

Criteria and Findings for Proposed Amendments **NESCA-Lansing Neighborhood Plan**

Amendment Criteria

The goals, policies, and generalized land use maps in adopted neighborhood plans are components of the Salem Area Comprehensive Plan (SACP) per Salem Revised Code (SRC) 64.015. The adoption of a neighborhood plan is a “Major Comprehensive Plan Amendment” per SRC 64.020(b), and the criteria for amending the SACP per SRC 64.020(f)(1) are as follows:

1. The amendment is in the best interest of the public health, safety, and welfare of the City.
2. The amendment conforms to the applicable Statewide Planning Goals and applicable administrative rules adopted by the Department of Land Conservation and Development.

Procedural Findings

City Council initiated this amendment as a major amendment to the Comprehensive Plan with adoption of Resolution 2017-23 on September 25, 2017. Notice of the proposed amendment was submitted to the Department of Land Conservation and Development on September 26, 2017 as required by SRC 300.1110. Mailed and published notice of the public hearing was provided pursuant to SRC 300.1110.

Public Health, Safety, and Welfare of the City

The goal of the SACP is to accommodate development in a timely, orderly and efficient arrangement of land uses, public facilities and services to meet the needs of present and future residents of the Salem urban area. The purpose of Salem’s neighborhood planning program is to communicate a broad range of issues that are important to neighborhoods – such as land use, parks, and public facilities – and to provide goals, policies and recommendations to guide and inform decisions that affect neighborhoods. The goals, policies and generalized land use map in the NESCA-Lansing Neighborhood Plan (Neighborhood Plan) convey the priorities of NESCA and Lansing in a manner that is consistent with and supportive of the SACP.

The Neighborhood Plan specifically aims to guide development in NESCA and Lansing while enhancing livability in the neighborhoods through a wide range of goals and policies. For example, the goals and policies of the Neighborhood Plan seek to reinforce residential neighborhoods as safe, attractive places to live; support commercial development that provides goods and services for nearby residents; enhance connectivity and safety for pedestrians, bicyclists, and transit riders; and enhance parks to ensure they are safe, high-quality facilities for people of different age groups and cultural backgrounds. Other goals and policies, many of which are described below, recommend a variety of improvements to land use and development, public facilities, parks, and the transportation system in NESCA and Lansing. Adoption of the Neighborhood Plan is therefore in the best interest of the health, safety and welfare of the City.

State of Oregon: Statewide Planning Goals

The goals, policies and generalized land use map in the Neighborhood Plan are consistent with and conform to the Statewide Planning Goals as described below.

Goal1: Citizen Involvement

To develop a citizen involvement program that ensures the opportunity for citizens to be involved in all phases of the planning process.

Finding

Hundreds of residents, business operators, property owners, and other stakeholders participated in the preparation of the NESCA-Lansing Neighborhood Plan and contributed their input. Throughout the planning process, City staff conducted a wide variety of public engagement activities, including 12 neighborhood plan meetings, a project website (www.cityofsalem.net/Pages/NESCA-Lansing-Neighborhood-Plan.aspx), a survey, flyers, 35 stakeholder interviews, emails, and social media. City staff augmented its outreach efforts by going out to events and organizations in NESCA and Lansing to get input from a broader segment of the two neighborhoods' population, which includes many Spanish-speaking families. This included attending events at the three schools in NESCA and Lansing, regularly visiting a local networking and parenting support group called La Casita (a.k.a. Little House), and hosting tables at neighborhood events. In addition, a steering committee made up of six NESCA and Lansing members guided the planning process, providing valuable feedback and input. City staff and volunteers also walked door-to-door on many of the major streets to invite businesses and residents to participate. These public engagement efforts afforded the community maximum opportunity to participate in all phases of the development of this Neighborhood Plan. All of the input was used to develop the goals, policies, and recommended actions in the Neighborhood Plan. The public outreach conducted to prepare the NESCA-Lansing Neighborhood Plan therefore complies with this goal.

Goal 2: Land Use Planning

To establish a land use planning process and policy framework as a basis for all decisions and actions related to use of land and to assure an adequate factual base for such decisions and actions.

Finding

The NESCA-Lansing Neighborhood Plan provides detailed goals and policies that are consistent with the SACP and are intended to guide and inform decisions affecting NESCA and Lansing. Specifically, City boards, commissions or agencies shall consider the Neighborhood Plan when making any decision or recommendation that would affect the neighborhoods. The plan will also be the basis for any recommendations NESCA and Lansing make to City boards, commissions, or agencies. This is consistent with the Salem Revised Code, which implements the SACP. Overall, the Neighborhood Plan's goals and policies are supportive of the City's land use planning framework, and the generalized land use map is consistent with the City's Comprehensive Plan Map. The NESCA-Lansing Neighborhood Plan therefore complies with this goal.

Goal 3: Agricultural Lands

Not applicable to the NESCA-Lansing Neighborhood Plan

Goal 4: Forest Lands

Not applicable to the NESCA-Lansing Neighborhood Plan

Goal 5: Natural Resources, Scenic and Historic Areas, and Open Spaces

To protect natural resources and conserve scenic and historical areas and open spaces.

Finding

The policies in Chapter 3 - Heritage and Identity seek to maintain historic resources near NESCA and Lansing and identify heritage resources in the two neighborhoods for potential designation and protection. In addition, goals and policies in Chapter 7 - Parks and Open Space encourage the establishment of new parks and enhancement of existing parks in NESCA and

Lansing in accordance to the City's Comprehensive Park System Master Plan Update (Parks Master Plan). The Neighborhood Plan is therefore consistent with this goal.

Goal 6: Air, Water, and Land Resources Quality

To maintain and improve the quality of air, water, and land resources of the state.

Finding

Policy 11.4 in Chapter 8 – Public Facilities and Services identifies vegetated bio infiltration and green stormwater infrastructure as the preferred type of improvements to the drainage system, therefore encouraging the maintenance and improvement of water resources. Goals and policies throughout the Neighborhood Plan, including those in Chapter 6 – Transportation, also encourage the use and viability of alternative modes of transportation through improved infrastructure. Expanding and improving the bicycle and pedestrian network supports modes of travel other than the automobile, therefore potentially reducing associated emissions. The Neighborhood Plan is therefore consistent with this goal.

Goal 7: Areas Subject to Natural Disasters and Hazards

To protect people and property from natural hazards.

Finding

Several policies in the Neighborhood Plan focus on emergency preparedness and protecting people and property from natural hazards. Policy 12.1 in Chapter 8 – Public Facilities and Services, for example, recommends that the City, NESCA, and Lansing foster broader participation in the City's Community Emergency Response Team program to better prepare the neighborhoods for a disaster. Policy 11.4 in Chapter 8 also recommends that the City maintain and improve the drainage system to protect residents and properties from potential flooding. The Neighborhood Plan is therefore consistent with this goal.

Goal 8: Recreational Needs

To satisfy the recreational needs of the citizens of the state and visitors and, where appropriate, to provide for the siting of necessary recreational facilities including destinations resorts.

Finding

The Neighborhood Plan seeks to meet the recreational needs of residents and visitors by increasing the number and type of parks in NESCA and Lansing, enhancing existing parks, and improving park access. Specifically, Policy 8.1 in Chapter 7 - Parks and Open Space recommends developing new parks in and around the two neighborhoods as proposed in the Parks Master Plan, including a neighborhood park in the southern portion of Lansing. Policies P7.1 to P7.3 also recommend upgrading amenities in parks and maintaining existing parks to ensure they are safe, attractive, and better serve visitors. In addition, Policies 10.1 and 10.2 encourage improved access to parks through the development of new trails and paths and repair of existing ones. The goal in Chapter 9 – Oregon State Fairgrounds supports the use and enhancement of the fairgrounds property as a year-round community asset. The Neighborhood Plan is therefore consistent with this goal.

Goal 9: Economic Development

To provide adequate opportunities throughout the state for a variety of economic activities vital to the health, welfare, and prosperity of Oregon's citizens.

Finding

The goal and policies in Chapter 4 – Commercial Development support economic opportunities by specifically supporting commercial development that serves nearby residents and is compatible with surrounding neighborhoods. For example, Policy 4.2 recommends that pedestrian and bicycle connections between residential neighborhoods and commercial areas be improved. The goal and policies in Chapter 10 – North Campus of the State Hospital also encourage the redevelopment of the State-owned property into a mix of uses that enhance the area, and the goal in Chapter 9 – Oregon State Fairgrounds supports better utilization of the fairgrounds property as a community asset. The Neighborhood Plan is therefore consistent with this goal.

Goal 10: Housing

To provide for the housing needs of citizens of the state.

Finding

The Neighborhood Plan promotes housing diversity in NESCA and Lansing, while looking to protect and maintain the existing residential areas of the neighborhoods. Goals and policies in Chapter 2 - Housing specifically encourage a variety of housing types for all income levels and compatible designs of small multifamily development. Goal 2 aims to reinforce residential neighborhoods as safe, welcoming, and attractive places to live, and associated policies encourage the rehabilitation of the existing housing stock. Many other policies aim to protect existing residential areas from excessive noise, traffic, and nuisances. The Neighborhood Plan also promotes mixed-use development in existing commercial areas and on the North Campus property, which would expand housing choice. The Neighborhood Plan is therefore consistent with this goal.

Goal 11: Public Facilities and Services

To plan and develop a timely, orderly, and efficient arrangement of public facilities and services to serve as a framework for urban and rural development.

Finding

Goals and policies in the Neighborhood Plan support the maintenance of public facilities and services in the urban neighborhoods of NESCA and Lansing. Goal 11 and associated policies in Chapter 8 – Public Facilities and Services, for example, encourage the maintenance of streets, sidewalks, and the drainage system to promote neighborhood safety and quality of life. Goal 12 seeks to increase NESCA and Lansing's awareness of and access to community services. In addition, the policies in Chapter 6 – Transportation support the development of new pedestrian and bicycle facilities to enhance connectivity within NESCA and Lansing and better connect the neighborhoods to destinations elsewhere in Salem. The Neighborhood Plan is therefore consistent with this goal.

Goal 12: Transportation

To provide and encourage a safe, convenient, and economic transportation system.

Finding

Transportation-related goals and policies in the Neighborhood Plan are consistent with the Salem Transportation System Plan, which is a component of the Salem Area Comprehensive Plan. The Neighborhood Plan specifically encourages safe and convenient travel for pedestrians, bicyclists, and transit riders, recognizing that many NESCA and Lansing residents use alternative modes of transportation. For example, Policies 5.1 through 5.5 promote pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure improvements throughout NESCA and Lansing as well as enhanced access to transit facilities. Goal 6 in Chapter 6 also recommends that street

improvements be designed to promote the use of alternative modes of transportation while enhancing neighborhood livability. Many goals and policies in Chapter 7 - Parks and Open Space, Chapter 8 - Public Facilities and Services, Chapter 9 - Oregon State Fairgrounds, and Chapter 10 - North Campus of the Oregon State Hospital seek to improve the transportation network in and around NESCA and Lansing to enhance safety and connectivity for pedestrians and bicyclists. For example, Policy 14.1 recommends that pedestrian and bicycle access to and through the North Campus site be provided when the property is redeveloped. The Neighborhood Plan is therefore consistent with this goal.

Goal 13: Energy and Conservation

To conserve energy

Finding

The Neighborhood Plan seeks to achieve greater energy efficiency by promoting mixed-use development, encouraging the redevelopment of the underutilized North Campus property into a mix of uses, and recommending that large-scale multifamily development be located on major streets near commercial services and transit. Such goals and policies reduce the reliance on automobile trips. The plan also aims to reduce energy consumption by promoting non-motorized transportation. The Neighborhood Plan is therefore consistent with this goal.

Goal 14: Urbanization

To provide an orderly and efficient transition from rural to urban land use, to accommodate urban population and urban employment inside urban growth boundaries, to ensure efficient use of land, and to provide for livable communities.

Finding

Goals and policies throughout the Neighborhood Plan promote neighborhood livability and support the orderly and efficient use of land within Salem's Urban Growth Boundary. For example, Goal 14 supports the redevelopment of the North Campus property into a mix of uses, thereby encouraging the efficient use of land. Many policies, including P2.1, P3.1, P4.3, P6.1, P13.2, and P14.2, aim to promote neighborhood livability by minimizing potential negative impacts that development could have on existing neighborhoods in NESCA and Lansing such as noise and traffic. Other goals and policies recommend infrastructure improvements to make travel safer and easier for pedestrians and bicyclists, which helps create more livable communities. The Neighborhood Plan is therefore consistent with this goal.

Goal 15: Willamette River Greenway

Not applicable to the NESCA-Lansing Neighborhood Plan

Goal 16: Estuarine Resources

Not applicable to the NESCA-Lansing Neighborhood Plan

Goal 17: Coastal Shorelands

Not applicable to the NESCA-Lansing Neighborhood Plan

Goal 18: Beaches and Dunes

Not applicable to the NESCA-Lansing Neighborhood Plan

Goal 19: Ocean Resources

Not applicable to the NESCA-Lansing Neighborhood Plan