

### **Example: Urban Growth Boundary (UGB)**

An example of how a UGB can be implemented is in the State of Oregon. Under Oregon law, each city or metropolitan area in the state has an urban growth boundary. The boundary controls urban expansion onto farm and forestlands. Land inside the UGB supports urban services such as water and sewer systems, and fulltime fire protection. The UGB is one of the tools used to protect farms and forests from urban sprawl and to promote the efficient use of land, public facilities and services inside the boundary.

Oregon created an agency, Metro, to be responsible for managing the Portland metropolitan region's UGB. The agency is also responsible, by state law, to have a 20 year supply of land for future residential development inside the boundary. Every five years, the Metro Council is required to conduct a review of the land supply and, if necessary, expand the boundary to meet that requirement. In its 2002 review, the Metro Council also asked technical staff to determine how much land would be required to meet a 20-year land supply for new jobs.

This urban growth boundary was not intended to be static. Since the late 1970's, the boundary has been moved about three dozen times. Most of those moves were small - 20 acres or less. There were three times that Metro authorized more substantial additions:

- In 1998, about 3,500 acres were added to make room for approximately 23,000 housing units and 14,000 jobs.
- In 1999, another 380 acres were added based on the concept of "subregional need". An example of "subregional need" would occur when a community needed land to balance the number of homes with the number of jobs available in that area.
- In 2002, an unprecedented 18,638 acres were added to the UGB to provide 38,657 housing units and 2,671 acres for additional jobs. This action also created important regional policies to support neighborhoods, protect industrial areas and enhance regional and town centers. These expansions represented an increase of only about 2 percent, even though Portland's population has increased by about 17 percent since 1990.
- In 2004, 1,940 acres were added to the boundary to address the need for industrial lands identified as part of the 2002 planning process<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> [www.metro-region.org](http://www.metro-region.org)