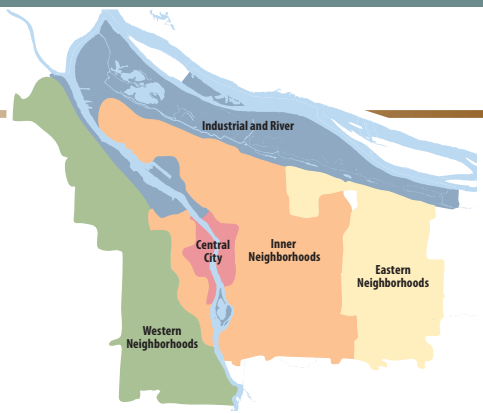
Five Pattern Areas



Portland's natural and built patterns—the hills and streams, street and block patterns, building types and open spaces—give Portland's neighborhoods and districts their distinct character. The draft policies recognize that Portland has five fundamental pattern areas (listed below) and that future development and public infrastructure should respond to each area's positive characteristics, strengths and assets.

Central City

Encourage development in the Central City that contributes to enhancing its role as the region's center of innovation and exchange, supporting the continuing evolution of its intensely urbanized built form; its concentrations of employment, cultural, and higher education institutions; and its high-density residential neighborhoods, in recognition that a healthy city must have a healthy core.

Inner Neighborhoods

Within Portland's Inner Neighborhoods, guide development in ways that enhance the fine-grain, pedestrian-scaled built environment of the neighborhoods' main streets, mixed-use districts, and residential areas.

Western Neighborhoods

In the Western Neighborhoods, encourage development to respond to and integrate the area's prominent characteristics, such as its hilly topography, streams, ravines, and forested slopes, while cultivating a built environment that is accessible to all people.

Eastern Neighborhoods

In the Eastern Neighborhoods, guide development in ways that respond to and enhance the area's distinctive mix of urban patterns, streets, and natural features, such as buttes, streams, and large native trees.

Industrial and River

Foster designs and forms that support the varied activities and physical patterns of the area's prime industrial lands, its habitat areas, and the city's connections to the rivers.