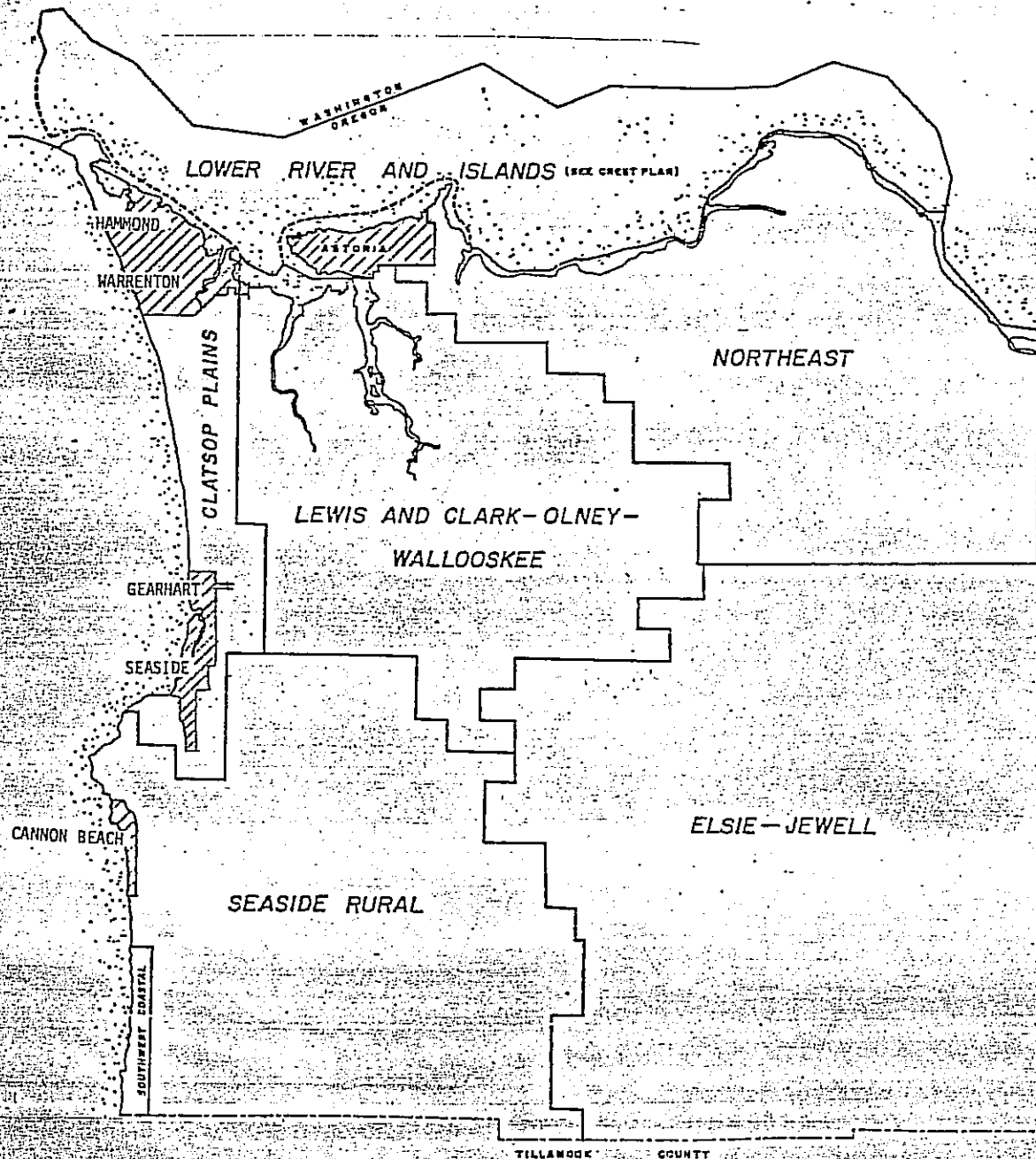


## Goal 1

# CLATSOP COUNTY GOAL 1 COUNTY-WIDE ELEMENT

## CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT



CLATSOP COUNTY PLANNING INDEX MAP

COUNTY-WIDE ELEMENT

Goal 1

Citizen Involvement

Adopted July 23, 1980  
Ordinance 80-7

Revised December 1989

## Introduction

Citizen participation is desirable in many areas of governmental activity. In the planning process, where governmental policies are being established, citizen participation is not only desirable but essential. The Land Conservation and Development Commission (LCDC) Citizen Involvement Goal #1 requires the opportunity for citizens to be involved in the planning process. In the preparation of the Clatsop County Comprehensive Plan, citizens participated in all phases of the planning process.

## Basic Findings

A strong citizen involvement program was felt to be essential to the success of the Clatsop County planning program. In 1972, an attitude survey was conducted of various interest groups and selected individuals within the County. Two years later, with the assistance of Oregon State University Extension Service, a Citizens Advisory Committee was developed for the Clatsop Plains. Subsequently other Citizen Advisory Committees evolved throughout the rest of the County. (see Figure [1.] A).

Figure A is shown in order to accurately define the six geographic planning areas:

[Figure 1.]

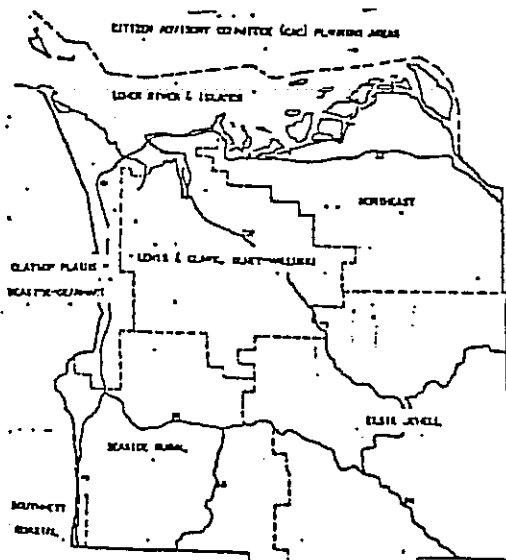
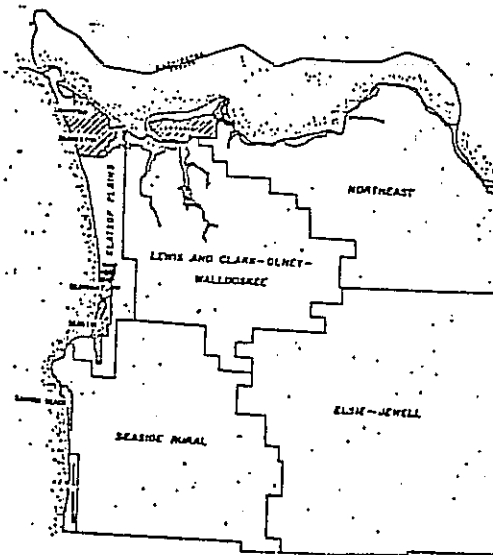


Figure A. - Citizen Involvement



### Notes regarding Planning Areas:

1. The area labeled "Lower River and Islands" was originally delineated, however at a later date it was felt it was more efficient to incorporate this sparsely populated area with the "Northeast" Community Plan. (More precise planning for this area will be included in the detailed ongoing study with CREST (Columbia River Estuary Study Taskforce)).
2. All six incorporated areas and their adjacent Urban Growth Boundaries (UGB) should be shown as separate planning areas, with individual plans (1. Astoria, 2. Warrenton, 3. Hammond, 4. Gearhart, 5. Seaside, 6. Cannon Beach).

[The County now has six Citizen Advisory Committees which together with the planning staff developed the various Community Plans, as well as providing guidance and recommendations on planning issues. In developing the Community Plans, the Citizen Advisory Committees had several area-wide public meetings in addition to the regular Citizen Advisory Committee meeting to obtain resident's views concerning development in their area. From this and other input the Citizen Advisory Committees developed their Community Plans which the County mailed to property owners in the form of a tabloid containing maps and policies of the proposed designations and hearing dates. The Planning Commission and Board of Commissioners each had public hearings in the various planning areas with additional hearings at the courthouse. Changes made in the Community Plans and other sections of the Comprehensive Plan were made available in the Department of Planning and Development and covered in the local papers.]

The County had six Citizen Advisory Committees, which together with the planning staff, developed the various Community Plans through guidance and recommendations on planning issues. The development of the Community Plans, involved several area-wide public meetings, obtaining viewpoints and concerns of the residents. The Citizen Advisory Committees utilized this information to develop the proposals for policies, property designations and each Community Plan. Both the Planning Commission and the Board of Commissioners held additional public hearings and adopted the final Comprehensive Plan.

[The Citizen Advisory Committees are intended to function continuously, beyond Plan adoption, as a forum to provide for community input to the Planning Commission and Board of Commissioners on land use matters and related social and economic development issues. In recognition of the necessity and value of participation of the citizenry in the local government making process, Clatsop County adopts the following policies:]

The Citizen Advisory Committees were intended to function continuously. The Planning Commission represents an equitable cross section of the County and all six previously designated geographic areas.

The County has recognized the importance, necessity and value of citizen participation in assisting the County government in the decision-making process. In order to assure a continuum of citizen involvement, the following policies are adopted:

#### Goal

[To have an ongoing Citizen Involvement Program consisting of areawide Citizens Advisory Committees, which provide a method of communication between citizens, administrative departments, Planning Commission and the Board of County Commissioners.]

To have continuity of citizen participation consisting of a seven member Planning Commission, with each member representing diverse geographic areas of the County, thus providing a method of ensuring communication between the citizens, administrative departments and the Board of County Commissioners.

Only the Southwest Coastal Planning Area still retains an active Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC). Should any of the remaining five designated planning areas determine that Citizen Advisory Committees are necessary for ensuring communication between the citizens, the administrative departments, the Planning Commission and the Board of Commissioners they may reorganize a CAC. The Board of Commissioners shall appoint CAC members. The CAC may continue to function and be an active, integrated segment of Clatsop County's planning process as long as persistent involvement and active participation is demonstrated.

## Policies

1. [The citizen involvement program shall involve a cross section of affected citizens in all phases of the planning process. As a component, the program for citizen involvement shall include an officially recognized citizen advisory committee or committees broadly representative of geographic areas and interests related to land use and land use decisions. Citizen advisory committee members shall be selected by an open, well-publicized public process.]
1. The Committee for Citizen Involvement shall be the Clatsop County Planning Commission, consisting of seven members. The Planning Commission shall strive to represent a cross section of affected citizens 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 [Citizen Advisory Committees] Planning Commission and active Citizen Advisory Committees shall hold their meetings in such a way that the public is notified in advance and given the opportunity to attend and participate in a meaningful fashion.
3. Active Citizen Advisory Committees may submit their comments to the Clatsop County Department of Planning and Development, Clatsop County Planning Commission and Clatsop County Board of Commissioners. These bodies shall answer the CAC request in a timely manner.
4. The Board of Commissioners, through the Planning Department, should provide adequate and reasonable financial support; [along with] technical assistance [to the Citizen Advisory Committees.] shall be available and presented in a simplified form, understandable for effective use and application.
5. Citizens shall be provided the opportunity to be involved in the phases of the planning process as set forth and defined in the goals and guidelines for Land Use Planning, including Preparation of Plans and Implementation Measures, Plan Content, Plan Adoption, Minor Changes and Major Revisions in the Plan and Implementation Measures.

6. Clatsop County shall encourage organizations and agencies of local, state and federal government and special districts to participate in the planning process.
7. Clatsop County shall use the news media, mailings, meetings, and other locally available means to communicate planning information to citizens and governmental agencies. Prior to public hearings regarding major Plan revisions, notices shall be publicized.
8. Clatsop County shall establish and maintain effective means of communication between decision-makers and those citizens involved [in the Citizen Involvement Program] in the planning process. [It shall] The County shall ensure that ideas and recommendations submitted [through the Citizen Involvement Program will receive a response from decision-makers] during the planning process will be evaluated, synthesized, quantified, and utilized as appropriate.
- [8. Notices of public hearings on major plan revisions should be publicized at least 30 days prior to the hearing.]
9. Public notices [should] will also be sent to affected residents concerning zone and Comprehensive Plan changes, conditional uses, subdivisions and planned developments.

Recommended Action:

[At the first update Clatsop County should document its citizen involvement efforts. This should minimally include: (1) listing those people, past and present, who have participated in the development of the plan; and (b) totalling the effort made by Clatsop County government.]

The acknowledged Comprehensive Plan, recommended that Clatsop County should document the Citizen Involvement efforts at the first update.

The six community planning areas had active citizen involvement dating from 1977 through 1980, when the Plan was acknowledged. During that period of time, each committee met at least once per month, and as increased involvement dictated, two meetings per month were held. Southwest Coastal, Clatsop Plains and Elsie-Jewell Citizen Involvement Committees continued for a short duration, while the others disbanded. [Today] As of the date of adoption, only the Southwest Coastal Committee remains active.

A list of the members for each area, in addition to the citizens who were concerned, is on file with the Clatsop County Department of Planning and Development.