

**City Council Goal Input Form
Community Organizations**



CITY OF BEND

Please complete and return this form to rchristie@bendoregon.gov no later than **January 8** to provide information and/or context for Council's upcoming goal setting process.

Organization Name: Central Oregon LandWatch

Completed by: Moey Newbold, Director of Urban Planning

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Organization's Mission:

For 35 years, LandWatch has fought for thriving, equitable, and sustainable communities in balance with nature, waterways and wildlife in Central Oregon. Leveraging our legal expertise, policy analysis, and experience with Oregon's land-use planning system, LandWatch plays a vital role in achieving a responsible, balanced approach to planning for and conserving Central Oregon's land and water resources, while recognizing the needs of future generations. We work to protect and conserve the region's ecosystems and wildlife habitats, to foster thriving, sustainable communities and to spread the costs and benefits of growth equitably across our community.

Organization's Goals: *Please attach materials or provide a website if available.*

Promoting sustainable growth by advocating for policies that prevent sprawl, build healthy and inclusive complete communities, and hold onto Bend's acclaimed quality of life.

www.colw.org www.bcdinitiative.org

What is the biggest problem your organization believes the city faces?

Central Oregon LandWatch advocates for affordable, safe, and healthy housing and complete communities across Central Oregon. The ongoing housing crisis in our region is a pressing concern and we are a proponent of immediate action.

Specifically, we believe the biggest problem Bend faces is responding to the need for more low-income and middle-income housing while protecting our open spaces, waterways, and wildlife habitat.

Keeping in mind proactive measures for Bend's future, we do not want to create development that could increase economic injustice and health disparities. For instance,

responding to the housing crisis with exclusively outward growth can often create housing that is far away from food, healthcare, and work. This often propels a snowball effect of inequality (i.e. requiring one reliable vehicle per working person in a household).

With the City of Bend's recent investments in transportation and urban renewal, we know growth can be smart and lay the groundwork for a more equitable future.

Who could be other partners to address this problem? If we solved this problem, what would the outcome look like? Paint a vision.

People live in Bend for a reason. While much of our community has lived most of their lives in the area, we are seeing more and more people from around the country relocate to Central Oregon. Bend has a widely-recognized natural environment and quality of life that people gravitate towards. Our vision of the "future" is to hold on to what Central Oregonians value most: livable communities, open space, flourishing wildlife habitats, affordable housing, multimodal transportation options (bike lanes, urban pathways), and safe and plentiful water systems.

In working towards this vision, we see paths forward to this future now:

- We support development within opportunity areas and expansion areas [along with the](#) implementation of the City of Bend's Core Area Plan.
- We support both new and expanded housing policies that match housing to workers' wages. People with minimum-wage incomes should have access to safe and affordable housing in close proximity to work locations. Currently, Bend's median housing costs do not match median incomes.
- We propose a targeted focus on low-income and middle-income housing opportunities. We support implementation of HB2001 and HB2003, bills which promote both low-income and middle-income housing development.
- We support our partners who advocate for Bend's unsheltered community in the Core Area and throughout Central Oregon.
- We support the adoption of a tree preservation ordinance that preserves our urban forest while maintaining allowed development density.

If you know of suggested plans or objectives to achieve this change, please describe.

The City of Bend and relevant partners have executed impressive planning over recent years. We support the implementation of many of those plans and strategies.

Specifically, we support:

1. Implementing Bend's Core Area Plan with clear direction and leadership. The city should work with stakeholders to set up programs and plan for how to use TIF funding in an equitable and impactful way that benefits the community and results in new housing in the Core Area.
2. Reducing barriers to development and creating infrastructure within the current Urban Growth Boundary's (UGB) identified opportunity areas and expansion areas
3. Enacting housing policies that benefit renters. While we have seen a primary focus on building new Single Family Housing (SFH), protections and access for renting communities, new multi-family housing, and other solutions must be prioritized. We urge a spotlight on policies and actions that help those who need housing protections the most.
4. Prioritizing transportation projects that foster complete communities. For instance, solving bicycle and pedestrian safety problems in neighborhoods and building safe, connected multimodal routes across the city before adding new roadways.

Describe practical steps to measure progress toward the goal.

- Now that the Core Area Plan is complete, it needs someone to guide its implementation. We propose dedicating at least 1 FTE to lead the implementation of the Core Area Plan. We see this investment as key to bringing the vision for a vibrant, healthy, and inclusive mixed-use neighborhood in the heart of Bend to reality.
- Invest public funding in a flagship project in the Bend Central District that will provide multiple benefits to the community while stimulating private development. Example: streetscaping, signage, and placemaking on Franklin Ave from NE 5th to NE Hill St.
- One potential metric for success is to set a numerical goal for the number of new low-income specific housing units and medium-income specific housing units within the City of Bend within the next two years. Specifically, we propose a goal of building at least 500 units in the Core Area.

Please let us know if you plan to attend the virtual meeting on January 11 from 3-5 p.m. and present this information to the City Council. Yes No