

.....COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE.....

Centers: Anchors to Complete Neighborhoods

The draft Comprehensive Plan policies call for fostering a network of mixed-use centers across Portland that will be a focus of activity, services, and housing and employment growth. Centers will range in scale from the Central City's downtown to small neighborhood centers, providing local access to services and allowing Portlanders across the city to live a healthy, active lifestyle. Examples of existing centers include the Hollywood, St. Johns, Hillsdale, and Lents town centers.

What are centers?

Centers are compact places that serve as anchors to complete neighborhoods, providing concentrations of:

- Neighborhood businesses, including grocery stores and markets providing access to healthy food and other essential goods and services
- Community services, such as health clinics, day care centers, and libraries
- Housing
- Employment opportunities
- Public gathering places

Centers will be prioritized for improvement as connected, accessible places that are:

- Hubs for active transportation
- Physically accessible for people of all ages and abilities
- Connected to other centers and to key destinations by frequent and convenient transit
- Linked to surrounding neighborhoods by quality pedestrian and bicycle connections



Why centers?

Clustering destinations within compact, walkable centers makes access by transit, walking, wheelchair, and bicycle more practical and reduces the amount of driving needed to access services. Creating a citywide network of centers will be critical to achieving Portland Plan goals for making it possible for the majority of Portlanders (80%) to live in complete neighborhoods by 2035, and for achieving sustainability goals for increasing travel by transit, walking, and bicycling.

Achieving greater equity as part of the centers policies will require:

- Improving centers in areas of the city with deficient access to services
- Minimizing displacement of residents and business so that all can benefit from improvements
- Including affordable housing and commercial spaces

