

2023-2025 Commission Goals and Strategies

Job Category



NOVEMBER 2024 UPDATE

Department Contact:	Economic Development	Date:	October 31, 2024
Percentage Complete:	95%	Target Completion:	June 2025

Goal 5.1 Create and promote economic development opportunities City-wide to support a healthy, and sustainable local economy.

IMPORTANT OR RELEVANT DATES/MILESTONES: (LOOKING AHEAD AT THE NEXT 3 MONTHS)

- Talent Ready is a job skill development program that utilizes existing support services to help would-be employees to be prepared for unfilled jobs. Talent Ready works to create partnerships with private for-profit businesses that need employees and public agencies that provide “wrap-around services” to help individuals mitigate employment barriers, i.e., child issues, mental health challenges, and lack of job skills to name a few.
- Further develop and promote small business technical assistance and financial support services.
- Establish initiatives that support a “business-friendly” environment in Oregon City.
- Work to help prepare City-owned and Urban renewal-owned properties for future development.
- Work to promote the Arts as an important economic development element.

STATUS: (WHAT HAS BEEN DONE/IS BEING DONE)

- Talent Ready –
 - The following organizations have partnered with the Talent Ready Initiative:
 - >Willamette Providence Medical Services
 - >Orchid Orthopedic Manufacturing
 - >Benchmade Knife Manufacturing
 - >Avamere Rehabilitation
 - >Oregon City Municipal Court
 - Due to the growing concern about the lack of affordable childcare and the ability to retain and attract employees, Talent Ready has partnered with a childcare vendor to work with the Talent Ready employers to provide childcare services to employees of Talent Ready Employers.
 - Met with Benchmade on May 16, 2024, during its Board Directors Meeting whereby Talent Ready was discussed along with other economic development initiatives. Seeking to have Benchmade sign up for Talent Ready that they are experiencing growth and employee shortages. If Benchmade joins Talent Ready, it will join the following entities that have already signed an MOU with the Department to help alleviate worker shortages:
 - Providence Willamette Falls Medical Services (For-Profit)
 - Avamere Rehabilitation (For-Profit)
 - Oregon City Municipal Court (Government)
 - Oregon State University (Educational Institution)

Staff will continue to seek additional partnerships with organizations and businesses to provide training to would-be employees and to refer workers to businesses to mitigate workforce shortages.

- Small Business Technical Assistance and Financial Support Services
 - **The second cohort of the BIZ POD Program graduated on June 1, 2024.**
 - The Entrepreneurial Opportunity Loan Program (“EOLP”) in partnership with EMBOLD Community Credit Union has made a total of 3 loans totaling \$48,000. All loans are current with their monthly loan payments.
 - Launched the small business micro-enterprise grant program for existing small businesses with five or fewer employees. **The program has given out grants to two existing businesses.**
 - The second cohort of the BIZ POD Program started classes on March 24, 2024 and has concluded classes on May 17th. The graduation ceremony of 6 emerging businesses will be held on June 1, 2024.
- Business Friendly Environment
 - Staff is developing a procurement program that will allow Oregon City’s small businesses to do more business with the City.
Staff is currently interviewing City departments to determine the goods and services being purchased. Program projected to commence in early Fall, 2024.
 - Continue to work on the Ombudsman Initiative (working with the Depts of Community Development and Public Works to educate commercial/business investors on the City’s development processes and serve as an advocate for commercial/business investors in the community)
 - City staff launched the new Oregon City Business License program on January 1, 2024. The new initiative reduced the cost of City business licenses for both new and existing businesses. City Commission approved the proposed changes back in November 1, 2023
- Owned/Urban Renewal Owned Properties
 - **An RFP will be crafted to identify a developer for the Stimson Property**
 - **A property surveyor has been selected to survey the Stimson Property**
 - **An appraiser was selected and has begun work to appraise the Stimson Property**
 - **A study was conducted on the water quality of the Cove**
 - A Phase I Environmental Assessment was completed for the Stimson Property
 - A geo-technical study has been completed for the Stimson Property
 - A draft Request for Proposals seeking a property appraiser will be presented to the Urban Renewal Commission for approval on June 5, 2024.
- The Arts Commission
 - **The Arts Commission received \$28,000 in funding to repair existing public artworks around the community.**
 - **The Arts Commission has identified a sculptor to replace the damage public artwork located at the corner of Center Street and 7th Street.**
 - The Arts Commission reviewed fourteen proposals aimed at replacing the metal sculpture that was situated on the corner of Center and 7th street. Two finalists were chosen for further review. On May 16th during its regularly scheduled meeting, the Arts Commission made its choice to conduct the work.



