

2023-2025 Commission Goals and Strategies



June 2025 Update

Department Contact:	Economic Development	Date:	June 24, 2025
Percentage Complete:	100%	Target Completion:	June 30, 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

- Revised the Urban Renewal Plan included a framework for decision-making
- Attracted Advantis Community Credit Union to Oregon City
- An Economic Update was published (2020 -2027)
- A quarterly economic newsletter was published
- Talent Ready worked to create partnerships with private for-profit businesses that needed employees. Public agencies were engaged to 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 developed and promoted small business technical assistance and financial support services.
- Established initiatives that support a “business-friendly” environment in Oregon City.
- Worked to prepare City-owned and Urban renewal-owned properties for future development.
- Worked to promote the Arts as an important economic development element.

Status: (What has been done/Is Being Done)

- Relocated Advantis Community Credit Union to Oregon City. Completed its new headquarters in early 2023.
- Talent Ready –
 - The program was scaled back due to budget considerations.
 - Assisted 120 people with a variety of needs to help them prepare them for employment
 - Partnered with the following companies to fill positions:
 - >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)
- 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 except one \$7,000 loan.
 - Launched the small business micro-enterprise grant program for existing small businesses with five or fewer employees. The program has awarded nine grants to nine existing businesses.
 - The second cohort of the BIZ POD Program started classes on March 24, 2024 and concluded classes on May 17th. The graduation ceremony of 6 emerging businesses will be held on June 1, 2024.
- Business Friendly Environment
 - Due to budget cuts, the procurement program initiative was put on hold.
 - 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 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
 - Stimson Property is being prepared for future development
 - Stimson Property’s Phase I Environmental completed
 - Stimson Property was surveyed
 - A geo-technical study has been completed for the Stimson Property
 - A property appraisal for Stimson has been completed.
 - A study was conducted on the water quality of the Cove
 - Vacate notices (120 days) were distributed to tenants of residential properties
- The Arts Commission
 - The Arts Commission received \$28,000 in funding to repair existing public artworks around the community.
 - The Arts Commission replaced the damaged public artwork located at the corner of Center Street and 7th Street.
 - Arts Commission approved 4 murals