


File ZDO-219
Proposed Zoning and Development Ordinance Amendment
Draft Dated 2/3/10

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1002 PROTECTION OF NATURAL FEATURES (1/5/09)

1002.01 PURPOSE

Section 1002 is adopted to: (1/5/09)

- A. Protect the natural environmental and scenic features of the County; (3/24/05)
- B. Encourage site planning and development practices which protect and enhance significant natural features such as streams, swales, hillsides, ridges, rock outcroppings, and views; 
- C. Provide ample open space; and (3/24/05)
- D. Create a manmade environment compatible and harmonious with the natural environment. (3/24/05)

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1002.02 GENERAL TERRAIN PREPARATION

- A. All developments shall be planned, designed, constructed, and maintained with maximum regard to significant natural terrain features and topography, such as hillside areas, floodplains, and other significant land forms. (3/24/05)
- B. Developments shall be planned, designed, constructed, and maintained to: (3/24/05)
 - 1. Avoid substantial probability of: (3/24/05)
 - a. Accelerated erosion;
 - b. Pollution, contamination, or siltation of lakes, rivers, and streams; (3/24/05)
 - c. Damage to vegetation; and (3/24/05)
 - d. Injury to wildlife and fish habitats; and (3/24/05)
 - 2. Minimize the removal of trees and other native vegetation that stabilize

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hillsides; retain moisture; reduce erosion, siltation, and nutrient runoff; and preserve the natural scenic character. (3/24/05)

1002.03 HILLSIDES

All development proposed on slopes of 20 percent or greater shall be limited to the extent that: (3/24/05)

- A. No partition or subdivision shall create any new lot or parcel which cannot be developed under the provisions of this section.
- B. Development on land over 35-percent slope—and residential development on land over 25-percent slope in the RR, MRR, and HR zoning districts—shall be subject to Planning Director review pursuant to Subsection 1305.02. Approval shall not be granted unless the following conditions are satisfied: (3/24/05)
 - 1. An engineering geologic study approved by the County establishes that the site is stable for the proposed development, and any conditions and recommendations based on the study are incorporated into the plans and construction of the development. The study shall include the items listed in Subsection 1003.02(B)(2). (3/24/05)
 - 2. Access to the site is approved by the County and the affected fire district pursuant to the engineering geologic study and associated conditions. Design review shall be required if construction of such access requires cut and fill, blasting, tree cutting, retaining walls, or other terrain alterations which detract from the natural scenic quality of the site. (3/24/05)
 - 3. Design review of the proposed design of structures and re-vegetation plans shall be required to ensure preservation or rapid reestablishment of the scenic quality of the site. (3/24/05)
 - 4. A plan for storm drainage and erosion control is approved by the County pursuant to Subsection 1008.02. (3/24/05)
 - 5. Other provisions of this section are addressed and satisfied by the proposal.
 - 6. When a building is proposed, the applicant shall, in addition to satisfying the above conditions, demonstrate that at least one of the following conditions applies: (3/24/05)
 - a. It is not feasible to either transfer the density (in the case of residential development) or to develop on a portion of the site which is less sloped; or (3/24/05)
 - b. Unique characteristics of the site, such as, but not limited to, vistas or solar

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exposure, could be better utilized by the proposed siting of structures with less or equal overall disturbance of the property than would occur otherwise under the provisions of this Ordinance. (3/24/05)

- C. Grading, stripping of vegetation, and lot coverage by structures and impervious surfaces shall be limited to no more than 30 percent of slopes 20 percent or greater. Variances to this standard may be granted pursuant to Section 1205. A variance shall not be granted unless the proposed development satisfies the following conditions: (1/5/09)
 - 1. The proposed lot coverage shall not exceed the maximum lot coverage standard of the zoning district; (3/24/05)
 - 2. The additional lot coverage, grading, or stripping shall not: (3/24/05)
 - a. Decrease the stability of the slope;
 - b. Appreciably increase erosion, sedimentation, or drainage flow from the property; or (3/24/05)
 - c. Adversely impact high priority open space as defined in Section 1011. (3/24/05)
 - 3. Measures shall be employed to minimize grading or filling to accomplish the development. (3/24/05)
 - 4. Disturbed areas shall be compacted if necessary and re-vegetated as soon as practical and before the annual wet season. (3/24/05)
- D. Buildings shall be clustered to reduce alteration of terrain and provide for preservation of natural features.
- E. Creation of building sites through mass pad grading and successive padding or terracing of building sites shall be avoided.
- F. Roads shall be of minimum width, with grades consistent with County specifications. One-way streets may be allowed. (3/24/05)
- G. Re-vegetation of all graded areas shall be the responsibility of the developer and shall occur as soon as feasible following the final grading. Maintenance of the slopes shall be the responsibility of the developer until the property ownership is transferred. (3/24/05)

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<#>Existing wooded areas, significant clumps or groves of trees and vegetation, consisting of conifers, oaks and large deciduous trees, shall be incorporated in the development plan wherever feasible. Site planning and design techniques which address this standard include, but are not limited to, the following: .

<#>Siting of roadways and utility easements to avoid substantial disturbance of significant clumps or groves of trees; (3/24/05) .

<#>Preservation of existing trees within rights-of-way and easements when such trees are suitably located, healthy, and when approved grading allows; (3/24/05) .

<#>Use of flexible road standards as provided in Subsection 1007.03(A), including one-way roads or split-level roads, to preserve significant trees and avoid unnecessary disturbance of terrain; (3/24/05) .

<#>Retention of specimen trees or clumps of trees in parking area islands or future landscape areas of the site as provided for in Section 1009. .

<#>Use of wooded areas of the site for recreation, or other low-intensity uses, or structures, not requiring extensive clearing of large trees, grading, or filling activity which substantially alters the stability or character of the wooded area; (3/24/05) .

<#>Retention of trees which are necessary to ensure the stability of clumps or groves of trees considering the type of trees, soil and terrain conditions, exposure to prevailing winds, and other site-specific considerations; (3/24/05) .

<#>Use of trees and wooded areas to buffer, screen, or provide transitions between different or conflicting uses on and off the site; (3/24/05) .

<#>Use of flexible-lot-size and planned unit development designs to minimize disturbance of wooded areas; (3/24/05) .

<#>Siting of uses and structures to utilize the natural microclimates created by wooded areas and trees to reduce extremes in temperature, provide wind protection, filter pollutants, and replenish oxygen and moisture to the air; and (3/24/05) .

<#>Use of other development techniques described in Subsection 1011.03(C). (3/24/05) .

<#>Trees and wooded areas to be retained shall be protected during site preparation and construction according to County design and specifications by: .

<#>Avoiding disturbance of the roots by grading activity; (3/24/05) .

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1002.04 RIVER AND STREAM CORRIDORS (3/24/05)

The following standards shall apply to land that is outside both the Metropolitan

Service District Boundary and the Portland Metropolitan Urban Growth Boundary.
(1/5/09)

A. Developments shall be planned, designed, constructed, and maintained so that:
(1/5/09)

1. River and stream corridors are preserved to the maximum extent feasible and water quality is protected through adequate drainage and erosion control practices; and (3/24/05)
2. Buffers or filter strips of natural vegetation are retained along all river and stream banks.

B. Except in the case of a river or stream subject to Section 704 or 705, the minimum structure setback from a river or perennial streambed shall be equal to the distance necessary to maintain or improve upon existing water quality. This distance shall be determined by a site investigation, but will not exceed 150 feet. Investigation shall consider: (1/5/09)

1. Soil types; (3/24/05)
2. Types and amount of vegetative cover; (3/24/05)
3. Bank stability; (3/24/05)
4. Slope of the land abutting the river or stream; (3/24/05)
5. Hazards of flooding; (3/24/05)
6. River or stream character; and (3/24/05)
7. Any special Comprehensive Plan designation or management program.
(1/5/09)

C. For water impoundments, diversions, and hydropower facilities, reasonable mitigation of adverse impacts to fisheries, wildlife, water quality, and flow shall be required commensurate with the intensity of the proposed use and resulting generating capacity. (3/24/05)

1002.05 WILDLIFE HABITATS AND DISTINCTIVE RESOURCE AREAS

A. Developments on land that is outside both the Metropolitan Service District Boundary and the Portland Metropolitan Urban Growth Boundary shall be designed to: (1/5/09)

1. Protect native plant species, aquatic habitats, and endangered or otherwise

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important wildlife species; and (3/24/05)

2. Minimize adverse wildlife impacts in sensitive habitat areas, such as deer and elk winter range below 3,000 feet in elevation, riparian areas, and wetlands. (3/24/05)

B. Development in areas shown as Resource Protection Open Space on Comprehensive Plan Maps X-MH-1 through X-MH-3 proposed in or within 100 feet of natural wetlands shall be designed to: (1/5/09)

1. Preserve functions of groundwater recharge, water storage, turbidity reduction, nutrient filtration, biologic or botanical production, and protective habitat cover; (3/24/05)
2. Provide compatibility with the continued performance of wetland functions, such as:
 - a. Conservation of soil, vegetation, water, fish, and wildlife; (3/24/05)
 - b. Low-intensity, dispersed outdoor recreation, such as hiking and nature study; and (3/24/05)
 - c. Utility easements, but only on peripheral areas and where alternative alignments are impractical; (3/24/05)
3. Eliminate the need for filling, dumping, and/or excavating in the wetland proper, unless approved pursuant to Subsection 1011.04; and (3/24/05)
4. Maintain the runoff coefficient and erosion equilibrium for lands bordering the wetland substantially the same as if such lands were undeveloped. Pier construction, elevated pedestrian boardwalks, semi-impervious surfacing, bridging of natural drainageways, and retention of vegetation in areas not intended for buildings or roads are recommended design methods.

C. In significant natural areas identified by the County, building and road construction, filling and excavation, paving, and tree removal shall be restricted to the extent necessary to protect the unique or fragile character or features that are the basis for their designation in the Comprehensive Plan. Restrictions may be modified pursuant to Subsection 1011.04. Outside the Portland Metropolitan Urban Growth Boundary, forest practices on forestlands shall be subject to the Oregon Forest Practices Act.

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Siting of roadways and utility easements to avoid substantial disturbance of significant clumps or groves of trees; (3/24/05)

Preservation of existing trees within rights-of-way and easements when such trees are suitably located, healthy, and when approved grading allows; (3/24/05)

Use of flexible road standards as provided in Subsection 1007.03(A), including one-way roads or split-level roads, to preserve significant trees and avoid unnecessary disturbance of terrain; (3/24/05)

Retention of specimen trees or clumps of trees in parking area islands or future landscape areas of the site as provided for in Section 1009.

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Use of flexible-lot-size and planned unit development designs to minimize

disturbance of wooded areas; (3/24/05)

Siting of uses and structures to utilize the natural microclimates created by wooded areas and trees to reduce extremes in temperature, provide wind protection, filter pollutants, and replenish oxygen and moisture to the air; and (3/24/05)

Use of other development techniques described in Subsection 1011.03(C). (3/24/05)

Trees and wooded areas to be retained shall be protected during site preparation and construction according to County design and specifications by:

Avoiding disturbance of the roots by grading activity; (3/24/05)

Providing for water and air filtration to the roots of trees which will be covered with impermeable surfaces; (3/24/05)

Pruning or topping of trees which will be in parking areas or near buildings, as necessary, to maintain proper balance between top growth and roots, reduce windfall potential, and provide adequate vision clearances for safe vehicular circulation; and (3/24/05)

Requiring, if necessary, the advisory expertise of a qualified consulting arborist or horticulturist both during and after site preparation, and a special maintenance/management program to provide protection of specified wooded areas or specimen trees, as recommended by the arborist or horticulturist.