Inner Neighborhoods

All of Portland needs things like safe connections and centers providing services and housing opportunities. The draft policies encourage the design and form of these connections and centers to be guided by the distinct characteristics and opportunities in each pattern area. While Portland’s neighborhoods will continue to change and evolve, the draft policies are intended to identify some key positive characteristics that can continue to shape the distinctive physical environments of our neighborhoods.

These generalized Comprehensive Plan policies are intended to be complemented by a greater amount of local detail in future area-specific plans.

Inner Neighborhoods (Draft Policy 5.13)

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.

- Maintain and enhance the area’s pattern of streetcar-era main streets lined by storefront commercial buildings and other development with a strong street orientation.
- Continue development patterns in residential areas and their green-edged, tree-lined streets.
- Preserve the area’s urban fabric of compact blocks and its highly interconnected grid of streets.
- Consider repurposing street segments that are not critical for motor vehicle connectivity for other community purposes, such as open space and active transportation connections.

Implementation Examples

Inner Neighborhoods – continuing main street patterns in new development

Eastern Neighborhoods – including Douglas firs as part of the urban environment

Western Neighborhoods – integrating natural features into development (daylighted creek shown)