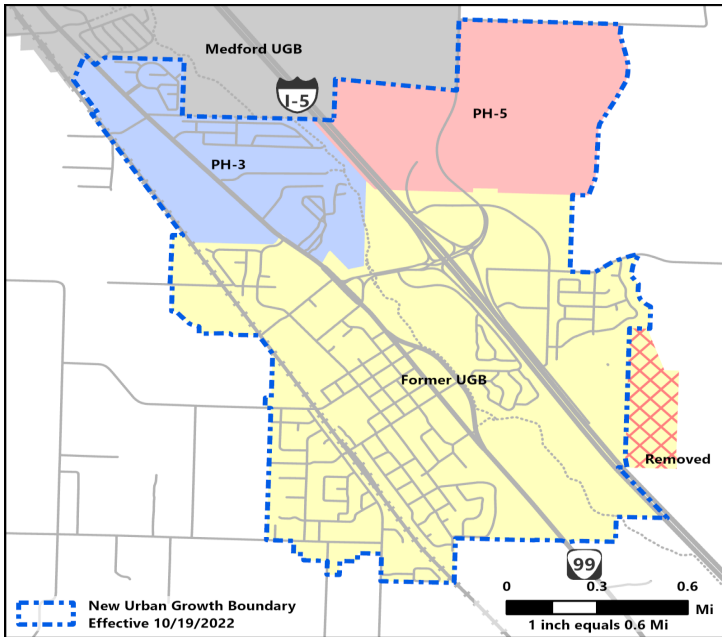


March 2023

# CITY OF PHOENIX Quarterly Newsletter



## Phoenix is Growing

In Oregon, every city has an urban growth boundary (UGB). These UGBs identify the future extent of urban development and the future city limits as cities may only annex lands located within their UGB. The City of Phoenix has been engaged in the work of identifying future growth areas since the early 2000s when the Greater Bear Creek Valley Regional Problem Solving (RPS) process began. The RPS process resulted in the adoption of the Regional Plan which identified urban reserve areas – areas for future UGB expansion – for the participating cities of Eagle Point, Central Point, Medford, Phoenix and Talent.

Because the lack of developable land in Phoenix has for years kept Phoenix from attracting much-needed residential development, the City has been working to expand its UGB since about 2016. The lack of developable land became acutely apparent in the wake of the Almeda Fire after more than 2,500 residential units were lost in Talent, Phoenix and the unincorporated portion of Jackson County just north of Phoenix. So, while we as a community has been working diligently to get fire survivors back in their homes, the City remained steadfast in its efforts to provide addition land for future growth.

The Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development approved Phoenix’s revised UGB in December 2022 to include the urban reserve area known as PH-3 and much of the urban reserve area known as PH-5. PH-3 is the area located north of Phoenix and south of Medford along the Hwy 99 corridor. By including PH-3 in the UGB, Phoenix now has a greater ability to help in the reconstruction and redevelopment of this area that was most heavily impacted by the Almeda Fire. PH-5 is located on the east side of I-5 on both sides of North Phoenix Road, north of Grove Road. Most of this area is designated as the South Valley Employment Center and is intended to provide for large-scale regional employment development. In fact, there are roughly 400 acres of land now available within the UGBs of Medford and Phoenix in the area of North Phoenix Road that can be used for economic development.

*Easter Egg Hunt at Phoenix Elementary School April 8th at 11:00 am*

*Ages 0—11 years old*



## Phoenix Police Department



The Phoenix Police Department would like to remind everyone that April is Distracted Driving Awareness Month, a united nationwide effort to raise awareness about the dangers of distracted driving and eliminate preventable deaths and injuries on our roadways. In conjunction, the Phoenix Police Department has received grant funding from the Oregon Department of Transportation to pay officers over-time to patrol the City of Phoenix to specifically enforce distracted driving infractions.

ORS 811.507 makes it illegal to drive in Oregon while holding or using any electronic device, including cellphones, tablets, GPS or laptops. Hands-free and built-in devices are allowed under the law. The penalty for violating this law is between of \$265.00 and \$2000.00, depending on if and how many times you have been convicted of using an electronic communication device previously.

In April, you will see additional patrol officers on the streets trying to keep our roadways safer. So please, pay attention to your surroundings while driving and stay off your cell phones and other electronic communication devices.

## Phoenix in National Spotlight



On September 8, 2020 the region experienced a catastrophic urban wildfire that would ultimately be the most destructive wildfire in the state's recorded history. The destruction left in the wake of the Almeda Fire impacted every part of Phoenix, including the people, homes, businesses, animals, plants, and the land itself. Much of one of the city's largest parks, Blue Heron Park was destroyed by the fire, including the playground equipment, the community garden, and much of the landscaping and trees around the play structure.

In December, the city submitted a grant to T-Mobile's Hometown Grant program requesting \$50,000 to complete the construction of the new playground area and to provide much needed covered seating areas. On March 16<sup>th</sup>, the city was notified by national T-Mobile representatives that the city was one of 25 cities selected from a group of 400 national applicants to receive a grant.

The City of Phoenix would like to thank T-Mobile for their investment in our community and thank the many volunteers and businesses that supported the reconstruction of the playground area. Thank you, T-Mobile for your \$50,000 grant and your commitment to small city community development.



**CONTACT US**  
**541-535-1955 ext. 305**  
**FINANCE@PHOENIXOREGON.GOV**  
**220 N. Main St.**