority of households (about 52 percent) also earn between \$25,000 and \$74,999.

In general, household income distribution in Oregon City mirrors the Portland Metro area with differences all less than two percent for each income bracket. The only exception are households earning more than \$150,000; 4.6 percent of Portland Metro households earn more than \$150,000 but in Oregon City only 1.5 percent of households earn more than \$150,000.

Table 8. Household Income in Metropolitan Portland and Oregon City (2000)

	Oregon City	Percent of population	Portland PMSA	Percent of population
Less than \$10,000	728	7.7%	42,556	6.9%
\$10,000 to 14,999	395	4.2%	31,037	5.0%
\$15,000 to 24,999	1,028	10.8%	69,551	11.3%
\$25,000 to 34,999	1,322	13.9%	78,424	12.7%
\$35,000 to 49,999	1,816	19.1%	105,902	17.2%
\$50,000 to 74,999	2,245	23.6%	133,308	21.7%
\$75,000 to 99,999	1,217	12.8%	72,099	11.7%
\$100,000 to 149,000	599	6.3%	53,649	8.7%
More than \$150,000	143	1.5%	28,565	4.6%

Source: 2000 Decennial Census, Profile of Selected Economic Characteristics

Table 9 shows median household income (MHI) for the Portland Metro area and Oregon City. Median household income has increased faster in Oregon City than in the Portland Metro area, although the MHI in Oregon City is still lower than the Portland Metro area. In 2000, Oregon City's median household income was about \$46,000 compared to the Portland Metro area, which has a median household income of nearly \$47,000.

Table 9. Median Household Income (2000)

Area	Median Household Income
Oregon City	45,531
Portland PMSA	46,789

Source: 2000 Decennial Census, Profile of Selected Economic Characteristics

2.3 Housing Stock

Determining how much and what types of housing will be needed in the next 20 years requires an understanding of what the current housing stock offers. The Residential Housing and Land Inventory is used as the basis for determining the types and number of units that currently exist in Oregon City and the land available to accommodate housing in the future. Housing trends are based on building permit data since 1996.

The demographics section illustrated that Oregon City is a growing community and, if growth continues as expected, more housing units will be required than are now available. How will this growth affect the livability of Oregon City, and what housing options will new residents want? One single type of housing will not meet the needs of every current and future resident; people need different types of housing depending on income, family size, age, etc. To ensure current residents stay and new residents want to move to Oregon City, a range of housing options are necessary.

2.3.1 Housing Units (Census)

The previous sections discussed characteristics and housing needs of Oregon City residents. This section describes housing units available for them. Oregon City has a range of housing types. Table 10 shows the total number of units (both occupied and vacant) by structure type, based on the 2000 Census. The percentage of single-family homes in Oregon City (74 percent) is nearly the same as the Portland Metro area (73 percent). By far the majority of single-family homes are one-unit-detached structures. Other single-family housing types include one-unit-attached (townhouses), duplex (two-unit), and mobile homes. The percentage of the housing stock in each of these structure types is similar to that in the Portland Metro area as a whole.

Table 10. Number of Units by Structure Type by Percentage of Total Housing Units

	Oregon City		Portland PMSA	
	Units	Percentage of total housing units	Units	Percentage of total housing units
Single-family				
one unit-detached	6320	62.2	401,817	61.6
one unit-attached	283	2.8	21,994	3.4
Duplex	603	5.9	19,476	3.0
Mobile home	348	3.4	31,468	4.8
<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>7554</i>	<i>74.0</i>	<i>474,755</i>	<i>73.0</i>
Multi Family				
3-4	620	6.1	29,880	4.6
5-9	883	8.7	35,569	5.5
10-19	382	3.8	36,517	5.6
20 or more	726	7.1	73,713	11.3
<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>2611</i>	<i>26.0</i>	<i>175,679</i>	<i>27.0</i>
Boat, RV, van etc	0		1,836	
Total	10,165		652,270	

Source: 2000 Decennial Census, Profile of Selected Economic Characteristics Household Characteristics

According to the 2000 Census, multifamily housing (structures with three or more units) account for about 26 percent of all housing in Oregon City and about 27 percent of all housing in the Portland Metro area. Oregon City's multifamily housing is concentrated in smaller complexes with less than ten units, although some newer apartment complexes with more than 20 units also are found in the city. The Portland Metro area also has a number of smaller apartment complexes, but the majority of units are in larger complexes with 20 or more units.

2.3.2 Housing Units (Housing survey)

Additional housing data by structure type was gathered through a parcel level housing survey completed in May 2002. The survey was conducted by walking or driving the entire city within the Oregon City UGB. In areas where it was difficult to determine if there were housing units,

aerial photos were used to confirm the number and type of housing units. Section 2.3.2.1 compares Census housing counts with those gathered in the housing survey.

An inventory of Oregon City housing revealed that housing in the city is fairly well dispersed in the city's neighborhoods (Figure 1).² Table 11 shows the number of housing units by type and zone. Table 12 shows the number of housing units by type and area. While nearly all areas have a significant number of units, Hazel Grove/Westling Farm, Hillendale, McLoughlin, Mt. Pleasant and the South End have the highest concentration of residential units. Within these areas, R-10, R-8, and R-6 zones have the highest concentration of single-family detached homes; RA-2, RD-4 and R-6 zones have the highest concentration of multifamily units. Single-family detached residential units are the dominant housing type in Oregon City.³ A description of zoning districts is in Appendix A.

2.3.2.1 Within City Limits

There are 11,395 housing units within the city limits of Oregon City. Single-family units comprise approximately 76 percent of housing within the city limits, which is slightly higher than the 74 percent that the census data reported for total single-family units.^{4,5} The housing survey determined that approximately 19 percent of housing units are multifamily units in structures or complexes with three or more units, compared to the Census data that reported approximately 26 percent of Oregon City housing unit as multifamily. The Census does not count group quarters by unit (it only counts individuals living in group quarters), although the May 2002 housing survey did identify an additional 505 units within the city limits, or about four percent of housing units, as group quarters. These include complexes such as group homes, retirement homes, and congregate care facilities where residents do not have individual kitchens.

Overall, the May 2002 housing survey counted 11,395 housing units within the city limits compared to 10,165 housing units counted in the 2000 Census. If group quarters were removed from the housing survey, the total units would be 10,890. While this is still higher than the Census count, the housing survey includes residential construction after the 2000 Census information was collected.

2.3.2.2 Outside the City Limits but Inside the UGB.

There are 1,162 housing units outside of the Oregon City city limits, but within the urban growth boundary (UGB). All housing units in this area are single-family units. About 55 percent of these homes are more traditional single-family detached homes on larger lots, and about 44 percent of homes are manufactured housing units in parks.

² City staff used existing neighborhood association boundaries that were slightly modified to include all areas within the UGB.

³ Total accessory dwelling units were estimated using Metro's methodology (based on 2000 Census data) at 1.8 percent of total single-family detached residential units (not including manufactured or mobile homes in parks). Applied to Oregon City, this equals 142 units, which were included in the overall count of residential units within the UGB.

⁴ Single-family units include single-family detached, single-family attached, duplex, mobile homes in parks, and accessory dwelling units.

⁵ The 2000 Census counted housing units within the city limits. It does not include housing units outside the city limits, but within the UGB.

2.3.2.3 Overall Housing Units

According to housing survey, there are 12,557 housing units within the Oregon City UGB; about 81 percent are single-family homes. About seven percent of single-family homes are mobile or manufactured homes in parks, with the majority of those parks located outside the city limits but inside the UGB. Oregon City has a number of multifamily units (three or more units), comprising about 17 percent of all units within the UGB. Duplexes (just over five percent of housing units) and multifamily units are primarily located inside the city limits. Group quarters were found in five neighborhoods: Barclay Hills, Gaffney Lane, McLoughlin, New TBA, and Rivercrest. These were mainly nursing or retirement homes, although there were also some congregate homes for residents with physical and/or mental disabilities.

Table 11. Number of Existing Units by Type and Zone

ZONE	Single-Family Residential	Duplex	Manufactured Homes in Parks	Single-Family Residential Attached	Multifamily Residential	ADU	Group Quarters	Total
Inside City Limits								
C	38	4	0	0	17	1	108	168
CI	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
HC	17	0	0	0	0	0	0	17
LC	19	4	0	0	17	0	0	40
LO	21	6	0	6	174	0	101	308
LOC	26	4	0	0	28	0	0	58
M-1	25	4	0	0	0	0	0	29
NC	8	2	0	0	0	0	0	10
R-10	2,647	76	0	0	4	48	0	2,775
R-6	1,735	129	0	0	290	31	55	2,240
R-6/MH	125	0	0	0	0	2	0	127
R-8	2,220	6	0	0	0	40	5	2,271
RA-2	25	26	0	20	1,215	0	119	1,405
RC-4	324	80	0	0	110	6	63	583
RD-4	192	333	381	46	350	3	54	1,359
<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>7,427</i>	<i>674</i>	<i>381</i>	<i>72</i>	<i>2,205</i>	<i>131</i>	<i>505</i>	<i>11,395</i>
Outside City Limits								
County	637	2	512	0	0	11	0	1,162
<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>637</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>512</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1,162</i>
Total	8,064	676	893	72	2,205	142	505	12,557

Source: Source: David Evans and Associates, May 2002 Housing Survey
ADU=Accessory dwelling unit

Table 12. Number of Existing Units by Type and Neighborhood

Area	Single-Family Residential	Duplex	Manufactured Homes in Parks	Single-Family Residential Attached	Multifamily Residential	Accessory Dwelling Units	Group Quarters	Total
Inside City Limits								
Barclay Hills	273	128	0	0	279	5	108	793
Canemah	111	0	0	0	18	2	0	131
Caufield	512	0	67	0	200	9	0	788
Gaffney Lane	747	4	0	66	434	13	159	1,423
Hazel Grove/Westling Farm	460	0	0	0	0	8	0	468
Hillendale	805	56	314	0	194	14	0	1,383
McLoughlin	800	140	0	0	207	14	63	1,224
Mt. Pleasant	608	68	0	6	452	11	0	1,145
New TBA	362	20	0	0	146	7	125	660
Park Place	604	144	0	0	100	11	0	859
Rivercrest	611	8	0	0	65	11	50	745
South End	979	102	0	0	0	18	0	1,099
Tower Vista	555	4	0	0	110	8	0	677
Subtotal	7,427	674	381	72	2,205	131	505	11,395
Outside of the City Limits						0		
Canemah	5	0	33	0	0	0	0	38
Caufield	99	0	479	0	0	2	0	580
Gaffney Lane	27	0	0	0	0	0	0	27
Hazel Grove/Westling Farm	118	0	0	0	0	2	0	120
Hillendale	94	0	0	0	0	2	0	96
New TBA	12	2	0	0	0	0	0	14
Park Place	104	0	0	0	0	2	0	106
South End	178	0	0	0	0	3	0	181
Subtotal	637	2	512	0	0	11	0	1,162
Total	8,064	676	893	72	2,205	142	505	12,557

Source: David Evans and Associates, May 2002 Housing Survey

2.3.2.4 Manufactured Housing

Oregon state law requires that manufactured homes be allowed anywhere traditional single-family detached homes are permitted, provided they meet specific building codes. The May 2002 housing survey counted manufactured homes on individual lots as single-family detached units. In these instances, the homeowner owns the structure and the land where the home is located.

Oregon City also has designated mobile home parks and manufactured home developments where the homeowner owns the structure, but rents or leases the land where the home is located. These housing developments were counted separately in the housing survey because there are different housing structure requirements for parks. For example, homes in parks are not always required to have a permanent foundation or permanent utilities connections. Table 13 shows designated mobile home and manufactured home parks within Oregon City.

Table 13. Mobile and Manufactured Home Parks

Park Name	Neighborhood	Capacity (units)	Existing Units	Vacant
Mt. Pleasant Mobile Home Park	Hillendale	125	125	0
Clairmont Mobile Home Park	Hillendale	189	189	0
Country Village Estates	Caufield	479	448	31
Cherry Lane Mobile Home Park	Caufield	67	60	7
Mobile Home Park	Canemah	33	33	0

Source: City of Oregon City; David Evans and Associates, Inc.; May 2002 Housing survey

2.3.3 Current Housing Mix and Density

Residential development since 1996 in Oregon City has consisted primarily of single-family detached residential development. Table 14 shows that 82.5 percent of units built since 1996 have been single-family detached, while about 14.5 percent were multifamily units. Manufactured or mobile homes also accounted for about three percent of new units.

Table 14. Percentage of Housing Units by Structure Type within the City Limits (1996-2001)

	Percent of Units
Single-family detached	82.5%
Single-family attached	0.3%
Mobile or manufactured	2.7%
Multifamily	14.5%

Source: Metro, 2002

In order to make efficient use of urban land and infrastructure (water, sewer, streets), Metro urges cities to ensure that housing is built at densities of at least 80 percent, the maximum allowed by zoning. As a part of the Oregon City Functional Compliance Report (1999), the City determined that between 1990 and 1995, the number of households per net developed acre reached 82 percent of the maximum allowable densities for residential zones, which complies with the Metro target for built density.

Table 15. Development Density Compared to Maximum Allowable Density (1996-2001)

Zone	Total Units	Original Parcel Size	Developed Acres (residential)	ROW/ Unbuildable	Net Density	Maximum Density	Percent of Maximum Density (net)
ZONING DESIGNATIONS							
R-10	399	141.3	89.7	57.5%	4.4	4.4	100%
R-6	45	11.6	7.9	46.8%	5.7	7.3	78%
R-6/MH	46	12.7	9.5	33.7%	4.8	6.4	76%
R-8	725	200.8	149.5	34.3%	4.8	5.5	88%
RD-4	88	18.1	14.4	25.7%	6.1	10.9	56%
Total	1,303.0	384.5	271.0	41.9%	4.8		80%

Source: City of Oregon City (July 2002); David Evans and Associates

Table 15 shows residential development permitted through land use actions (subdivisions) since 1996. The majority of new development has occurred in the R-8 and R-10 zoning districts, largely on land annexed since 1996. Developments also appear to be occurring on parcels with more environmental constraints, as the amount of land not developed, especially in the R-10 and R-6 zones, is much higher than in other areas. Regardless of parcel size, the city is achieving 80 percent of maximum residential density citywide. Some zones are reaching closer to the maximum allowable density than others; the R-10 zone has reached 100 percent of the maximum density, where as the RD-4 zone has achieved just 56 percent.

2.3.4 Condition

No housing condition survey has been completed in recent years. Instead, the condition of the current housing stock in Oregon City has been estimated based on the age of the structures. Newer units, ones typically less than 30 years old, will require fewer major repairs (new roof, electrical upgrades, plumbing). Table 16 shows the age of Oregon City housing stock. Almost half of Oregon City homes are older than 30 years, with over a quarter of homes older than 50 years. These homes require more upkeep than the newer homes, costing the homeowner additional money if the home is repaired as needed. About a third of homes are less than ten years old, showing the boom in home construction over the last 10 years.

Table 16. Housing Condition in Oregon City

	Percent
Less than 10 Years old	32%
11 to 20 Years old	3%
21 to 30 Years old	25%
31 to 40 years old	8%
41 to 50 years old	5%
more than 50 years old	26%

Source: Clackamas County Tax Assessor's Office (May, 2002)

2.3.5 Housing Availability

Oregon City and the Portland Metro area are similar in the percentage of renters versus owners, as shown in Table 17. The majority of housing units in both Oregon City and the Portland Metro area are owner-occupied; about 60 percent of housing units in Oregon City are owner-occupied, compared to about 62 percent in the Portland Metro area. Oregon City also has a slightly higher rental vacancy rate at 7.7 percent compared to the Portland Metro area at 6.7 percent. The vacancy rate is a determining factor in the amount of rental units available. A vacancy rate over five percent is considered indicative of a rental market that is adequate to serve the needs of the community. A lower rate may signify a need for more units to meet demand. However, the vacancy rate does not take into account the types of housing that are vacant.

Table 17. Current Occupancy and Vacancy Rates in Oregon City

	Oregon City (percent)	Portland PMSA (percent)
Occupied housing units	93.7	94.2
Owner occupied	59.8	62.0
Renter occupied	40.2	38.0
Vacant housing units	6.3	5.8
Homeowner vacancy rate	3.4	2.3
Rental vacancy rate	7.7	6.7

Source: 2000 Decennial Census, Profile of Selected Economic Characteristics Household Characteristics

2.3.6 Cost

One factor for determining how affordable housing is in Oregon City is to compare average rental cost and cost of homes for sale to median household income. Table 18 and Table 19 show average rents and the median home prices by the number of bedrooms for Oregon City and the Portland Metro area.

Table 18. Average Rent by Number of Bedrooms for Portland and Oregon City

	Oregon City	Portland
Studio	\$373	\$492
One-bedroom	\$500	\$600
Two-bedroom	\$599	\$735
Three-bedroom	\$690	\$873
Four-bedroom	N/A	\$977

Source: Housing Authority of Portland (Portland rental rates); Rental Data.com (Oregon City rental information)

Rents are less expensive in Oregon City (20 to 30 percent lower) than in the Portland Metro area. While this does provide a general indication that renting an apartment in Oregon City is more affordable, it does not take into account the total number of units by price available or by location. Different rental rates and size of available units are not evaluated individually, but it is likely that lower priced rental units are more competitive than higher rents for larger units or units with more amenities.

Home prices in Oregon City are competitive with the Portland Metro area. According to the Regional Multiple Listing Service (RMLS), median home prices in Oregon City have increased as fast as the other parts of the Portland Metro area, especially for homes with three bedrooms. The RMLS reports that the median price for all home types in the Oregon City area is actually higher than the Portland Metro area, although this may be skewed slightly because RMLS includes some rural areas in Oregon City, where larger lots and potentially higher prices could drive the median cost higher. Nevertheless, the majority of homes sold in the last year within the RMLS zone that includes Oregon City reflect a housing market very similar to the Portland Metro area.

Although the median home price (for 2002) for all homes sold is higher in Oregon City, median home price by type and number of bedrooms is generally lower. The median home price for a home with four or more bedrooms is about eight percent lower in Oregon City than the Portland Metro area as a whole. Smaller homes are more comparable, with two and three bedroom homes selling for nearly the same as in the Portland Metro area. Condominiums in Oregon City are about 30 percent less expensive than the region.

Table 19. Median Home Price for Portland and Oregon City (Jan 2002-July 2002)

	Oregon City	Portland
Two-bedroom	\$132,000	\$135,000
Three-bedroom	\$178,000	\$169,950
Four-bedroom	\$227,031	\$245,000
Condominium	\$98,500	\$129,900
Median (all units)	\$184,000	\$176,500

Source: Regional Multiple Listing Service (Jan -July 2002)

Note: RMLS does not track Oregon City separately from other rural areas outside of the Portland metro area. Some rural areas outside of the Oregon City UGB are included in median home prices.

The market value for existing housing is only one facet for determining how much home Oregon City residents can afford, or if they can even afford to purchase a home. Income requirements from lenders and savings for a down payment are two stumbling blocks, but affording the monthly mortgage payment on a home can also be a burden. Table 20 compares household income to fair market rents in Clackamas County.⁶ Fair market rents are used to assess the average cost of rental housing within each county and are a better indicator of the entire rental housing stock in the region. While average rents in Oregon City are lower than fair market rents in Clackamas County, there is no assurance of availability of these lower rent units. The total number of units at a certain price point is also not accounted for in average rents in Oregon City, so some residents may be forced to live outside the city or pay higher prices more in line with fair market rents.

Housing affordability is based on the percentage of monthly income spent on housing. The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) uses a standard formula to determine affordability, assuming no more than 30 percent of monthly household income is spent on rent or

⁶ HUD determines fair market rent based on annual phone survey and other data gathering techniques down to the county level, but does not collect data for smaller geographic units such as Oregon City.

mortgage. Using HUD's formula, over 12 of percent of Oregon City residents cannot afford even a studio apartment, and over 23 percent are not able to afford a two-bedroom apartment.

Table 20. Housing Affordability based on Household Income

	Oregon City	Percent of population	Affordable Housing Cost (30 percent)	HUD Fair Market Rent (2001)
Less than \$10,000	728	7.7%	0-\$250	Studio: \$492 One-bedroom: \$606
\$10,000 to 14,999	395	4.2%	\$250-\$375	
\$15,000 to 24,999	1,028	10.8%	\$375-\$625	
\$25,000 to 34,999	1,322	13.9%	\$625-\$875	Two-Bedroom: \$747 Three-bedroom: \$1,038 Four-Bedroom: \$1,127
\$35,000 to 49,999	1,816	19.1%	\$875-\$1,250	
\$50,000 to 74,999	2,245	23.6%	\$1,250-\$1,875	
\$75,000 to 99,999	1,217	12.8%	\$1,875-\$2,500	
\$100,000 to 149,000	599	6.3%	\$2,500-\$3,725	
More than \$150,000	143	1.5%	more than \$3,750	
	9,493	100.0%		

Source: 2000 Decennial Census, Profile of Selected Economic Characteristics Household Characteristics; HUD; Analysis by David Evans and Associates, Inc.

Although many residents cannot afford even the most basic housing, most Oregon City households can. Households with incomes between \$35,000 and \$75,000 account for about 43 percent of households and are generally able to afford at least a two-bedroom apartment if not more.

While many Oregon City households are able to afford larger and more expensive housing, households with lower incomes are in a more precarious situation. When rent accounts for more than 30 percent of income, HUD considers the household "cost burdened." Households spending more than 50 percent of monthly income on rent are considered "extremely cost burdened" and likely to be financially stressed by emergencies or even unable to afford basic needs such as food and transportation. HUD breaks low-income households into several categories: extremely low-income (earning 30 percent or less than the median household income); very low-income (earning 50 percent or less than the median household income); and low-income (households earning 80 percent or less than the median households income). Table 21 illustrates what different Oregon City household income levels can afford based on the median household income. Extremely low-income households (earning less than \$13,659 annually) cannot afford even a studio in Oregon City. Very low-income households earning less than \$22,765 annually and accounting for about one-quarter of Oregon City's population are able to afford only a one-bedroom apartment. In order to find housing, very-low income households may double up or accept substandard units. Low-income residents (earning less than \$36,425) can sometimes afford larger units.

Higher income households have a much better chance of securing adequate housing because they can afford to be choosy in both housing type and location. The high percentage of extremely low and very low incomes in Oregon City, in combination with high rental rates and housing costs, reveals an apparent lack of housing for low-income households.

Table 21. Monthly Affordable Housing Costs for Oregon City Residents

	Median Household Income	Affordable Monthly Housing Costs (30 percent of income)			
Percent of Median Household Income		30 percent of MHI	50 percent of MHI	80 percent of MHI	100 percent of MHI
Oregon City	\$45,531	\$341	\$569	\$911	\$1,138

Source: 2000 Decennial Census, Profile of Selected Economic Characteristics Household Characteristics; Analysis by David Evans and Associates, Inc

The National Low-Income Housing Coalition (NLIHC) estimates that, nationally, 55 percent of low-income households experience cost burden, live in substandard housing, and/or live in overcrowded units. For extremely low-income households (30 percent of MHI), the likelihood that a household experiences some type of housing problem is even higher, at 88 percent.

2.3.7 Owning Versus Renting

Owning a home is often the biggest investment an individual or family will undertake and can provide a level of financial independence for those that can afford it. According to the National Low Income Housing Coalition (NLIHC) and the U.S Census Bureau, home ownership nationwide is on the increase, undoubtedly due to currently very low mortgage interest rates. Those who have not been able to secure loans in the past are now buying homes with little or sometimes no down payment. But getting a loan for a house is only part of the problem, because with a house comes upkeep costs and a mortgage payment that is not easily adjusted. Homeowners with lower incomes are often deeper in debt and more susceptible to market fluctuations. Losing a house due to foreclosure can further complicate an individual or family's chance of securing credit in the future.⁷

According to the NLIHC, households earning less than the area's median income are most susceptible to losing their homes or face a cost burden to pay the mortgage, interest and insurance. For example, households earning 80 percent of the median income will often live in less expensive older homes. Older homes are more expensive to maintain and are often located in poorer neighborhoods where the financial return on a home sale is not as great as more desirable areas. While owning a home does have the potential to create wealth, it also has the potential to exacerbate financial problems. Table 22 shows a general breakdown of owners versus renters and how housing costs affect household stability.

Attempting to determine what a household can afford is difficult because interest rates fluctuate, loan types vary, and property taxes are not the same everywhere. Nevertheless, the National Association of Homebuilders (NAHB) roughly calculated how much income a household would need to buy a home without overburdening it financially. The NAHB estimated that a home costing \$150,000 (assuming 10 percent down payment, seven percent mortgage interest and insurance, and overall consuming about 30 percent of household income) would require a median household income of \$47, 678. Consider that \$150,000 is lower than the median home price in Oregon City and the Portland Metro area (Table 19), and the necessary household

⁷ National Low Income Housing Coalition. (2002). *Advocates Guide to Housing and Community Development Policy*.

income is higher than the median household income for both Oregon City and the Portland Metro area (Table 9). Households in Oregon City earning even the median household income may experience some cost burden when buying a home in today's market.

Table 22. Affordable Housing by Median Household Income

Income	Tenure	Owns.....	Rents.....
High income (more than 120 percent of MHI)	Own home		
Middle income (120 percent of MHI: \$54,637 annually)	Own home		
Median income (\$45,531 annually)	Likely own home, but may rent		
Low income (80 percent or less of MHI: \$36,425 annually)	Own home or rent. May have some cost burden		
Very low-income (50 percent or less of MHI: \$22,765 annually)	Likely rent but may own home. Probably are cost burdened. Eligible for subsidized housing		
Extremely low-income (30 percent or less of MHI: \$13,659 annually)	Rents. Eligible for subsidized housing		

Source: 2000 Decennial Census, Profile of Selected Economic Characteristics Household Characteristics; HUD (2002); NLIHC (2002); Clackamas County Housing Authority; Analysis by David Evans and Associates, Inc.

3 Future Housing Need

3.1 Projected land capacity

3.1.1 Existing Residential Land Supply

The City of Oregon City completed a land inventory in May 2002 to determine the existing vacant residential land supply within the City's UGB. The inventory was then integrated with the City's GIS system and Clackamas County's Assessor data, providing parcel level information, including ownership, zoning and comprehensive plan designations.

Oregon City allows residential development in all of its zoning districts; however, not all vacant land identified in the housing survey within the UGB will be available for new residential development. While housing units exist in most zoning districts, vacant, partially vacant, and redevelopable land was only counted in zoning designations where residential development is encouraged. These zoning designations include: LC, R-10, R-6, R-6/MH, R-8, RA-2, RD-4, RC-4, and County.

Within commercial and industrial zoning districts where residential development is not, and should not be, the dominant development type, it was assumed that vacant land identified in the land inventory would be dedicated to other uses. City staff identified which areas would be suitable for residential development and should be included. Land with existing residential designations or existing residential development was broken into the following categories:

1. Vacant land—Parcels with no structures, or parcels with structures with an assessed value less than \$10,000 and a parcel area over 4000 sq. ft.

2. Partially vacant—Partially vacant land includes parcels that have at least one residential structure already located on the tax lot, but there is room for more units. Parcels were considered partially vacant if the lot size was at least triple the allowable lot size for the zone. Lots three to five times the minimum lot size were estimated to have room for at least one more unit. Lots more than five or more times the minimum lot size were assumed to develop the same as a vacant parcel for the zone.
3. Undevelopable—Parcels that are already committed to other uses. This includes any parcels with non-residential development (since residential uses are currently allowed in all zones), and parcels that are smaller than 4,000 sq. ft. Undevelopable land also includes parcels that have no vehicular access.
4. Developed residential land—Parcels with residential development and where developed land meets the current zoning designation and where the assessed value of the improvements (all structures) is greater than the assessed value of the land itself.
5. Potentially redevelopable land—Any parcel with a structure(s) or uses (i.e., a storage area), but are either not as intensive as allowed, or the existing assessed value of the improvements is less than the value of the land itself.⁸

3.1.1.1 Vacant Land

Vacant land within the Oregon City UGB is shown in Table 23 and Figure 2. Within the city limits, vacant land is found primarily in five zoning districts: R-10, R-6, R-6/MH, R-8, and RD-4. Overall, Oregon City estimates that approximately 22 percent of vacant land will be dedicated to public or semipublic uses such as schools, parks, and churches, and 15 percent to new roads. In calculating development capacity, it was assumed that parcels smaller than three eighths of an acre are already platted, would not require dedication of new right-of-way, and would use existing public facilities. Parcels with public or semi-public ownership were removed from the vacant lands inventory because it was assumed these parcels would be developed as non-residential uses (i.e., parks, schools, churches, public facilities, etc.).

Many vacant areas within the city limits are constrained because they are within the floodplain, are steep (greater than 25 percent), and/or are within the vegetation corridor near a waterbody or stream. These constraints reduce their development potential, so they were removed from the inventory. For example, nearly all vacant land within the R-6 zoning district is constrained. Although some development could occur on constrained land, vacant R-6 land in the entire city is extremely limited.

Overall, there are approximately 209 vacant buildable acres within the city limits, concentrated in the R-10 (63 percent), R6/MH (13 percent), R-8 (nine percent), and RD-4 zoning districts (seven percent). Assuming new development reaches 80 percent of the current maximum density for each district, 1,215 new units could be constructed within the city limits on vacant land.

⁸ To avoid double counting vacant and partially vacant parcels as potentially redevelopable parcels (vacant parcels will have a low or zero ratio, bigger parcels will tend to have a lower ratio and could also be considered redevelopable), only parcels where the building value was greater than \$10,000, met the building to land value criteria (less than 1:1), and less than three times the allowable lot size were counted as potentially redevelopable. Parcels with building values less than \$10,000 were assumed to be vacant, and parcels greater than three times the allowable lot size were considered partially vacant.

Outside the city limits, but within the UGB, there are approximately 126 vacant buildable acres.⁹ These parcels still retain rural zoning densities and when brought into the city limits will be rezoned to more urban densities, likely a combination of R-10, R-8, and R-6 zones. Assuming an average density that is 80 percent of the maximum of a R-8 zone, about 571 additional units could be constructed. This equals 1,787 new units on vacant land within the UGB.

3.1.1.2 Partially Vacant Land

Oregon City has many parcels within the city limits that have one single-family home and are at least three times the minimum lot size, as shown in Table 24 and Figure 2. The majority of these partially vacant parcels are zoned R-10, the largest minimum lot size allowed within the city limits. There are 117 parcels zoned R-10 that are three to five times the minimum lot size and 99 parcels more than five times the minimum lot size. The R-8 and R-6 zones also have a significant number of parcels where locating new units is a possibility. Overall, potentially 223 new units could be constructed on these partially vacant lots within the city limits, assuming one unit is added on lots three to five times the minimum lot size. An additional 961 new units could potentially be built on lots larger than five times the minimum lot size, assuming these parcels are built to 80 percent of the maximum allowable density for the zone.

As with vacant lands between the city limits and UGB, estimating the total number of new housing units possible on under-utilized parcels will depend on the zoning assigned when annexed. Assuming a R-8 zoning density, there are 236 parcels that would be at least three times the minimum lot size. There would be 81 lots between three and five times the minimum lot size and 155 parcel more than five times the minimum lot size. There is the potential for additional 81 units on parcels between three and five times the allowable lot size and potentially another 1,541 units on parcels larger than five times the allowable lot size.¹⁰

Within the entire UGB, there is the potential for 2,806 new units on partially vacant lots within the UGB.

⁹ Vacant parcels that would be designated for non-residential uses (such as Mixed-Use Employment) are not included in total acreage.

¹⁰ Partially vacant parcels that would be designated for non-residential uses (such as Mixed-Use Employment) are not included in total acreage.

Table 23. Vacant Residential Land by Zoning in Oregon City

Classification	Number of tax lots	Gross unconstrained Acreage	total Acreage >3/8 acres (.83) ¹¹	Less environmental constraints	Park, Schools and Churches Deduction (x.22)	Right of way deduction (x.15)	Gross vacant buildable acres	Max. Units per acre	Development on Parcels less than 3/8 Acres	Potential Dwelling Units (80 percent density)
Within the UGB										
LC ¹²	13	1.5	1.2	0.7	0.1	0.1	0.6	7.3	11	14
R-10	146	264.8	219.8	89.4	28.7	15.3	131.5	4.4	72	535
R-6	122	72.6	60.3	58.9	0.3	0.2	13.2	7.3	80	157
R-6/MH	8	38.8	32.2	2.7	6.5	3.5	26.2	6.4	2	136
R-8	92	35.4	29.4	11.3	4.0	2.1	18.0	5.5	73	152
RA-2	10	6.5	5.4	0.4	1.1	0.6	4.4	19.8	3	72
RC-4	10	2.8	2.3	1.1	0.3	0.1	1.3	10.9	9	20
RD-4	15	22.9	19.0	4.0	3.3	1.8	13.9	10.9	7	128
Subtotal	416	445.3	369.6	168.5	44.2	23.5	209.0		257	1,215
Between the City Limits and the UGB										
County	91	226.6	188.1	55.8	29.1	15.5	100.4	5.5	16	571
Total	507	671.9	557.6	224.3	73.3	39.0	336.6		273	1,787

Source: Clackamas County Assessors Office; Analysis by David Evans and Associates, Inc.

¹¹ The Oregon City Functional Compliance Plan (1999) determined that 83 percent of parcels in Oregon City are over 3/8 acres. Total acres were multiplied by .83 to remove parcels less than 3/8 of an acre, which are already assumed to be platted.

¹² 50 percent of gross vacant unconstrained acres is dedicated to residential uses. There are 2.9 acres of vacant LC land.

Table 24. Partially Vacant Residential Land by Zoning in Oregon City

		For lots 5 times or larger the allowable size					Potential dwelling units (80 percent density) for all lots 5 times the lot size. One additional unit for lots 3-5 times the lot size
Classification	Tax lots 3 to 5 times minimum size	Total tax lots	Total Acres	Maximum Density	Constrained land	Right of way (15%)	
Within the UGB							
LC	0	0	0.0	7.3		0.0	0
R-10	117	99	238.7	4.4	53.1	27.8	672
R-6	60	25	33.2	7.3	19.7	2.0	127
R-6/MH	5	3	5.5	6.4	1.7	0.6	22
R-8	26	48	86.0	5.5	8.1	11.7	317
RA-2	0	1	2.3	19.8	0	0.3	31
RC-4	0	0	0.0	10.9	0	0.0	0
RD-4	15	0	0.0	10.9	0	0.0	15
Subtotal	223	176	365.7		82.6	42.5	1,184
Between the City Limits and the UGB							
County	81	155	470.3	5.5	58.4	61.8	1,622
Total	304	331	836.0		141.0	104.3	2,806

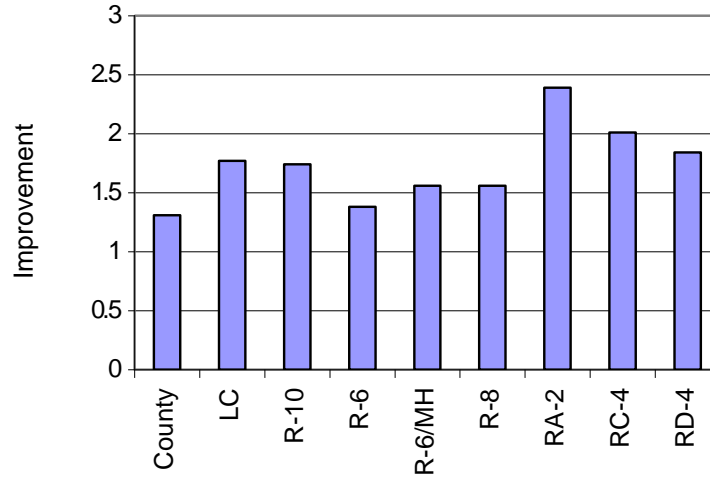
Source: Clackamas County Assessors Office, May 2002; Analysis by David Evans and Associates, Inc.

3.1.1.3 Potentially Redevelopable Land

Identification of parcels that could be redeveloped is based on the value of improvements compared to land value. The value of the structures and other improvements declines over the years if not properly maintained, and the potential for redeveloping the property increases. Figure 3 illustrates the average improvement values by residential zoning districts. Not surprisingly, improvement-to-land-value ratios are highest in zoning districts that allow denser development (RA-2, RC-4, and RD-4 zones). The RA-2 zone has the highest improvement-to-land-value ratio of any residential district. Conversely, less dense zones have lower improvement values, where one unit on a larger lot is the norm. Overall, average improvements in single-family residential zones are about 1.5 times the land value, with zones allowing higher density housing closer to two times the land value.

Parcels falling below the 1:1 building-to-land-value threshold could potentially be redeveloped with newer or higher density uses. However, just because the land is considered redevelopable does not ensure that change will actually occur. Table 25 shows the amount of potentially redevelopable land by zone. In Oregon City, there is less than one acre of land considered highly redevelopable and just over eight acres that have medium redevelopment potential. The majority of redevelopable parcels (about 90 percent) have a low potential and will likely stay in the same use as today. By far the majority of redevelopable parcels are within the R-6 zone, followed by the R-10 zone.

Figure 3. Improvement to Land Value Ratio for Residential Property



Source: Clackamas County Tax Assessor's Office (May 2002)

Table 25. Potentially Redevelopable Residential Land by Zoning in Oregon City

Redevelopment Potential Zoning District	Building to Land Value			Total Acres
	0-0.25 (High)	0.26-0.50 (Medium)	0.51-0.99 (Low)	
LC			0.8	0.8
R-10		1	23.5	24.5
R-6	0.8	6.9	48.7	56.4
R-6/MH			0.4	0.4
R-8				0
RA-2		0.3	0.3	0.6
RC-4		0.2	6.1	6.3
RD-4			3.0	3
Total	0.8	8.4	82.8	92

Source: Clackamas County Assessors Office; Analysis by David Evans and Associates, Inc.

3.2 Metro and Clackamas County Capacity Estimates/Land Need through 2017

Oregon City is required to determine its housing capacity within the city limits and outside of the city limits but within the UGB area that is still under Clackamas County jurisdiction. Table 26 shows the amount of expected growth in the region that Metro and Clackamas County believe Oregon City should accommodate and the projected housing capacity (using the current zoning) within the UGB to meet those targets. Within the city or UGB, Metro and Clackamas County estimated that Oregon City should expect to accommodate 9,940 additional units by 2017.

Oregon City has seen considerable growth since the projected capacity estimates were developed. Between 1994 and 1996, Oregon City determined by reviewing building permits that 1,446 units were built within the UGB. More recent permit data supplied by Metro showed an

additional 2,219 units constructed between 1996 and 2001. This development significantly reduces the dwelling units needed by 2017 to 6,075 units. However, there does not appear to be capacity to accommodate these units within the UGB. Full development of all vacant and partially vacant land would result in 4,593 new units, based on current zoning within the city and an overall R-8 density for county land within the UGB, missing the capacity target by 1,444 units.

Table 26. Capacity Analysis based on Metro and Clackamas County Capacity Estimates

Metro and Clackamas county dwelling unit target capacity	9,940
Credit for development (9/1/94-8/31/96)	(1,446)
Credit for development (8/31/96-Current)	(2,219)
Credit for projected accessory units	(142)
Credit for development on constrained land	(58)
Adjusted dwelling unit target	6,075
Estimated dwelling unit capacity on vacant land	(1,787)
Estimated dwelling unit capacity on partially vacant land	(2,806)
New welling units in manufactured home parks	(38)
<i>Dwelling Unit Capacity Deficiency</i>	<i>1,444</i>

These capacity estimates do not reflect plans to permit and encourage increased density in some areas (such as downtown), because the zoning to implement these higher densities is not yet in place. Currently, there is no housing within the downtown area and no land zoned specifically for housing, although the Oregon City Downtown Community Plan (1999) recommends several areas that could accommodate higher-density housing. If this plan is implemented, a considerable number of housing units could be accommodated in the core area of the city.

Oregon City's zoning for residential land within the city limits is primarily R-10 and R-8. This is larger than the average lot size recommended by Metro for urban areas (7,000 sq. ft). There is potential for more housing if zoning were changed and densities increased.

The number of units that could be developed on unincorporated land within the UGB depends on what zoning was assigned to each parcel when it was annexed into the city. Upon annexation, parcels are typically zoned R-10, the lowest density allowed within the city limits. For the purposes of these estimates, vacant county parcels were assumed to develop at an R-8 zoning density. However, some areas could be zoned at higher densities and accommodate additional units.

Underutilized land (or land than is not developed to the maximum allowed density by zoning) actually accounts for more acreage than vacant land in the unincorporated UGB. Underutilized land that is more than five times the allowable lot size was assumed to develop the same as vacant parcels, based on Oregon City's experience where new development on these larger lots is meeting at least 80 percent of the target density for the underlying zone. Redevelopable land is not included in the capacity analysis because of the limited amount of land considered to be highly redevelopable. The number of units that might be constructed would likely be negligible.

3.3 Housing Mix Based on Demographics

Metro and Clackamas County developed a dwelling unit target for Oregon City based on expected regional growth and the amount of vacant land available within the Oregon City UGB, shown in Table 26, not accounting for current and future socioeconomic conditions. While the target assumes that a variety of housing types will be required, it does not determine what the best housing mix would be and how much residents can afford to spend on housing.

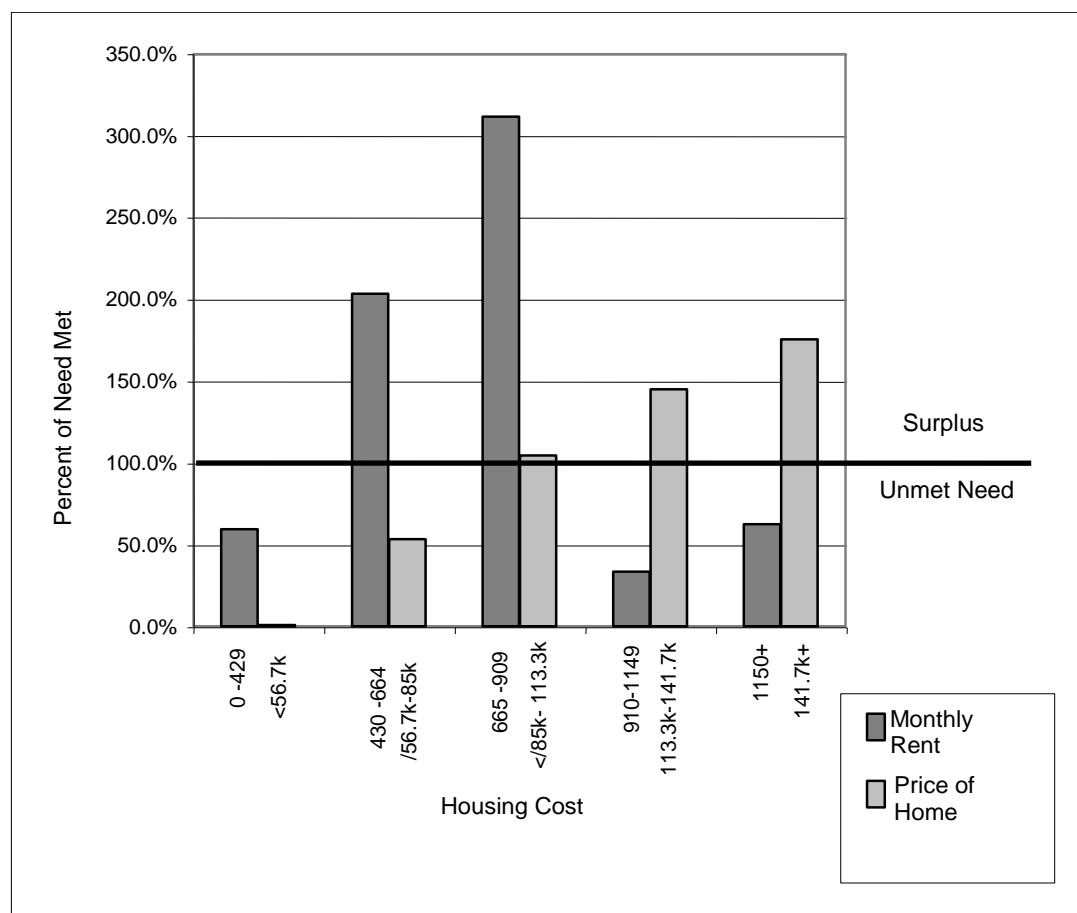
The Oregon Department of Housing and Community Services (HCS) has developed a model that projects housing needs based on the existing housing stock, demographics and anticipated population growth. The model evaluates the existing housing units by structure type and cost, compares those units to local demographics, and estimates the current demand/supply by structure type and price point. The model requires knowledge of existing housing units, tenure, and cost. The existing housing inventory was used as the base for the model, while tenure and cost were extrapolated from the 2000 Census. The model assumes no more than 30 percent of household income is spent on rent or a mortgage.

Figure 4 shows the percentage of new housing units currently needed by price and tenure. According to the model, housing need is met for a particular price point if the existing housing stock meets 100 percent of the need. According to the model, Oregon City has a surplus of rental units in the mid price ranges with monthly rents between \$430 to \$909. The largest surplus is in the \$665 to \$909 rent ranges, where need is met by more than three times for that price range, creating a surplus of those units. Oregon City does not meet residents' needs for less expensive rental units or for units costing more than \$909 per month. The current housing stock meets just over 50 percent of the estimated need for units with rents less than \$429 per month and, for more expensive units, the existing rental stock meets approximately 50 percent of the estimated need.

In addition to rental needs, the model also estimates the need for owner-occupied units. The model shows a surplus of units costing more than \$113,300 with a greater surplus in units costing more than \$141,700. Oregon City's housing stock meets the city's needs for homes costing between \$85,000 and \$113,000, but only meets about 50 percent of housing needs for homes priced between \$56,700 and \$85,000.

Affordable housing is a concern for many Oregon City residents. The model shows just over one-percent of the need is currently met for homes costing less than \$56,700, which is not surprising considering a median sale price for homes in Oregon City of \$184,000. The number of homes in the low price range is extremely limited, and households that can only afford a home in this range would likely rent rather than buy. Households could afford to own a home only by spending a disproportionate amount on their mortgage payment. In this case, supplying more rental units than owner-occupied units is likely more realistic when comparing the current real estate market, high cost of land, and building materials.

Figure 4. Percentage of New Housing Units Needed by Housing Type for Oregon City



Source: Oregon Housing and Community Services 2002, David Evans and Associates, Inc. 2002

Assessing the current met/unmet needs is the first step in determining a future housing mix that will satisfy the projected population and demographic changes. Table 27 shows two housing mixes based on information gathered through the housing inventory and a projected housing density from the HCS model that would meet housing needs based on tenure and cost. Oregon City's current housing mix is about 80 percent single-family units and about 20 percent multifamily, although building permit data shows that the majority of new units (about 86 percent) are single-family detached homes. About 14 percent of the new units are multifamily dwellings.

The HCS model projects the density mix needed to meet Oregon City's housing needs, and has a higher percentage of units in multifamily than the current housing mix. The model projects a housing mix of about 75 percent single-family housing and about 25 percent multifamily units. The higher number of multifamily units is based on a current unmet need for low cost housing as well as higher priced units. There is a large unmet need for low cost housing for both owners and renters, but due to high housing prices, home ownership is not a realistic option. Most people who can only afford the most inexpensive housing are likely going to rent.

Table 27: Actual and Projected Housing Mix

Housing Type	Current Mix (Housing Inventory)	HCS Model (Projected Mix to Meet Housing Needs)
Single-family	81.4%	74.7%
Single-family	67.9%	63.9%
Duplex	5.9%	4.4%
Manufactured homes in parks	7.6%	6.4%
Multifamily	18.6%	25.3%
Total	100.0%	100.0%

The need for a higher percentage of multifamily units is illustrated in the demographic analysis completed in Section 2, Existing Conditions, the HCS projections showing a need for more affordable housing, and a Metro target capacity that supports higher density development. The majority of units will be single-family, but there is also a need for a higher percentage of units in multifamily uses.

3.4 Land Needs/Surplus by Housing Type

Table 28 shows the needed housing units by housing type and the need/surplus of existing vacant land within the Oregon City UGB. The target capacity for the Oregon City is 6,075 additional units (after reductions for units already constructed). Based on the adjusted target and housing mix recommended in the HCS model, Oregon City should accommodate 4,538 single-family units and 1,537 multifamily units (75 percent single-family and 25 percent multifamily).

The majority of these new units can be accommodated on vacant or partially vacant land within the UGB, but to meet the target capacity Oregon City would need to make some zone changes that increase density. Currently, vacant and partially vacant land zoned for single-family units can accommodate all single-family unit needs with room for over 4800 units, while existing multifamily zoned land could accommodate just 103 units. Therefore, some land should be rezoned to higher density uses to provide the necessary 1,434 units.

The need for higher density development within Oregon City, especially in the downtown area, has already been the focus of extensive planning efforts in an attempt to make downtown a more lively. Higher density developments can support businesses, including restaurants and entertainment businesses that cater to these new residents. The City has developed and adopted the “Oregon City Downtown Community Plan” that recommends mixed uses with 30 units per acre of housing. Other areas where higher density uses (than is currently permitted) may be appropriate are shown in Figure 5 and described in Table 29. Approximately 193 buildable acres would be rezoned; of that about 104 acres would be rezoned for multifamily uses, including a mixed-use area north of downtown.

Table 28. Housing Need/Surplus with Rezoned Areas

		Single-family, Manufactured in Parks, Duplexes	Multifamily	Total
Adjusted Metro Target (Table 26)	6,075			
Future Housing Mix (Table 27)		74.7%	25.3%	100.0%
<i>Metro Target using future housing mix</i>		4,538	1,537	6,075
		Single-family Zoning Districts ¹³	Multifamily Zoning District ¹⁴	Total
Potential New Units on Land within the UGB				
Vacant Land (Table 23)		1,715	72	1,787
Partially Vacant Land (Table 24)		2,775	31	2,806
New Units in Existing Manufactured Home Parks (Table 13)		38	0	38
Total New Units		4,528	103	4,631
Needed Units				
<i>(Need)/Surplus (New units-Metro Target Future Housing Mix)</i>		(10)	(1,434)	(1,444)
Potential New units on rezoned residential land (Table 29)		365	1,510	1,875
Total Units (needed)/surplus		355	76	431

Areas to be rezoned would accommodate primarily multifamily housing units, duplex townhomes and other higher density uses. Some rezoned areas would retain a single-family zoning but at a higher density (e.g. R-10 rezoned to R-8 or R-6). Multifamily housing would only be allowed in the RA-2 zone and in a future MUR zone recommended in the Downtown Plan. New multifamily uses are located in areas with existing multifamily uses or near activity centers, such as Clackamas Community College, and near major thoroughfares where more transportation options are available.

Oregon City meets nearly all land needs for single-family units, but needs more land for multifamily dwellings. Converting 107 acres of single-family land to multifamily uses would accommodate additional 1,510 units, or 76 units more than required. Other rezoned land (about 93 acres) would remain in single-family use but at a higher density. This would generate 365 additional units, or 355 units more than required. Together this would provide 1,875 units, which exceeds Metro's residential target capacity by 431 units.

¹³ Single-family zones include LC, R-10, R-8, R-6, R-6/MH, R-8, RC-4, RD-4, and County assumed with a density of R-8.

¹⁴ The only zone identified as multifamily is RA-2

Table 29. Potential Changes in Zoning to Meet Density Target

Area	Existing Zone	New Zone	New Comp. Plan Designation	Gross rezoned unconstrained Acreage	Total existing Units	Less env. constraints	PSC Deduction (x.22)	ROW deduction (x.15)	Total Deduction	Gross vacant buildable acres	Max. Units per acre for current zone	Max. Units per acre for new zone	Total new units
1	M-1	MUOR	MUOR	2.7	0	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.4	2.3	0.0	30	55
	M-2			11.7	0	0.0	0.0	1.8	1.8	9.9	0.0	30	239
	RC-4			0.2	3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	30	3
	C			17.4	8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	17.4	0.0	30	418
2	R-10	RD-4	MR	51.4	13	20.3	6.8	3.6	30.8	20.6	4.4	10.9	107
	R-6/MH			8.8	1	1.7	1.6	0.8	4.1	4.7	6.4	10.9	17
	County			35.0	0	0.4	7.6	4.0	12.1	22.9	5.5	10.9	99
3	R-8	R-8	LR	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.5	5.5	-
	R-10			30.3	13	17.2	2.9	1.5	21.6	8.7	4.4	5.5	8
4	R-10	R-6	LR	18.0	12	10.3	1.7	0.9	12.9	5.1	4.4	7.3	12
5	R-6	RD-4	MR	4.0	7	2.5	0.3	0.2	3.0	1.0	7.3	10.9	3
6	R-6	RA-2	HR	13.3	12	7.8	1.2	0.6	9.6	3.6	7.3	19.8	36
	R-10			6.4	0	4.3	0.5	0.2	5.0	1.4	4.4	19.8	17
7	RA-2	RA-2	HR	4.4	2	0.0	1.0	0.5	1.5	2.9	19.8	19.8	-
	R-6			12.6	15	0.2	2.7	1.5	4.4	8.2	7.3	19.8	82
	LO			2.0	41	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.3	1.7	19.8	19.8	-
8	R-10	RD-4	MR	6.1	0	1.0	1.1	0.6	2.7	3.4	4.4	10.9	17
9	R-10	RD-4	MR	4.4	2	0.0	1.0	0.5	1.5	2.9	4.4	10.9	15
10	R-10	R-8	LR	7.9	0	0.0	1.7	0.9	2.7	5.3	4.4	5.5	5
11	County	RA-2	HR	10.2	13	2.8	1.6	0.9	5.3	4.9	5.5	19.8	56
12	R-6	RD-4	MR	4.7	6	1.3	0.0	0.5	1.8	2.9	7.3	10.9	8
	R-10			5.7	7	0.4	1.2	0.6	2.1	3.5	4.4	10.9	18
13	R-10	RA-2	HR	10.4	5	1.1	2.0	1.1	4.2	6.2	4.4	19.8	76
14	R-10	RA-2	HR	19.8	3	0.0	4.4	2.3	6.7	13.1	4.4	19.8	162
15	R-10	RA-2	HR	20.1	6	3.3	3.7	2.0	8.9	11.2	4.4	19.8	138
16	LO	RA-2	HR	0.3	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	19.8	19.8	-
	R-10			14.5	9	1.6	2.8	1.5	5.9	8.6	4.4	19.8	105
	R-6/MH			4.1	3	0.0	0.9	0.5	1.4	2.7	6.4	19.8	29
	RD-4			19.9	69	0.0	4.4	2.3	6.7	13.2	10.9	19.8	94
17	County	MUE	MUE	84.9	No new residential units								
18	R-6	MUE	MUE	9.6									
19	R-10	RD-4	MR	6.1	1	0.1	1.3	0.7	2.1	4.0	4.4	10.9	21
20	R-6/MH	RD-4	MR	9.9	0	1.1	1.9	1.0	4.1	5.8	6.4	10.9	21
	R-10			3.9	1	0.0	0.9	0.5	1.3	2.6	4.4	10.9	13
Total				460.8	252	77.3	55.3	32.4	165.1	201.2			1,875