

Urban Reserves Open House Summary

This January, Urban Reserves staff hosted a series of open house area meetings to present our preliminary analysis, collect public input, and answer property owners' questions. Postcard invitations were mailed to all property owners whose land is still being considered for Urban Reserves; over 800 property owners. The open houses were also advertised citywide, on the project website, and to neighborhood associations. Participation from the general public was encouraged. The open house locations were intended to be close to the study area to be more convenient for residents. The dates and locations are below:

- January 9, 2020, 6-8 pm, Meadow View School
- January 13, 2020, 6-8 pm, Kennedy Middle School
- January 22, 2020, 6-8 pm, Irving Grange

Each open house followed the same format and used identical materials, so people could attend whichever meeting was most convenient and have the same opportunity to provide input. Each meeting began with a twenty minute presentation by project manager Rebecca Gershow, followed by time for facilitated, group-wide questions. After the large group discussion, attendees reviewed materials and spoke to staff one-on-one, which was when many attendees asked questions about their specific property. Both city and county staff participated.

Meeting Outcomes

In total over 125 people attended the open houses. Attendees filled out comment forms where they provided feedback on the materials and asked any questions they still had. Fifty filled-out comment forms were turned in. Themes in the comment forms were:

- Generally positive about the presentation
- Concern over loss of farmland and the impact on local food systems
- Concerns over wildfire risk, increased traffic with urbanizing these areas
- Comments on loss of habitat, such as wetlands and oak savannah

Staff also recorded all the questions that were asked during the large group Q&A. General themes of those questions were:

- What are the steps between being in Urban Reserves and being brought into the UGB?
- How does land get annexed into the city limits? What land is eligible to annex?
- Does zoning change if land is brought into the UGB?
- What does it mean if land is categorized as 'Protected?' There were clarifying questions about what it meant and whether development would be prohibited on those areas if they were eventually brought into the UGB.
- Do taxes change if properties are brought into Urban Reserves or the UGB?
- What assumptions are being used in the analysis? Does this assume Eugene will continue to grow in the current pattern? How is climate change factored in?

Next Steps

The goal of the open houses was to present and collect feedback on the results of the suitability analysis, where developable land was analyzed to identify the places most suitable for potential urbanization. Staff will continue to collect input this winter, and will revise the results if needed.



An online version of the open house, with the same materials and comment form, is available through [Engage Eugene](https://engage.eugene-or.gov/urbanreserves) (<https://engage.eugene-or.gov/urbanreserves>). Staff have developed a [fact sheet](#) and other materials based on questions received at the open houses. It can be found on the project [web page](#), at www.eugene-or.gov/UrbanReserves.

The next stage in the analysis is to remove high-value farm and forest land to create different Urban Reserves options. These draft Urban Reserves options will be presented for public input before taking them to City Council and the Board of Commissioners in Spring 2020.