

24 YEAR IN REVIEW



CITY OF LAKE OSWEGO

February 2025

Message from Mayor Buck

I am pleased to present the City of Lake Oswego 2024 Year in Review. In addition to providing a summary of some of 2024's significant accomplishments, this report provides a snapshot of the City's finances. You can find real-time financial information for City departments and programs on the City's online dashboard at lakeoswego.city/finance/financial-dashboard-resources-and-expenditures-fiscal-year.

In addition to upholding the highest standards of public services, City Council is committed to funding initiatives that align with our community priorities. These efforts help maintain Lake Oswego as a safe, sustainable, and welcoming place to live, work, and visit. None of this would be possible without your engagement, as well as the dedication and ingenuity of the individuals working within our City. Thank you.



Budget In Brief

Budget Summary

The Budget is the City's annual financial plan that details how public programs and services will be funded based on estimates of revenues and expenses. Budget decisions are largely driven by the policy and direction of the City Council and by input from the community. The City's Biennial Budget for the 2023-25 fiscal year (July 1 - June 30) maintains existing service levels and implements the City Council's goals.

Organization

The City's budget is organized on the basis of funds, or groups of self-balancing accounts, that are set up to account for all fiscal activity related to a specific service area or regulated government activity. Fund types include the General Fund, special revenue funds, debt service funds, enterprise funds, and capital project funds. The City's total FY 23-25 biennial budget, including reserves and capital projects, is \$456,986,898.

Where do your property taxes go?

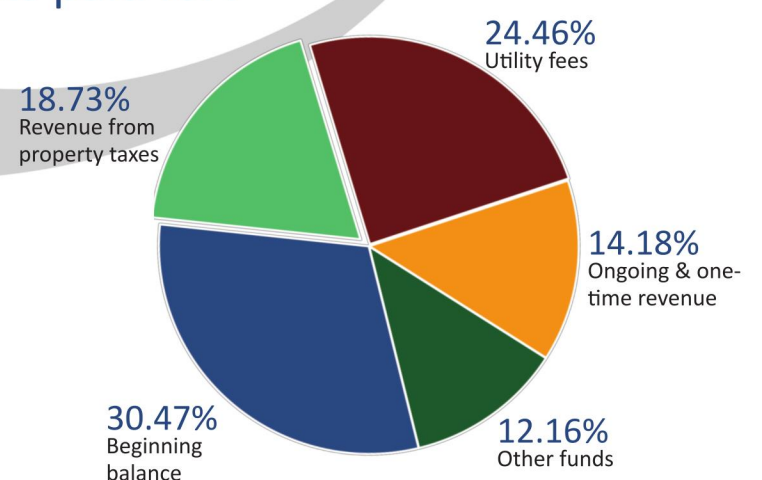
The City receives about 25% of a property owner's total tax bill. The City estimates to receive about \$89.5 million in property tax revenue this biennium and about 1/3 of that revenue provides funding for Police, Parks, and Fire services.



What does it cost to run the City & how are those costs paid for?

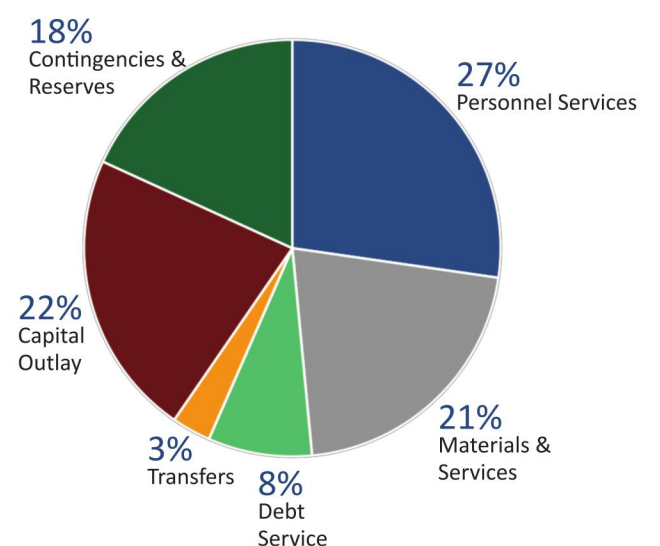
\$456,986,898 Total financial resources available for the City.

- ▶ Property taxes are the largest ongoing source for funding your city's basic public services such as Police, Fire, Parks and Recreation, and Planning.
- ▶ Utility fees support the operations, maintenance, and capital projects for public water, sewer, stormwater, and street infrastructure.
- ▶ Ongoing and one-time revenue sources include franchise fees, internal charges for services, licenses, and intergovernmental revenues.
- ▶ Other funds resources include engineering, building, tennis, tourism, public art, endowments, capital reserves, debt service, parks recreation center and bonds.
- ▶ Beginning balances reflect the City's reserves and surpluses across all funds that total \$88.2 million.



\$456,986,898 Total appropriations (operating requirements) for the City.

- ▶ Personnel Services include salaries and benefits for City staff.
- ▶ Materials and Services include contracted and consulting services, supplies, and maintenance and utility expenses.
- ▶ Debt service includes short term and long term debt service for City projects and voter approved bonds.
- ▶ Transfers are interfund transfers of resources to provide operational support or moving general revenues to utility and enterprise funds.
- ▶ Capital outlay is used to acquire or construct major facilities including buildings, roads, and public utility infrastructure.
- ▶ The City also sets aside monies in various funds for contingencies and reserves. These are the City's savings accounts.



2024 Council Goals

Last February, City Council adopted a preferred future statement, eight strategic goals and twenty initiatives to guide the overall City vision, department workplans, and prioritize projects in 2024. Goals include:

- ▶ Ensure a safe, secure, and prepared community
- ▶ Support business investment and job creation in Lake Oswego
- ▶ Foster a welcoming and inclusive community where all people have the opportunity to thrive and have equitable access to City services
- ▶ Combat climate change and strengthen the community's resilience to climate impact
- ▶ Strengthen public trust in the City through continuous improvement, outstanding customer service, infrastructure investments, and fiscal stewardship
- ▶ Invest in Lake Oswego's high-quality parks, natural areas, and recreational amenities
- ▶ Improve transportation connections, mobility and safety for all travelers and all types of trips in Lake Oswego
- ▶ Conserve the community's character, sense of place, and quality of life by planning for change and growth

Collectively, the City made major progress on many of these initiatives over the past year. A few completed initiatives are highlighted in this document.

City Manager's Office

In the Council-Manager form of government, the City Manager is appointed by the City Council to serve as the City's chief administrative officer. The City Manager's Office houses the Public Affairs Office; City Recorder's Office; programs for Sustainability, Emergency Planning & Management; and Diversity, Equity & Inclusion. The City Manager also serves as the Executive Director of the Lake Oswego Redevelopment Agency.

- ▶ The City continued to improve its emergency management capabilities. To improve operational preparedness, the City conducted various training exercises with staff including winter storm preparedness and communications methods. In addition, the City updated of both its Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) and Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan (NHMP). The EOP, adopted in June 2024, provides guidance and identifies roles and responsibilities when responding to a disaster. The NHMP, adopted in July 2024, identifies actions the City can take to reduce risk from natural disasters, such as flooding or wildfire. With approval of this NHMP, the City is also eligible to apply for federal hazard mitigation project grants. To help individuals become better prepared, the City coordinated with the Oregon Department of Emergency Management (OEM) and local volunteer group PrepLO to kick off OEM's Be 2 Weeks Ready program. In addition, the City held a community storm debrief and a Emergency Preparedness Fair in September.
- ▶ Relating to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI), the City, in partnership with the Lake Oswego School District (LOSD), launched a collaborative effort to welcome new residents to the city. This "New Family Meet & Greet" initiative provided new residents with essential information about City services, community programs, and opportunities for engagement to help build connections.
- ▶ The City implemented a formal translation and interpretation policy, ensuring equitable access to City services for all residents, regardless of their language proficiency. Removing language barriers reinforces the City's commitment to fostering an inclusive environment where every community member can fully engage with the City's offerings.
- ▶ The City's Sustainability Advisory Board and staff organized the third annual Sustainability Resource Fair at Lakeridge Middle School in partnership with the Lake Oswego School District, Lake Oswego Sustainability Network, and Oswego Lake Watershed Council. Over 30 community organizations participated and this year's event included free e-waste disposal by Green Century Electronics and a sporting gear swap by Shifting Gears/Gifting Gear.
- ▶ Continued to integrate our climate action and sustainability goals into the work we do as a City, through sustainability trainings for City departments, developing a Sustainable Fleet Purchasing Policy, and highlighting connections between climate action goals and projects in the City's Capital Improvement Plan.
- ▶ City Council provided input to develop a citywide EV Charging Strategy to support adoption of electric vehicles across our community and directed development of a new license program for companies that want to provide services for collecting difficult-to-recycle materials from households in Lake Oswego.



Public Works Samuel Rask demonstrated how to properly shut off water at the annual Emergency Preparedness Fair.



The City hosted a number of successful community cultural events.



Following the Sustainable Fleet Purchasing Policy, the City continues to add to its sustainable fleet.

Lake Oswego Redevelopment Agency

Lake Oswego Redevelopment Agency (LORA), the urban renewal agency for the City of Lake Oswego, coordinates revitalization efforts in downtown's East End Urban Renewal District and the Lake Grove Village Center Urban Renewal District. The projects in these areas improve the overall quality of life in the community and are intended to stimulate private investment, create economic vitality and enhance the character of these districts.

At the end of 2024, Lake Oswego was awarded \$745,000 by Metro to update the Foothills District Refinement Plan. The original Foothills Plan was adopted in 2012, outlining a vision for "Lake Oswego's next great neighborhood" that includes mixed-use housing and shopping along with a coherent connection between downtown Lake Oswego and our public natural areas along the Willamette River (Foothills Park, Roehr Park, Tryon Cove). In 2025, staff will launch a multi-year planning and community engagement process to update our community vision for future development in the Foothills District.

Redevelopment Agency staff is also providing redevelopment assistance for the construction of the Lake Oswego Recreation and Aquatic Center and Hacienda Community Development Corporation's 55-unit affordable housing project on Boones Ferry Road, as well as assisting with the South Shore Fire Station Task Force.



South Shore Fire Station

Community Development

The Community Development Department plays a vital role in shaping our city by overseeing current and long-range planning, building, code enforcement, affordable housing, and economic development programs. We are committed to protecting our natural resources, ensuring public health and safety, supporting local businesses, and guiding development in accordance with our community's standards.

Here are some of the department's key accomplishments from 2024:

- ▶ **Housing Production Strategy:** Long-range planning staff completed the City's first Housing Production Strategy outlining tools, actions, and policies to meet the city's housing needs for the next 20 years.
- ▶ **Affordable Housing:** Planning and Building staff approved land use and building permits and facilitated the approval of a Nonprofit Corporation Affordable Housing Tax Exemption program. These actions supported the unprecedented construction of 100 affordable housing units completed 2024 and aided in securing entitlements for an additional 78 units set to be built in 2025.
- ▶ **Urban and Community Forestry Plan Update:** Staff completed an update of the City's Urban and Community Forestry Plan, creating a strategic roadmap to support the long-term health and sustainability of our urban forest.
- ▶ **Climate-Friendly Parking Reforms:** The department successfully amended the Comprehensive Plan and Community Development Code to align with the State's Climate-Friendly and Equitable Communities Program, creating flexibility for more sustainable and equitable parking solutions.
- ▶ **Building Activity:** This year, the team processed 4,312 building permits, representing \$217,356,000 in construction value, and conducted 13,315 inspections for residential and commercial projects.

We're proud of these achievements and look forward to continuing our work to make our city a vibrant, sustainable, and inclusive place to live and work.



Mercy Greenbrae at Marylhurst Commons, a 100-unit affordable housing development completed in 2024

Public Works

Throughout 2024, our Maintenance, Facilities, Engineering, and Water Treatment Plant staff continued to go above and beyond in delivering critical services to our Lake Oswego community. Our entire Public Works team consists of many behind-the-scenes administrative professionals, contract writers, analysts, and support personnel, who are the unsung heroes of community infrastructure. Their expertise and dedication ensure smooth operations for our entire team, from project planning to execution, keeping essential services of water, wastewater, transportation, and stormwater running seamlessly for everyone in the community.

Major accomplishments, highlights, milestones, and projects undertaken during 2024 include:

- ▶ During the historic January storm, our small but mighty Public Works team worked around-the-clock for two weeks putting their bodies on the line to safeguard emergency access, remove more than 125 hazardous trees, clear blocked roadways, sand and plow roads, respond to more than 300 water

meter shutoffs, and 12 mainline breaks, safely manage our sewer system, and coordinate emergency response to keep our community safe.

- ▶ Started design on four new sidewalks to connect neighborhoods to schools, business districts, and recreation areas; and completed construction on 1,650 linear feet of new sidewalk on Lanewood Street and Douglas Circle.
- ▶ Completed safety and pedestrian improvements at the Jean Road/Pilkington Road intersection including a new signal, crosswalks, curb ramps, sidewalks, stormwater planters, push buttons, striping, and pavement. Also installed safety improvements for the 5th Street/A Avenue pedestrian crossing.
- ▶ Installed new backup power (generator) access for emergencies at the River Intake Pump Station and the Water Treatment Plant.
- ▶ Installed almost 3,000 smart water meters throughout the City; 93% of all residential

and commercial customers are now converted to smart water meters.

- ▶ Televised more than 143,000 feet of wastewater lines and inspected more than 225 wastewater maintenance holes throughout the city.
- ▶ Issued more than 775 traffic control permits and 400 utility permits.



New signals at Jean/Pilkington intersection

Library

Our award-winning Lake Oswego Public Library offers materials, services, and events to educate and fascinate all ages. With a mission to inspire discovery and cultivate wellbeing by welcoming all people to read, learn, and connect, the Library provides resources and opportunities, to promote and support an excellent quality of life for all members of our community. The Library is open 7 days a week and many resources are accessible 24/7 through the Library's website.

Here are a few of the Library's 2024 accomplishments:

- ▶ **Expanding Outreach Services:** We brought the Library to all ages of our community in exciting ways through Rover events, city-wide cultural celebrations, home delivery, and StoryWalks, reaching over 3,000



Friendly Library staff welcomes you!

people. Library staff continue to connect with schools, seniors and underserved residents to address their unique needs, bolstering our efforts to make the Library accessible to all. Enrollment in our home delivery service has increased 126% in the past year and a half.

- ▶ **Cultural Celebrations:** We partnered with local organizations to bring cultural events, including the MLK Community Celebration and Lunar New Year Festival, which supported our community's desire for equity and connection.
- ▶ **Lake Oswego Reads:** Our selection of the book Honor in 2024, along with a month of engaging events, brought our community together to read, learn and discuss themes ranging from love, hope, and familial devotion, to betrayal and sacrifice.
- ▶ **World Languages Collection and Services:** Throughout the year, our collection grew to include 24 languages, featuring 1,529 new books. We have fueled our role as a learning hub for all through the addition of our Global Stories Project, story times in Mandarin and Spanish, and our World Cinema Series.
- ▶ **Sustainability:** The Library of Things Collection, along with the Seed Library, continue to establish the Library as a leader in sustainable practices, supporting the Council's goal to combat climate change.
- ▶ **Library Strategic Plan:** Our Strategic Plan for 2024-2026 is now complete, guiding us forward in creating the Library services our community values and desires. Aligned with community input, our plan's overarching strategic focus is to improve access for all, with four main priorities: serve people beyond the building; create space to expand services; increase awareness of the library's value; and support staff wellbeing and growth.

Parks & Recreation

Parks & Recreation remained steadfast in its mission to provide excellence in building community, enriching lives, and caring for the urban and natural environment. This commitment brought recreation opportunities for people of all ages and abilities. Top accomplishments for 2024:

Capital Projects

2024 marked a milestone year for Parks & Recreation, delivering transformative projects from the 2019 bond:

- ▶ Recreation & Aquatic Center: Significant progress was made, with the highly anticipated facility opening in late winter 2025.
- ▶ Rassekh Skatepark – Phase 1: Completed the skatepark and parking lot. Phase 2, featuring a playground, picnic shelter, tot play area, and natural climbing features, is scheduled to open in summer 2025.
- ▶ George Rogers Park Picnic Shelter: A renovated community favorite reopened and has quickly becoming a top choice for park reservations.

Parks Initiatives

- ▶ Sustainability Investments: Continued commitment to sustainability with additional electric equipment.
- ▶ Volunteer Contributions: Over 1,000 volunteer hours were dedicated to stewardship programs, focusing on removing invasive species, planting native vegetation, and refreshing trails.
- ▶ Park Maintenance: Successfully managed 623 acres of park areas.
- ▶ Storm Recovery: Responded to the 2024 winter storm with a comprehensive effort, including clearing downed and damaged trees, collaborating with Public Works. In all, Parks staff spent 1660 hours cleaning up during and after the storm.

Community Events, Enrichment, Outdoor, Recreation, and Services

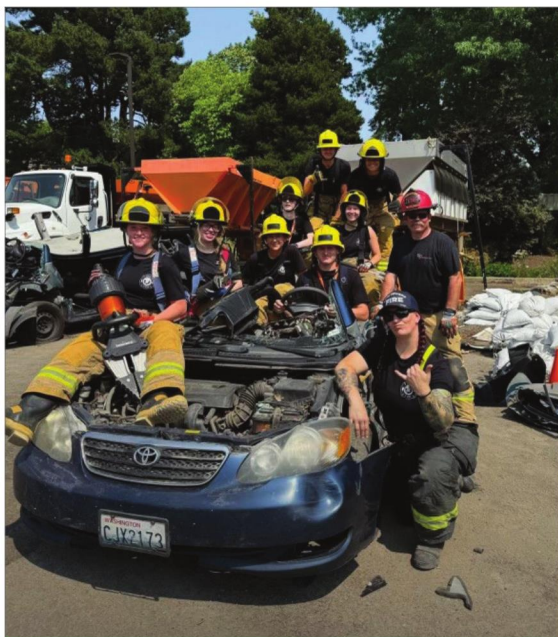
- ▶ Record Attendance: Over 200,000 people attended Parks & Recreation events, including record-breaking crowds at the Tree Lighting Festival, Summer Concert Series, and Lake Oswego Farmers' Market. The Lake Grove Farmers' Market added a date and popular cultural celebrations and movie nights continued, bringing the total number of events to 60.
- ▶ Volunteer Impact: Recreation programs benefited from an impressive 28,000+ volunteer hours, showcasing the community's dedication and support.
- ▶ Recreation Programs: Sports, camps, and outdoor activities engaged over 243,560 participants with 4,019 programs.
- ▶ Adult Community Center: Served 25,966 meals, supporting seniors and homebound residents with 1,250 round-trip rides for lunch and other recreation services.
- ▶ Teen Lounge: Celebrated its 18th year, welcoming over 107,000 participants since its inception.
- ▶ Luscher Farm Contributions: Donated 3,255 pounds of fresh produce to local nonprofits through the Adopt-A-Plot and Harvest Helpers programs, addressing food insecurity.



The new Rassekh Skatepark opened and has been extremely popular



Parks Maintenance crews at community debris collection event after January 2024 storm



Fire Camp - created and lead by LOFD Crews for teens 14-18 years old.

Fire

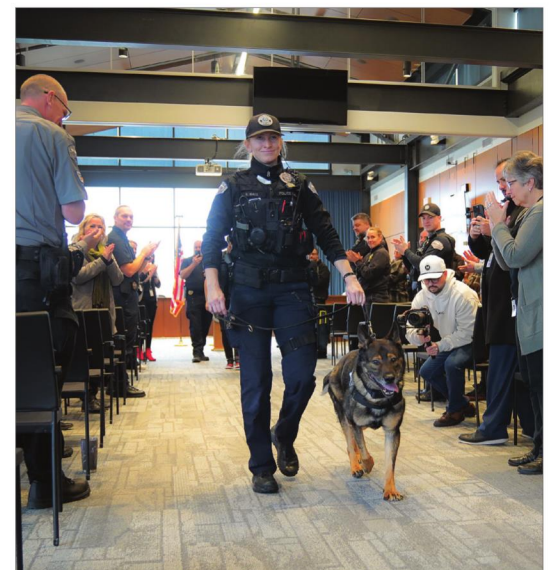
The Lake Oswego Fire Department (LOFD) provides Fire, EMS, Rescue, and Fire Prevention/Investigation/Inspection services to Lake Oswego, along with three contract districts: Alto Park Water District, Riverdale Rural Fire Protection District, and Lake Grove Fire District.

- ▶ Multiple Code Saves and survivor visits to the fire stations. LOCOM, LOPD, and Fire have an incredibly strong chain of survival partnership and we are grateful to have opportunities to see community members recover and thrive.
- ▶ Our first annual Fire Camp, created and lead by LOFD Crews for teens 14-18 years old, was a success and we look forward to hosting again this year.
- ▶ Fire teamed up with Parks & Recreation and Hunger Fighters Oregon to host our First Annual Pumpkin Smash at the drill tower.
- ▶ South Shore Fire Station Task Force appointed by City Council is set to begin a needs assessment and community engagement process to rebuild the Station. The Community Task Force has dedicated an extensive amount of time and energy into this project and look forward to presenting their recommendations to the Mayor and City Council in March.
- ▶ Our Lake Oswego Amateur Radio Emergency Service Volunteers have continued to train, network, and formalize their roles in preparation for emergency communication needs. Together, they have volunteered over 4,102 hours of their time.

Police

The Lake Oswego Police Department (LOPD) has highly trained Dispatchers and Police Officers ready to respond to any emergency with the confidence of keeping our community safe. Below are a few accomplishments we are particularly proud of from 2024:

- ▶ Next Generation 9-1-1: In 2024, Lake Oswego Communications (LOCOM) – the City's 9-1-1 Dispatch Center – completed a nearly six-month project that replaced the existing 9-1-1 phone system with a modern system that supports NG911 (Next Generation 9-1-1) with enhanced capabilities like text to 9-1-1, improved location accuracy, and integration of modern technology. These features enable LOCOM to deliver future-ready public safety service.
- ▶ K9 Szemi: One of the Police Department's two police canines, Szemi, retired in December. Szemi is a nine-year-old German Shepherd and was born in Hungary. After a successful career during which he made about thirty captures, Szemi will spend his retirement at home with his handler, Officer Shayla Ball.
- ▶ Unmanned Aircraft Systems: In December, the Police Department's unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) program was officially started after months of preparation and training. The Department has nine pilots, each specially-trained to operate "drones" for law enforcement purposes. The pilots are certified by the Federal Aviation Administration to operate the Department's five small UAS aircraft. These aircraft have various capabilities, including night-vision and the ability to fly inside buildings, and will help officers ensure the safety of the public during critical incidents.



LOPD celebrated K9 Szemi's outstanding years of service and wished him well in his retirement with Officer Shayla Ball.