

# SOUTHWEST COASTAL COMMUNITY PLAN

# **SOUTHWEST COASTAL COMMUNITY PLAN**

## **Board of Clatsop County Commissioners**

Mark Kujala, Chair (District 1)  
Lianne Thompson, Vice-Chair (District 5)  
John Toyooka (District 2)  
Pamela Wev (District 3)  
Courtney Bangs (District 4)

## **Southwest Coastal Citizen Advisory Committee**

Charles Dice, Chair  
Tod Lundy, Vice-Chair  
Christian Anderson  
Linda Eyerman  
Margaret Treadwell

## **Clatsop County Community Development – Land Use Planning**

Julia Decker, Planning Manager  
Ian Sisson, Senior Planner  
Victoria Sage, Planner  
Jason Pollack, Planner  
Gail Henrikson, Community Development Director

# SOUTHWEST COASTAL COMMUNITY PLAN

## Table of Contents

Page

TBD

DRAFT

---

**\*PRELIMINARY WORKING DRAFT – LAST UPDATED 10/6/2021\***

\*Amended 83-17, dated September 30, 1983

\*\* Amended 84-9, dated May 23, 1984

# SOUTHWEST COASTAL COMMUNITY PLAN

## INTRODUCTION

The Southwest Coastal Community Plan is the most important element of Clatsop County's Comprehensive Plan to the residents of 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 looking at 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. Clatsop County's Comprehensive Plan consists of various documents: Environmental Plan, Clatsop County Plan Phase I with Addendum, updated surveys and inventory information developed by County staff personnel and private consultants, and finally, the Community Plan. All of the documents, except the Community Plan, are the sources of physical, environmental, social and economic information with suggested goals, policies and recommendations. The County Plan is a result of combining all these sources, in addition to local needs to develop public policies in the form of goals, policy statements, generalized maps, and standards and guidelines. The Community Plan shall be 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

**\*PRELIMINARY WORKING DRAFT – LAST UPDATED 10/6/2021\***

\*Amended 83-17, dated September 30, 1983

\*\* Amended 84-9, dated May 23, 1984

# SOUTHWEST COASTAL COMMUNITY PLAN

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 several policies in the Community Plan. One or more Landscape Unit Policies, maybe Hazard Policies, and several of the Community Element 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 Community Plan policies. The following are examples of the standards coming from the Community Plan policies:

- 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 show before the Planning Commission how his 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. Within the Community Plan a Review and Update Section has been included. Within this section are standards and suggestions for review and possible revision of the Community Plan.

## **Planning Areas**

It was felt that the various areas in the County should have a Community Plan in order to better reflect their concerns and desires. As a result, the County is divided into six planning areas: Clatsop Plains, Southwest Coastal, Northeast, Lewis & Clark/Olney-Wallooskee, Seaside Rural and Elsie-Jewell.

Northeast CAC, Lewis & Clark/Olney CAC, Clatsop Plains CAC, Seaside-Gearhart CAC, Seaside Rural CAC, and Elsie-Jewell CAC. Figure 1. shows the Southwest Coastal planning boundary.

A classification system was developed as a tool to implement the various policies developed by the Citizen Advisory Committee. The system will reflect either what an area already is or what the community wants the area to become. The classification system has the following designations: DEVELOPMENT, RURAL LANDS\*, RURAL AGRICULTURAL LANDS\*, CONSERVATION FOREST LANDS\*, CONSERVATION OTHER RESOURCES\*, and NATURAL.

**\*PRELIMINARY WORKING DRAFT – LAST UPDATED 10/6/2021\***

\*Amended 83-17, dated September 30, 1983

\*\* Amended 84-9, dated May 23, 1984

# SOUTHWEST COASTAL COMMUNITY PLAN

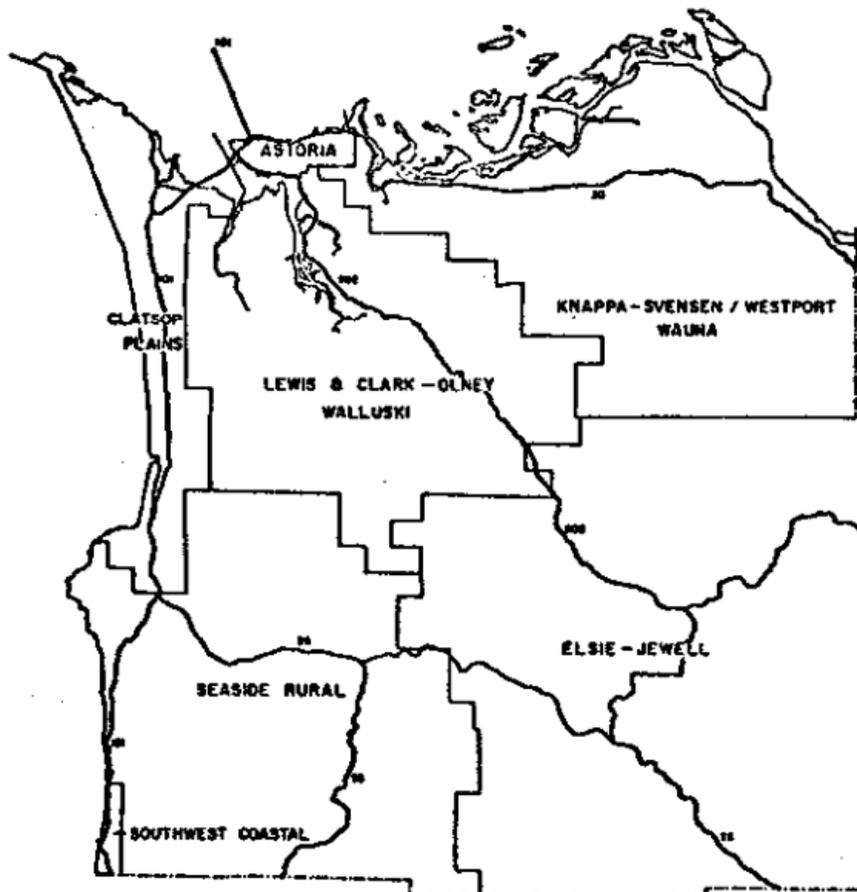


Figure 1. CAC Planning Area Boundaries

These classifications are used to designate different areas on the Comprehensive Plan Map. They are defined in the Development Patterns section of this plan.

The Southwest Coastal Community Plan along with five other Citizen Advisory Committee Community Plans will make up the County Comprehensive Plan. The County Comprehensive Plan is comprised of a set of public decisions and will be the controlling document on how the land, air, and water resources of an area are to be used or not used. The Zoning Ordinance, Subdivision Ordinance, and other ordinances of the County will be in conformance with this Plan.

## 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 (LCDDC) 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

**\*PRELIMINARY WORKING DRAFT – LAST UPDATED 10/6/2021\***

\*Amended 83-17, dated September 30, 1983

\*\* Amended 84-9, dated May 23, 1984

# SOUTHWEST COASTAL COMMUNITY PLAN

implementing comprehensive plans. They form the foundation of Oregon's Land Use Program.

Today, Oregon's 19 Statewide Planning Goals 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 coming of the white man, the Clatsop Indians inhabited what is now known as Arch Cape and Cannon Beach. Apart from a few artifacts of the Oregon Historical Society and the Tillamook County Museum, little is known or recorded of these peoples, and very few have remained in the area. It is known that the native settlement was disbanded by 1892 when encroachment of white civilization began.

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, 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.

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. As development increased, so did the need for public facilities. In the 1940s and 1950s several small private water systems were built with most of those private systems being consolidated and forming districts. As the availability of water grew in

**\*PRELIMINARY WORKING DRAFT – LAST UPDATED 10/6/2021\***

\*Amended 83-17, dated September 30, 1983

\*\* Amended 84-9, dated May 23, 1984

# SOUTHWEST COASTAL COMMUNITY PLAN

Arch Cape, so did development, which grew to the point of over saturation of the soil with septic tank wastes. The Department of Environmental Quality placed a building ban in Arch Cape in 1966 and continued in effect until a sewer system was built in the mid-70's. Most of the development occurred on a lot-by-lot basis with the majority of development occurring in the late 1940s through 1950s.

## **Citizen Involvement**

The people who live and own property in and around Arch Cape consider the community a unique place with a special character. The coastal setting, the headlands, the beach, the streams, 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 permanent population of Arch Cape is actually a minority of the total population that includes many weekend and summer residents. Many part-time residents become full-time residents when they retire to the area. The continuity of the same people returning on the weekends and on vacation means that there is less of a "resort-town" flavor than in communities with many short-term rental units. Permanent residents seem to mix and form friendships with "weekenders". One common thread that seems to run through the reasons for either living here permanently or occasionally is the natural beauty of the area.

The first step in the citizen involvement program was to organize a nine-member Citizen Advisory Committee, elected from the community, to provide direction to the planning staff, develop policies, review the Environmental and Community Plans, and make recommendations to the Policy Advisory Committee (PAC). The PAC is made up of one member from each of the CACs whose function is to review and develop countywide policies, and to resolve conflicting land use designations or planning area boundaries. The program was designed to satisfy the Statewide Planning Goals and Guidelines by making known to the community the intentions of the Committee and by making all meetings open to the public. Holding some of the meetings on weekends insured that weekend residents were given both the opportunity to serve on the Committee and to attend meetings.

In the spring of 1975 the Committee distributed a questionnaire to residents and property owners of the area to see what their concerns were on future development (see Appendix B). It was felt that all permanent residents should receive a questionnaire and a random sample of weekenders and vacant property owners would be polled. A wide range of questions were devised, from the level of density desired (the number of dwellings per acre), to the desirability of mobile homes.

As indicated by the tabulations (see Appendix B), most respondents to the questionnaire felt strongly that:

- residential development should be of a low-density nature,
- development of motels, condominiums or commercial uses is undesirable
- allowance of mobile homes is undesirable,
- maintenance of recreation open spaces, wildlife habitat, and natural vegetation is desirable,
- growth should occur slowly in the community, and
- a Design Review Board should be established in the community.

It was felt that development of restaurants and other services within the community is undesirable, but

**\*PRELIMINARY WORKING DRAFT – LAST UPDATED 10/6/2021\***

\*Amended 83-17, dated September 30, 1983

\*\* Amended 84-9, dated May 23, 1984

# SOUTHWEST COASTAL COMMUNITY PLAN

that if there is commercial development there are sufficient existing commercial locations within the community where businesses should be able to locate. Among the governmental actions addressed by the questionnaire, it was felt that establishment of a Design Review Board required the most immediate attention, that strict zoning enforcement required some attention, and that placing all utilities underground would require some attention in the future. It was strongly felt that subdivision development should be carefully controlled "to insure good design and construction."

The number of questionnaires returned to the Committee was approximately 75, or slightly over 50%. Based on this return and on the large majorities given to many of the questions, the Committee felt that it had a firm tool with which to form goals and policies for the Community Plan. Copies of the questionnaire tabulations were made available to the public.

Another survey was conducted in the spring of 1978 to examine housing conditions and views on public services (see Appendix B). A telephone survey was done for all those who live year around in the Southwest Coastal CAC; the County Community Development Department was able to receive a 20% (18) response rate. It was not clear why there was such a small response rate. A mail out survey was done for all seasonal residences with about 80% (98) of the surveys returned.

In both surveys, housing condition was considered to be good by those living in the residence. About 20% of seasonal and full-time residents felt their present insulation was inadequate. Several people in both surveys commented on poor conditions of local roads and access to the beaches. There was also concern about the lack of police protection in the area.

The original Clatsop County Comprehensive Plan was adopted in 1969. The Zoning Ordinance was adopted in 1966 using the interim County Comprehensive Plan. In response to the Statewide planning effort spurred by the passage of Senate Bill 100, the Board of County Commissioners commissioned a report (through the Clatsop-Tillamook Intergovernmental Council) entitled An Environmental Plan of Southwest Clatsop County, as well as plans covering the other sections of the county. At the same time, Citizen Advisory Committees (CACs) were being formed around the County in order to determine citizen views and desires, review the work of the planning staff, and to spearhead the development of their respective Community Plans. The Arch Cape CAC was formed on October 18, 1974, and consisted of Larry Ward, John Tyrrell, Mrs. Berkeley Snow, Kent Price, Roy Pettit, Jim Richmond, Jim Hill, George Rothert, and Ray Doherty. In the following months, the Committee reviewed the Environmental Plan and suggested various policy statements to eventually be included in the County Comprehensive Plan. The policy statements were derived from the Environmental Plan, the suggestions of other community groups and state and federal agencies, and people in the community. Community groups active in the development of the Plan were the Arch Cape Sewer Advisory Committee and the members of the Community Club.

## **Citizen Involvement Policies**

1. The Committee for Citizen 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

---

**\*PRELIMINARY WORKING DRAFT – LAST UPDATED 10/6/2021\***

\*Amended 83-17, dated September 30, 1983

\*\* Amended 84-9, dated May 23, 1984

## SOUTHWEST COASTAL COMMUNITY PLAN

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 community organizations 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.

DRAFT

---

**\*PRELIMINARY WORKING DRAFT – LAST UPDATED 10/6/2021\***

\*Amended 83-17, dated September 30, 1983

\*\* Amended 84-9, dated May 23, 1984

# SOUTHWEST COASTAL COMMUNITY PLAN

## LANDSCAPE UNITS

The Environmental Plan of Southwest Clatsop County was completed in 1974. The plan divides the planning areas into seven landscape units (see Figure 1.1) 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 with either flowing or standing water for all, or nearly all, of the year. Portions of lakes, reservoirs and rivers frequently possess characteristics of freshwater wetlands.

The Coastal Shorelands include those lands contiguous with the ocean, estuarine and coastal lakes. 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 is not possible to apply" portions of the Beaches and Dunes Goal #18 to those areas designated RSA.\*\*

There are several creeks in the area which provide individual residential water, while Cedar Creek, a small tributary stream of Arch Cape Creek and the Shark Creek are sources for community water systems.

None of the streams or creeks were identified as major estuarine resources by the Oregon Estuary Council. Most of the streams do not have flowing water during the summer months and none of the creeks are affected by tidal activities.

\*Appendix D 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

---

**\*PRELIMINARY WORKING DRAFT – LAST UPDATED 10/6/2021\***

\*Amended 83-17, dated September 30, 1983

\*\* Amended 84-9, dated May 23, 1984

# SOUTHWEST COASTAL COMMUNITY PLAN

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.

## **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%.

## **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%.

## **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.

**Coastal and Stream Shorelands Goal:** To conserve, protect, and where appropriate, develop the coastal and stream shorelands in the Southwest Coastal area. The following policies are in addition to those found in the Estuarine Resources and Coastal Shorelands Element.

**\*PRELIMINARY WORKING DRAFT – LAST UPDATED 10/6/2021\***

\*Amended 83-17, dated September 30, 1983

\*\* Amended 84-9, dated May 23, 1984

# SOUTHWEST COASTAL COMMUNITY PLAN

## Coastal and Stream Shorelands Policies

1. Grading, excavation or filling in the vicinity of the ~~streams~~ rivers, streams, and creeks shall be carefully controlled in order to prevent sedimentation of the water. Filling 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 ~~subject to variances approved by the County Planning Commission.~~
- ~~Those owners of vacant lots which are located in the "V Zone" of the Clatsop County Floodplain Map should be encouraged to apply for variances to the floodplain elevation height when restrictions are economically unfeasible and adjacent properties do not conform to floodplain elevations.~~
3. A buffer shall be provided along either side of Arch Cape Creek, Asbury Creek and other creeks and drainage ways critical to local water supply and erosion control in order to protect riparian vegetation, prevent loss of property due to erosion, and protect the aesthetic value of the streams. Buffers shall generally be 25 feet wide, measured perpendicular to the normal streambank unless the size of lot and natural topography would create a hardship. ~~A hardship variance may be considered by the Planning Commission or Hearings Officer based on the individual situation, but in no event shall an impediment or alteration be permitted in a natural drainage way.~~
4. Gravel and cobbles removal from the streams shall be prohibited.
5. 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 ~~existing~~ existed on January 1, 1977.
6. Development in the vicinity of Arch Cape Creek 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.
7. Cluster development, including open space or neighborhood park sites, ~~should be encouraged as part of~~ for subdivisions or planned developments.
8. 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.

**\*PRELIMINARY WORKING DRAFT – LAST UPDATED 10/6/2021\***

\*Amended 83-17, dated September 30, 1983

\*\* Amended 84-9, dated May 23, 1984

# SOUTHWEST COASTAL COMMUNITY PLAN

9. 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 south of Hug Point to the County line. The County supports the vehicle restrictions on the beach north of Hug Point.

## **Recommendation**

1. Access points to the beach and streams should be provided for at the ends of platted and vacated streets, 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.
2. It is recommended that horse traffic on the beach at Arch Cape should not be allowed by the Department of Transportation. 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.

## **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.

## **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.

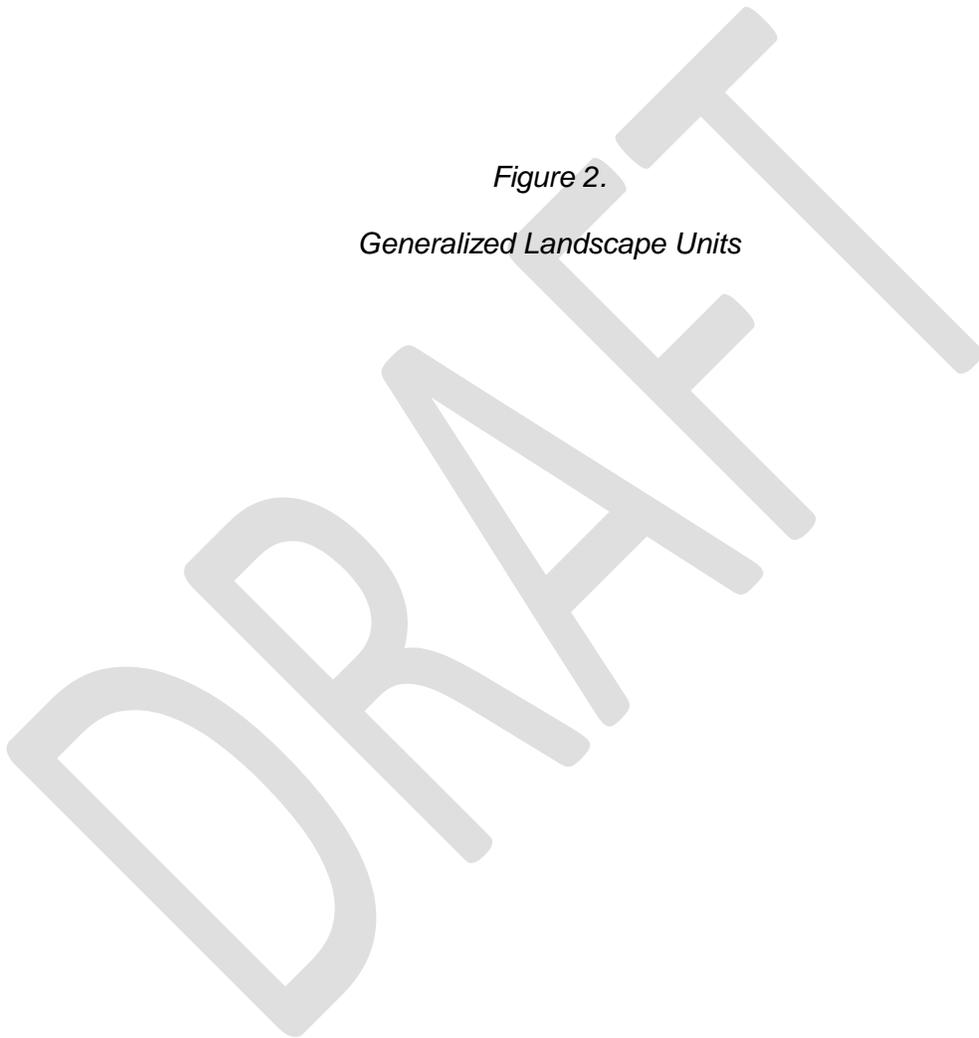
---

**\*PRELIMINARY WORKING DRAFT – LAST UPDATED 10/6/2021\***

\*Amended 83-17, dated September 30, 1983

\*\* Amended 84-9, dated May 23, 1984

*Figure 2.*  
*Generalized Landscape Units*



\*Amended 83-17, dated September 30, 1983

\*\* Amended 84-9, dated May 23, 1984

# SOUTHWEST COASTAL COMMUNITY PLAN

## 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. Figure 3. shows the various mapped hazards in the planning area.

### Landslides

In the Southwest Coastal Planning Area, the areas largely free from landsliding problems 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.

### Erosion - Ocean Shoreline

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.

### Stream/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.

**Landslides/Erosion Goal:** To prevent hazards to people and property through the use of reasonable building controls.

### Policies

1. Chapter 70 of the Uniform Building Code 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 Chapter 70 of the Uniform Building Code, favorable site-specific investigations (conducted by qualified geotechnical experts at the developer's expense) shall be prerequisites for the issuance of

**\*PRELIMINARY WORKING DRAFT – LAST UPDATED 10/6/2021\***

\*Amended 83-17, dated September 30, 1983

\*\* Amended 84-9, dated May 23, 1984

# SOUTHWEST COASTAL COMMUNITY PLAN

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 RURAL SERVICE AREA 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. Densities may be increased for those areas affected by 3.b. and 3.c. to a maximum of 7,500 sq. ft. 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, in a RURAL SERVICE AREA 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 Chapter 70 of the Uniform Building 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.
7. 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.
8. 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.

**\*PRELIMINARY WORKING DRAFT – LAST UPDATED 10/6/2021\***

\*Amended 83-17, dated September 30, 1983

\*\* Amended 84-9, dated May 23, 1984

*Figure 3.  
Hazards*

DRAFT

# SOUTHWEST COASTAL COMMUNITY PLAN

## COMMUNITY CONCERNS

### Housing

In the Southwest Coastal Planning Area about 60% (104) of the homes are for recreational use. Of the remaining 40% or 70 homes, somewhere between 12-20 homes have a member who has full-time employment in the vicinity. 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 housing situation is distinct from areas that have a need for a large and varied housing stock to accommodate people of varied income levels. Housing in the Southwest Coastal CAC area is generally larger, younger and valued slightly higher than the rest of the County with very few of the houses needing major repairs. Taken together, the existing housing in the Southwest Coastal area does not have any significant problems. Most of the houses were either built for or by the present owners. The typical development pattern is on a lot-by-lot basis rather than through large scale development although this might change now that the sewer project is completed. There are few permanent rental units in Arch Cape.

**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.

### 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 encouraged 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.
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.
5. Housing for low- and moderate-income persons should be encouraged in Arch Cape through agencies such as the County Housing Authority, Northwest Oregon Housing Association, Farmers Home Administration, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, and the State Housing Division. Short-term rental uses shall be appropriately limited in the Southwest Coastal

**\*PRELIMINARY WORKING DRAFT – LAST UPDATED 10/6/2021\***

\*Amended 83-17, dated September 30, 1983

\*\* Amended 84-9, dated May 23, 1984

# SOUTHWEST COASTAL COMMUNITY PLAN

Planning Area to ensure there is an adequate supply of housing for low- and moderate-income persons.

## **Public Facilities**

Some of the 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. Figure 4. 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 three water systems: Falcon Cove Beach Domestic Water Supply District, Arch Cape Water Service District, and Cannon View Park, Inc.

Falcon Cove Beach Domestic Water Supply District has about 53 connections with a capacity of 100 connections. They have inadequate fire protection and at certain times of the year, have water supply problems for the present users.

The Arch Cape Water Service District presently has 166 connections and the capacity, at this time, is unknown. The system was found to be deficient in treatment, storage, and pipe size as well as fire protection. The estimated cost for improvements to the system in 1976 was \$767,000 to \$811,000. The district has hired an engineer to determine present capacity and future improvements.

Cannon View Park, Inc. has 39 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 volunteer firemen and 4 pumper trucks. With the station in Arch Cape and the replacement of the older

**\*PRELIMINARY WORKING DRAFT – LAST UPDATED 10/6/2021\***

\*Amended 83-17, dated September 30, 1983

\*\* Amended 84-9, dated May 23, 1984

# SOUTHWEST COASTAL COMMUNITY PLAN

pumper, the fire insurance rating in this area is 6. (Rating is based on a scale from 1 to 10, with 10 representing no fire protection).

### 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.

**Public Facility Goal:** 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.

### 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 reserved for future utilization as part of a greenbelt or pathway.
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.

### *RURAL SERVICE AREA*

1. All new development including single lots shall install underground utilities such as electricity,

**\*PRELIMINARY WORKING DRAFT – LAST UPDATED 10/6/2021\***

\*Amended 83-17, dated September 30, 1983

\*\* Amended 84-9, dated May 23, 1984

## SOUTHWEST COASTAL COMMUNITY PLAN

telephone, and television cable. Efforts to place existing lines underground in already developed areas should be encouraged.

2. Any extensions of utilities to new developments within the respective boundaries of Arch Cape Service District and Arch Cape Water Service District shall be financed according to the determination of the appropriate governing body. In determining the proper financing for such extensions, the governing body shall take in consideration the benefit, if any, occasioned by extension of the system, new demands placed on the system, increased costs of maintenance, operation, improvements and depreciation, and other factors relevant to distributing the benefit and burdens occasioned by the system's extensions.
3. New development within the service districts' boundaries shall bear an appropriate share of capital costs, capital improvement costs, and operation and maintenance costs of the respective district. Monies acquired from such new construction through connection charges will be used for improvement and depreciation of the utility systems as designated by the governing body of the respective district. Costs of expanding the system's capability will be borne according to the determination of the governing body of the district, and the methods of financing selected to pay for the system's expansions.
4. Sewer or water services will not be extended outside of the RURAL SERVICE AREA.
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 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.
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.

### *CONSERVATION FOREST LANDS AND CONSERVATION OTHER RESOURCES*

1. Public facilities will be discouraged from developing in these Plan designations.
2. Forest lands shall be designated Conservation 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-

---

**\*PRELIMINARY WORKING DRAFT – LAST UPDATED 10/6/2021\***

\*Amended 83-17, dated September 30, 1983

\*\* Amended 84-9, dated May 23, 1984

# SOUTHWEST COASTAL COMMUNITY PLAN

wide Forest Lands Policies #19, #20, and #21.

## NATURAL

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

## 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.

## Transportation

There is a heavy reliance on the automobile in the area, in part due to the smallness of the community, the isolation from urban areas, and the makeup of the community. In the Department of Transportation's Six-Year Highway Improvement Program, they had proposed to repave and widen 3.3 miles of U.S. 101 at Arch Cape. This proposed improvement has been removed from the Six-Year Program due to lack of highway funds.

In the community, roads are narrow with a mixture of gravel and oil mat surfaces. In the public needs survey of this area, 50% of those surveyed who were full-time residents felt the roads were inadequate.

Transportation for the elderly and handicapped has always been a problem in the rural section of the County. Clatsop County is now involved in a mini-van service for the elderly and handicapped, providing transportation to the various areas in the County at least once a week.

Many residents walk extensively for both transportation and pleasure. Walking on the beach is a major form of recreation for both residents and visitors. There are no sidewalks in the Arch Cape community, but the low traffic level off U.S. Highway 101 hardly indicates the need for them. Residents seem quite content to walk in the narrow "country lane" type streets to reach the store and each other's houses as well as to the beach.

**Transportation Goal:** To maintain an efficient and safe transportation system in keeping with the character of the community.

## Policies

1. Access points onto U.S. Highway 101 shall be kept to a minimum to reduce the potential for accidents. New subdivisions or larger developments shall use common frontage roads, and lots shall be designed so as not to front or have access onto the highway.

**\*PRELIMINARY WORKING DRAFT – LAST UPDATED 10/6/2021\***

\*Amended 83-17, dated September 30, 1983

\*\* Amended 84-9, dated May 23, 1984

# SOUTHWEST COASTAL COMMUNITY PLAN

2. Streets in new developments shall be designed to minimize disturbance of the land by following contour lines and avoiding cut-and fill construction techniques.
3. Unnecessary rights-of-way should be used as greenbelts, walking trails or bike paths where appropriate.
4. A buffer of existing or planted vegetation should be left between all developments and U.S. Highway 101 to reduce the effects of traffic on residences and to maintain the scenic character of the highway.
5. Improvements of U.S. Highway 101 in the Arch Cape area which involve a major action shall be reviewed by the CAC 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 citizens. 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 Bug System for senior citizens and the handicapped.

## **Recommendation**

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

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

The following discussion and policies are in addition to those found in the Open Space, Scenic and Historic Areas and Natural Resources and Recreational Needs Elements. Sites inventoried in Figure 5 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

**\*PRELIMINARY WORKING DRAFT – LAST UPDATED 10/6/2021\***

\*Amended 83-17, dated September 30, 1983

\*\* Amended 84-9, dated May 23, 1984

## SOUTHWEST COASTAL COMMUNITY PLAN

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. Figure 5. shows the recreation, open space, historic, scenic and natural sites in the planning area.

In the planning area there are 2 State parks, Oswald West and Hug Point which provide parking, camping, and picnic facilities. There are also 2 wayside parks, one at Arcadia Beach and one across from Cannon View Park. Several years ago, the State Parks Division tried to establish a visitor's wayside near Leech Road but encountered considerable opposition from the residents in Arch Cape. At present, the Department has no plans for wayside in the area.

There are three bicycle routes which pass through the planning area, the Oregon Coast Bicycle Route, the Trans-America Bikeway, 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 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 Neahkanie Mountain and Tillamook Bay. This is the first length of the trail which will ultimately extend the entire length of the Oregon coast.

Arch Cape Creek constitutes one of the most important natural resources in the community. The creek was identified by the community survey 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.

There are several off-shore rocks in this planning area which are in State ownership. These rock islands are Gull Rock, Castle Rock, Lion Rock, Jockey Cap, Unnamed Rock and the Needles which were identified as natural areas by the Nature Conservancy for uniqueness and their importance as a wildlife habitat.

There are two historic sites in this planning area, a wayside park containing the cannon from the U.S. gunboat "Shark" and the site of an early post office established in the late 1800's.

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 (daily limit - 10 animals in total; no limit on kelp worms, ghost shrimp and sand crabs), it is difficult to enforce. The diversity of these pools has been depleted considerably by the ability of each person to take up to 10 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

**\*PRELIMINARY WORKING DRAFT – LAST UPDATED 10/6/2021\***

\*Amended 83-17, dated September 30, 1983

\*\* Amended 84-9, dated May 23, 1984

# SOUTHWEST COASTAL COMMUNITY PLAN

and recreation qualities of Arch Cape Creek, the beach, and the surrounding forested 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 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 Citizen Advisory Committee 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 along Leech Avenue 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. Additionally, greater enforcement of the existing regulations is needed with new daily limit standards to insure protection.
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 Conservation 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:
  1. Identification of the need for the proposed new wildlife management area. "Need" means

**\*PRELIMINARY WORKING DRAFT – LAST UPDATED 10/6/2021\***

\*Amended 83-17, dated September 30, 1983

\*\* Amended 84-9, dated May 23, 1984

## SOUTHWEST COASTAL COMMUNITY PLAN

specific problems or conflicts that will be resolved or specific ODFW objectives that will be achieved by establishing the proposed area.

2. 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.

### **Recommendation**

1. The County should make formal request to the State Fish Commission to have the "tidepool" areas declared "prohibited areas", 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.

DRAFT

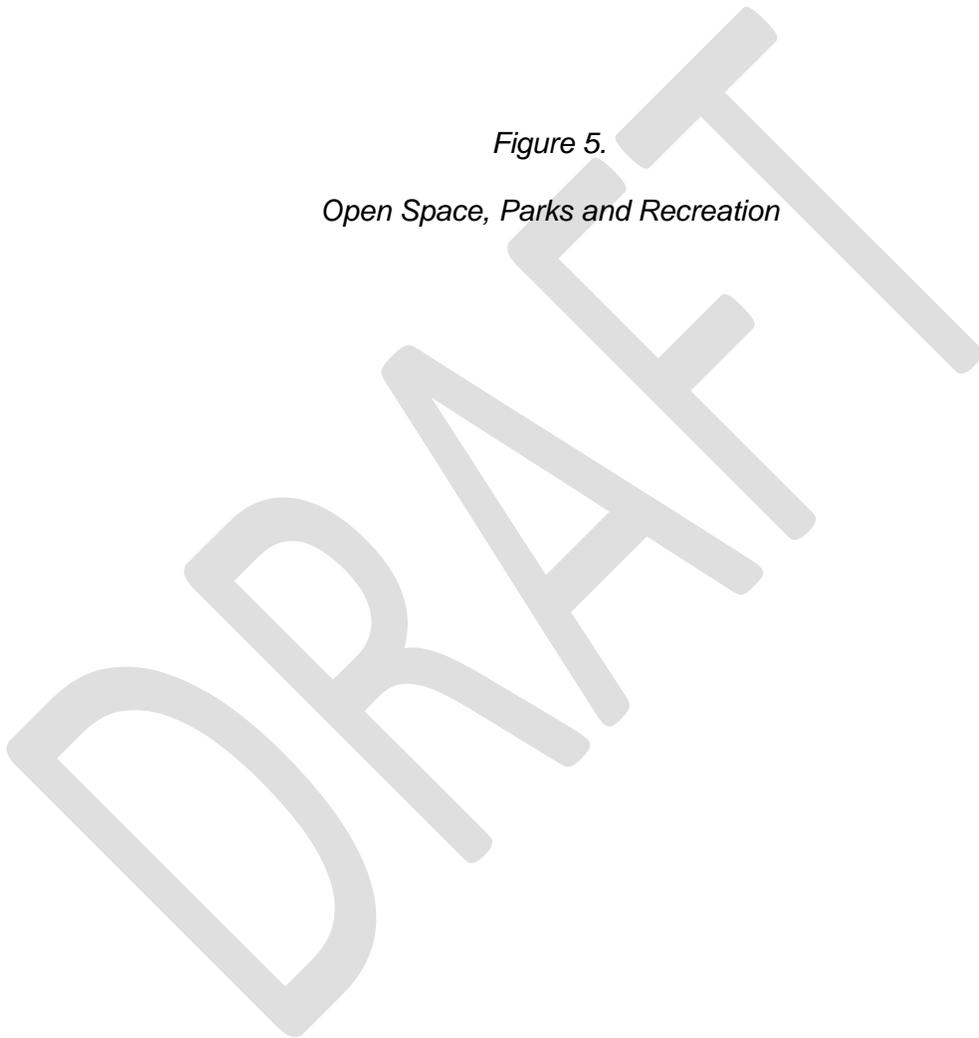
---

**\*PRELIMINARY WORKING DRAFT – LAST UPDATED 10/6/2021\***

\*Amended 83-17, dated September 30, 1983

\*\* Amended 84-9, dated May 23, 1984

*Figure 5.*  
*Open Space, Parks and Recreation*



\*Amended 83-17, dated September 30, 1983

\*\* Amended 84-9, dated May 23, 1984

# SOUTHWEST COASTAL COMMUNITY PLAN

## DEVELOPMENT PATTERNS

The existing land use is predominantly forestry and State parks. Most of the forest lands are owned by Crown Zellerbach with the remaining forest lands in small private wooded lots or County ownership.

Development in the past has occurred mostly on the marine terrace landscape unit along the coast with the predominant use being recreational housing. Most of this planning area was platted in the 1940s and 1950s with several of the earlier platted lots in the Arcadia Beach and Cove Beach area being too small for septic tank approval. To the north in the Arcadia Beach area, there are some summer and a few permanent homes along with Picture Window Cottages Motel which provides 8 cottages for visitors. In Arch Cape there are approximately 160 homes of which 60 percent are seasonal homes. In this community there exists 3 commercial uses: a gas station, a grocery store, and a small motel which is no longer in use. To the south there is Cove Beach with 37 seasonal homes and 16 permanent homes. There are no commercial uses in this area. The general pattern of land uses is shown in Figure 6.

### 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. The various policies were developed from the Environmental Plan, responses from the two surveys and public input at the Citizen Advisory Committee meetings. 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.

The Plan recognizes the unique character of Arch Cape and the surrounding area in that it is essentially a recreation/retirement community. The main thrust of the Plan is to maintain the beauty and character of the area during growth and development. Figure 7. shows the Comprehensive Land Use Plan designations for the Southwest Coastal Planning area.

### 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 maintain the scenic corridor.
3. Chapter 70 of the State Uniform Building Code 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

**\*PRELIMINARY WORKING DRAFT – LAST UPDATED 10/6/2021\***

\*Amended 83-17, dated September 30, 1983

\*\* Amended 84-9, dated May 23, 1984

# SOUTHWEST COASTAL COMMUNITY PLAN

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 shall be examined by the Division of State Lands and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to determine if permits are required.

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, Conservation Forest Lands, Conservation Other Resources and Natural areas:\*

## Rural Service Area (Development) 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 insure 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 Arch Cape.

### 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.

**\*PRELIMINARY WORKING DRAFT – LAST UPDATED 10/6/2021\***

\*Amended 83-17, dated September 30, 1983

\*\* Amended 84-9, dated May 23, 1984

# SOUTHWEST COASTAL COMMUNITY PLAN

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.

**\*PRELIMINARY WORKING DRAFT – LAST UPDATED 10/6/2021\***

\*Amended 83-17, dated September 30, 1983

\*\* Amended 84-9, dated May 23, 1984

# SOUTHWEST COASTAL COMMUNITY PLAN

## 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 Conservation 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 includes 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.\*

Most Rural Lands designated in this Plan are in areas which contain old town plats and fragmented land ownerships. These areas may require vacation and replatting or utilization of a Planned Development to protect the natural resources of the area. This designation fulfills the recreational tourist demand for housing which has been characteristic of Clatsop County's southwest coastal area.\*

## 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

**\*PRELIMINARY WORKING DRAFT – LAST UPDATED 10/6/2021\***

\*Amended 83-17, dated September 30, 1983

\*\* Amended 84-9, dated May 23, 1984

# SOUTHWEST COASTAL COMMUNITY PLAN

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.

## **Conservation Forest Lands and Other Resources**

Conservation 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.\*

### **Conservation 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 Conservation 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

**\*PRELIMINARY WORKING DRAFT – LAST UPDATED 10/6/2021\***

\*Amended 83-17, dated September 30, 1983

\*\* Amended 84-9, dated May 23, 1984

# SOUTHWEST COASTAL COMMUNITY PLAN

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, 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 Conservation 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.

## **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.

## **Policies**

1. Gull Rock, Castle Rock, Lion Rock, Jockey Cap, Unnamed Rock and the Needles shall be designated and preserved as Natural areas.

---

**\*PRELIMINARY WORKING DRAFT – LAST UPDATED 10/6/2021\***

\*Amended 83-17, dated September 30, 1983

\*\* Amended 84-9, dated May 23, 1984

# SOUTHWEST COASTAL COMMUNITY PLAN

## REVIEW AND UPDATE

Goal #2 of the Statewide Planning Goals provide for periodic review, as needed, to consider changing public policies and circumstances. The Goal also requires that decisions and actions related to the use of land have an adequate factual base to support the decision. The Guideline section defines major and minor revisions and suggests a time period for review. In the case of major revisions (those which have a widespread influence beyond immediate area) a two-year review period is suggested. Minor revisions (those of insignificant effect beyond immediate area) is suggested at no more than once a year.

Once the Community Plans have been adopted and have had requests for action it is most probably that shortcomings or obvious faults will surface. The need for additional research, change in public attitude, and political deliberation will be necessary in the process of refining the Plan. Studies to be given high priority are the detailed soil classification of the County (in process), better detailed topographical maps in hazard and slide areas, more precise delineation of watershed areas, and related studies to implement the results of any changes necessitated by new information.

Some of the basic research for the Plan is already outdated. Information from Clatsop County Plan Phase I and the Environmental Plans is over three years old. Population projections are updated estimates from the last federal census. Population, employment, and last use changes need to be kept current if adequate insight into decision making is to be utilized. As development trends continue and patterns of growth and service needs change, goals and policies for future growth and change will be amended as will the Plan Map.

Following Goal #2 standards and suggestions the following schedule is adopted for review and possible revision of the Community Plan, and circumstances which are applicable.

Mandatory review by the County staff, Planning Commission and Citizen Advisory Committees - every two years commencing with July 1981.

Revision of the Plan by County after receipt of new and detailed inventory which would alter content of Plan significantly - upon receipt of information.

Request by an individual or group of citizens regarding their own properties - The Planning Commission will hold an annual meeting regarding these. The County Planning staff shall accumulate requests and present their staff report to the Planning Commission and the applicant a minimum of two weeks prior to the hearing.

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 be carefully considered because of the possible impact they would have on a much broader scope when added together.

---

**\*PRELIMINARY WORKING DRAFT – LAST UPDATED 10/6/2021\***

\*Amended 83-17, dated September 30, 1983

\*\* Amended 84-9, dated May 23, 1984

*Figure 7.  
Comprehensive Plan*

DRAFT