

Salem Activities: Natural Resources and the Environment

This list of activities provides a general summary of the activities the City conducts that directly address the environment. The City of Salem complies with all state and federal laws and regulations protecting our environment and drinking water, to prevent flooding, and to treat stormwater and wastewater.

Drinking Water

- Produce, store and transmit safe drinking water (drinking water is produced through slow sand filtration – a simple, energy efficient method). Staff prepare an annual water quality report.

Wastewater

- Willow Lake Water Pollution Control Facility (biological processes to meet or exceed wastewater discharge standards)
- Cogeneration of energy (beneficial reuse of methane gas by-product for energy use at Willow Lake)
- Biogro Program (beneficial reuse of treatment by-product for fertilization and land reclamation)
- River Road Wet Weather Treatment Facility (mechanical process to reduce sanitary sewer overflows during winter rain season)
- Fats, oils and grease program
- Prescription drug drop off

Stormwater

- Environmental stewardship of in-town creeks, streams and the Willamette River
- Stormwater detention and treatment
- Street sweeping
- Pringle Creek Watershed management
- Streambank Banking Credit Program (first in the State)
- Clean Streams, Clear Choices
- Stream cleaning summer internship (to remove invasive species)
- Volunteer program for “drains to stream” markings

Electricity

- Electric Vehicle charging stations in City-owned parking garages, facilities

Preparing for and Reducing Flooding

- Wetland development at Clagget Creek, Fairview Industrial Park and Mill Creek Corporate Center
- Support floodplain program, landslide hazards, erosion control programs; participate in FEMA’s Community Rating System for flood plain management
- High water watch for real-time data in flooding situations

Sustainable Community Practices, Education

- Community garden plots in parks
- Allow for use of goats to remove invasive species
- Residents may keep chickens
- Annual fall leaf haul
- Clean Streams, Clear Choices
- Stream cleaning summer internship (remove invasive species)

Parks and Urban Tree Canopy

- Parks System Master Plan, acquisition of green space for future parks and natural areas
- Investing in parks and trail connections
- Community Forestry Strategic Plan
- Shade modeling and riparian inventory report
- Friends of Trees partnership
- Annual Tree City USA (founding member, 41 continuous years)
- Require 2-6 new trees per lot in new subdivisions (depends on lot size)
- Limits on tree removal on large lots and prior to development

Land Use

- Preserving resource lands surrounding City, no expansion of the UGB since 1982 adoption
- Comprehensive Plan Update in 2017-18 Budget
- Increase in mixed use zoning
- Established parking maximums
- Minimum percentage of landscaping (outside downtown)
- Allow compact development, such as Planned Unit Developments
- Require open space in multi-family developments
- Enforce riparian buffers
- Require bicycle parking for all developments, except single family
- Prohibit drive-thru development in certain areas of town
- Require/promote pedestrian oriented development in certain areas (downtown, Edgewater, Broadway, etc.)
- Preserve resources through the retention and reuse of historic structures

Infrastructure

- Capital Improvement Plan
- Transportation System Plan
- Bicycle Master Plan, Central Salem Mobility Study investments in High Street bike lanes, Union/Commercial signal for access to Union Street Railroad Bridge, Winter-Maple Family Friendly Bikeway
- Stormwater detention and treatment, street tree standards in road design
- Removal of culverts for fish passage

Economic Development

- Primary strategy: grow existing businesses
- Provide support to incubator
- Incent brownfield clean up (urban renewal, grant resources)
- Grants and loans to restore building facades, re-use existing building stock
- Incent housing density in Riverfront and South Waterfront URA with Multi-Family Housing Tax Credit

Efficiency of Operations

- Streetlight LED conversion
- Solar installation at LEED-certified Convention Center
- Renewable diesel in City Fleet
- Build new buildings to LEED standards
- Earthwise Certification (cleaning products, computers/monitors/lights auto off)
- Solar trash compactors in high use parks
- EECBG-funded boiler, light ballasts result in 41% energy savings

Resiliency of Services

- Seismic retrofit of Civic Center, Library (November 2017 Measure)
- All hazards planning
- Train residents for Community Emergency Response Teams
- Continuity of operations planning