

**CITY OF FOREST GROVE
PUBLIC SAFETY/COMMUNITY SERVICES LEVY
MEASURE 34-147
TO RESTORE and MAINTAIN SERVICES**

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

Why doesn't property taxes from all the new developments being built in Forest Grove pay for these services instead of a Levy? A local operating levy is not something new to Forest Grove. The one currently in place was approved in November 2002 when the property tax limitation (Measure 50) reduced City revenues to the level where additional resources were needed to maintain services. This levy included adding three police officers and two firefighters to help address staffing levels that had not changed for several years.

The proposed levy will replace the current levy and increase it to help pay for the increased costs of providing current services. The levy currently raises about \$1 million per year. A new \$350,000 home is assessed at approximately \$200,000 for property tax purposes due to the requirements of Measure 50. Without the levy, this new home would generate about \$800 in property taxes per year to the City for operations. At that rate, it would require 1,250 brand new \$350,000 homes to replace the levy. In FY 2007, the City issued 99 permits for new houses to be built. New growth would pay for additional services that result from new growth. It would not generate enough money to replace the levy to provide existing services.

Why is the City purchasing new park property? The City is acquiring additional park property to help ensure long-term park needs are met. Available land for parks is becoming scarce. The money used to purchase park property has been grant money to purchase parks and parks system development charges. Legally, none of this money can be used to fund operations such as police and fire services.

How much will Levy cost? This measure would renew the \$0.99 per \$1,000 of assessed value levy and increase it by \$0.36 per \$1,000 of assessed value. A typical homeowner currently pays \$178 per year in property taxes for the \$0.99 levy. The increase in the levy rate of \$0.36 would cost typical homeowners an additional \$65 per year in property taxes. Assumes average assessed value (not market value) of \$180,000.

How does Forest Grove property tax rates per \$1,000 assessed value compare to other cities?

Beaverton	7.4736	
Sherwood	7.0664	
Tualatin	5.6209	
Forest Grove	5.4538	Includes \$0.99 levy
Hillsboro	4.7665	5.3865 as of July, 2008
Tigard	4.5460	
Cornelius	4.1698	

DON'TS

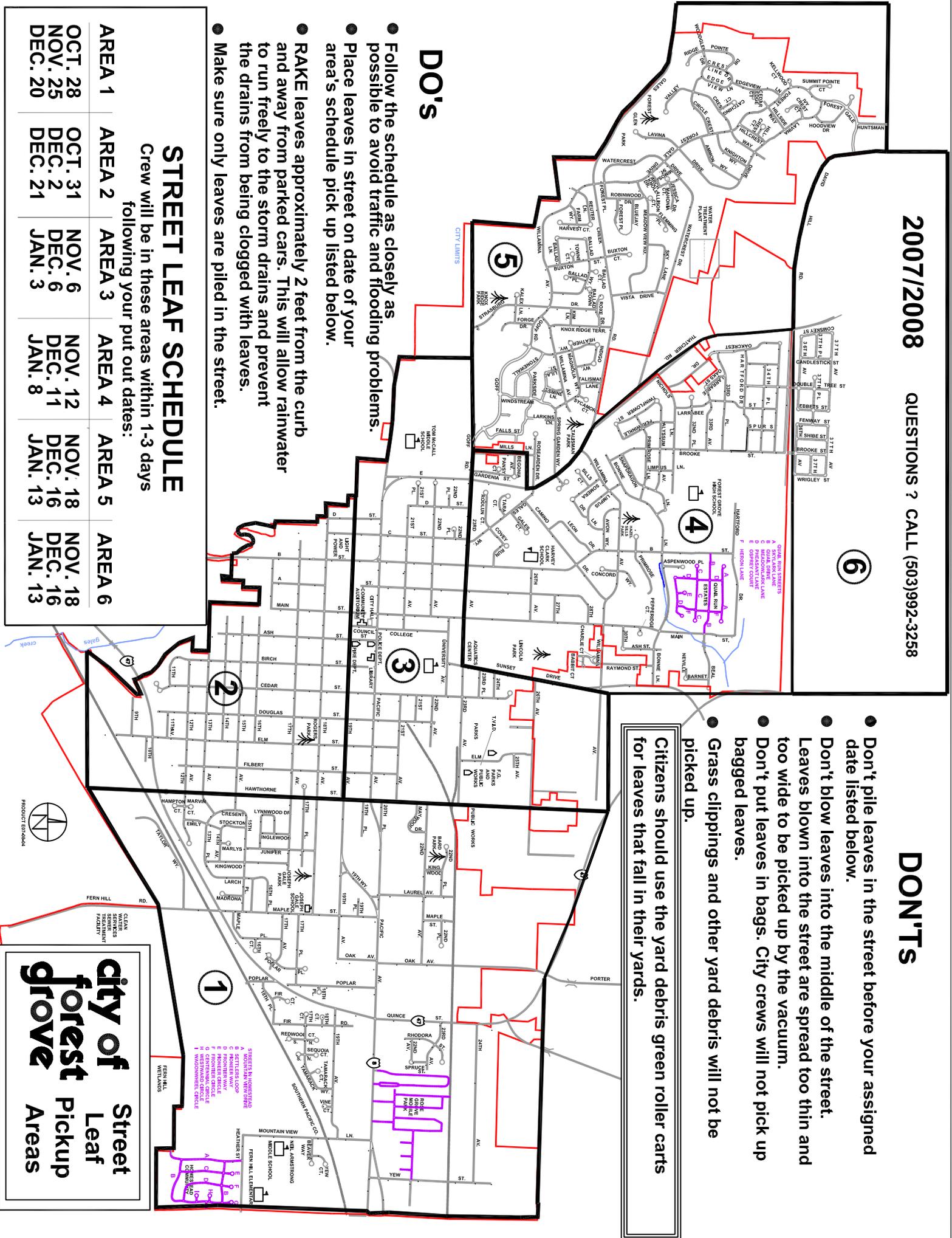
- Don't pile leaves in the street before your assigned date listed below.
 - Don't blow leaves into the middle of the street. Leaves blown into the street are spread too thin and too wide to be picked up by the vacuum.
 - Don't put leaves in bags. City crews will not pick up bagged leaves.
 - Grass clippings and other yard debris will not be picked up.
- Citizens should use the yard debris green roller carts for leaves that fall in their yards.**

- # DO'S
- Follow the schedule as closely as possible to avoid traffic and flooding problems.
 - Place leaves in street on date of your area's schedule pick up listed below.
 - RAKE leaves approximately 2 feet from the curb and away from parked cars. This will allow rainwater to run freely to the storm drains and prevent the drains from being clogged with leaves.
 - Make sure only leaves are piled in the street.

STREET LEAF SCHEDULE

Crew will be in these areas within 1-3 days following your put out dates:

AREA 1	AREA 2	AREA 3	AREA 4	AREA 5	AREA 6
OCT. 28 NOV. 25 DEC. 20	OCT. 31 DEC. 2 DEC. 21	NOV. 6 DEC. 6 JAN. 3	NOV. 12 DEC. 11 JAN. 8	NOV. 18 DEC. 16 JAN. 13	NOV. 18 DEC. 16 JAN. 13



city of forest grove
Street Leaf Pickup Areas

FG Comp Plan Update

❖ *Focus on the Future* ❖ *Newsletter 1* ❖ *Oct. 2007* ❖



WHAT is a Comp Plan? A comprehensive plan is a city's 'road map' to the future.

*Technically, it's a general, coordinated **LAND USE** map & policy statement that organizes all functional & natural systems & activities. Topics covered include: land use, zoning, housing, sewer, water, transportation, recreation & natural resources.*

Fun Fact: *FG's Comp Plan weighs 8 pounds and is 4 inches thick.*

WHY update the Comp Plan?

REASON #1 - FG's Comp Plan was written back in 1975–79. It was approved by the City Council in 1980. Back then, the City looked way into the future to 2005. So now our plan is out-of-date.

REASON #2 – A lot has changed in FG over the last 30 years & more change is expected. The Comp Plan helps us steer future changes in a beneficial direction.

REASON #3 – Periodic reviews & updates of comp plans & associated codes are required by the State of OR.

How do you update a comp plan? The State of Oregon has specific laws & regulations that spell out how to update a comp plan & sets the schedule. The Department of Land Conservation & Development (DLCD) approves our work, every step of the way. Here is the overall process:



PHASE 1: *Evaluate* the comp plan to see if it needs updating & create a To-Do list called the ***Work Program***
- *Oct. 2007 thru April 2008* -

PHASE 2: **DO** all the work in the ***Work Program***
- *2008 thru 2011* -

RESULT: Updated Comprehensive Plan & Maps
Codes & Regulations

Why does this matter to me?

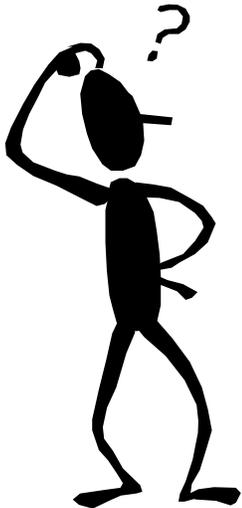
- ★ Over the next 20 years, an estimated 400,000 more people will call Washington County home. Some of those people will live, learn, work & play in Forest Grove.
- ★ The Update may result in recommendations to change the city's zoning & possibly change the area where the City could expand. This is called our urban growth boundary or UGB.
- ★ You have the right to officially object to any part of this process – but ONLY if you officially participate.
- ★ Because you care about the future of Forest Grove.

Who is doing the Update?

- (1) **YOU!** FG residents are KEY to the update. Your input makes a difference.
- (2) The Project Managers are Jon Holan, Community Development Director & Kerstin Cathcart, Senior Planner.



How do I get involved? Glad you asked!



- (1) Check out the Comp Plan Update **website** at www.forestgrove-or.gov – a stockpile of information
- (2) Get on the **OFFICIAL mailing list** to receive meeting announcements, newsletters, etc. Sign up online or by calling Marcia Phillips at (503)992-3227.
- (3) Attend the November 19, 2007 **public hearing** on the **Evaluation** of the existing Comp Plan – 7 pm at the Community Auditorium (1915 Main Street).
- (4) Read the **local newspapers** for articles about project.

Special Feature: Staff will be available at 6 pm to answer your questions about the Evaluation.

- (5) Invite us to speak about the FG Comp Plan Update at **your club, organization or group**. Call Kerstin Cathcart to set a date.
- (6) Plan on attending the **Annual Town Meeting** on Saturday, January 26, 2008. We will be discussing the changes FG may face over the next 20 years.
- (7) Submit a photo to the **Citywide Photo Contest** of the Best or Worst of Forest Grove. Pick up an application at City Hall or on-line. Photos due by January 7, 2007.

What if I have more questions? Terrific – call Kerstin Cathcart at (503)992-3226.



Thanks for your interest in the Comp Plan Update!



FALL CITY-WIDE CLEANUP EVENTS

- ➔ Free household hazardous waste collection events will take place on **November 3** from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Transfer Station, 1525 "B" Street, Forest Grove. Dispose of your household's toxic trash and learn about safer alternatives at Metro's household hazardous waste community roundup event.
- ➔ During the week of **November 5-9**, Forest Grove residents, with a current Waste Management account, **may put out up to 6 extra bags** (32-gallon capacity) of garbage on their regular collection day at no extra charge.
- ➔ On **Saturday, November 10**, the Transfer Station will be accepting **3 bulky items** per customer (couches, chairs, mattresses, etc.) and **4 tires** per customer at no charge from 9 am to 2 pm.

Any questions, please contact:

Waste Management at 503-249-8078.

Special Thanks to Waste Management and Metro
for providing these public service clean-up events.