



When one tugs at a single thing in nature, he finds it attached to the rest of the world. – John Muir, 1911

“Tug” at Springbrook Creek and see that water in the stream is connected to the trees that shade and cool it, and to development around it that creates fast, erosive stormwater runoff during winter rains. Water quality, our urban forest, habitat for people and other animals, air and noise, open space and development are all knit together – so that planning for one issue must take into account each of the others.

As people continually transform the landscapes of Lake Oswego, we can improve our ability to inhabit the land in ways that preserve and restore environmental quality for future generations. Together, trees, streams, and other vegetation are a part of the community’s “green infrastructure,” which compliments the built infrastructure of pipes and buildings.

Our current Comprehensive Plan calls for protection of our natural resources, including trees and tree groves, as a high priority. As global warming and urban runoff increase, the values of trees to moderate climate change and reduce runoff and erosion are even more clear.



DID YOU KNOW?

According to Metro, Lake Oswego’s urban tree canopy is one of the highest in the Metro region. Lake Oswego also scores high in measures of water quality and habitat areas conserved.

Lake Oswego is home to much wildlife that travel between Tryon Creek State Park, the Willamette River, and undeveloped farmlands in the Stafford area.

The 1978 survey of natural resources reported bobcats and elk were known to reside in Lake Oswego. Habitat loss and increased use of pesticides (which can poison birds and destroy insects that are their food source) are the most common culprits of wildlife population declines.

The storm water system includes more than 150 miles of pipe and open channels, over 5000 storm water inlets, catch basins, water quality and detention facilities, and more than 170 miles of publicly owned streets.

There are three major drainage basins within Lake Oswego’s Urban Services Boundary: Willamette River, Tualatin River, and Oswego Lake. Within these basins is a complex system of topography, vegetation and hydrology that forms a network of interconnected drainages,



Healthy Ecosystems

Wetlands • Stream Corridors • Fish & Wildlife Habit • Stormwater Management • Solid Waste • Water Quality

Water Quality

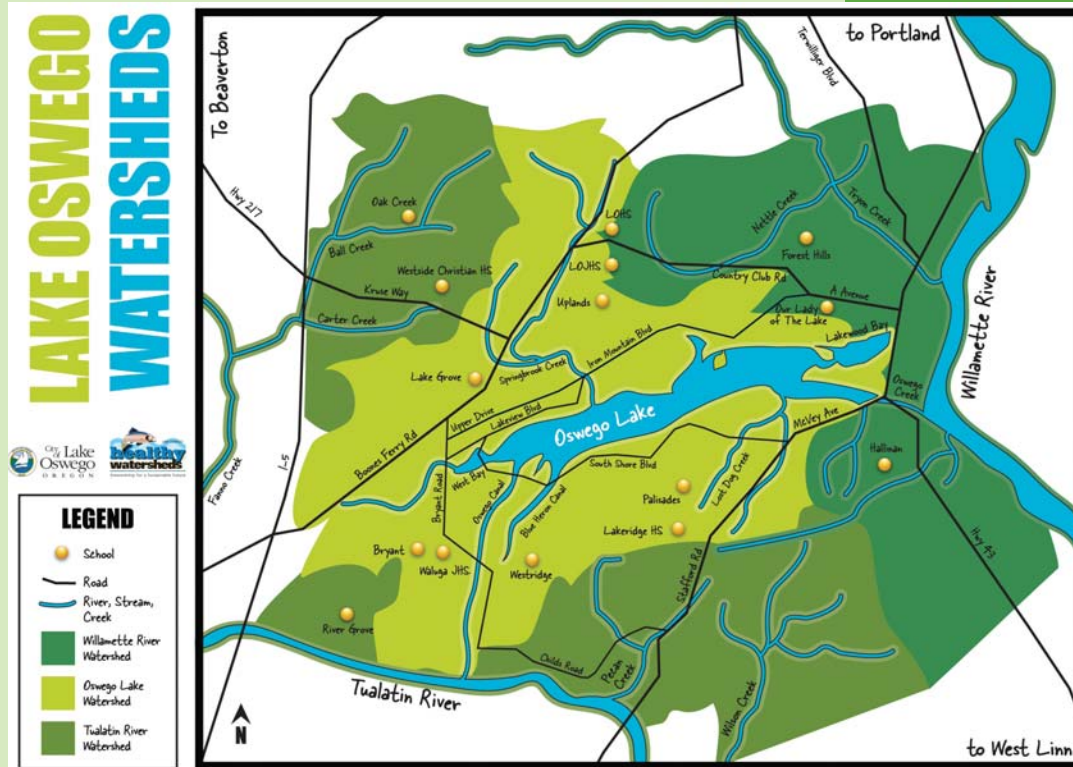
All surface water runoff in the city – including pollutants from septic systems and storm water outfalls, and chemicals from lawns, oil from roads and animal waste – eventually finds its way to the Willamette River, Tualatin River, and Oswego Lake.

The removal of vegetation and trees and development of impervious surfaces, such as parking lots, buildings and streets increase the temperature, volume and rate of surface runoff, causing stream bank erosion, flooding, and damage to wildlife habitat.

Did you know?

In the Portland metro area, from 2000 to 2007, electricity costs went up 75 percent, while prices for natural gas and transportation fuels went up 91 and 102 percent, respectively.

Nearly all of the energy used in the Metro area comes from outside the state, with imported coal and natural gas supplying much of the region's electricity.



Less than half of our electricity supply comes from hydropower, commonly believed to be the main source of electricity in the Pacific Northwest.

You can charge an electric car at a publicly accessible electric vehicle charging station downtown Lake Oswego.

The City of LO adopted Business Recycling Requirements in 2009 as part of a region-wide mandate to increase business recycling.

Energy and Climate Change

Since 1900, the average temperature in the Pacific Northwest has increased by 1.5 degrees Fahrenheit. During the next century, warming is expected to increase at least three times as quickly. Energy issues and climate change are closely interrelated. Energy usage, both type and amount, influences the extent and rate of global climate change, while climate change influences the weather conditions that affect energy use.

In 2007 the Oregon Legislature established climate change goals for the state by passing House Bill 3543. By 2050, achieve greenhouse gas levels that are at least 75 percent below 1990 levels. Nearly 48% of our region's greenhouse gas emissions are estimated to come from the consumption of goods and food by residents and businesses.



Planning for People, Places and Prosperity