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# SOUTHWEST COASTAL COMMUNITY PLAN



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## **SOUTHWEST COASTAL COMMUNITY PLAN 2040**

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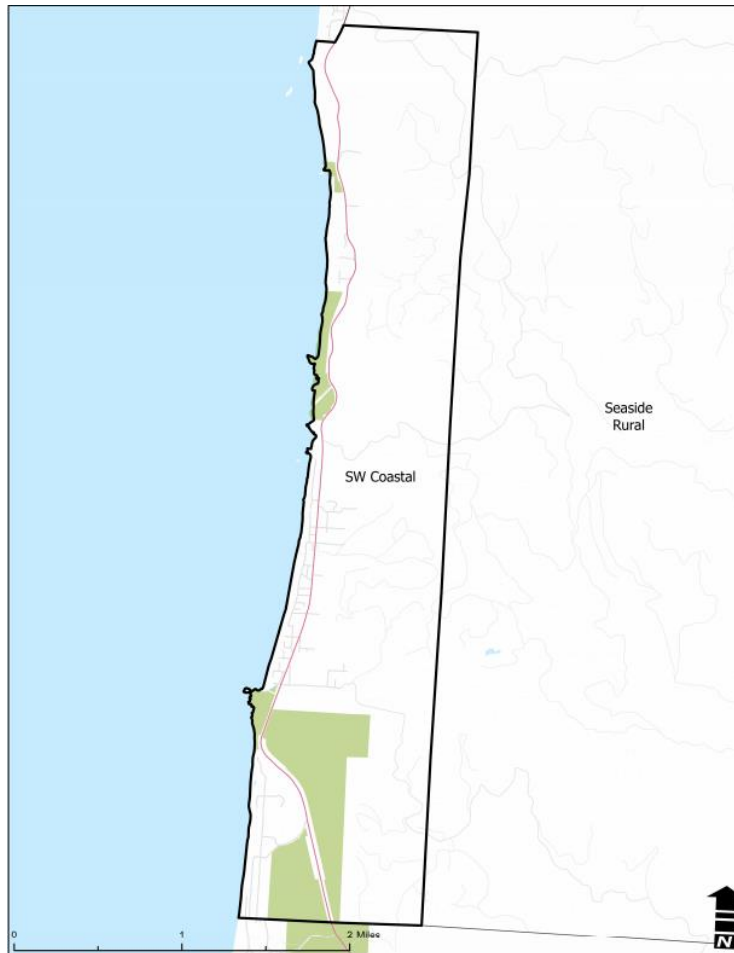
## INTRODUCTION

The Clatsop County Comprehensive Plan, the guiding document for land and water use in the County, is comprised of two parts: a Countywide Comprehensive Plan, which addresses the 18 statewide planning goals, and six Community Plans – one for each planning area within the County. The Planning Areas are: Clatsop Plains, Elsie-Jewell, Lewis & Clark/Olney-Wallooskee, Northeast, Seaside Rural, and Southwest Coastal. The Southwest Coastal Planning Area extends from the southern boundary of Cannon Beach to the south County line, and from the Pacific Ocean inland approximately one mile.

The Southwest Coastal Community Plan is the most important element of Clatsop County's Comprehensive Plan to the residents of the Southwest Coastal planning area, because it reflects the concerns and desires of those residents and establishes goals and policies specific to the region. It is necessary to give an overview perspective of the entire Comprehensive Plan so the people of the County have an opportunity to understand how land use planning is operating in their area.

The major reason for planning for the future use of land is to be able to understand the consequences of a possible course of events before an action occurs -- for example, the development of a subdivision in an area where the water district is at capacity. This prior consideration affords two important opportunities: (1) to minimize the potential adverse effects of a proposed course of action; and (2) to understand the positive aspects about our situation that we would like to build upon.

In evaluating the various uses of land and consequences of its use, the Comprehensive Plan looks to the future of the County and provides for the orderly and systematic growth of the communities in the County.



Map 1: Southwest Coastal Planning Area Boundary

The Comprehensive Plan establishes public policies in the form of goals, policy statements, generalized maps, and standards and guidelines. The Community Plan ~~shall be~~ is the basis for more specific rules and ordinances, which implement the policies expressed in the Plan. Zoning and Subdivision Ordinances are types of ordinances, which enforce the intent, and policies of the Community Plan.

The Community's goals, policies, recommended actions, and maps are interrelated with its own specific role. Goals are indicators in which direction a community desires to direct its efforts whether it is for growth, housing, natural resource protection etc. Policies are established to achieve the intent of a goal; they are more specific in nature and imply a commitment to action. The Goals and Policies are expressed in map form. While the Plan Map is the visible tool of the Goals and Policies, it is the policies themselves, which address each of the goals that contain the commitment of growth, preservation, or a desired change in the development pattern of the County.

The Plan Maps, therefore, are designed to be utilized with the written text of the Plan and not as an independent element. The Plan Map is a conceptualized picture of the development and protection of the natural environment as envisioned at a particular point in time. As time passes, new approaches may occur necessitating changes in goals and policies, which will be reflected in the Plan Map.

The maps contained in the Community Plan are as close as possible to scale and utilize definable legal boundaries when possible. When conflicts arise between the text and the maps, the written text prevails. In certain circumstances maps are referred to outside the Plan document, i.e. Flood Hazard Maps, which are site specific.

Recommendations contained in the Plan reflect some possible conflict or concern and suggest future studies or considerations. They do not carry the weight or effect of goals or policies.

The Community Plan is flexible in the sense it is a living document subject to change, therefore amendable. The Plan is flexible by the reason that once goals and policies are established they must maintain their consistency and their integrity of commitment, which underlies them.

### **The Community Plan and Its Use**

Each parcel of land within the planning area will be affected by the policies in the Community Plan. One or more Landscape Unit Policies, Hazard Policies, Community Concerns and Development Patterns Policies will affect a parcel of land in how it is to be used and standards placed upon the land.

Zone regulations will be based upon the Comprehensive Plan and Community Plan policies. For example:

- lot sizes for various designations
- types of uses in the various designations
- standards on subdivisions and planned developments
- standards to build in hazard areas



- County road standards
- buffer requirements between land use

Another example of how the Community Plan will be used would be in a zone change and/or Comprehensive Plan designation change. In a zone change the applicant would have to demonstrate how the request meets the various goals and policy requirements in the Community Plan for that area. A Comprehensive Plan designation change could occur based upon new information, changing circumstances and at an applicant's request.

### **Review and Update**

The original Southwest Coastal Community Plan was adopted on June 1, 1979 (Ordinance 79-4).

Amendments to the original plan have been made by:

- Ordinances 03-08, 03-09, 03-10 and 03-11, May 2004
- Ordinance 17-02, adopted May 25, 2017

As changes in social, physical, and economic conditions occur, it is necessary to periodically review and update the goals and policies to maintain the Community Plan as an accurate statement of land use goals and policies based on current data.

The Community Plan should be reviewed by the County staff, Planning Commission and Citizen Advisory Committees - every 5-7 years. New information which affects the contents of Plan significantly may require more immediate review and update.

The Community Plan should not be treated lightly for it is the community's expression of its social, economic, and environmental concerns: therefore, amendments to the Plan ~~shall~~should be carefully considered because of the possible impact they would have on a much broader scope when added together.

### **Oregon Land Conservation and Development Commission**

To provide common direction and consistency within each city and county Comprehensive Plan in Oregon, the Legislature in SB100, 1973, directed the Land Conservation and Development Commission (LCDC) to adopt Statewide Planning Goals and Guidelines. Goals are required to be addressed by law in Comprehensive Plans. Guidelines are suggested ways to achieve the statewide values contained in the Goals. The Statewide Goals and Guidelines are to be used by cities and counties, special districts, and state and federal agencies in preparing, adopting, revising, and implementing comprehensive plans. They form the foundation of Oregon's Land Use Program.



Today, Oregon's 19 Statewide Planning Goals [were](#) developed through numerous public meetings identify statewide values, policies and concerns of Oregonians. The Goals provide the skeletal framework for comprehensive plans with each local government filling in and adopting the plan to reflect their own local needs and concerns.

The County has taken a partial exception to the Statewide Agricultural Lands Goal #3 and to portions of the Beaches and Dunes Goal #18. An exception is when the governing body, the County, decides it cannot apply a Statewide Planning Goal requirement for a specific situation. The information on the exceptions process and why the Beaches and Dunes Goal cannot be applied to this area is included in the Landscape Unit section. The Southwest Coastal Community Plan, along with inventory data, is intended to meet the requirements of Senate Bill 100, the Oregon land use law.

### **History of the Area**

Prior to the arrival of European settlers, the Clatsop Indians inhabited what is now known as Arch Cape and Cannon Beach. The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) maintains a database of significant cultural and archaeological resources and sites and requires notification from developers when artifacts are discovered.

Although much of the land in Arch Cape was settled by homesteaders, there is historical evidence that the area was pristine when the first settlers arrived, and to carve out a living on the land took incredible amounts of effort. Dense stands of spruce had to be cleared for homesites or agriculture. Much of the food the early settler families had consisted on was the abundant clams, crabs, deer, elk, salmon, and berries in the vicinity. Some cultivation and dairying was carried out.

Cannon Beach received its name when a broken foredeck of the U.S. gunboat "Shark", which was wrecked at the bar while leaving the Columbia River on September 10, 1846, washed up on the beach near the present community of Arch Cape. An attempt to recover the cannons was thwarted by the tide, but one appeared several years later and was salvaged. The name Cannon Beach was applied to the settled community to the north where it has remained since. It is now on display at the Cannon Beach History Center. Two additional cannons from the "Shark" were found on Arch Cape Beach in 2008 and are on display at the Columbia River Maritime Museum.

A mail route between Astoria and Tillamook was established in the late nineteenth century. In order to provide a rest-stop for carriers between the two points, a post office was established at the Austin Hotel in the north end of Arch Cape which existed from 1891 to 1901. The route itself was a difficult one following paths over Tillamook Head and the beach at low tides around the points.

Much logging of timber in the Arch Cape area was done during the first world war when it was found that old growth spruce made excellent airplane frames. The surrounding mountains and hillsides were clear-cut during the 1960s.

Throughout the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries there has been extensive subdivision of the old homesteads into uniform parcels of real estate, with many lots 5,000 square feet or less. Most of the early development occurred on a lot-by-lot basis in the 1940s and 1950s with many

structures intended as summer beach cottages. Although the permanent resident population grew over the years, ~~the majority of many~~ landowners are part-time residents, using their homes on weekends and during the summer. Even so, the continuity of the same people returning on weekends and vacations meant there was less of a “resort town” flavor, and permanent residents mixed and formed friendships with “weekenders.” Many part-time residents became full-time residents when they retired.

~~Few homes were used as rentals until the 2000s when the advent of internet marketing started a trend for vacation homes being turned into transient lodging. Vacation homes became investments, and many residents feel that the business of short term rentals turned quiet residential neighborhoods into hubs of commercial activity. While a number of homes in the area have long been used as vacation rentals, the popularization of internet booking sites has contributed to vacation rentals becoming more prevalent.~~ In 2021 the total number of homes in the Southwest Coastal region-Planning Area was about 450477, with approximately 100-96 of those being short-term rentals.

As development increased, so did the need for public facilities. In the 1940s and 1950s several small private water systems were built, with several of those private systems being consolidated and forming districts. As the availability of water grew in Arch Cape, so did development, although the Department of Environmental Quality became concerned about water rights for Shark Creek and directed the Arch Cape district to severely reduce water usage in 1966, a situation which continued until a sewer system was built in the mid-70's. A second water source was developed on Asbury Creek in 1999 to meet water demand during the driest months of the year. Extensive upgrades were made to the Distribution System in 2010, and the water treatment plant was completely upgraded with a new membrane treatment system in 2014. The Arch Cape Domestic Water Supply District is purchasing 1,441 acres of forest land above Arch Cape which includes the watershed for Arch Cape's drinking water, with the purchase expected to be completed in 2023.

~~In the Cove Beach community just south of the Tunnel, a spring at the north end of the community (now known as the North Spring) is the primary water source. In recent drought years (2014-2018), the North Spring has experienced historic low flow production leading to a moratorium on new water Connections in 2018. This moratorium was lifted in 2020 after successful completion of a supplemental water source.~~

The people who live and own property in the Southwest Coastal Planning Area consider the community a unique place with a special character. The coastal setting, the headlands, the beaches, the streams, the wetlands, the vegetation, and the type of development that has been built are some of the factors that make up a community character. Residents and property owners generally consider this character something to be preserved.

The population of the area is a mix of permanent residents who live in their homes year-round, part-time residents who regularly visit their homes throughout the year, and visitors to the area who stay in hotels, inns, and short-term rentals. One common thread that attracts residents and visitors alike is the natural beauty, peacefulness and isolation of the area.

### Community Involvement

**Commented [IS1]:** Recommend deleting, per previous feedback from the BoC.

The Southwest Coastal Planning Region is proud of its long and productive history of community involvement. The Arch Cape Falcon Cove Beach Community Club, a neighborhood community organization, was founded in 1966 and continues to promote activities which maintain and enhance the livability and sense of community in Arch Cape and Falcon Cove Beach. The Arch Cape Citizen Advisory Committee was formed on October 18, 1974, to provide direction, develop policies, and make recommendations to the County planning staff that would satisfy the Oregon Statewide Planning Goals and Guidelines. Eventually, Citizen Advisory Committees (CACs) were formed around the County to spearhead the development of their respective community plans. The policy statements in the original Southwest Coastal Community Plan, adopted June 1, 1979, were derived from the Environmental Plan of Southwest Clatsop County and the suggestions of community groups, state and federal agencies, and people in the community.

With adoption of the Southwest Coastal Community Plan in 1979, the Arch Cape CAC became the Southwest Coastal Citizen Advisory Committee. Land use planning under the original Community Plan encouraged local involvement and the CAC served as the Design Review Advisory Committee for Arch Cape, reviewing development proposals and making recommendations to the Community Development Director and Planning Commission concerning the design and scenic view aspects of proposed developments. The proceedings of the committee were public, and the County kept minutes of the committee meetings as part of the public record. While CACs in the other regions stopped functioning after their regional plans were completed, the Southwest Coastal CAC remained continuously active for decades, until dissolved by the County Commissioners in 2015. In 2017, over strong support from the community for continuing the CAC, the Commissioners adopted Ordinance 17-02 amending the Comprehensive Plan and the Southwest Coastal Community Plan to end the Southwest Coastal CAC and its role in local land use planning as the Arch Cape Design Review Committee.

In 2019 a new Southwest Coastal CAC was appointed to work on this update of the Comprehensive Plan and the Southwest Coastal Community Plan. It is the desire of the current CAC that this committee be made a standing committee to represent the region in land use planning and other development matters, and to facilitate the flow of information between community members and County government.

**Commented [IS2]:** Recommend deleting, per advice from legal counsel.

**Community Involvement Goal:** To establish and maintain a Community Involvement Program which ensures the opportunity for local community members to be involved in a broad range of planning and land use issues.

### Community Involvement Policies

1. The Committee for Community Involvement shall be the seven members of the Clatsop County Planning Commission. The Planning Commission shall strive to represent a cross section of county residents in all phases of the planning process. As an appropriate component, five Planning Commission members shall be representatives of the six designated geographic areas (with a seven member Commission, one area may have two members). No more than two Planning Commission members may reside within incorporated cities. Each member of the Planning Commission shall be selected by an open, well-publicized, public process by the Board of

**Commissioners:**

2. The Board of County Commissioners may appoint advisory committees to address specific land use issues as needed.
3. Public notice will be sent to affected residents and neighborhood/community organizations, as defined in Section 1.0500, LAWDUC, concerning Comprehensive Plan amendments, zone changes, conditional use applications, subdivisions, planned developments, and other land use actions that require written notice.
4. Encourage County to make all development applications for new single-family homes and exterior changes to existing single-family homes available for public review at least three business days before any action is taken on the application. Applications and supporting documents should be posted in an easily accessible location on the County's website, as well as being sent via email to all persons who sign up for email notifications.
5. Encourage the Committee for Citizen Involvement to develop a written Citizen Involvement Program which addresses how Clatsop County is meeting, or will meet, the responsibilities of Statewide Goal 1. Involve the public in this process and post drafts and final documents on County's website.
6. Encourage the governing body to restore the Southwest Coastal Citizen Advisory Committee to assist the Committee for Citizen Involvement in meeting the County's Goal 1 responsibilities. The CACs shall assist the Board of Commissioners and Planning Commission meet the following community involvement objectives:
  - a. Opportunities for widespread public involvement
  - b. Effective two-way communication with the public
  - c. The ability for the public to be involved in all phases of the planning process
  - d. Making technical information easy to understand
  - e. Feedback mechanisms for policy makers to respond to public input, and
  - f. Adequate financial support for public involvement efforts.
7. Consider appointing a regional Planning Liaison from the Southwest Coastal region (or from each land use planning region) to work with the Committee on Citizen Involvement in meeting its Goal 1 responsibilities.
8. Encourage commissioners to hold open forum town hall meetings for residents and property owners, twice per year, in each of the planning areas.

**Community Involvement Recommendations**

1. Maximize opportunities for community involvement by restoring Citizen Involvement Policies 1-4 adopted by the Board of Commissioners in 1979, re-adopted in 2004, and in effect until repealed in 2017. These policies are in compliance with Goal 1, worked

for the region for more than 35 years, and reflect the desire of local residents and property owners to be a part of the process going forward.

- a. Create a Southwest Coastal CAC to constitute the body recognized by Clatsop County to represent the Southwest Coastal Region on planning and land use issues.
  - b. The CAC shall be composed of five of residents and property owners from the planning region, and should reflect a broad spectrum of interests. Members shall be appointed by the Board of Commissioners after being nominated at a well-publicized community meeting.
  - c. The CAC shall hold quarterly meetings in such a way that the public is notified well in advance and given the opportunity to attend and participate in a meaningful fashion.
  - d. Technical assistance shall be made available to the CAC through the Community Development Department and other resources of the County.
2. Restore the following provisions from the Arch Cape Rural Overlay zone ordinances which were in effect until 2017 when repealed by Ordinance 17-02. Most of the development in the Southwest Coastal Region is single family homes and accessory buildings, and the community has a long history of receiving notice and providing input on these types of development applications. Restoring these provisions would foster community involvement by providing notice to neighbors and neighborhood/community organizations, and allowing community members to provide input prior to permits being issued.
- a. Any new residential development proposing to construct a dwelling or create additional square footage shall require review according to the Type II procedure.
  - b. Any commercial development proposing to construct structures or create additional cumulative square footage shall require review according to the Type II procedure.
  - c. Any accessory buildings associated with residential or commercial development shall require review according to the Type II procedure.
  - d. Where the Community Development Director determines that a development may significantly impact adjoining properties with respect to location, bulk, compatibility, views, preservation of existing landscape, or other design review criteria, the development shall require review according to the Type II procedure.

**Commented [IS3]:** All goals and policies will be relocated to the end of the document.

## LANDSCAPE UNITS

The *Environmental Plan of Southwest Clatsop County* was completed in 1974. The plan divides the planning areas into landscape units (see Map 2) each of which have unique physical and environmental characteristics: i.e. geology, soils, moisture, vegetation, wildlife, hazards, etc. The landscape units provide a framework for development that is, in part, based on the land's capability for development. Suggested policies and recommendations were developed for each unique landscape unit as well as critical hazard areas and public open space. Most of the policies and recommendations developed in the *Environmental Plan of Southwest Clatsop County* have been incorporated into other sections of the Plan.

### Water Bodies and Coastal and Stream Shorelands

Water bodies include lakes, reservoirs, and rivers, streams and creeks, with either flowing or standing water for all, or nearly all, of the year. Portions of these water bodies frequently possess characteristics of freshwater wetlands.

The Coastal Shorelands include those lands contiguous with the ocean, estuarine and coastal lakes, and tidal wetlands. For a description of the extent of the shorelands and goals and policies see the Estuarine Resources and Coastal Shorelands Element. The County has taken an exception to portions of Beaches and Dunes Goal requirements to restrict riprapping and the community's site-specific land use needs. The exception process provides the ability to deal with these types of conflicts. The exception paper contained in the Goal 2 Land Use Planning Element is the documentation of the County's conclusion that "it



Map 2: Landscape Units

is not possible to apply" portions of the Beaches and Dunes Goal #18 to those areas designated "rural community."

There are several creeks in the area which provide individual residential water. Asbury Creek and Shark Creek are sources for the Arch Cape Domestic Water Supply District. Cedar Creek is the outflow of the North Spring which is the primary water source for the Cove Beach Water District. Austin Creek provides water for the Cannon View Park Water System. There are a number of individual systems dependent on small streams serving individual homes between Cannon Beach and Arch Cape.

None of the streams or creeks were identified as major estuarine resources by the Oregon Estuary Council. Most of the streams have flowing water year-round, with the lowest flow during the summer months. Tidal influence for these streams is limited to their mouths.

\*Appendix A lists the various landscape units together with the geologic units which comprise them. Refer to the Environmental Plan of Southwest Clatsop County for more detailed information on the geology, soils, moisture, vegetation, wildlife, hazards, etc. that make up the various landscape units.

### **Marine Terraces**

Marine terraces are relatively flat surfaces eroded by wave action in older rocks and the deposits, marine or alluvial, which now lie upon these surfaces. Except where dissected by streams, they are composed of relatively flat-lying or gently ocean-sloping compacted but uncemented sediments, rarely above 50 feet in elevation.

### **Headlands and Points**

Headlands and points are mostly basalt and sedimentary rock projections of erosion resistant land into the sea. Headlands and points have generally very steep slopes (and are sometimes vertical) on their seaward side. Rock reefs and offshore stacks are remnants of former headlands. Tide pools and sea caves are often a significant feature of headlands and points. [The Arch Cape headland represents an important scenic landmark for the community, the region and the State.](#)

### **Coast Range Foothills**

Coast range foothills are low subsidiary hills on the edge of the coast range uplands. They range in elevation from 50 to 500 feet, and are generally composed of sedimentary rocks of Oligocene to Miocene age. They tend to have rounded ridge tops. Slopes vary from 10 to 60%.

In the foothills just east of the Arch Cape residential community, Arch Cape Domestic Water Supply District is in the process of purchasing 1,441 acres of their drinking water source watershed (by 2023). In 2021, North Coast Land Conservancy purchased approximately 3,500 acres for wildlife habitat and recreation.



### Basaltic Highlands

Basaltic highlands are underlain by igneous material. Most basaltic highlands are over 1,200 feet in elevation although outcrops of basalt are also exposed at lower elevations and along the coast. Slopes are frequently over 40%.

### Sedimentary Uplands

Sedimentary uplands consist of Coast Range Mountains over 500 feet, underlain chiefly by sedimentary rocks. Most sedimentary rocks are found below 1,200 feet, although in a few areas Eocene age sedimentary rocks are exposed at elevations of 2,000 feet. Slopes may vary from 10 to 60%.

### Wetlands

Wetlands protect public health and safety by performing a variety of functions including ground water recharge, flood flow attenuation and water quality protection. Wetlands have proven to lessen the damage from flooding by slowing the water velocity, enabling water to soak into the ground, and by providing temporary storage of overbank flood flows. Wetlands reduce damage from coastal storm surges and tsunamis. Wetlands also provide unique habitat for wildlife species, many of which are either endangered or threatened, and provide opportunities for education, scientific study, and recreation. Attention to these wetland functions is essential for a community's land uses, public health, safety and welfare. Over the years, Clatsop County has lost much of its original wetlands due to development.

### General Landscape Unit Policies

1. Steep slopes (15% or greater) are at or near natural equilibrium and further steepening through excavation could initiate sliding. Excavations in these areas should be restricted and should be properly engineered.
2. Excavations in sedimentary highland (Toms) should be properly engineered to assure against slope failure (see Appendix D).
3. Proposed projects involving modifications of established drainage patterns should be evaluated in terms of potential for altering land stability.
4. Loss of ground cover for moderately to steeply sloping lands may cause erosion problems by increasing runoff velocity and land slippage. Vegetative cover for moderately to steeply sloping areas shall be maintained.

**Water Bodies and Coastal and Stream Shorelands Goal:** To conserve, protect, and where appropriate, develop the coastal and stream shorelands in the Southwest Coastal Planning area; and to conserve, protect, and where appropriate, develop the lands near and adjacent to water bodies in the Planning Area. The following policies are in addition to those found in the Estuarine Resources and Coastal Shorelands Element.

#### Water Bodies and Coastal and Stream Shorelands Policies

1. Grading, excavation or filling in the riparian zone of rivers, streams, and creeks shall be carefully controlled in order to prevent sedimentation of the water. Filling, grading, and excavation of lands shall be prohibited within stream buffers.
2. In order to provide the greatest view potential for properties throughout the Rural Lands and Rural Service Area, the building height shall be limited to 26 feet through the Community Plan area, with ocean front property limited to 18 feet. Removal of trees (6" or greater DBH) to create or enhance views shall be prohibited.
3. A vegetated buffer shall be provided along either side of Arch Cape Creek, Asbury Creek, Shark Creek, Cedar Creek, Austen Creek, and other creeks and drainage ways critical to local drinking water supply and erosion control in order to provide clean drinking water, protect riparian vegetation, prevent loss of property due to erosion, and protect the aesthetic value of the streams. Buffers shall generally be 50 feet wide, measured perpendicular to the normal streambank unless the size of lot and natural topography would create a hardship. Variances may be granted, but in no event shall the buffer be less than 25 feet wide.
4. In no event shall an impediment or alteration be permitted in a natural drainage way.
5. Gravel and cobble removal from the streams shall be prohibited.
6. Placement of riprap or other shoreline protection on coastal beaches or stream shorelands shall only be permitted for lots where the protection is necessary to prevent an erosion hazard and only where development existed on January 1, 1977.
7. Development in the vicinity of Arch Cape Creek, Cedar Creek, Shark Creek, Asbury Creek, Austin Creek, and creeks in the vicinity of Grand Lane / Picture Windows Lane shall be designed in a manner that is compatible with the beauty of the area. Controls on the removal of vegetation or filling or alteration of the shoreline shall be included in the Zoning Ordinance.
8. Clustered development, including open space or neighborhood park sites and wildlife corridors, should be encouraged for subdivisions or planned developments.
9. Activities of the State Parks Division which pertain to the Southwest Coastal planning area shall be reviewed by the Community Development Department to insure their compatibility with the community.
10. Emergency vehicles shall have access to the beach at all times. All other vehicles shall be prohibited from beach access in the Southwest

Coastal Planning Area:

11. Work with Oregon State Parks and local residents to develop a comprehensive beach access plan from Arcadia Beach to Cove Beach, balancing public access, safety, wildlife habitat, and coastal erosion.
12. Work with Oregon State Parks and local community members to determine appropriate regulations regarding vehicles, horses and camping on local beaches.
13. The Shoreland Overlay GIS layer should be completed and made available to the public.

**Recommendations**

1. Access points to the beach and streams should be provided for at the ends of platted and vacated streets where safe and feasible, and shall not be unnecessarily impeded by shoreline protection, flood protection, and other structures. Access to the beach where possible should be made passable for the elderly or other persons with limited mobility. Further work needs to be done on who would maintain these access points. Creation of new access points, or improvement of existing access points, in fragile, steep, or otherwise hazardous areas shall be avoided.
2. Horse traffic shall be prohibited on beaches in the Southwest Coastal Planning Area.
3. Mapping of the drainage systems in the planning area is necessary and should be considered as a future project when funds become available.
4. Encourage all landowners with independent water systems to register their systems with the appropriate government agencies so they may be identified and protected.

**Headlands and Points Policies**

1. The Arch Cape headland represents an important scenic landmark for the community, the region and the State. Although the upper portions of the headland lie within the boundaries of Oswald West State Park, the lower area abutting Arch Cape creek east of Highway 101 is not part of the area inventoried as a headland. It is privately owned and may be developed in the future. Development in this area shall be carefully controlled to ensure that it is compatible with the headland. This may be accomplished by the maintenance of existing trees and natural vegetation, the requirements of the use of natural building materials such as cedar and stone, and the maintenance of low-profile structures. As previously mentioned, buffers should be required adjacent to the Oregon Coast Trail, and the Arch Cape Creek. In addition, see Rural Service Area policy number 7.
2. Encourage the State of Oregon to purchase the privately owned portion of the Arch Cape headland as it is an important natural and

scenic resource that should be permanently protected.

3. Encourage the inclusion of the Arch Cape Headland in the County's Goal 5 scenic resources inventory.

#### **Coast Range Foothills, Basaltic Highlands, Sedimentary Uplands Policies**

1. These landscape units are resource units and should be reserved primarily for timber production, wildlife habitat, recreation and mineral resources, and potable drinking water sources.
2. Cooperate with State, the forestry sector and environmental organizations to implement changes to Oregon's forest practices laws as set forth in the recent Private Forest Accord. Under this agreement, the State will seek a 50-year Habitat Conservation Plan applicable to private lands from both the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services for threatened and endangered species. The proposed changes focus primarily on regulations for salmonids and salamanders in three areas: buffers on fish-bearing and non-fish bearing streams, assessments and improvements on forest roads, and regulations for harvests around unstable slopes.

#### **Wetlands Policies**

<b>Goal:</b> Complete the Goal 5 process for wetlands in the Southwest Coastal Planning Area.
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#### **Policies**

1. Add the Arch Cape/Cove Beach Local Wetlands Inventory (2011) to the County's Natural Resources Inventory, or fund a new inventory of the South County wetlands and lakes.
2. Adopt a local protection program for any lakes and wetlands in the Southwest Coastal region identified as significant, including setbacks for lakes and wetlands within 50' of any existing or proposed development including roads. In the alternative, adopt a Safe Harbor Ordinance.
3. Consider re-zoning properties with significant lakes and wetlands as Lake & Wetland ("LW") and extend the LW zone to these South County areas.
4. Encourage State and County to prohibit filling the remaining wetlands in Arch Cape and Cove Beach.
5. Encourage County to establish setbacks to wetlands. Setbacks should be 50 feet for significant wetlands, 25 feet for non-significant wetlands, as identified in the Local Wetlands Inventory.
6. Buffer wetlands by protecting the uplands adjacent to wetlands where land development increases the flow of water and pollutants

which can overwhelm the ability of wetlands to provide their functions and threaten sustainability.

7. Encourage County to require an additional fee when an applicant proposes to develop wetland property, to be used to pay a County wetland expert to verify all wetland delineations based on a developer's paid consultant.
8. Ensure Riparian Zone covers creeks and streams as well as rivers, and that "emergent wetland vegetation" covers associated wetlands.
9. The 2017 recommendations of the Wetlands Advisory Committee should be implemented.
10. A transfer of development rights (TDR) program should be implemented to further protect wetlands and other sensitive natural areas.
11. A tax incentive program should be implemented for preservation of wetlands and riparian areas.

**Commented [IS4]:** All goals and policies will be relocated to the end of the document.

## CRITICAL HAZARD AREAS

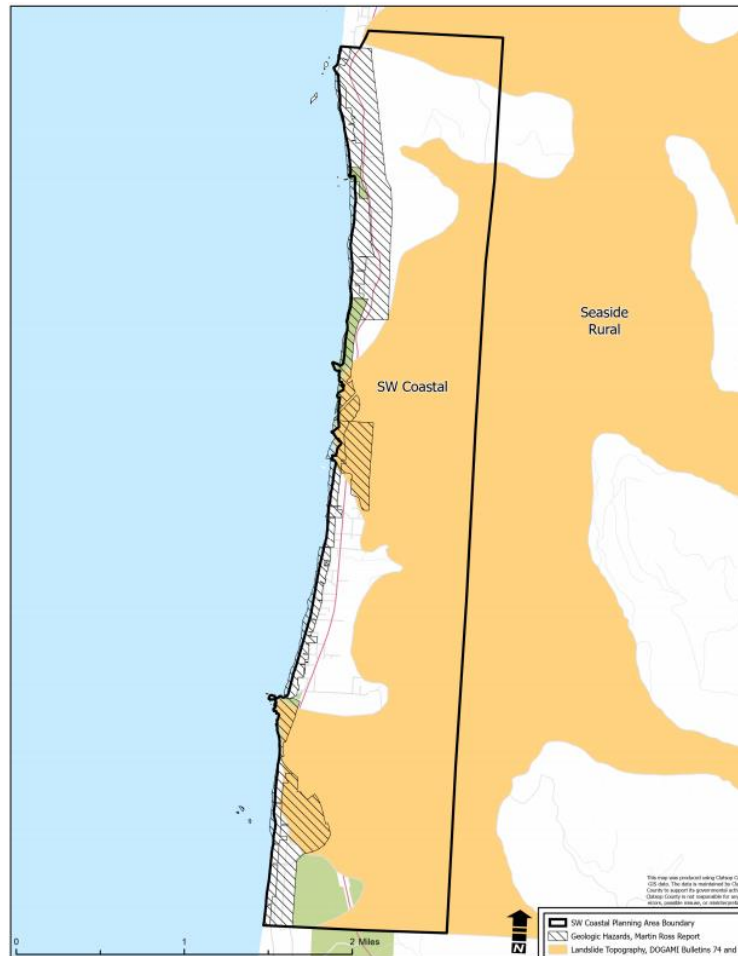
There are numerous hazards in the area which can and do affect people's lives and property. Below is a brief discussion of the hazards together with policies to manage development in the natural hazards areas. Maps 3 and 4 show the various mapped hazards in the planning area.

### Landslides

Landslides can be started by storms, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, fires, and human modification of land. In a landslide, masses of rock, earth or debris move down a slope. Landslides may be small or large, slow or rapid.

In the Southwest Coastal Planning Area, the areas largely free from [landsliding problems](#)[landslide hazards](#) are those with gently sloping inland portions of the marine terrace at Arch Cape, Arcadia Beach and Cove Beach. Other areas in the planning area have had a history of landslides. As a result, a study was undertaken by Martin Ross at the request of the Clatsop County Department of Community Development to identify the geologic hazards and to develop policies and recommendations regarding potential development in these areas. The study area included the coastal portion of Clatsop County from Cannon Beach to the Tillamook County line. This report is included as part of the inventory data.

Certain parts of the Southwest Coastal planning area are at risk of catastrophic landslides which have the potential to isolate communities from service centers to the north and south. Landslides may be accompanied by utility outages and damage



Map 3: Geologic Hazards



Map 4: Flood Hazards

to infrastructure. Residents and visitors alike should be prepared for the possibility of two weeks sheltering in place until outside assistance is available.

### Coastal Erosion

The combination of storms, high tides, and the relative soft material of the marine terrace, plus the lack of sand buildup account for the critical erosion in the study area. While sand is building up (penn) from Tillamook Head to Camp Rilea, it is being washed away on the south side of the head. The rate of erosion varies from .5 to 15.0 feet a year, depending on the rock types and other factors such as shoreline configuration. Martin Ross' report (see Inventory Data) provides additional information on the Southwest Coastal Planning Area.

In 2020 the Oregon Climate Change Research Institute prepared a report for the Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development detailing future climate projections for Clatsop County. The report concluded the following climate-related risks has a high or very high confidence level of increasing in Clatsop County in the early-to-mid 21<sup>st</sup> century: heavy rains; flooding; wildfires; loss of wetland ecosystems; ocean chemistry and chemical changes; coastal hazards; and heat waves.

Sea level rise and increased storm events are resulting in accelerating and worsening coastal erosion. Over time, there will be more damage to and loss of roads, utilities, beach accesses, decks, and houses. The loss of land and beaches may result in additional shoreline armoring and beachfront protective structures, which could reduce beach access and beach area. If it is not along the entire beach, armoring in select areas will likely accelerate land loss in unarmored areas.

Increased occurrences would have significant ramifications on traditional industries such as fishing, farming, logging, and



tourism. Pressures on housing and services due to a potential for people relocating from less sustainable or livable areas would also affect land use policies and decisions in the Southwest Coastal region.

### Stream and Ocean Flooding

There are several creeks in the area which could be subject to flash flooding, the largest of which is Arch Cape Creek. Areas along the coast, which are subject to the 100-year flood, have been mapped under the National Flood Insurance Program and are designated on Flood Insurance Rate Maps. Increased seasonal heavy rains and sea level rise will result in more flooding.

### Earthquakes and Tsunami

A tsunami is a series of waves usually caused by an undersea earthquake. As these waves enter shallow water near land, they increase in height and can cause great loss of life and property damage. The first wave is often not the largest; successive waves may be spaced many minutes apart and continue to arrive for several hours.

In June 2013 the Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries released new maps showing the coastal areas within the Southwest Coastal Planning Area to be within tsunami inundation zones. These maps, drawing on the latest scientific data, identify those areas at risk of inundation from a projected worst-case local Cascadia zone tsunami and a worst-case distant tsunami.

### Wildfire and Drought

Increased seasonal drought will result in reduced surface and groundwater. Drinking water may not be available to all users during dry seasons. Some streams and wetlands may have less water in dry seasons, impacting fish and other wildlife.

Communities within the Southwest Coastal Planning Area are situated adjacent to forestland, and many of the undeveloped lots within the AC-RCR and CR zones include forests. Due to drought and associated pests and diseases, forestland wildfire risk is increasing. As a result, the communities have increasing wildfire risk and have potential for low air quality due to smoke from nearby and distant wildfires.

**Critical Hazards Goal:** To prevent harm to people and damage to property through the use of reasonable building controls. To work together to prepare for the survival needs of residents and visitors.

### General Critical Hazards Policies

1. Appendix J of the Oregon Structural Specialty Code, which pertains to grading, should be applied to all development within the Southwest Coastal planning area.
2. In addition to where required in Appendix J of the Oregon Structural Specialty Code, favorable site-specific investigations (conducted by qualified geotechnical experts at the developer's expense) shall be prerequisites for the issuance of building or excavation permits in any area recognized as geologic hazard area as shown on the Hazards map included herein.
3. Density of development in the Rural Community areas shall be related to the degree of slope present on the site, and shall conform to these categories:
  - a. Zero to 12% slopes, moderate density (7,500-sq. ft.).
  - b. 13% to 25%, low density (2 dwellings per acre).
  - c. Greater than 25% slopes, very low density (1 dwelling per acre or less, depending on favorable geologic site investigation).
4. In Rural Community areas, lot sizes may be reduced to a minimum of 7,500-sq. ft. for areas identified in policy 3.b. and 3.c., above, where site investigations indicate the area can withstand greater development, or may be reduced where evidence of landsliding is present or the site investigation is unfavorable.
5. Development on slopes or greater than 15% should generally leave the natural topography of the site intact. Existing vegetation, particularly trees, should be retained on the site. Cut and fill construction methods should be discouraged. Access roads and driveways should follow slope contours in a manner that prevents rapid discharge, and prevents erosion. Excavations and fills should be controlled through the enactment of Appendix J of the Oregon Structural Specialty Code. The policy will be enforced by the County Department of Planning and Development and Building Department with assistance from the County Engineer.
6. Vacating or re-platting of old subdivisions in hazardous or in steeply sloping areas shall be encouraged through the use of incentives such as waiving fees or property taxes, and encouraging other tax incentives such as land donations in exchange for income tax deductions.
7. Construction on poles or pilings shall be the preferred method of construction in areas of storm drainage problems (identified above). Where filling is proposed, the amount of fill shall be the minimum necessary for the placement of structures or driveways.

## Critical Hazard Area Policies

### Landslide Hazard Policies

1. Expand the County's ongoing emergency preparedness efforts to include a program which addresses survival of Southwest Coastal residents and visitors in the event of catastrophic landslides or other disasters which isolate the region from outside services for an extended period of time.
2. Allocate funding to build community-based survival caches with food, water, heating supplies and other essentials. These caches should provide adequate supplies for unprepared residents, day visitors, and people staying in rental facilities. A local committee should be tasked with ongoing implementation of this program as supplies will need to be monitored and periodically replaced.
3. Develop a community education effort encouraging residents and vacation home owners to create survival caches in their homes. Inns, B&Bs and STRs should be required to have survival caches on-site and show proof as part of the permitting/renewal process.

### Coastal Erosion Policies

1. Increase oceanfront setbacks for all new construction in higher erosion areas.
2. Prohibit decks, sheds and other currently allowed infrastructure within oceanfront setback areas.
3. Require oceanfront native vegetation to be kept intact or be replanted.
4. Plan for managed retreat of roads, utilities and other infrastructure.
5. Require removal of debris from buildings and infrastructure that fall (or prior to falling) onto the beach or into the ocean.

### Coastal Armoring Policies

1. Work with DLCD and State Parks to establish a comprehensive beach armoring plan for each community within the Southwest Coastal Planning Area. The plan should also identify areas that should not be armored.
2. Identify public beach accesses which will be kept and which cannot be kept, and how to ensure there are safe entry and exits from the beach, especially for tsunamis, high waves and other emergencies.
3. Prohibit stairs, steps or other permanent structures on beach accesses from individual oceanfront properties.
4. Prohibit beach access from individual oceanfront properties which have coastal armoring.
5. Shoreline protective devices such as seawalls, revetments or dikes shall be evaluated for their impacts on adjacent property, visual impacts, impact on public access, and potential public costs. Beachfront protective devices shall be evaluated, both those located east and west of the State Zone Line.

#### Earthquake and Tsunami Hazard Policies

1. Consider reducing density or prohibiting new development in areas identified as tsunami inundation zones. Consider requiring retrofitting of existing development in these areas to meet current building standards.
2. Work with County's Emergency Management Department, other County and City personnel, and community members to better educate residents, landowners, and Short-Term Rental management companies on safety and survival procedures and needs for the Southwest Coastal planning area.

#### Drought & Flood Hazard Policies

1. Work with the state to ensure that well/surface water permits are issued and reviewed periodically with increased drought in mind.
2. Limit development in areas with seasonal droughts, or support/encourage water catchment systems.
3. Work with DSL to protect significant wetlands & riparian setbacks.

#### Wildfire Hazard Policies

1. Consider fire resilient building requirements in properties adjacent to forestland, as well as properties in forested areas within development zones.
2. Prohibit campfires, cooking fires and other open flames on undeveloped public and private lands outside the jurisdiction of the Oregon Parks Department.

**Commented [IS5]:** All goals and policies will be relocated to the end of the document.

## COMMUNITY CONCERNS

### Housing

As of 2021, there were 477 dwellings in the Southwest Coastal Planning Area; within the communities of Arch Cape and Cove Beach, there were 96 active ~~Short-Short~~ Term Rental Permits; many others are used as vacation homes and not occupied year-round. It is a community of choice in which people take great pleasure in the remoteness of the area. It is a community to which almost all migrated, unlike towns in which residents are born, find jobs and spend most or all of their lives. The typical development pattern is on a lot-by-lot basis rather than through large scale development. There are few permanent rental units in the planning area. With few exceptions, these are single family residential homes located in small communities which are family-oriented, quiet, neighborly and where quality of life is considered paramount.

Clatsop County and its five local incorporated cities recently undertook an in-depth study of the current and projected housing conditions across the County, as well as recommended strategies to better align the housing supply with local needs, now and into the future. The Clatsop County Housing Strategies Report was completed in January 2019. The Report concludes there is sufficient supply of housing in the County to meet current and future needs, including in the Southwest Coastal Planning Region. However, because much of this supply serves the second home and short-term rental market, there is an insufficient supply for year-round residents to both purchase or rent. In addition, some of the supply of future residential land suffers from a variety of constraints related to natural features, hazards, infrastructure challenges, or other issues.

There are no commercial or institutional services in the planning area to meet the needs of residents or visitors. There is a commercial area in Arch Cape where approximately ten properties are zoned Rural Community Commercial (RCC). The only businesses operating in the RCC zone are one small seven-unit hotel, two small inns, and a thrift shop. Bed & Breakfast establishments and other home occupation businesses are allowed to operate within the AC-RCR zone with a conditional use permit and an owner on site.

### ~~Short-Term Rentals~~

~~In 1979 when this Community Plan was adopted, and even in 2004 when it was last reviewed, there were two types of homes in the Southwest Coastal Planning Region. One was homes owned and lived in by permanent residents, some employed locally and some retired. The other was vacation homes used on a part-time basis by owners and their invited guests. There were few permanent rentals and only a small number of homes rented as transient lodging.~~

~~Within the past 10-15 years a third type of home and homeowner has become prevalent in the region: the Short-Term Rental (STR). These are homes used almost exclusively for transient lodging. Many have professional managers who advertise the rentals on internet sites such as VRBO~~

or AirBnB, accept online bookings, check in visitors remotely, and employ the cleaning and maintenance staff needed to service this type of business. Some owners have converted their vacation homes to transient lodging for extra income, while others have purchased or built homes specifically to use them as income-producing investments.

Residents and vacation home owners who don't rent their homes have grown increasingly unhappy with STRs for a variety of reasons. There are problems with noise, parking, trash, off-leash animals, and other nuisances, and no owner or manager on site to handle the problems. There are concerns about over-occupancy and the burden this puts on local infrastructure including roads, sewer and septic systems, and water that is already in short supply during the summer months. Many feel the character of the neighborhoods have changed with this influx of transient commercial activity, and the quality of life of residents along with it.

The Clatsop County Housing Strategies Report (2019) recommends that short term rentals be classified as a commercial use when considered as part of a broad analysis of land needs and supply, as required by Oregon's statewide planning goals and land use system. The Report also recommends that strategies be implemented to limit short term rental uses in residential communities.

The County began licensing STRs in Arch Cape in 2004 and in the rest of the County in 2018. At the end of 2021, there were 75 licensed rentals in Arch Cape and 21 in Cove Beach. A moratorium was in place on new licenses, and the County was soliciting input on whether this type of commercial activity should continue to exist and flourish in areas which are zoned exclusively residential.

**Housing Goal:** To provide for a wide range of housing needs in the community. To maintain the current residential character of the community. To encourage development which blends with its rural setting and preserves natural resources to the maximum extent possible.

### Housing Policies

1. A high quality of housing in the area shall be promoted through the use of the natural landscape, existing vegetation, and good design. Development projects which require removal of all or most trees on the lot shall be denied.
2. Planned development and re-platting old subdivisions shall be required in order to preserve steep slopes and other sensitive areas, such as wetlands, in their natural condition.
3. Housing developments and subdivisions should be designed to emphasize the rural, coastal appearance of the community; that is, less emphasis should be placed on curbs, sidewalks, and wide streets and more emphasis placed on the maintenance of trees, natural drainages, open space and larger lot sizes. New subdivisions and other planned developments shall be clustered and provide common open space.

**Commented [IS6]:** Recommend deleting. This section contains bias and editorial language, and covers a topic that is currently being evaluated by the Board of Commissioners in a separate process.

4. Housing shall be developed where services are readily available. Subdivision of land and planned development shall be allowed only where septic tank, sewer and water capacity is sufficient to meet its needs. The County needs to work closely and formally with the local utility Districts (Water, Sewer, Road) to determine the projected maximum support levels in order to match development to that which can be supported by the intrinsic capacity of each utility District.
5. Housing for low and moderate income persons should be encouraged in the Southwest Coastal Planning Area through agencies such as the Northwest Oregon Housing Association (NOHA), Farmers Home Administration (FHA), U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and the State Housing Division. Short term rental uses shall be appropriately limited in the Southwest Coastal Planning Area to ensure there is an adequate supply of housing for low and moderate income persons.

#### Short Term Rental Recommendations

1. Define Short Term Rentals as commercial activity and restrict new licenses to homes in commercial zones.
2. Create a plan to phase out Short Term Rentals in the Coastal Residential (CR) zones by eliminating license renewals and license transfers to new owners. In the Arch Cape Rural Residential Zone (AC-RCR), create a plan to limit rentals so the total number of renters in the community at any given time does not exceed the total number of residents. Much of Arch Cape and almost all of the rental homes are located in areas at risk for one or more critical hazards, and the community does not have the resources to handle a larger population.
3. Limit the number of rentals by limiting the number of times a home may be rented in a month. Arch Cape currently allows four rentals per month, while the rest of the region has no limit. The entire Southwest Coastal planning region should be limited to no more than two rentals per month, which is currently the limit in Cannon Beach.
4. Place limits on occupancy. The region is zoned for mostly single family homes, and the average family in 2020 was 3.15 people. There should be no more than two occupants per bedroom with a maximum of eight occupants.
5. Consider offering property tax credits to owners who terminate their STR licenses early.
6. Consider offering property tax credits to owners who convert STRs into rental housing for residents.

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### Public Facilities and Services

Statistics concerning public facilities are updated in the Goal 11 Element of the Comprehensive Plan.

The availability of either adequate water or waste systems has limited development in the past and will greatly influence future growth. Map 5 (right) shows the various public facilities and services in the area as well as roads in the area. There is greater detailed information contained in the inventory data if so desired.

#### Sewer System

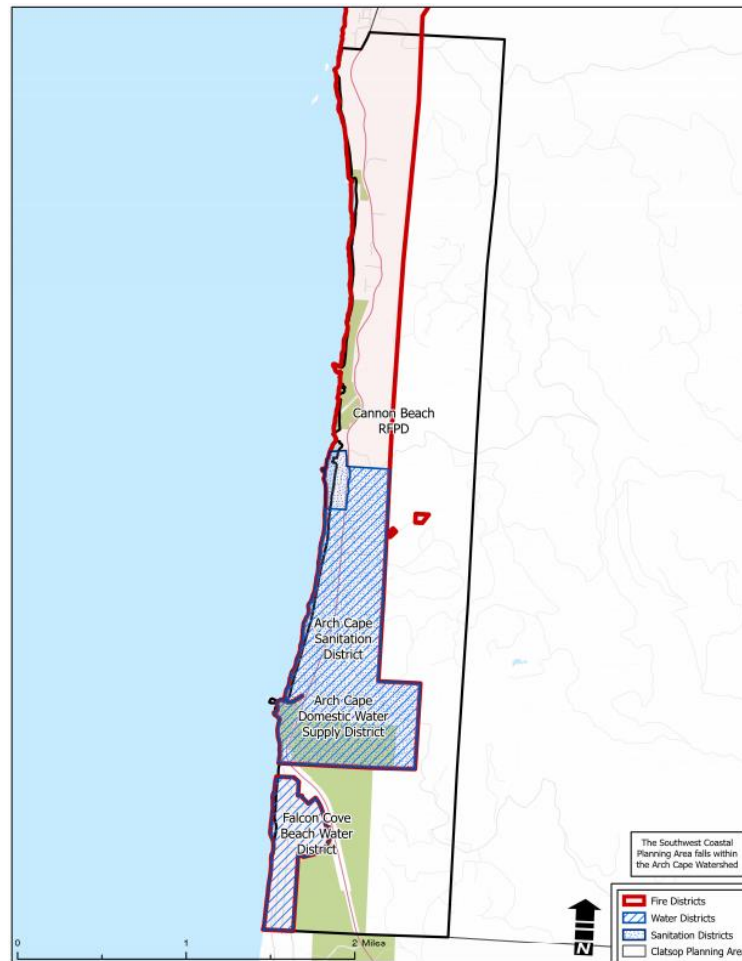
The Arch Cape Sewer Service District sewer system was completed in 1975. It is designed for a population of 1,150 persons with present population in the summer months being around 450 to 500 persons.

#### Water Systems

In the Southwest Coastal Planning Area there are several public water systems: Falcon Cove Beach Domestic Water Supply District, Arch Cape Water Service District, Cannon View Park, Inc., and several small, isolated shared systems.

Falcon Cove Beach Domestic Water Supply District has about 96 connections with a capacity of approximately 125 connections. At certain times of the year, they have had water supply problems for the present users.

The Arch Cape Domestic Water Supply District presently has 295 connections and the capacity, at this time, is 430. A second



Map 5: Public Facilities and Services

source was developed on Asbury Creek in 1999 to meet water demand during the driest months of the year.

Extensive upgrades were made to the distribution system in 2010, and the water treatment plant was completely upgraded with a brand-new membrane treatment system in 2014. Since 2017, The District has been determinedly working to acquire 1457 acres of forestland bordering the community for creation of a community forest and protected watershed.

Cannon View Park, Inc. has approximately 50 connections with a capacity of approximately 73. Ninety-five percent of the present connections are for vacation homes. Recent improvements to the system's new distribution lines and storage tank have addressed the system's supply and fire protection problems.

#### *School*

The Southwest Coastal Planning Area is within the Seaside School District #10. With predominant population consisting of either seasonal or retirement age, the anticipated growth in the planning area will not be a burden to the existing school facilities.

#### *Fire Protection*

Fire protection is provided by Cannon Beach Rural Fire Protection District which has 32-20 volunteer firefighters, three engines and two brush trucks. With the station in Arch Cape and the replacement of the older pumper, the fire insurance rating in this area is 3 or 3x.

#### *Police*

Residents in this area receive police services provided by the County Sheriff and State Police. The Sheriff's Department patrols the area on an average of once a day.

#### *Storm Drainage*

At the present time, there are no formal storm drainage facilities in the south County area. All drainage flows into natural drainages or collects into low areas. The clay soils (marine terrace) form an impervious barrier to storm water, as well as septic tank effluent.

<p><b>Public Facilities Goal:</b> To provide public facilities and services capable of meeting existing and future needs at appropriate levels for the RURAL SERVICE AREA and RURAL areas in the most cost-effective manner.</p>
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### Public Facilities Policies

1. No filling shall be permitted which would raise the water level on adjacent property, or overtax existing storm drains. Developers shall be responsible for installing storm drainage systems the distance necessary to drain their property and property in those areas which may be affected.
2. All developments shall indicate on the plot plan or building plans how storm water is to be drained. The Planning Commission or Building Official shall require the installation of culverts, dry wells or retention facilities in developments with major storm drainage impacts.
3. Developments shall be allowed only if the systems (water, sewer, and fire protection) are capable of supporting increased loads. Phasing of development may be allowed if improvement of public facilities is assured by the time construction and the additional loads are anticipated.
4. Utility rights-of-way, where not located within highway rights-of-way, should be evaluated for future utilization as part of a greenbelt or pathway. Prior to approving vacation of a public right-of-way, the right-of-way should be evaluated for possible significance as part of a greenbelt or pathway system.
5. If water and sewer services are to be utilized either in the development of a subdivision or the building of individual residences, the local water and sewer districts shall approve the development prior to the issuance of either plat approvals or building permits.
6. Except where contiguous with a developed lot under the same ownership, tent camping is prohibited on all undeveloped lots in the AC-RCR and CR zones in order to prevent fires and problems associated with lack of infrastructure. Camping is permitted in these zones for up to 7 days on property with an existing residential dwelling, or an RV legally on the property where camping will occur and with the written consent of the property owner. Commercial camping is not allowed anywhere in these zones.

### RURAL COMMUNITY AREAS

1. All new development including single lots shall install underground utilities such as electricity, telephone, and television cable. Efforts to place existing lines underground in already developed areas should be encouraged. Utilities shall be moved underground in conjunction with any substantial renovation (project cost greater than 25% of the assessed value of the structure).
2. Sewer or water services will not be extended outside of the RURAL COMMUNITY AREAS.
3. If water and sewer services are to be utilized either in the development of a subdivision or the building of individual residences, the local water and sewer district shall approve the development prior to the issuance of either plat approval or building permits.

#### RURAL LANDS

1. The capacity of rural water systems will be limited to that necessary for development at rural densities and may also be limited by the intrinsic availability of water. This intrinsic availability of water may also be seasonal and may be severely impacted by climate change (as seen during the drought years of 2014-2018).
2. If water service is to be utilized, either in the development of a subdivision or the building of individual residences, the local water district shall approve the development prior to issuance of plat approvals or building permits.

#### FOREST LANDS AND CONSERVATION OTHER RESOURCES

1. Public facilities will be discouraged from developing in these Plan designations.
2. Forest lands shall be designated Forest in the County's Comprehensive Plan. When considering a zone change to a forest zone, the Planning Commission or other reviewing body shall review the proposal against the acreage, management, and other approval criteria in County-wide Forest Lands Policies #19, #20, and #21.

#### NATURAL

1. There will be no public facilities in this Plan designation.

#### Public Facilities Recommendations

1. The County Sheriff's Department should hold some informational meetings in the area on crime prevention.
2. All the watersheds in the planning area need to be more clearly defined and mapped. Additionally, each watershed has individual problems which need to be identified.
3. Drinking watersheds and groundwater sources should be identified and added to the County's public GIS maps. Policies to protect those sources, including stream buffers, should be developed and implemented.
4. Coordinate with state and/or federal agencies in the regulation of offshore energy generation facilities.

**Commented [IS8]:** All goals and policies will be relocated to the end of the document.

## Transportation

There is a heavy reliance on the automobile in the area, in part due to the isolation from urban areas and the fact most residents and property owners have at least one vehicle. The area does not have adequate population to support a public transportation system.

Highway 101 is the only through street in and out of the area, with a 55 mph speed limit except around several curves where reduced speeds are advised. A passing lane in Arch Cape was removed by the Oregon Department of Transportation for safety reasons thanks to the efforts of community members and the local Community Club. More recently, the speed limit in Arch Cape was reduced to 50 mph in hopes of slowing traffic through this residential community.

In all of the communities within the region, existing roads are narrow with a mixture of gravel and oil mat surfaces and no sidewalks. Residents and visitors enjoy the rural feel of these roads, but they present problems for emergency vehicles, especially when vehicles are parked along them.

~~On the east side of Highway 101 in Arch Cape, new development is leading to a proliferation of short access roads which serve individual properties but are not part of any unified road or transportation plan. New roads are required to be built to County road standards which are out of keeping with these rural areas, with each new road resulting in the removal of many of the community's remaining trees and wildlife habitat.~~

Many residents walk extensively for both transportation and pleasure. Walking on the beach is a major form of recreation for both residents and visitors. Residents seem quite content to walk the narrow "country lane" type streets, but are concerned about traffic safety when required to walk along or cross Highway 101. As the Arch Cape community develops on both sides of the highway, pedestrians must cross the busy highway to get to the beach, visit friends, and pick up their mail.

As of 2021, there are limited public transportation options available in the Southwest Coastal Planning Area. Tillamook County Transportation District operates a "NW Connector" service (Route 3) that goes to/from Cannon Beach three times a day and that can be "flagged" by a rider at the Arch Cape Deli (or other point along Highway 101 where there is a safe pullout for the transit bus). Once at Cannon Beach, a rider can connect with the Sunset Empire Transportation District Route 20 to/from Seaside (about 12 times/day) with a number of other possible onward bus connections from the Seaside Bus Depot. There is also a connection in Cannon Beach to a NorthWest Point bus to/from Portland (2 times/day), and a mini-van service exists for the elderly and disabled.

~~**Transportation Goal:** To safely and efficiently meet the transportation needs of the regional communities while keeping their rural character. To improve safety for vehicles and pedestrians accessing Highway 101.~~

**Commented [IS9]:** Recommend deleting. These public rights-of-way were platted 100+ years ago for roadway development.

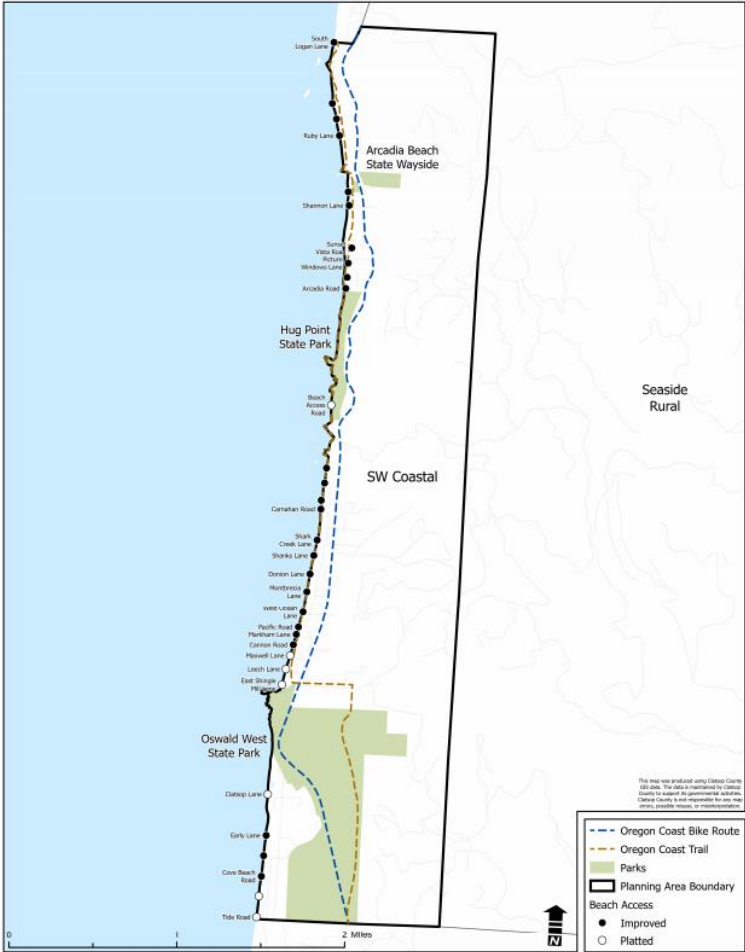
### Transportation Policies

1. Access points onto U.S. Highway 101 shall be kept to a minimum to reduce the potential for accidents. New development shall use common frontage roads, and lots shall be designed so as not to front or have access onto the highway.
2. All new streets and roads shall be designed to minimize disturbance of the land by following contour lines, retaining mature and native trees to the extent possible, and avoiding cut and fill construction techniques.
3. Unnecessary rights of way should be used as greenbelts, wildlife corridors, walking trails or bike paths where appropriate. Prior to approving vacation of a right of way, the right of way should be evaluated for possible significance as part of a greenbelt or pathway system. Street vacations shall only be approved where there is evidence to establish that the right of way does not provide a public benefit or use.
4. A buffer of vegetation not less than 25 feet shall be maintained or planted between all developments and U.S. Highway 101 to reduce the noise and other effects of traffic on residences and to maintain the scenic character of the highway.
5. Improvements of U.S. Highway 101 in the Southwest Coastal Planning Area which involve a major action shall be reviewed by the Community Development Director to insure it is compatible with the community. Major action as defined by the Oregon Action Plan: an action involving substantial planning, time, expenditures or environmental impact.
6. The County and State should continue in maintaining the visual clearance to oncoming traffic on U.S. 101.
7. Not only is it necessary for the County to adopt road standards which provide for economical and proper maintenance, but standards which consider the particular areas and the desires of the local residents. To that end this plan encourages road standards which are suited to the character of development in the area. These roads generally are narrow, containing several dead ends, and serving few permanent users.
8. The County shall support the Clatsop County Senior Bus System for seniors and disabled persons.
9. Parking should be limited on roads with inadequate width to accommodate fire access.
10. Parking for short term rentals should be limited to off street spaces approved by the County.
11. At the time County roads in Arch Cape are improved, speed controls such as speed limits or caution signs should be examined.
12. Establish a plan for bicycle and pedestrian pathways throughout Arch Cape, emphasizing safety and connectivity across Highway 101.

13. Encourage Oregon Department of Transportation to further reduce the speed limit through Arch Cape in order to improve safety for pedestrians. 30 mph is recommended.
14. Create a Transportation Plan for the east side of Arch Cape which identifies common frontage roads, limits access points onto Highway 101, facilitates building streets to minimize disturbance to the land, and turns rights-of-way that are not needed for motorized travel into bike paths or pedestrian trails.
15. All privately constructed vehicular access roads within public rights-of-way shall be processed as Type II conditional uses.
16. Permits for privately constructed vehicular access roads should be allowed only as part of an approved residential development project, so the impacts of access roads can be evaluated in context with the development of the properties the roads are intended to serve. Vehicular access roads intended to serve undeveloped land shall be prohibited.
17. Vehicular access roads shall be subject to the same setbacks from riparian corridors and wetlands as are other forms of development.

**Commented [IS10]:** All goals and policies will be relocated to the end of the document.





*Map 6: Open Space, Parks, Recreation, Beach Access*

## Open Space, Historic, Recreation, Scenic and Natural Areas

The following discussion and policies are in addition to those found in the Comprehensive Plan, Goal 5 Open Space, Scenic and Historic Areas and Natural Resources, and Goal 8 Recreational Needs Elements. Sites inventoried in Map 6 are in addition to those inventoried in the Open Space and Recreational Needs Elements are local desires and are not to be construed as additional Goal site requirements.

The existence of the community at Arch Cape and other residential areas within the planning area is attributable, in large part, to the vast beach and areas of open space in the vicinity. Arch Cape and the surrounding area is a recreation area primarily, but one that is not dependent on tourism for support. It is an area that is above all residential. Map 6 shows the recreation, open space, historic, scenic and natural sites in the planning area.

In the planning area there are two State parks, Oswald West and Hug Point, which provide parking, beach access, and picnic facilities. There are also two wayside parks, one at Arcadia Beach and one across from Cannon View Park.

There are three bicycle routes which pass through the planning area, the Oregon Coast Bicycle Route, the TransAmerica Bicycle Trail, and the Northwest Oregon Loop Bicycle Route. All three routes follow U.S. Highway 101.

On January 22, 1975, the State Transportation Commission established the first stretch of the Oregon Coast Trail (OCT) from the Columbia River spit to Barview at the north end of Tillamook Bay. The route follows 5 miles of beach and comes across the Arch Cape Creek footbridge into Oswald West Park. The trail

climbs the headland and continues on toward Neahkhanie Mountain and Tillamook Bay. The OCT continues south to the California border.

Arch Cape Creek constitutes one of the most important natural resources in the Southwest Coastal Planning Area. The creek is identified by the community as an extremely important natural area, scenic resource and wildlife habitat. Although it is not pristine or undeveloped, it is still highly valued by local residents. Other streams in the area that are considered valuable to the community are Asbury and Shark Creek, in Arch Cape, as well as Cedar Creek and Mason Creek, in Cove Beach.

There are several off-shore rocks in this planning area which are part of the Oregon Islands National Wildlife Refuge, managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). According to USFWS, the refuge includes 1,853 rocks, reefs, and islands and stretches from Tillamook Head near Seaside south to the California border. All of the rocks and islands of the refuge are designated National Wilderness Areas, with the exception of 1-acre Tillamook Rock. Most of Oregon's estimated 1.2 million nesting seabirds use Oregon Islands Refuge as a place to raise their young, and Oregon's seals and sea lions use the islands as a place to haul out and rest or to give birth to their pups.

The Southwest Coastal Planning Area also includes a portion of one of the five Oregon Marine Reserves, which are ocean areas dedicated to conservation and scientific research. The Cape Falcon Marine reserve extends 2-3 miles out from Oswald West State Park, south to Neahkahnie Beach. Rules within the Marine Reserve area include no ocean development and no take of animals or seaweeds. The shoreside area along the Cove Beach neighborhood is designated as a Marine Protected Area, which prohibits ocean development but does allow recreational hook and line fishing from the shore and any legal take, not otherwise restricted, above the low tide line.

There are two historic sites in this planning area, both in Arch Cape. One a wayside across from Cannon View Park which contains a replica of the cannon for which Cannon Beach was named, along with a sign giving the history of the cannons. The other is the site of an early post office established in the late 1800s when mail was carried south along the beach and around the headlands at low tide. The original cannon was for many years was displayed outside the post office.

There are two historic sites in this planning area, both in Arch Cape. One a wayside park containing a replica of a cannon from the U.S. gunboat "Shark", and the other is the site of an early post office established in the late 1800s. The cannon, for which Cannon Beach is named, was found by the Tillamook Indians shortly after the "Shark" was shipwrecked at the mouth of the Columbia in 1846, and for many years was displayed outside the post office. Two more cannons from the "Shark" were found on Arch Cape Beach in 2008. The first cannon is now on display at the Cannon Beach History Center, while the others are at the Columbia River Maritime Museum.

In 2021, the North Coast Land Conservancy acquired 3,500 acres of temperate rain forest land above Arch Cape, creating Oregon's own Rainforest Reserve. Together with the adjacent Oswald West State Park and Cape Falcon Marine Reserve, it helps forms a continuous 32-square-mile conservation corridor stretching from the summits of coastal-fronting mountains to the nearshore ocean. The Rainforest Reserve is North Coast Land Conservancy's largest habitat reserve and one of the largest privately conserved properties in western Oregon. It is the mountainous horizon line you see looking southbound from Astoria to Cannon Beach, or north from Rockaway Beach and Nehalem Bay. It is home to rare

plants and animals and forests of spruce and hemlock growing toward maturity, helping to combat the climate crisis by retaining and improving forest health and wildlife habitat and biodiversity.

As of 2022, the Arch Cape Domestic Water Supply District is working to secure the purchase of 1500 acres of forest land above Arch Cape. This land includes the watersheds for Arch Cape's water, and will provide clean water, stabilized water rates, and conservation and recreation opportunities. It will become part of the conservation corridor that includes Oswald West State Park, the Rainforest Reserve, and Cape Falcon Marine Reserve.

The areas within state ownership that should be provided further protection are:

Arch Cape intertidal area - potential need

Hug Point intertidal area - potential need

The marine organisms in these tidepools are vulnerable to collection by the thousands of visitors that pass through the area each year. Although they are regulated, limits are difficult to enforce. The diversity of these pools has been depleted considerably by the ability of each person to take multiple animals, especially in the case of starfish and other more desirable forms. An overabundance of other forms is created disrupting the balance of the tidepool community of organisms.

**Open Space, Historic, Recreation, Scenic and Natural Areas Goal:** To preserve the open space and recreation qualities of the riparian areas, wetlands, beaches, and the surrounding forest areas throughout the Southwest Coastal Planning Area.

### Policies

1. The County shall support the efforts of the state in the improvements of bike lanes.
2. Open space or neighborhood park sites and wildlife corridors should be included as part of subdivisions or planned developments.
3. Activities of the State Parks Division which pertain to the Southwest Coastal area shall be reviewed by the County to insure their compatibility with the community.
4. The County shall cooperate with the State Parks Division to retain the scenic values of the Oregon Coast Hiking Trail. Development adjacent to the trail shall be designed in a manner that is harmonious with the Trail.
5. All development on highly visible promontories shall be evaluated for its effect on scenic vistas, both from the beach and Highway 101.

6. Because of the limited access and land area at the mouth of Arch Cape Creek and the potential conflict with the adjacent residential neighborhoods, a regional park or recreation site in this vicinity is not desirable. Regional parks are not intended to be a permitted use within Rural Service Areas. Parks and recreation sites within such communities are intended to be neighborhood-oriented, low impact in terms of traffic generation, and designed in a compatible manner with the surrounding environment.
7. The County shall encourage the State Fish and Wildlife Commission to expand on a greater educational program on the marine organisms inhabiting the tidal pool areas. Stricter regulations are needed to ensure protection for organisms and viewing opportunities for visitors. Greater enforcement of existing regulations is also needed including signs posted at points of access informing people of the daily limit and penalties for violation.
8. Wildlife refuges: Existing wildlife refuges which are owned/leased and managed by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) located in areas designated Forest or in other lowland areas under any plan designation shall be reviewed by the County for compliance with the approval standards listed below. Such hearings shall be conducted according to a Type IV procedure at a time and place convenient to residents of the affected planning area. ODFW shall provide an evaluation of the economic, social, environmental and energy consequences of the proposal information sufficient to support findings with respect to the following approval criteria:
9. Identification of the need for the proposed new wildlife management area. "Need" means specific problems or conflicts that will be resolved or specific ODFW objectives that will be achieved by establishing the proposed area.
10. Alternative lands and management actions available to the ODFW, and an analysis of why those alternatives or management actions will not resolve identified problems or achieve objectives.
11. The County should make formal request to the State Fish Commission to have the "tidepool" areas in the Planning Area closed to taking of all marine invertebrates, or at least make collecting subject to permit. Local and State law enforcement officials should be made aware of the new status of these tidepools, until the Fish Commission can provide proper patrols. Perhaps during the summer months, when tourism is heaviest, trained persons could be hired to provide an educational function at the tidepools, as well as enforcement. Regardless, these areas should be posted at points of access informing people of the necessity of protecting the animals.
12. Cove Beach Lake should be evaluated for protection under Goal 5 as a cultural and/or historic resource.
13. Coordinate with state and/or federal agencies in the regulation of offshore energy generation facilities to ensure scenic views are preserved.

**Commented [IS11]:** All goals and policies will be relocated to the end of the document.

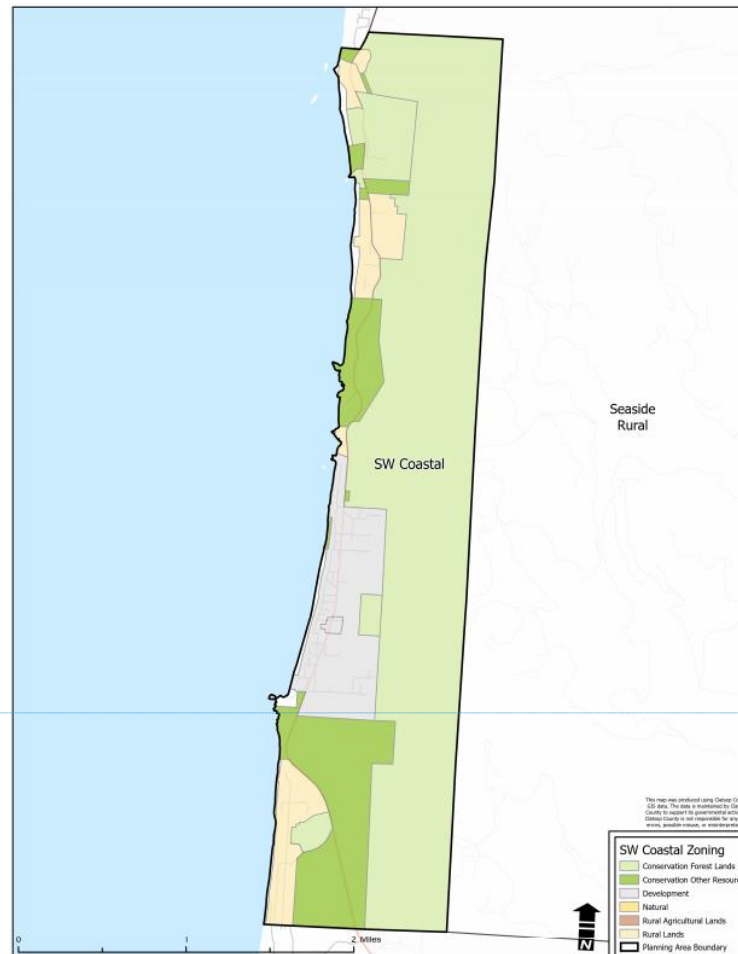
## DEVELOPMENT PATTERNS

The development pattern of the Southwest Coastal Planning Area consists generally of small to medium-size residential lots within the Arch Cape and Cove Beach communities, with some limited commercial development in Arch Cape. Surrounding the residential areas is a mix of recreation land and public and private forestland. Development in the past has occurred mostly on the marine terrace landscape unit along the coast with the predominant use being housing.

Most of this planning area was platted between 1900-1950 without regard to topography and natural resources, and without regard to the carrying capacity of the land to support human development. Thus, there are many more platted lots in private ownership than the infrastructure can support. There are many platted lots which cannot be built on because erosion over the years has taken away their support. And there are many platted lots which should be declared unbuildable due to the steepness of their slopes or their locations within protected areas such as wetlands. Most of these "problem" lots remain undeveloped, but the desirability of coastal real estate, the lack of easily buildable land, and modern technology is challenging this status quo.

### The Course of Future Land Uses

The purpose of this section is to provide a guide for development, whether residential, commercial, or recreational development, allowing for a high quality of life in the community. Land use policies are intended to control the direction of growth in the area and provide a basis for implementation measures such as zoning or capital improvement programs.



Map 7: Comprehensive Plan Land Use Designations

**Commented [IS12]:** Recommend deleting. This paragraph contains biased and editorialized language.

The Plan recognizes the unique character of the Southwest Coastal Planning Area in that it is a place for people to reside and recreate in within a natural, scenic, and peaceful setting. The main thrust of the Plan is to maintain the natural beauty, neighborhood character, and livability of the area during growth and development. Map 7 (above) shows the Comprehensive Land Use Designations for the Southwest Coastal Planning area.

Being a beach community, the Southwest Coastal Community bears responsibility to acknowledge the need for beach recreation for the people of the state and beyond. In response to this need this community should recognize this greater public need and provide such opportunities where possible.

### Growth Policies

1. Large developments with sudden or massive impacts on the community and its services shall be discouraged. Developments shall be phased in an orderly manner in order to avoid disruption of the community.
2. Future residential development along U.S. Highway 101 shall be buffered from the highway in order to reduce noise and maintain the scenic corridor. Existing vegetation shall be retained and/or new vegetation planted in order to provide a 25-foot buffer along Highway 101. Direct access from individual properties onto Highway 101 should not be allowed for new development. (Staff comment: access to Hwy 101 is subject to ODOT approval)
3. Existing access roads onto Highway 101 should be evaluated for safety, need, and compatibility with Plan goals. No new access roads should be permitted without a traffic engineering report addressing each of these factors as well as technically and economically feasible alternatives.
3. Appendix J of the Oregon Structural Specialty Code, which pertains to grading, shall be enacted and enforced to control filling and grading.
4. Cut and fill techniques of land development shall be discouraged. Filling of lots or property shall be carried out only after a site investigation to ensure that adjacent property will not be affected by drainage or storm water, erosion or visual intrusion onto other property.
5. All wetlands proposed for filling should be examined on site by the Division of State Lands and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to determine if permits are required.
6. Encourage the County to enact a Tree Removal Ordinance for the zones within the Southwest Coastal Planning Region which requires a Type II permit (notice to neighbors and opportunity for comment). Tree removal should be limited to necessity including safety hazard, storm damage, dying or dead tree, and to construct an approved structure or other development. Limits should be placed on the size of trees which may be removed for landscaping purposes and for access purposes. Note: This proposal is similar to the Tree Removal Ordinance in the Cannon Beach Municipal Code.

7. Develop a “no net loss of native trees” plan to protect native species of trees (western hemlock, sitka spruce, western red cedar, coastal shore pine, red alder) by prohibiting removal of trees without replacing them within the same community with an equal number of the same species.
8. Encourage solar energy use where practical. Encourage the County to specify which size and varieties of trees may be removed for the purpose of solar access. This should be included within any Tree Removal Ordinance which is enacted.
9. Encourage using open spaces or parcels not suitable for development for a community solar program. Consider tax incentives for landowners who allow their land to be used for this purpose.
10. A tax incentive program should be implemented for preservation of wetlands and riparian areas.
11. Drinking watersheds and groundwater sources should be identified and added to the County’s public GIS maps. Policies to protect those sources, including stream buffers, should be developed and implemented.
12. A master plan and implementing ordinances should be established for development of roadways and parcels on the east side of Highway 101 in Arch Cape. The plan should balance individual property rights with protection and preservation of steep slopes, wetlands and riparian areas, and other sensitive natural features.
13. Criteria for Design Review shall include, at a minimum:
  - a. Relation of Structure to Site. The location, bulk, and arrangement of structures shall be in scale and compatible with the surroundings.
  - b. Protection of Views shall be preserved through adoption of ordinances addressing removal of trees, building height, and other relevant factors.
  - c. Preservation of Landscape.
  - d. Utility Service.
  - e. Exterior Lighting.
  - f. Buffering and Screening.
  - g. Vehicle Circulation and Parking.
  - h. Signs.

Below are the definitions shown on the Comprehensive Plan Map ~~together with objectives and growth policies~~ for the Rural Service Area, Rural Lands, Rural Agricultural Lands, Forest Lands, Conservation Other Resources and Natural areas:

**Commented [IS13]:** All goals and policies will be relocated to the end of the document.

### Rural Community Areas (Development)

Development areas are those with a combination of physical, biological, and social/economic characteristics which make them necessary and suitable for residential, commercial, or industrial development and includes those which can be adequately served by existing or planned urban services and facilities.

#### Objectives

1. To ensure optimum utilization of urban and urbanizable lands and to provide for an orderly and efficient transition from rural to urban land use.
2. To encourage developments in this area to relieve the need for development in other areas.
3. To locate public and private developments so that they do not tend to attract residential development to locations outside of the designated area.
4. To avoid the extension of urban services, particularly water and sewer systems, into outlying sparsely settled areas (minimum lot sizes of 20,000 square feet or greater).

**Goal:** To maintain the low density, residential character of the Southwest Coastal Planning Area. Encourage development which blends with its rural setting and preserves natural resources to the maximum extent possible.

#### Policies

1. The standard building site in the Rural Service Area shall be at least 7,500 square feet, unless smaller lots existed in single or contiguous ownership prior to the adoption of the Community Plan. Those persons who have paid or been assessed as of January 1, 1976 for two sewer connection fees with a parcel of 10,000 square feet or more would be allowed to divide their parcel in two.
2. In areas of steep slopes lot sizes shall be increased to account for these factors.
3. The designated Rural Service Area shall be limited to a land area capable of being serviced by community water, sewer, and fire protection systems based on a reasonable projection of growth.



4. The zoning and subdivision ordinances shall be used in establishing development standards as they relate to the Rural Service Area. Emphasis shall be on maintaining natural vegetation and terrain when siting development, and fitting structures into the landscape rather than allowing them to dominate.
5. Commercial development shall be restricted to the existing commercial area and shall be limited to neighborhood commercial uses such as grocery store, a gas station, a community motel with a minimum land area of 2,500 square feet per unit, and other small-scale, locally oriented businesses.
6. There is a large parcel of land south of Arch Cape Creek and east of Highway 101. It abuts Oswald West State Park. The area has been previously platted. In order to protect the scenic values of the Arch Cape headland and Oswald West State Park the old plat shall be vacated or re-platted prior to development of the tract. Clustering shall be required and directed away from the headland and State Park.

**Goal:** To maintain high quality of residential development in keeping with the natural environment through the use of design standards.

#### **Policies**

1. Design review standards shall apply to all construction in the Rural Service Area (Arch Cape Rural Community). Standards shall apply to new commercial or residential construction, subdivision, site development, street construction or placement of public utilities.

**Goal:** To encourage the use of natural features of the land, such as existing topography and vegetation.

#### **Policies**

1. Design review standards shall require minimal disturbance of the landscape in land development and shall address the removal of trees, grading and excavation, protection of views of adjacent property, road construction and placement of utilities.
2. Future development along U.S. Highway 101 shall be buffered from the highway in order to maintain the scenic corridor.

3. ~~Cut and fill techniques of land development shall be discouraged. Filling of lots or property shall be carried out only after a site investigation to ensure that adjacent property will not be affected by drainage or storm water, raised flood elevations, erosion or visual intrusion onto other property.~~

**Commented [IS14]:** All goals and policies will be relocated to the end of the document.

### Rural Agricultural Lands

Agricultural lands are those lands that are to be preserved and maintained for farm use, consistent with existing and future needs for agricultural products, forest and open space.

In land use changes involving a change from Forest Lands or Rural Agricultural Lands to Rural Lands or Development designations an Exception to the Agricultural Lands or Forest Lands Goals must be taken.

### Rural Lands

Rural Lands are those lands which are outside the urban growth boundary and are not agricultural lands or forest lands. Rural Lands include lands suitable for sparse settlement, small farms or acreage homesites with no or hardly any public services, and which are not suitable, necessary or intended for urban use.

Rural Lands are those which, due to their value for aquaculture, low density residential uses, high intensity recreational uses, and non-renewable mineral and non-mineral resources uses should be protected from conversion to more intensive uses. Rural subdivisions, major and minor partitions, and other uses served by few public services which satisfy a need that cannot be accommodated in urbanizable areas are also likely to occur within this designation.

### Objectives

1. ~~To restrict intensive development on undeveloped shorelands.~~
2. ~~To preserve the rural character of uplands and woodland areas and maintain open spaces and opportunities along the shoreline for recreational uses.~~
3. ~~To retain rural areas as sparse settlement, small farms or acreage homesites with hardly any public services.~~
4. ~~To limit the intensity of residential development in order to prevent the gradual development of conditions which would require additional services or higher quality of existing services.~~

### Policies

1. The minimum parcel size for building sites in Rural Lands areas shall be 20,000 sq. feet. Smaller parcels legally existed at the time of adoption of this Plan are grandfathered, the specifics of which shall be handled in the Zoning Ordinance.
2. To evaluate all rural proposals for subdivision, major partitions and new public facilities or services, such as fire station and water systems, for the possible generation of unwanted urbanization which is reflected in the objectives of Rural Lands.
3. All watershed areas need to be defined and development in the surrounding vicinity shall void degradation of the water quality.
4. There should be no commercial or business activities allowed in the Rural Lands area, including transient lodging.

**Commented [IS15]:** All goals and policies will be relocated to the end of the document.

### Forest Lands and Other Resources

These areas provide important resource or ecosystem support functions but because of their value for low-intensity recreation or sustained yield resource (e.g. forestry), or because of their unsuitability for development (e.g. hazard areas) should be designated for non-consumptive uses. Non-consumptive uses are those uses which can utilize resources on a sustained yield basis while minimally reducing opportunities for other future uses of the area's resources.

#### Forest Lands

Forest lands are those lands that are to be retained for the production of wood fiber and other forest uses.

In land use changes involving a change from Forest Lands or Rural Agricultural Lands to Rural Lands or Development designations an Exception to the Agricultural Lands or Forest Lands Goals must be taken.

#### Conservation Other Resources

Conservation Other Resources areas provide important resource or ecosystem support functions such as lakes and wetlands and federal, state and local parks. Other areas designated Conservation Other Resources include lands for low intensity uses which do not disrupt the resource and recreational value of the land.

### Objectives

1. To conserve and protect natural, scenic, historic, and cultural resources.
2. To develop for low-intensity uses which do not substantially degrade the existing character or interrupt the flow of natural resource use or recreational benefits.
3. To protect life and property in hazardous areas.

### Policies

1. Commercial forest lands shall be excluded from future development of the Southwest Coastal area. Other undeveloped lands which are not owned by commercial timber production based on the forest site class shall be designated for resource protection.
2. Watersheds for the community water systems in the area shall be protected by the Forest Practices Act. Forest management in elevations above the watersheds, including road construction and chemical spraying/treatment, shall take place only after the appropriate water districts are notified and efforts are made to prevent adverse impacts.
3. There shall be two building site intensities in Forest Lands areas designated for Small Woodland: 20 acres is within a fire and/or water district; 38 acres if within no districts. Commercial forest designation partition size shall be 80 acres.
4. Before designated forest land is changed to another use, the productive capacity of the land in each use should be considered and evaluated.
5. Before designated forest land is changed to another use, the impact of the proposed use should be considered on adjacent forest lands.
6. Transfer and/or consolidation of land for resource production is encouraged. No new lots for residential purposes shall be created on designated commercial forest land.
7. Residential development in areas designated for forest uses shall be minimized. Development adjacent to roads intended primarily for forest management and harvesting activities shall be discouraged.

**Commented [IS16]:** All goals and policies will be relocated to the end of the document.

## Natural

Natural areas are those which have not been significantly altered by man and which, in their natural state, perform resource support functions including those functions vital to estuarine or riparian ecosystems. Publicly owned fragile and ecologically valuable areas, especially watersheds and groundwater resource areas, are most likely to be designated as Natural. Natural areas identified by the Oregon Natural Heritage Program, as well as fish and wildlife areas and habitats identified by the Oregon Wildlife Commission, should be considered for Natural designation.

### Objectives

- ~~1. To preserve, restore and protect these areas for scientific, research and educational needs and for the resource and ecosystem support values and functions they provide.~~

**Commented [IS17]:** All goals and policies will be relocated to the end of the document.

## GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES

### COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

#### Community Involvement Goal

To establish and maintain a Community Involvement Program which ensures the opportunity for local community members to be involved in a broad range of planning and land use issues.

#### Community Involvement Policies

1. The Committee for Community Involvement shall be the seven members of the Clatsop County Planning Commission. The Planning Commission shall strive to represent a cross section of county residents in all phases of the planning process. As an appropriate component, five Planning Commission members shall be representatives of the six designated geographic areas (with a seven member Commission, one area may have two members). No more than two Planning Commission members may reside within incorporated cities. Each member of the Planning Commission shall be selected by an open, well-publicized, public process by the Board of Commissioners.
2. The Board of County Commissioners may appoint advisory committees to address specific land use issues as needed.
3. Public notice will be sent to affected residents and neighborhood/community organizations, as defined in Section 1.0500, LAWDUC, concerning Comprehensive Plan amendments, zone changes, conditional use applications, subdivisions, planned developments, and other land use actions that require written notice.
4. Encourage County to make all development applications for new single family homes and exterior changes to existing single family homes available for public review at least three business days before any action is taken on the application. Applications and supporting documents should be posted in an easily accessible location on the County's website, as well as being sent via email to all persons who sign up for email notifications.
5. Encourage the Committee for Citizen Involvement to develop a written Citizen Involvement Program which addresses how Clatsop County is meeting, or will meet, the responsibilities of Statewide Goal 1. Involve the public in this process and post drafts and final documents on County's website.

**Commented [IS18]:** Delete. These policies should be located in Goal 1, if appropriate, per memo from legal counsel.

6. Encourage the governing body to restore the Southwest Coastal Citizen Advisory Committee to assist the Committee for Citizen Involvement in meeting the County's Goal 1 responsibilities. The CACs shall assist the Board of Commissioners and Planning Commission meet the following community involvement objectives:
  - a. Opportunities for widespread public involvement
  - b. Effective two-way communication with the public
  - c. The ability for the public to be involved in all phases of the planning process
  - d. Making technical information easy to understand
  - e. Feedback mechanisms for policy-makers to respond to public input, and
  - f. Adequate financial support for public involvement efforts.
7. Consider appointing a regional Planning Liaison from the Southwest Coastal region (or from each land use planning region) to work with the Committee on Citizen Involvement in meeting its Goal 1 responsibilities.
8. Encourage commissioners to hold open forum town hall meetings for residents and property owners, twice per year, in each of the planning areas.

#### Community Involvement Recommendations

1. Maximize opportunities for community involvement by restoring Citizen Involvement Policies 1-4 adopted by the Board of Commissioners in 1979, re-adopted in 2004, and in effect until repealed in 2017. These policies are in compliance with Goal 1, worked for the region for more than 35 years, and reflect the desire of local residents and property owners to be a part of the process going forward.
  - a. Create a Southwest Coastal CAC to constitute the body recognized by Clatsop County to represent the Southwest Coastal Region on planning and land use issues.
  - b. The CAC shall be composed of five of residents and property owners from the planning region, and should reflect a broad spectrum of interests. Members shall be appointed by the Board of Commissioners after being nominated at a well-publicized community meeting.
  - c. The CAC shall hold quarterly meetings in such a way that the public is notified well in advance and given the opportunity to attend and participate in a meaningful fashion.
  - d. Technical assistance shall be made available to the CAC through the Community Development Department and other resources of the County.
2. Restore the following provisions from the Arch Cape Rural Overlay zone ordinances which were in effect until 2017 when repealed by Ordinance 17-02. Most of the development in the Southwest Coastal Region is single family homes and accessory buildings, and the community has a long history of receiving notice and providing input on these types of development applications. Restoring these provisions would foster community involvement by providing notice to neighbors and neighborhood/community organizations, and allowing community members to provide input prior to permits being issued.

**Commented [IS19]:** Delete. These policies should be located in Goal 1, if appropriate, per memo from legal counsel.

**Commented [IS20]:** Delete. These policies should be located in Goal 1, if appropriate, per memo from legal counsel.

- ~~3. Any new residential development proposing to construct a dwelling or create additional square footage shall require review according to the Type II procedure.~~
- ~~4. Any commercial development proposing to construct structures or create additional cumulative square footage shall require review according to the Type II procedure.~~
- ~~5. Any accessory buildings associated with residential or commercial development shall require review according to the Type II procedure.~~
- ~~6. Where the Community Development Director determines that a development may significantly impact adjoining properties with respect to location, bulk, compatibility, views, preservation of existing landscape, or other design review criteria, the development shall require review according to the Type II procedure.~~

**Commented [IS21]:** Delete from community plan and set aside for future consideration to include in LAWDUC.



## LANDSCAPE UNITS

### General Landscape Unit Policies

1. ~~Steep slopes (15% or greater) are at or near natural equilibrium and further steepening through excavation could initiate sliding. Excavations in these areas should be restricted and should be properly engineered.~~
2. ~~Excavations in sedimentary highland (Toms) should be properly engineered to assure against slope failure (see Appendix D).~~
3. ~~Proposed projects involving modifications of established drainage patterns should be evaluated in terms of potential for altering land stability.~~
4. ~~Loss of ground cover for moderately to steeply sloping lands may cause erosion problems by increasing runoff velocity and land slippage. Vegetative cover for moderately to steeply sloping areas shall be maintained.~~

**Commented [IS22]:** Delete from community plan and set aside for future consideration to include in LAWDUC.

**Commented [IS23]:** Delete from community plan and set aside for future consideration to include in LAWDUC.

**Commented [IS24]:** Goal 7 and LAWDUC

**Commented [IS25]:** Delete from community plan and set aside for future consideration to include in LAWDUC.

### Water Bodies and Coastal and Stream Shorelands Goal

To conserve, protect, and where appropriate, develop the coastal and stream shorelands in the Southwest Coastal Planning area; and to conserve, protect, and where appropriate, develop the lands near and adjacent to water bodies in the Planning Area. The following policies are in addition to those found in the Estuarine Resources and Coastal Shorelands Element.

### Water Bodies and Coastal and Stream Shorelands Policies

1. ~~Grading, excavation or filling in the riparian zone of rivers, streams, and creeks shall be carefully controlled in order to prevent sedimentation of the water. Filling, grading, and excavation of lands shall be prohibited within stream buffers.~~
2. ~~In order to provide the greatest view potential for properties throughout the Rural Lands and Rural Service Area, the building height shall be limited to 26 feet through the Community Plan area, with ocean front property limited to 18 feet. Removal of trees (6" or greater DBH) to create or enhance views shall be prohibited.~~
3. ~~1. A vegetated buffer shall be provided along either side of Arch Cape Creek, Asbury Creek, Shark Creek, Cedar Creek, Austen Creek, and other creeks and drainage ways critical to local drinking water supply and erosion control in order to provide clean drinking water, protect riparian vegetation, prevent loss of property due to erosion, and protect the aesthetic value of the streams. Buffers shall generally be 50 feet wide, measured perpendicular to the normal streambank unless the size of lot and natural topography would create a hardship. Variances may be~~

**Commented [IS26]:** Goal 5 and Goal 6

**Commented [IS27]:** LAWDUC

- granted, but in no event shall the buffer be less than 25 feet wide.
4. ~~In no event shall an impediment or alteration be permitted in a natural drainage way.~~
  5. ~~Gravel and cobble removal from the streams shall be prohibited.~~
  6. ~~Placement of riprap or other shoreline protection on coastal beaches or stream shorelands shall only be permitted for lots where the protection is necessary to prevent an erosion hazard and only where development existed on January 1, 1977.~~
  7. ~~Development in the vicinity of Arch Cape Creek, Cedar Creek, Shark Creek, Asbury Creek, Austin Creek, and creeks in the vicinity of Grand Lane / Picture Windows Lane shall be designed in a manner that is compatible with the beauty of the area. Controls on the removal of vegetation or filling or alteration of the shoreline shall be included in the Zoning Ordinance.~~
  - 8-2. Clustered development, including open space or neighborhood park sites and wildlife corridors, should be encouraged for subdivisions or planned developments in the Southwest Coastal Planning Area.
  - 9-3. Activities of the State Parks Division which pertain to the Southwest Coastal planning area shall be reviewed by the Community Development Department to ~~insure~~ensure their compatibility with the community.
  10. ~~Emergency vehicles shall have access to the beach at all times. All other vehicles shall be prohibited from beach access in the Southwest Coastal Planning Area.~~
  11. ~~Work with Oregon State Parks and local residents to develop a comprehensive beach access plan from Arcadia Beach to Cove Beach, balancing public access, safety, wildlife habitat, and coastal erosion. The Community Development Department is encouraged to coordinate with OPRD and local residents to develop a comprehensive beach access plan for the SW Coastal Planning Area which balances accessibility, safety, wildlife habitat, and coastal erosion.~~
  12. ~~Work with Oregon State Parks and local community members to determine appropriate regulations regarding vehicles, horses and camping on local beaches.~~
  13. ~~The Shoreland Overlay GIS layer should be completed and made available to the public.~~

**Commented [IS28]:** Keep first sentence in the community plan; move the rest to LAWDUC.

**Commented [IS29]:** LAWDUC

**Commented [IS30]:** LAWDUC

**Commented [IS31]:** LAWDUC

**Commented [IS32]:** Delete, per feedback from county counsel re: clear and objective standards for housing.

**Commented [IS33]:** Delete. Access to the beach is not controlled by Clatsop County. Also, driving on the beaches in the SW Coastal Planning Area is already not allowed.

**Commented [IS34]:** Delete. Activities on beaches are regulated by OPRD.

**Commented [IS35]:** Goal 17

### Water Bodies and Coastal and Stream Shorelands Recommendations

1. ~~Access points to the beach and streams should be provided for at the ends of platted and vacated streets where safe and feasible, and shall not be unnecessarily impeded by shoreline protection, flood protection, and other structures. Access to the beach where possible should be made passable for the elderly or other persons with limited mobility. Further work needs to be done on who would maintain these access points. Creation of new access points, or improvement of existing access points, in fragile, steep, or otherwise hazardous areas shall be avoided. Within the SW Coastal Planning Area, beach access points should be provided at the ends of platted streets, where feasible. Beach access points should be designed, constructed, and maintained to be accessible to persons with limited mobility. Creation of new access points, or improvement of existing access points in fragile, steep, or otherwise hazardous areas should be avoided.~~

2. ~~Horse traffic shall be prohibited on beaches in the Southwest Coastal Planning Area.~~
3. ~~1. Mapping of the drainage systems in the planning area is necessary and should be considered as a future project when funds become available.~~
4. ~~Encourage all landowners with independent water systems to register their systems with the appropriate government agencies so they may be identified and protected.~~

**Commented [IS36]:** Delete. This activity would be regulated by the OPRD, not Clatsop County.

**Commented [IS37]:** Goal 6

### Headlands and Points Policies

1. ~~The Arch Cape headland represents an important scenic landmark for the community, the region and the State. Although the upper portions of the headland lie within the boundaries of Oswald West State Park, the lower area abutting Arch Cape creek east of Highway 101 is not part of the area inventoried as a headland. It is privately owned and may be developed in the future. Development in this area shall be carefully controlled to ensure that it is compatible with the headland. This may be accomplished by the maintenance of existing trees and natural vegetation, the requirements of the use of natural building materials such as cedar and stone, and the maintenance of low-profile structures. As previously mentioned, buffers should be required adjacent to the Oregon Coast Trail, and the Arch Cape Creek. In addition, see Rural Service Area policy number 7.~~
2. Encourage the State of Oregon to purchase the privately-owned portion of the Arch Cape headland as it is an important natural and scenic resource that should be permanently protected.
3. Encourage the inclusion of the Arch Cape Headland in the County's Goal 5 scenic resources inventory.

**Commented [IS38]:** Move first sentence to community plan narrative section. Delete remaining language – vegetation and buffering are regulated in LAWDUC; discretionary regulation of building materials and forms would conflict with clear and objective standards for housing per legal counsel.

### Coast Range Foothills, Basaltic Highlands, Sedimentary Uplands Policies

1. ~~These landscape units are resource units and should be reserved primarily for timber production, wildlife habitat, recreation and mineral resources, and potable drinking water sources.~~
2. ~~1. Cooperate with State, the forestry sector and environmental organizations to implement changes to Oregon's forest practices laws as set forth in the recent Private Forest Accord. Under this agreement, the State will seek a 50-year Habitat Conservation Plan applicable to private lands from both the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services for threatened and endangered species. The proposed changes focus primarily on regulations for salmonids and salamanders in three areas: buffers on fish-bearing and non-fish bearing streams, assessments and improvements on forest roads, and regulations for harvests around unstable slopes.~~

**Commented [IS39]:** Goal 2

**Commented [IS40]:** Delete

### Wetlands Goal

Complete the Goal 5 process for wetlands in the Southwest Coastal Planning Area.

### Wetlands Policies

1. ~~Add the Arch Cape/Cove Beach Local Wetlands Inventory (2011) to the County's Natural Resources Inventory, or fund a new inventory of the South County wetlands and lakes. Consider adopting the Arch Cape / Cove Beach Local Wetlands Inventory (2011) or funding an update of the LWI for adoption.~~
2. Adopt a local protection program for any lakes and wetlands in the Southwest Coastal region identified as significant, as defined in the Local Wetlands Inventory, including setbacks for lakes and wetlands within 50' of any existing or proposed development including roads. In the alternative, adopt a Safe Harbor Ordinance. Alternatively, consider implementing a Safe Harbor Ordinance.
3. ~~Consider re-zoning properties with significant lakes and wetlands as Lake & Wetland ("LW") and extend the LW zone to these South County areas. The County is encouraged to work with property owners to explore opportunities to apply the LW Zone to further protect significant wetlands within the SW Coastal Planning Area.~~
4. Encourage State and County to prohibit filling the remaining wetlands in Arch Cape and Cove Beach.
5. Encourage County to establish setbacks to wetlands. Setbacks should be 50 feet for significant wetlands, 25 feet for non-significant wetlands, as identified in the Local Wetlands Inventory.
6. ~~Buffer wetlands by protecting the uplands adjacent to wetlands where land development increases the flow of water and pollutants which can overwhelm the ability of wetlands to provide their functions and threaten sustainability.~~
7. ~~Encourage County to require an additional fee when an applicant proposes to develop wetland property, to be used to pay a County wetland expert to verify all wetland delineations based on a developer's paid consultant.~~
8. ~~Ensure Riparian Zone covers creeks and streams as well as rivers, and that "emergent wetland vegetation" covers associated wetlands.~~
9. ~~The 2017 recommendations of the Wetlands Advisory Committee should be implemented.~~
10. ~~A transfer of development rights (TDR) program should be implemented to further protect wetlands and other sensitive natural areas.~~
11. ~~A tax incentive program should be implemented for preservation of wetlands and riparian areas.~~

**Commented [IS41]:** Delete this sentence from the community plan and set aside for future consideration to include in LAWDUC.

**Commented [IS42]:** Goal 5, Goal 16/17

**Commented [IS43]:** LAWDUC

**Commented [IS44]:** Goal 5

**Commented [IS45]:** Goal 5

## CRITICAL HAZARD AREAS

### ~~Critical Hazard Areas Goal~~

~~To prevent harm to people and damage to property through the use of reasonable building controls. To work together to prepare for the survival needs of residents and visitors.~~

Commented [IS46]: Goal 7

### General Critical Hazards Policies

- ~~1. Appendix J of the Oregon Structural Specialty Code, which pertains to grading, should be applied to all development within the Southwest Coastal planning area.~~
- ~~2. In addition to where required in Appendix J of the Oregon Structural Specialty Code, favorable site-specific investigations (conducted by qualified geotechnical experts at the developer's expense) shall be prerequisites for the issuance of building or excavation permits in any area recognized as geologic hazard area as shown on the Hazards map included herein.~~
- ~~3. Density of development in the Rural Community areas shall be related to the degree of slope present on the site, and shall conform to these categories:~~
  - ~~a. Zero to 12% slopes, moderate density (7,500 sq. ft.).~~
  - ~~b. 13% to 25%, low density (2 dwellings per acre).~~
  - ~~c. Greater than 25% slopes, very low density (1 dwelling per acre or less, depending on favorable geologic site investigation).~~
- ~~4. In Rural Community areas, lot sizes may be reduced to a minimum of 7,500 sq. ft. for areas identified in policy 3.b. and 3.c., above, where site investigations indicate the area can withstand greater development, or may be reduced where evidence of landsliding is present or the site investigation is unfavorable.~~
- ~~5. Development on slopes or greater than 15% should generally leave the natural topography of the site intact. Existing vegetation, particularly trees, should be retained on the site. Cut and fill construction methods should be discouraged. Access roads and driveways should follow slope contours in a manner that prevents rapid discharge, and prevents erosion. Excavations and fills should be controlled through the enactment of Appendix J of the Oregon Structural Specialty Code. The policy will be enforced by the County Department of Planning and Development and Building Department with assistance from the County Engineer.~~

Commented [IS47]: LAWDUC

6. Vacating or re-platting of old subdivisions in hazardous or in steeply sloping areas shall be encouraged through the use of incentives such as waiving fees or property taxes, and encouraging other tax incentives such as land donations in exchange for income tax deductions. Property owners are encouraged to vacate or re-plat subdivision lots they own in areas of geologic hazards and steep slopes to create a development pattern that is more consistent with the natural and physical features of the land. The County is encouraged to find ways to support property owners in this process.

**Commented [IS48]:** Re-word as follows: Property owners are encouraged to vacate or re-plat subdivision lots they own in areas of geologic hazards and steep slopes to create a development pattern that is more consistent with the natural and physical features of the land.

7. Construction on poles or pilings shall be the preferred method of construction in areas of storm drainage problems (identified above). Where filling is proposed, the amount of fill shall be the minimum necessary for the placement of structures or driveways.

**Commented [IS49]:** LAWDOC

### Landslide Hazard Policies

1. Expand the County's ongoing emergency preparedness efforts to include a program which addresses survival of Southwest Coastal residents and visitors in the event of catastrophic landslides or other disasters which isolate the region from outside services for an extended period of time.

2. Allocate funding to build community-based survival caches with food, water, heating supplies and other essentials. These caches should provide adequate supplies for unprepared residents, day visitors, and people staying in rental facilities. A local committee should be tasked with ongoing implementation of this program as supplies will need to be monitored and periodically replaced.

3. Develop a community education effort encouraging residents and vacation home owners to create survival caches in their homes. Inns, B&Bs and STRs should be required to have survival caches on site and show proof as part of the permitting/renewal process.

**Commented [IS50]:** Goal 7

### Coastal Erosion Policies

1. Increase oceanfront setbacks for all new construction in higher erosion areas.

2. Prohibit decks, sheds and other currently allowed infrastructure within oceanfront setback areas.

3. Require oceanfront native vegetation to be kept intact or be replanted.

4. Plan for managed retreat of roads, utilities and other infrastructure.

5. Require removal of debris from buildings and infrastructure that fall (or prior to falling) onto the beach or into the ocean.

**Commented [IS51]:** Delete. The oceanfront setback can already be increased if recommended/required by the geologic hazard report, which is required to develop any ocean front lot.

**Commented [IS52]:** Delete. These are not currently allowed.

**Commented [IS53]:** LAWDOC

**Commented [IS54]:** Goal 7

**Commented [IS55]:** Delete. Not a land use policy.

### Coastal Armoring Policies

1. ~~Work~~The Community Development Department is encouraged to work with DLCD and State Parks to establish a comprehensive beach armoring plan for each community within the Southwest Coastal Planning Area. The plan should also identify areas that should not be armored.
2. ~~Identify public beach accesses which will be kept and which cannot be kept, and how to ensure there are safe entry and exits from the beach, especially for tsunamis, high waves and other emergencies.~~
3. ~~Prohibit stairs, steps or other permanent structures on beach accesses from individual oceanfront properties.~~
4. ~~Prohibit beach access from individual oceanfront properties which have coastal armoring.~~
- 5-2. Shoreline protective devices such as seawalls, revetments or dikes ~~shall~~ should be evaluated for their impacts on adjacent property, visual impacts, impact on public access, and potential public costs. Beachfront protective devices ~~shall~~ should be evaluated, both those located east and west of the State Zone Line.

Commented [IS56]: Goal 18

Commented [IS57]: LAWDUC

Commented [IS58]: LAWDUC, Goal 18

### Earthquake and Tsunami Hazard Policies

1. ~~Consider reducing density or prohibiting new development in areas identified as tsunami inundation zones. Consider requiring retrofitting of existing development in these areas to meet current building standards.~~
2. ~~Work with County's Emergency Management Department, other County and City personnel, and community members to better educate residents, landowners, and Short-Term Rental management companies on safety and survival procedures and needs for the Southwest Coastal planning area.~~

Commented [IS59]: Goal 7

Commented [IS60]: LAWDUC

### Drought & Flood Hazard Policies

1. ~~Work with the state to ensure that well/surface water permits are issued and reviewed periodically with increased drought in mind.~~
2. ~~Limit development in areas with seasonal droughts, or support/encourage water catchment systems.~~
3. ~~Work with DSL to protect significant wetlands & riparian setbacks.~~

Commented [IS61]: Goal 6

Commented [IS62]: Goal 6

Commented [IS63]: Goal 5

### Wildfire Hazard Policies

1. Consider fire resilient building requirements in properties adjacent to forestland, as well as properties in forested areas within development zones within the Southwest Coastal Planning Area.

2. ~~Prohibit campfires, cooking fires and other open flames on undeveloped public and private lands outside the jurisdiction of the Oregon Parks Department.~~

**Commented [IS64]:** Delete. Not a land use policy.



## HOUSING

### Housing Goal

To provide for a wide range of housing needs in the community. To maintain the current residential character of the community. To encourage development which blends with its rural setting and preserves natural resources to the maximum extent possible.

### Housing Policies

- ~~1. A high quality of housing in the area shall be promoted through the use of the natural landscape, existing vegetation, and good design. Development projects which require removal of all or most trees on the lot shall be denied. Development standards for housing in the SW Coastal Planning Area should include clear and objective standards to preserve the natural landscape, trees, and existing native vegetation to the greatest extent possible.~~
- ~~2. Planned development and re-platting old subdivisions shall be required in order to preserve steep slopes and other sensitive areas, such as wetlands, in their natural condition. Property owners are encouraged to re-plat subdivision lots where appropriate to establish a development pattern that better aligns with the existing topography, flood and geologic hazards, and sensitive natural areas such as wetlands.~~
- ~~3. Housing developments and subdivisions should be designed to emphasize the rural, coastal appearance of the community; that is, less emphasis should be placed on curbs, sidewalks, and wide streets and more emphasis placed on the maintenance of trees, natural drainages, open space and larger lot sizes. New subdivisions and other planned developments shall be clustered and provide common open space.~~
- ~~4. Housing shall be developed where services are readily available. Subdivision of land and planned development shall be allowed only where septic tank, sewer and water capacity is sufficient to meet its needs. The County needs to work closely and formally with the local utility Districts (Water, Sewer, Road) to determine the projected maximum support levels in order to match development to that which can be supported by the intrinsic capacity of each utility District.~~
5. Housing for low- and moderate-income persons should be encouraged in the Southwest Coastal Planning Area through agencies such as the Northwest Oregon Housing Association (NOHA), Farmers Home Administration (FHA), U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and the State Housing Division. ~~Short-term rental uses shall be appropriately limited in the Southwest Coastal Planning Area to ensure there is an adequate supply of housing for low- and moderate-income persons.~~

**Commented [IS65]:** LAWDUC (also see policy 1, above)

**Commented [IS66]:** Goal 10

**Commented [IS67]:** Delete this sentence. STR regulations are currently under review by the Board of Commissioners in a separate process.

### Short-Term Rental Recommendations

1. Define Short-Term Rentals as commercial activity and restrict new licenses to homes in commercial zones.
2. Create a plan to phase-out Short-Term Rentals in the Coastal Residential (CR) zones by eliminating license renewals and license transfers to new owners. In the Arch-Cape Rural Residential Zone (AC-RCR), create a plan to limit rentals so the total number of renters in the community at any given time does not exceed the total number of residents. Much of Arch-Cape and almost all of the rental homes are located in areas at risk for one or more critical hazards, and the community does not have the resources to handle a larger population.
3. Limit the number of rentals by limiting the number of times a home may be rented in a month. Arch-Cape currently allows four rentals per month, while the rest of the region has no limit. The entire Southwest Coastal planning region should be limited to no more than two rentals per month, which is currently the limit in Cannon Beach.
4. Place limits on occupancy. The region is zoned for mostly single-family homes, and the average family in 2020 was 3.15 people. There should be no more than two occupants per bedroom with a maximum of eight occupants.
5. Consider offering property tax credits to owners who terminate their STR licenses early.
6. Consider offering property tax credits to owners who convert STRs into rental housing for residents.

**Commented [IS68]:** Delete. STR regulations are currently under review by the Board of Commissioners in a separate process.

## PUBLIC FACILITIES

### Public Facilities Goal

To provide public facilities and services capable of meeting existing and future needs at appropriate levels for the [RURAL SERVICE AREA DEVELOPMENT, RURAL COMMUNITY](#) and RURAL areas in the most cost-effective manner.

### Public Facilities Policies

1. ~~No filling shall be permitted which would raise the water level on adjacent property, or overtax existing storm drains. Developers shall be responsible for installing storm drainage systems the distance necessary to drain their property and property in those areas which may be affected.~~
2. ~~All developments shall indicate on the plot plan or building plans how storm water is to be drained. The Planning Commission or Building Official shall require the installation of culverts, dry wells or retention facilities in developments with major storm drainage impacts.~~
3. ~~Developments shall be allowed only if the systems (water, sewer, and fire protection) are capable of supporting increased loads. Phasing of development may be allowed if improvement of public facilities is assured by the time construction and the additional loads are anticipated.~~
4. ~~Utility rights of way, where not located within highway rights of way, should be evaluated for future utilization as part of a greenbelt or pathway. Prior to approving vacation of a public right of way, the right of way should be evaluated for possible significance as part of a greenbelt or pathway system.~~
5. ~~If water and sewer services are to be utilized either in the development of a subdivision or the building of individual residences, the local water and sewer districts shall approve the development prior to the issuance of either plat approvals or building permits.~~
6. ~~Except where contiguous with a developed lot under the same ownership, tent camping is prohibited on all undeveloped lots in the AC-RCR and CR zones in order to prevent fires and problems associated with lack of infrastructure. Camping is permitted in these zones for up to 7 days on property with an existing residential dwelling, or an RV legally on the property where camping will occur and with the written consent of the property owner. Commercial camping is not allowed anywhere in these zones.~~

Commented [IS69]: LAWDUC

Commented [IS70]: LAWDUC

Commented [IS71]: This is covered in the transportation section, below.

Commented [IS72]: LAWDUC

Commented [IS73]: LAWDUC

[RURAL COMMUNITY AREAS](#)

## SOUTHWEST COASTAL COMMUNITY PLAN 2040

(DRAFT for Planning Commission Review 8-9-2022)

1. All new development including single lots shall install underground utilities such as electricity, telephone, and television cable. Efforts to place existing lines underground in already developed areas should be encouraged. Utilities shall be moved underground in conjunction with any substantial renovation (project cost greater than 25% of the assessed value of the structure).

Commented [IS74]: LAWDUC

2. Sewer or water services will not be extended outside of the RURAL COMMUNITY AREAS.

Commented [IS75]: Goal 11

3. If water and sewer services are to be utilized either in the development of a subdivision or the building of individual residences, the local water and sewer district shall approve the development prior to the issuance of either plat approval or building permits.

Commented [IS76]: LAWDUC

### RURAL LANDS

1. The capacity of rural water systems will be limited to that necessary for development at rural densities and may also be limited by the intrinsic availability of water. This intrinsic availability of water may also be seasonal and may be severely impacted by climate change (as seen during the drought years of 2014-2018).

Commented [IS77]: Goal 11

2. If water service is to be utilized, either in the development of a subdivision or the building of individual residences, the local water district shall approve the development prior to issuance of plat approvals or building permits.

Commented [IS78]: Goal 11

### FOREST LANDS AND CONSERVATION OTHER RESOURCES

1. Public facilities will be discouraged from developing in these Plan designations.

Commented [IS79]: Goal 2

2. Forest lands shall be designated Forest in the County's Comprehensive Plan. When considering a zone change to a forest zone, the Planning Commission or other reviewing body shall review the proposal against the acreage, management, and other approval criteria in County-wide Forest Lands Policies #19, #20, and #21.

Commented [IS80]: Goal 4

### NATURAL

1. There will be no public facilities in this Plan designation.

Commented [IS81]: Goal 2, Goal 11

### Public Facilities Recommendations

1. The County Sheriff's Department should hold some informational meetings in the area on crime prevention.

Commented [IS82]: Delete. Not related to land use.

- 2.1. All the watersheds in the planning area ~~need to~~ should be more clearly defined and mapped. ~~Additionally, each watershed has individual problems which need to be identified.~~
3. ~~Drinking watersheds and groundwater sources should be identified and added to the County's public GIS maps. Policies to protect those sources, including stream buffers, should be developed and implemented.~~
4. ~~Coordinate with state and/or federal agencies in the regulation of offshore energy generation facilities.~~

**Commented [IS83]:** Delete second sentence; intent not clear.

**Commented [IS84]:** Goal 6

**Commented [IS85]:** Goal 19

## TRANSPORTATION

### Transportation Goal

To safely and efficiently meet the transportation needs of the regional communities while keeping their rural character. To improve safety for vehicles and pedestrians accessing Highway 101 within the Southwest Coastal Planning Area.

### Transportation Policies

- ~~1. Access points onto U.S. Highway 101 shall be kept to a minimum to reduce the potential for accidents. New development shall use common frontage roads, and lots shall be designed so as not to front or have access onto the highway.~~
- ~~2. All new streets and roads shall be designed to minimize disturbance of the land by following contour lines, retaining mature and native trees to the extent possible, and avoiding cut and fill construction techniques.~~
3. Unnecessary rights-of-way should be used as greenbelts, wildlife corridors, walking trails or bike paths where appropriate. Prior to approving vacation of a right-of-way, the right-of-way should be evaluated for possible significance as part of a greenbelt or pathway system. Street vacations shall only be approved where there is evidence to establish that the right-of-way does not provide a public benefit or use. The Community Development Department is encouraged to study and plan for the use of platted, public rights-of-way within the SW Coastal Planning Area to enhance mobility for pedestrians and/or cyclists. When considering proposals to vacate platted, public rights-of-way, the Board of Commissioners is encouraged to examine the potential significance of the right-of-way as part of a network of pedestrian and/or bicycle routes within the SW Coastal Planning Area.
- ~~4. A buffer of vegetation not less than 25 feet shall be maintained or planted between all developments and U.S. Highway 101 to reduce the noise and other effects of traffic on residences and to maintain the scenic character of the highway.~~
- ~~5. Improvements of U.S. Highway 101 in the Southwest Coastal Planning Area which involve a major action shall be reviewed by the Community Development Director to insure it is compatible with the community. Major action as defined by the Oregon Action Plan: an action involving substantial planning, time, expenditures or environmental impact.~~
- ~~6. The County and State should continue in maintaining the visual clearance to oncoming traffic on U.S. 101.~~

**Commented [IS86]:** Delete. Access on Hwy 101 is controlled by ODOT.

**Commented [IS87]:** Delete. This is already in the LAWDUC.

**Commented [IS88]:** Delete. This is already in the LAWDUC.

**Commented [IS89]:** Goal 12

**Commented [IS90R89]:** This is covered by Goal 12 – Goal 9

**Commented [IS91]:** Delete. Clear vision areas are already required by the LAWDUC.

~~7. Not only is it necessary for the County to adopt road standards which provide for economical and proper maintenance, but standards which consider the particular areas and the desires of the local residents. To that end this plan encourages road standards which are suited to the character of development in the area. These roads generally are narrow, containing several dead-ends, and serving few permanent users.~~

~~8. The County shall support the Clatsop County Senior Bus System for seniors and disabled persons.~~

~~9. Parking should be limited on roads with inadequate width to accommodate fire access.~~

~~10. Parking for short term rentals should be limited to off-street spaces approved by the County.~~

11. At the time County roads in Arch Cape are improved, speed controls such as speed limits or caution signs should be examined.

12. Establish a plan for bicycle and pedestrian pathways throughout Arch Cape, emphasizing safety and connectivity across Highway 101.

13. Encourage Oregon Department of Transportation to further reduce the speed limit though Arch Cape in order to improve safety for pedestrians. 30 mph is recommended.

14. ~~Create~~ The Community Development Department is encouraged to create a Transportation Plan for the east side of Arch Cape which identifies common frontage roads, limits access points onto ~~Highw101~~ Highway 101, facilitates building streets to minimize disturbance to the land, and turns rights-of-way that are not needed for motorized travel into bike paths or pedestrian trails.

~~15. All privately constructed vehicular access roads within public rights-of-way shall be processed as Type II conditional uses.~~

~~16. Permits for privately constructed vehicular access roads should be allowed only as part of an approved residential development project, so the impacts of access roads can be evaluated in context with the development of the properties the roads are intended to serve. Vehicular access roads intended to serve undeveloped land shall be prohibited.~~

~~17. Vehicular access roads shall be subject to the same setbacks from riparian corridors and wetlands as are other forms of development.~~

**Commented [IS92]:** Delete. The County recently updated its road standards and uses the same set of standards countywide.

**Commented [IS93]:** Goal 12

**Commented [IS94R93]:** Covered by Goal 12 – Goal 4, Policy 4b, Policy 4c, Goal 5 and Policy 5d.

**Commented [IS95]:** LAWDUC

**Commented [IS96]:** Delete. STR regulations are currently under review by the Board of Commissioners in a separate process.

**Commented [IS97]:** Delete. This policy is already in the LAWDUC.

**Commented [IS98]:** Delete. This conflicts with a recent LUBA decision on road development in the SW Coastal Planning Area.

**Commented [IS99]:** Delete. LAWDUC Section 6.500 requires a 50-ft zone of riparian vegetation where no development is allowed. Roads are considered development, so they would not be allowed within the zone of riparian vegetation.

## OPEN SPACE, HISTORIC, RECREATION, SCENIC AND NATURAL AREAS

## Open Space, Historic, Recreation, Scenic and Natural Areas Goal

To preserve the open space and recreation qualities of the riparian areas, wetlands, beaches, and the surrounding forest areas throughout the Southwest Coastal Planning Area.

## Open Space, Historic, Recreation, Scenic and Natural Areas Policies

- ~~1. The County shall support the efforts of the state in the improvements of bike lanes.~~
- ~~2. Open space or neighborhood park sites and wildlife corridors should be included as part of subdivisions or planned developments.~~
3. Activities of the State Parks Division which pertain to the Southwest Coastal ~~area~~ Planning Area ~~shall be reviewed by the County~~ should be reviewed by the Community Development Department to ~~insure~~ ensure their compatibility with the community.
4. ~~The County shall~~ The Community Development Department is encouraged to cooperate with the State Parks Division to retain the scenic values of the Oregon Coast Hiking Trail within the Southwest Coastal Planning Area. ~~Development adjacent to the trail shall be designed in a manner that is harmonious with the Trail.~~
- ~~5. All development on highly visible promontories shall be evaluated for its effect on scenic vistas, both from the beach and Highway 101.~~
6. Because of the limited access and land area at the mouth of Arch Cape Creek and the potential conflict with the adjacent residential neighborhoods, a regional park or recreation site in this vicinity is not desirable. ~~Regional parks are not intended to be a permitted use within Rural Service Areas.~~ Parks and recreation sites within such communities are intended to be neighborhood oriented, low impact in terms of traffic generation, and designed in a compatible manner with the surrounding environment.
- ~~7. The County shall encourage the State Fish and Wildlife Commission to expand on a greater educational program on the marine organisms inhabiting the tidal pool areas. Stricter regulations are needed to ensure protection for organisms and viewing opportunities for visitors. Greater enforcement of existing regulations is also needed including signs posted at points of access informing people of the daily limit and penalties for violation.~~

**Commented [IS100]:** Goal 12

**Commented [IS101R100]:** Covered by Goal 12 – Goal 3

**Commented [IS102]:** LAWDUC

**Commented [IS103]:** Delete this sentence. This is not a clear and objective requirement. See memo from legal counsel.

**Commented [IS104]:** Goal 5

**Commented [IS105]:** Delete this sentence. Permitted uses should be listed in the LAWDUC, not the Comprehensive Plan.

**Commented [IS106]:** Delete. This is not a land use policy.



8. Wildlife refuges: Existing wildlife refuges which are owned/leased and managed by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) located in areas designated Forest or in other lowland areas under any plan designation shall be reviewed by the County for compliance with the approval standards listed below. Such hearings shall be conducted according to a Type IV procedure at a time and place convenient to residents of the affected planning area. ODFW shall provide an evaluation of the economic, social, environmental and energy consequences of the proposal information sufficient to support findings with respect to the following approval criteria:

A. Identification of the need for the proposed new wildlife management area. "Need" means specific problems or conflicts that will be resolved or specific ODFW objectives that will be achieved by establishing the proposed area.

B. Alternative lands and management actions available to the ODFW, and an analysis of why those alternatives or management actions will not resolve identified problems or achieve objectives.

11. The County should make formal request to the State Fish Commission to have the "tidepool" areas in the Planning Area closed to taking of all marine invertebrates, or at least make collecting subject to permit. Local and State law enforcement officials should be made aware of the new status of these tidepools, until the Fish Commission can provide proper patrols. Perhaps during the summer months, when tourism is heaviest, trained persons could be hired to provide an educational function at the tidepools, as well as enforcement. Regardless, these areas should be posted at points of access informing people of the necessity of protecting the animals.

12. Cove Beach Lake should be evaluated for protection under Goal 5 as a cultural and/or historic resource.

13. Coordinate with state and/or federal agencies in the regulation of offshore energy generation facilities to ensure scenic views are preserved.

Commented [IS107]: Goal 5

Commented [IS108]: Delete. This is not a land use policy.

Commented [IS109]: Goal 5, Goal 19

## DEVELOPMENT PATTERNS

### Growth Policies

1. ~~Large developments with sudden or massive impacts on the community and its services shall be discouraged. Developments shall be phased in an orderly manner in order to avoid disruption of the community.~~
2. ~~Future residential development along U.S. Highway 101 shall be buffered from the highway in order to reduce noise and maintain the scenic corridor. Existing vegetation shall be retained and/or new vegetation planted in order to provide a 25-foot buffer along Highway 101. Direct access from individual properties onto Highway 101 should not be allowed for new development. (Staff comment: access to Hwy 101 is subject to ODOT approval)~~
3. ~~Existing access roads onto Highway 101 should be evaluated for safety, need, and compatibility with Plan goals. No new access roads should be permitted without a traffic engineering report addressing each of these factors as well as technically and economically feasible alternatives.~~
4. ~~Appendix J of the Oregon Structural Specialty Code, which pertains to grading, shall be enacted and enforced to control filling and grading.~~
5. ~~Cut and fill techniques of land development shall be discouraged. Filling of lots or property shall be carried out only after a site investigation to ensure that adjacent property will not be affected by drainage or storm water, erosion or visual intrusion onto other property.~~
6. ~~All wetlands proposed for filling should be examined on site by the Division of State Lands and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to determine if permits are required.~~
7. Encourage the County to enact a Tree Removal Ordinance for the zones within the Southwest Coastal Planning Region which requires a ~~Type II permit (notice to neighbors and opportunity for comment).~~ Type I procedure, subject to a report from a certified arborist. Tree removal should be limited to necessity including safety hazard, storm damage, dying or dead tree, and to construct an approved structure or other development. Limits should be placed on the size of trees which may be removed for landscaping purposes and for access purposes.
8. ~~Consider developing a tree preservation plan to protect native tree species within the Southwest Coastal Planning Area. Develop a "no net loss of native trees" plan to protect native species of trees.~~ (western hemlock, sitka spruce, western red cedar, coastal shore pine, red alder) by prohibiting removal of trees, except where regulated by the Oregon Forest Practices Act, without replacing them within the same community with an equal number of the same species.

**Commented [IS110]:** LAWDOC

**Commented [IS111]:** LAWDOC

**Commented [IS112]:** LAWDOC

**Commented [IS113]:** LAWDOC

**Commented [IS114]:** LAWDOC

**Commented [IS115]:** LAWDOC. Copies of all state and/or federal permits are already required as part of the development review and approval process.

**Commented [IS116]:** Consider developing a tree preservation plan to protect native tree species within the Southwest Coastal Planning Area

9. Encourage solar energy use where practical. Encourage the County to specify which size and varieties of trees may be removed for the purpose of solar access. This should be included within any Tree Removal Ordinance which is enacted.

**Commented [IS117]:** Goal 13

10. Encourage using open spaces or parcels not suitable for development for a community solar program. Consider tax incentives for landowners who allow their land to be used for this purpose.

**Commented [IS118]:** Goal 13

11. A tax incentive program should be implemented for preservation of wetlands and riparian areas.

**Commented [IS119]:** Goal 5

12. Drinking watersheds and groundwater sources should be identified and added to the County's public GIS maps. Policies to protect those sources, including stream buffers, should be developed and implemented.

**Commented [IS120]:** Goal 6

13. A master plan and implementing ordinances should be established for development of roadways and parcels on the east side of Highway 101 in Arch Cape. The plan should balance individual property rights with protection and preservation of steep slopes, wetlands and riparian areas, and other sensitive natural features.

**Commented [IS121]:** Delete. The "master plan" is an existing, 100+-year-old platted subdivision which establishes the size and location of residential parcels and roadways. The implementing ordinances are contained in the LAWDUC.

14. Criteria for Design Review shall include, at a minimum:

- a. Relation of Structure to Site. The location, bulk, and arrangement of structures shall be in scale and compatible with the surroundings.
- b. Protection of Views shall be preserved through adoption of ordinances addressing removal of trees, building height, and other relevant factors.
- c. Preservation of Landscape.
- d. Utility Service.
- e. Exterior Lighting.
- f. Buffering and Screening.
- g. Vehicle Circulation and Parking.
- h. Signs.

**Commented [IS122]:** Delete. These items have already been implemented in LAWDUC.

## Rural Community Areas (Development)

Development areas are those with a combination of physical, biological, and social/economic characteristics which make them necessary and suitable for residential, commercial, or industrial development and includes those which can be adequately served by existing or planned urban services and facilities.

**Commented [IS123]:** Goal 2

## Objectives

## SOUTHWEST COASTAL COMMUNITY PLAN 2040

(DRAFT for Planning Commission Review 8-9-2022)

1. To ensure optimum utilization of urban and urbanizable lands and to provide for an orderly and efficient transition from rural to urban land use.
2. To encourage developments in this area to relieve the need for development in other areas.
3. To locate public and private developments so that they do not tend to attract residential development to locations outside of the designated area.
4. To avoid the extension of urban services, particularly water and sewer systems, into outlying sparsely settled areas (minimum lot sizes of 20,000 square feet or greater).

Commented [IS124]: Goal 2.

**Goal:** To maintain the low density, residential character of the Southwest Coastal Planning Area. Through the use of clear and objective standards, Encourage development which blends with its rural setting and preserves natural resources to the maximum extent possible.

### Policies

1. The standard building site in the Rural Service Area shall be at least 7,500 square feet, unless smaller lots existed in single or contiguous ownership prior to the adoption of the Community Plan. Those persons who have paid or been assessed as of January 1, 1976 for two sewer connection fees with a parcel of 10,000 square feet or more would be allowed to divide their parcel in two.
2. In areas of steep slopes lot sizes shall be increased to account for these factors.
3. The designated Rural Service Area shall be limited to a land area capable of being serviced by community water, sewer, and fire protection systems based on a reasonable projection of growth.
4. The zoning and subdivision ordinances shall be used in establishing development standards as they relate to the Rural Service Area. Emphasis shall be on maintaining natural vegetation and terrain when siting development, and fitting structures into the landscape rather than allowing them to dominate.
5. Commercial development shall be restricted to the existing commercial area and shall be limited to neighborhood commercial uses such as grocery store, a gas station, a community motel with a minimum land area of 2,500 square feet per unit, and other small-scale, locally-oriented businesses.

Commented [IS125]: LAWDOC

Commented [IS126]: LAWDOC

Commented [IS127]: Goal 2

Commented [IS128]: Delete. This has been implemented through the LAWDOC.

Commented [IS129]: LAWDOC

6. There is a large parcel of land south of Arch Cape Creek and east of Highway 101. It abuts Oswald West State Park. The area has been previously platted. In order to protect the scenic values of the Arch Cape headland and Oswald West State Park the old plat shall be vacated or re-platted prior to development of the tract. Clustering shall be required and directed away from the headland and State Park.

**Commented [IS130]:** Delete. The County is not able to require vacation of platted subdivision lots held in private ownership.

**Goal:** To maintain high quality of residential development in keeping with the natural environment through the use of clear and objective design standards.

#### Policies

1. Design review standards shall apply to all construction in the Rural Service Area (Arch Cape Rural Community). Standards shall apply to new commercial or residential construction, subdivision, site development, street construction or placement of public utilities.

**Commented [IS131]:** Delete. This policy was implemented in the LAWDUC (AC-RCR Development Standards).

**Goal:** To encourage the use of natural features of the land, such as existing topography and vegetation.

#### Policies

1. Design review standards shall require minimal disturbance of the landscape in land development and shall address the removal of trees, grading and excavation, protection of views of adjacent property, road construction and placement of utilities.

**Commented [IS132]:** Delete. This policy was implemented in the LAWDUC (AC-RCR Development Standards).

2. Future development along U.S. Highway 101 shall be buffered from the highway in order to maintain the scenic corridor.

3. Cut and fill techniques of land development shall be discouraged. Filling of lots or property shall be carried out only after a site investigation to ensure that adjacent property will not be affected by drainage or storm water, raised flood elevations, erosion or visual intrusion onto other property.

**Commented [IS133]:** Delete. This policy is already in the LAWDUC.

**Commented [IS134]:** LAWDUC

#### Rural Agricultural Lands

Agricultural lands are those lands that are to be preserved and maintained for farm use, consistent with existing and future needs for agricultural products, forest and open space.

In land use changes involving a change from Forest Lands or Rural Agricultural Lands to Rural Lands or Development designations an Exception to the Agricultural Lands or Forest Lands Goals must be taken.

Commented [IS135]: Goal 2

### Rural Lands

Rural Lands are those lands which are outside the urban growth boundary and are not agricultural lands or forest lands. Rural Lands include lands suitable for sparse settlement, small farms or acreage homesites with no or hardly any public services, and which are not suitable, necessary or intended for urban use.

Rural Lands are those which, due to their value for aquaculture, low density residential uses, high intensity recreational uses, and non-renewable mineral and non-mineral resources uses should be protected from conversion to more intensive uses. Rural subdivisions, major and minor partitions, and other uses served by few public services which satisfy a need that cannot be accommodated in urbanizable areas are also likely to occur within this designation.

Commented [IS136]: Goal 2

### Objectives

1. To restrict intensive development on undeveloped shorelands.
2. To preserve the rural character of uplands and woodland areas and maintain open spaces and opportunities along the shoreline for recreational uses.
3. To retain rural areas as sparse settlement, small farms or acreage homesites with hardly any public services.
4. To limit the intensity of residential development in order to prevent the gradual development of conditions which would require additional services or higher quality of existing services.

Commented [IS137]: Goal 2

### Policies

1. The minimum parcel size for building sites in Rural Lands areas shall be 20,000 sq. feet. Smaller parcels legally existed at the time of adoption of this Plan are grandfathered, the specifics of which shall be handled in the Zoning Ordinance.
2. To evaluate all rural proposals for subdivision, major partitions and new public facilities or services, such as fire station and water systems, for the possible generation of unwanted urbanization which is reflected in the objectives of Rural Lands.

Commented [IS138]: Delete. This policy is already in the LAWDUC.

Commented [IS139]: Goal 2, Goal 14

3. All watershed areas need to be defined and development in the surrounding vicinity shall void degradation of the water quality.

**Commented [IS140]:** Goal 6

4. There should be no commercial or business activities allowed in the Rural Lands area, including transient lodging.

**Commented [IS141]:** Delete. STR regulations are currently under review by the Board of Commissioners in a separate process. If commercial activities such as home occupations are not desired in the SW Coastal Planning Area on designated "Rural Lands," a more specific policy should be crafted.

### Forest Lands and Other Resources

These areas provide important resource or ecosystem support functions but because of their value for low-intensity recreation or sustained yield resource (e.g. forestry), or because of their unsuitability for development (e.g. hazard areas) should be designated for non-consumptive uses. Non-consumptive uses are those uses which can utilize resources on a sustained yield basis while minimally reducing opportunities for other future uses of the area's resources.

**Commented [IS142]:** Goal 2, Goal 4

### Forest Lands

Forest lands are those lands that are to be retained for the production of wood fiber and other forest uses.

In land use changes involving a change from Forest Lands or Rural Agricultural Lands to Rural Lands or Development designations an Exception to the Agricultural Lands or Forest Lands Goals must be taken.

**Commented [IS143]:** Goal 2, Goal 3, Goal 4

### Conservation Other Resources

Conservation Other Resources areas provide important resource or ecosystem support functions such as lakes and wetlands and federal, state and local parks. Other areas designated Conservation Other Resources include lands for low intensity uses which do not disrupt the resource and recreational value of the land.

**Commented [IS144]:** Goal 2

### Objectives

1. To conserve and protect natural, scenic, historic, and cultural resources.

2. To develop for low-intensity uses which do not substantially degrade the existing character or interrupt the flow of natural resource use or recreational benefits.

3. To protect life and property in hazardous areas.

**Commented [IS145]:** Goal 2

## Policies

1. Commercial forest lands shall be excluded from future development of the Southwest Coastal area. Other undeveloped lands which are not owned by commercial timber production based on the forest site class shall be designated for resource protection.
2. Watersheds for the community water systems in the area shall be protected by the Forest Practices Act. Forest management in elevations above the watersheds, including road construction and chemical spraying/treatment, shall take place only after the appropriate water districts are notified and efforts are made to prevent adverse impacts.
3. There shall be two building site intensities in Forest Lands areas designated for Small Woodland: 20 acres is within a fire and/or water district; 38 acres if within no districts. Commercial forest designation partition size shall be 80 acres.
4. Before designated forest land is changed to another use, the productive capacity of the land in each use should be considered and evaluated.
5. Before designated forest land is changed to another use, the impact of the proposed use should be considered on adjacent forest lands.
6. Transfer and/or consolidation of land for resource production is encouraged. No new lots for residential purposes shall be created on designated commercial forest land.
7. Residential development in areas designated for forest uses shall be minimized. Development adjacent to roads intended primarily for forest management and harvesting activities shall be discouraged.

**Commented [IS146]:** Delete. This is not an enforceable policy.

**Commented [IS147]:** Delete. This is not an enforceable policy.

**Commented [IS148]:** Delete. This policy predates the 80-acre minimum lot size for resource zones established in 1997.

**Commented [IS149]:** Goal 2, Goal 4

**Commented [IS150]:** Goal 2, Goal 4

**Commented [IS151]:** Goal 2, Goal 4. Clarify that this policy only applies on lands designated Conservation Other Resources.

**Commented [IS152]:** Delete. This policy has been implemented in LAWDUC per provisions from the OAR and ORS.

## Natural

Natural areas are those which have not been significantly altered by man and which, in their natural state, perform resource support functions including those functions vital to estuarine or riparian ecosystems. Publicly owned fragile and ecologically valuable areas, especially watersheds and groundwater resource areas, are most likely to be designated as Natural. Natural areas identified by the Oregon Natural Heritage Program, as well as fish and wildlife areas and habitats identified by the Oregon Wildlife Commission, should be considered for Natural designation.

**Commented [IS153]:** Goal 2, Goal 5

## Objectives

To preserve, restore and protect these areas for scientific, research and educational needs and for the resource and ecosystem support values and functions they provide.

**Commented [IS154]:** Goal 2, Goal 5