

Rockwood-West Gresham Proposed Renewal Extension

Frequently Asked Questions

WHAT IS URBAN RENEWAL?

Urban renewal is an economic development tool that has been used in over 100 urban renewal areas in Oregon that allows a community to focus on upgrades in an identified area. It is often used to provide infrastructure and civic facilities to support economic development.

In 2003 voters passed the current Rockwood/West Gresham Urban Renewal District. The District is 1,211 acres and extends from NE 181st Avenue, Burnside and Stark St. to just north of Interstate 84.

The Rockwood/West Gresham Urban Renewal Plan was created to use the urban renewal funding from the District to make updates across the community.

WHAT HAS URBAN RENEWAL DONE IN GRESHAM?

1. **JOB:** Assisted 40 new businesses with relocation into the Urban Renewal Area which brought nearly 700 jobs, averaging a \$62 thousand dollar annual salary, into the area.
2. **HOUSING:** The Plan increased access to affordable housing, providing grants that resulted in upgrades to nearly 900 multi-family apartments
3. **PUBLIC SAFETY:** The Plan facilitated the building of the Gresham Public Safety Facility on Northeast 181st Avenue which assists neighborhood policing and access to a mental health team.
4. **COMMUNITY SERVICES:** The Plan increased access to community services that historically didn't exist in



Oregon Tradeswomen moved its headquarters from Portland to Rockwood to help women start careers in the trades.



From daycare to workforce training, Downtown Rockwood's Innovation Hub offers resources and services that didn't exist in the neighborhood before.

the District by leveraging over \$80 million dollars of public-private investment in Downtown Rockwood to bring daycare, medical services, workforce development organizations, a culturally diverse market hall and stabilizing community based organizations.

WHY IS THE CITY CONSIDERING A PROPOSED URBAN RENEWAL EXTENSION?

The city has proposed a plan to continue the Urban renewal projects through 2029. If the proposed measure passes the extension would allow the City to spend an approximately \$37 million dollars over the next six years in new projects including transportation, housing, job creation, small business support and parks and recreation.

IF PASSED WILL THE PROPOSED URBAN RENEWAL MEASURE INCREASE PROPERTY TAXES?

No, the proposed extension of the urban renewal district would not increase property taxes. Urban renewal changes how the existing taxes paid on a property are divided out amongst different taxing districts like the city and county. As the value of properties in the urban renewal district increases, money would become available to be used on the projects described above. If the proposed urban renewal plan is passed by voters, every property owner in Gresham would continue to see a line item on their property tax bill for urban renewal. This would not represent a new tax, just a new way to distribute the taxes they would already pay.

IF PASSED, HOW WOULD SCHOOLS BE IMPACTED?

Schools are funded on a per-student basis from the State School Fund as determined by the Oregon Legislature. That funding formula would not be changed due to the adoption of the proposed urban renewal extension plan by the city. Schools are not directly impacted by urban renewal. The State School Fund has other resources in addition to property tax revenues.

IF PASSED, WHAT WOULD BE THE PROCESS FOR ADOPTING AN EXTENSION TO THE URBAN RENEWAL PLAN?

The City council voted on December 14, 2021 to refer the amendment to extend the proposed plan to the voters in May 2022.

IF PASSED, WHAT WOULD BE THE GRESHAM URBAN RENEWAL AREA?

The urban renewal area proposed in the plan for extension remains the Rockwood-West Gresham area.

It is important to note that the proposed extension would change the timeframe to utilize funds derived from the urban renewal plan but would not change the boundaries of the plan itself.

IF PASSED, WHAT ADDITIONAL PROJECTS WOULD BE FUNDED IN THE PROPOSED URBAN RENEWAL AREA?

If passed, an extension would allow the City to spend approximately \$37 million dollars over the next six years in new projects. Future community outreach would assist with identifying and prioritizing projects. Specific proposed project areas include:

- transportation upgrades
- access to a diversity of housing options
- increase access to jobs
- small business support or recovery
- parks and recreation

If the measure does not pass, Rockwood-West Gresham Urban Renewal Plan would not be extended to 2029 and the planned projects outlined would not occur. A no vote would not lower taxes.



MORE URBAN RENEWAL PROJECTS

1. Ribbon cutting at the Boys & Girls Club
2. Open School
3. Migration Brewing
4. Rockwood Public Safety Facility

More information: GreshamOregon.gov/Urban-Renewal

This information, except for the website link(s), was reviewed by the Oregon Secretary of State's Office for compliance with ORS 260.432.

GRESHAM
REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION