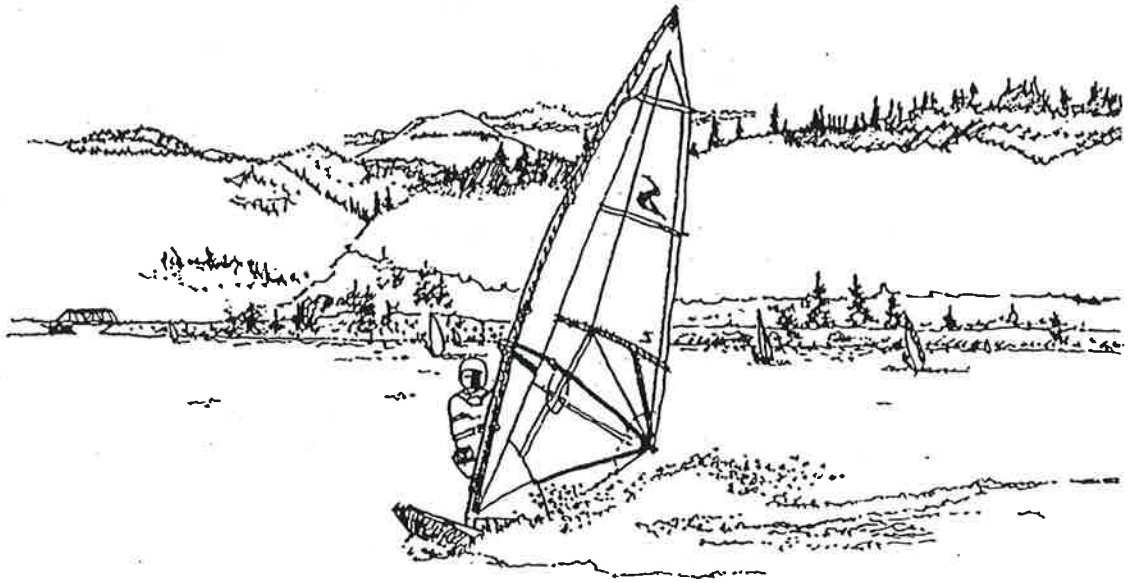


# HOOD RIVER COMMUNITY VISION

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1995 - 2015

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*City of Hood River*

Hood River is a city of unique beauty with fine views and access to the Columbia River and Mount Hood. It is friendly, fun and livable... a small, ethnically diverse community that is a good place to raise a family. Just an hour's drive from the amenities of the Portland metropolitan area, Hood River has its own identity and sense of community. In the words of one citizen, "it is an incredibly comfortable place to live."

*"I like the landscaping... so green and beautiful. Everyone knows everyone and we all get along." Crystal Swyers*

*"I do not think that we should change a thing. The town is just fine the way it is."*  
David Larsen

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**What will Hood River be like through  
the early years of the next century?**

In spring and summer 1995 citizens pondered this question and its implications. Through thoughtful discussion by the Citizens Task Force, a community open house attended by a broad cross-section of interested people, a kids vision project in the schools, written questionnaires and other means of giving and receiving information, the following Community Vision has been developed. It expresses the values and priorities of Hood River citizens now and into the future. (All quotes in this report are from students in Hood River schools.)

*"I'd like to see changes in Hood River but not many...."* Shadow Diessner

*"I like Hood River for its clean water and fresh air and low crime."* Josh Van De Vanter

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Our Vision...Today and into the Future

*Hood River is Attractive, Livable and Viable*

*Our Quality Environment is Preserved and  
Enhanced*

*Our Community Identity is Not Limited by  
Political or Geographical Boundaries*

*The Agricultural Land Base Continues to be  
Significant*

*All Aspects of Community Life are Ethnically  
Integrated*

*A Diversity of Cultural Opportunities is  
Available*

*We Live, Work and Play in a Safe  
Environment*

*Housing is Affordable by All*

*Clean, Light Industry Provides Family-Wage  
Jobs*

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This document focuses on land use policies  
the city should consider to realize this vision.



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*"I do not want the parks turned into gas stations. I want the Columbia River to be cleaned and not polluted!" Sarah Sheppard*

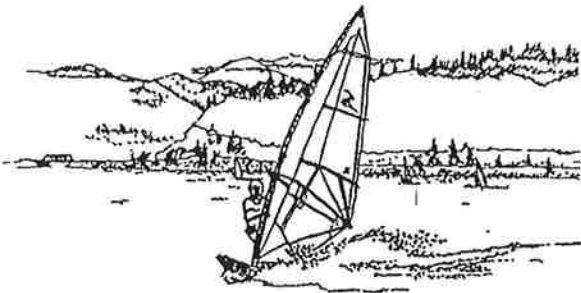
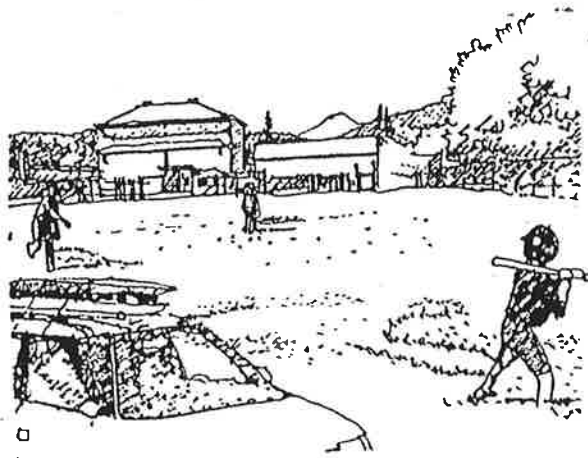
*"I like Hood River because of the historical look and feel and also because it's small.... I want to have more things to do but not a lot of traffic and have it be a big bossy place."*  
Nicole Tinkler

### Hood River is Attractive, Livable and Viable

The features people most appreciate about Hood River are the city's small town atmosphere, scenic beauty, natural environment, friendly people, diversity and good schools.

To keep and enhance these features, the city should:

- ◆ Initiate design review so that proposals for changes to the exterior of historical buildings and downtown in general are compatible.
- ◆ Maintain the urban growth boundary and encourage more intense development within the city.
- ◆ Evaluate current land uses with the goal of possible rezoning in selected areas.
- ◆ Balance policies for visual quality with market realities.



## Our Quality Environment is Preserved and Enhanced

The most important aspects are parks and natural areas, historic features, downtown and the waterfront. Proposed actions:

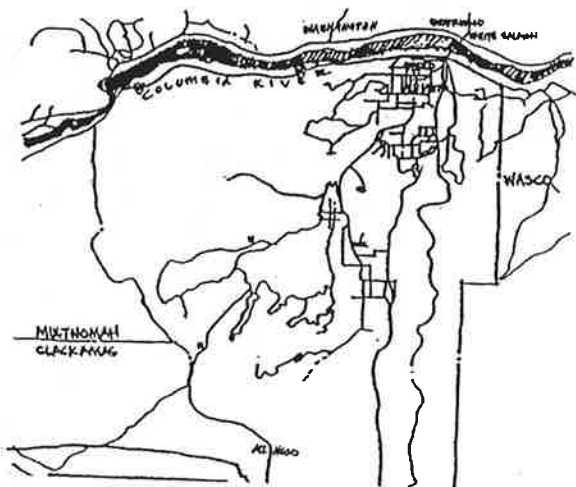
- ◆ Identify current and future park resources and needs.
- ◆ Cooperate with the School District to enhance community use of playgrounds and other facilities.
- ◆ Recognize historic structures with plaques or markers.
- ◆ Develop a biking/hiking/walking trail system.
- ◆ Create and protect view corridors.
- ◆ Limit strip development.

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*"I want more baseball fields for the kids because Hood River is growing and so is baseball." Sam Balth*

*"I want more trees planted and land put aside for endangered animals." Kati Selfridge*

*"I like to go swimming at the marina and at the public pool. I also like bike trails, hiking trails and good places to have picnics." Anna-Grace Johnson-Himes*

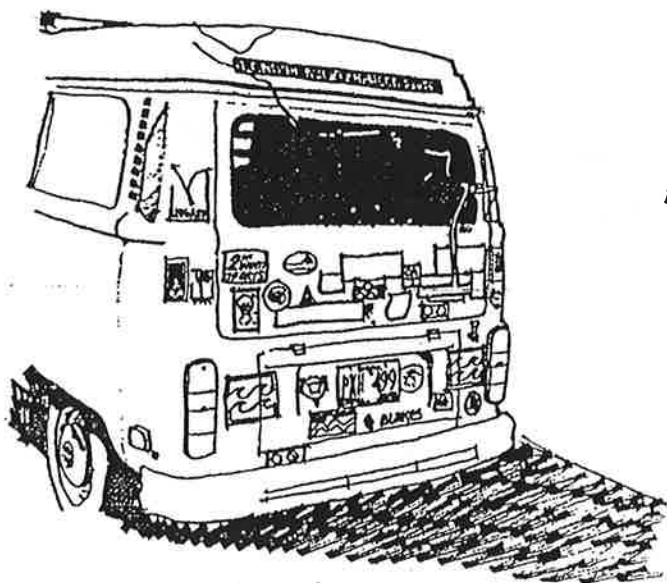


### Our Community Identity is Not Limited by Political or Geographical Boundaries

Most people agree that the Hood River community extends at least throughout the county. Although it is the acknowledged service center for areas in the State of Washington across the Columbia River, identifying with all of Hood River County is the first priority.

- ◆ Local land use policies and practices should recognize Hood River's central role in the county and beyond.

*"I like that there is easy access to the mountain." Jonathan Nuckles*



## The Agricultural Land Base Continues to be Significant

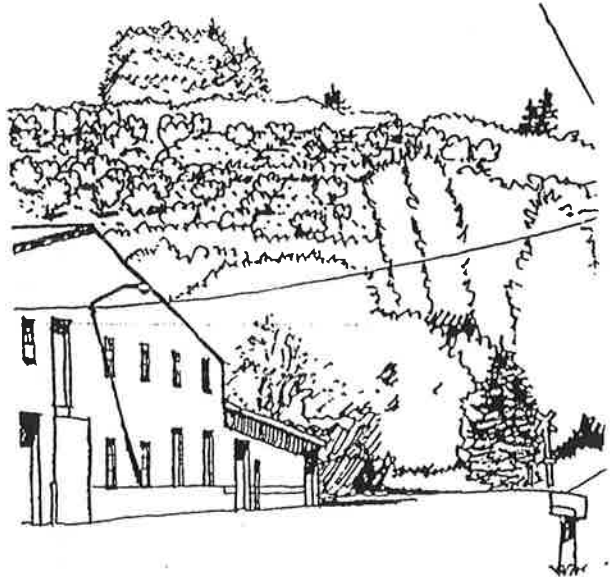
Agricultural land is "open land." This is the only category of land use more important than preserving the agricultural land base.

- ◆ Preserving agricultural lands outside the urban area is important to the city of Hood River.
- ◆ The City Council should consider the impact of land use decisions within the city on agricultural land outside the urban growth boundary.
- ◆ Encouraging more intense development in the city will help preserve farm and forest land beyond the urban growth boundary.

*"If we put factories in place of orchards, Hood River would change in many ways. The air could be polluted along with the water."* Katie Hergenrather



*"I would not like to see parks, forests and hillsides taken away or cut down."* Michael Broschart



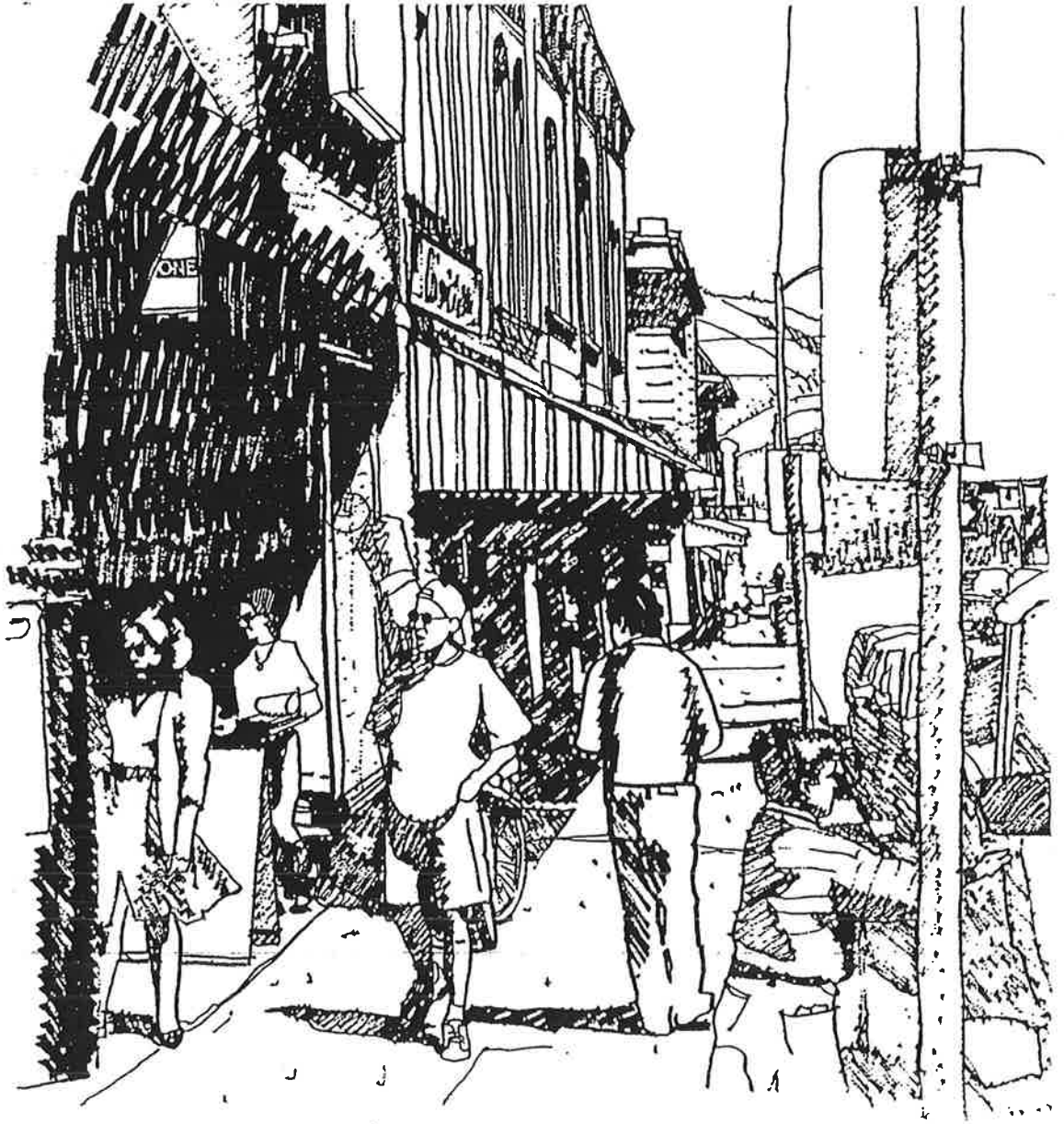


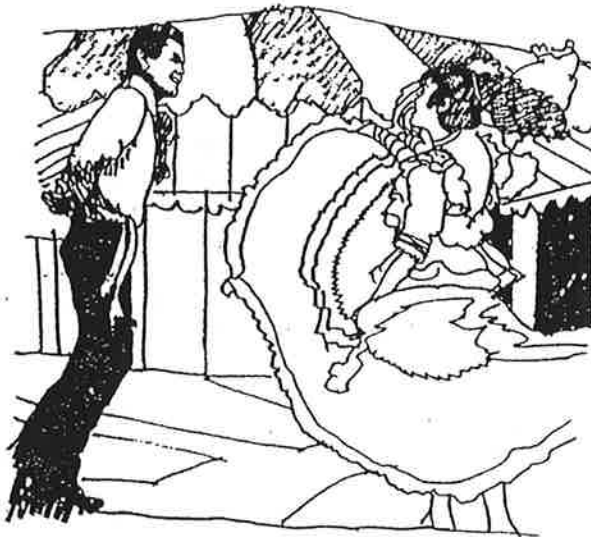
*"I would not like to see racial discrimination or any more crimes and I would like to help the homeless." Tara Olsen*

### All Aspects of Community Life are Ethnically Integrated

While education, communication, openness and acceptance are among the factors that most contribute to Hood River's ethnically integrated community, there are barriers such as lack of communication, understanding and economic differences. The entire community will benefit from policies that:

- ◆ Diversify high density land uses to encourage ethnic integration.
- ◆ Encourage geographical dispersion.
- ◆ Zone land to meet various economic needs.
- ◆ Extend planning commission meetings to locations outside City Hall.





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*"I'd like to see a teen center... that will keep kids busy and out of trouble." Nichole Imperial*

*"We should have a skating rink or dance hall for minors." Jessica Johnson*

### A Diversity of Cultural Opportunities is Available

Libraries, music and theater top the list of favored activities, followed by international fairs and festivals, film and art. It is important that the city:

- ◆ Provide areas for affordable theater and other events.
- ◆ Develop a downtown plaza/town square.
- ◆ Consider a performing arts center on the waterfront.

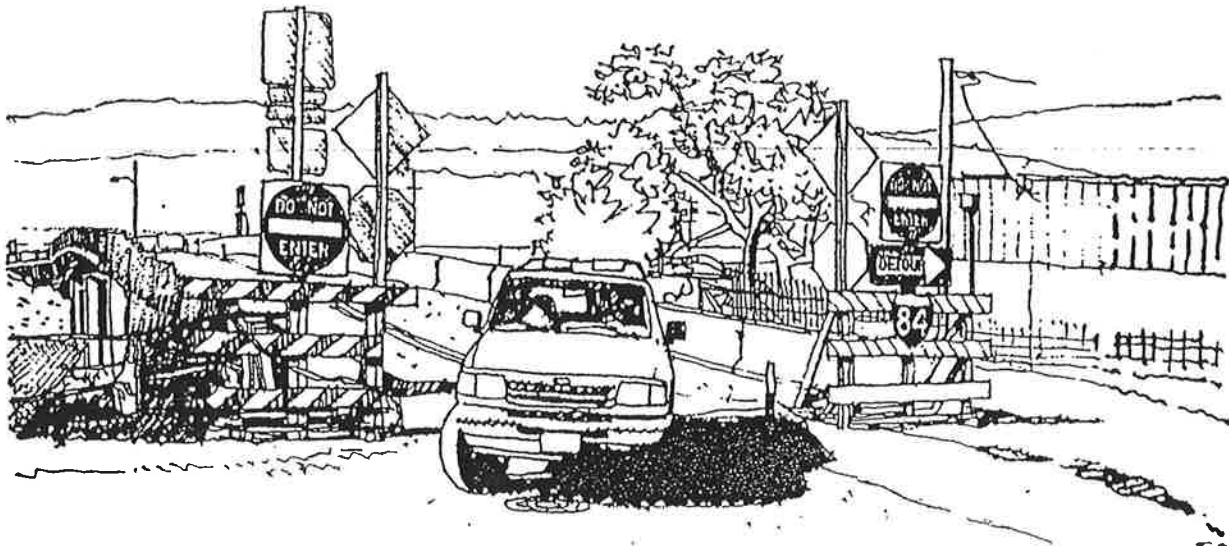
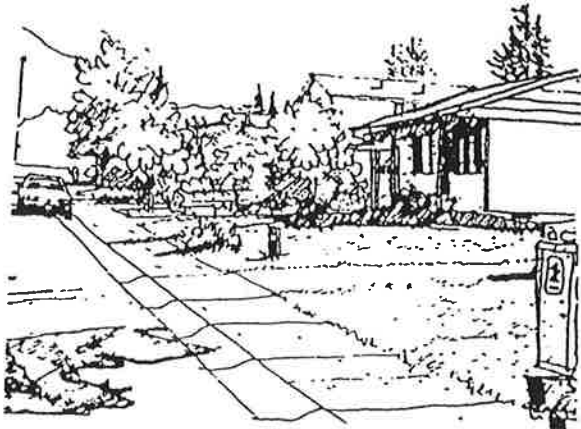
## We Live, Work and Play in a Safe Environment

One way to define a "safe environment" is through infrastructure -- roads, sewers, water and other basic services. Hood River will benefit by:

- ◆ Pedestrian crossings at key intersections.
- ◆ Placing utilities underground where feasible.
- ◆ Studies of how auto accidents can be reduced by street design.

*"I've lived here most of my life and I don't want Hood River to turn into a dump."* Jason Roark

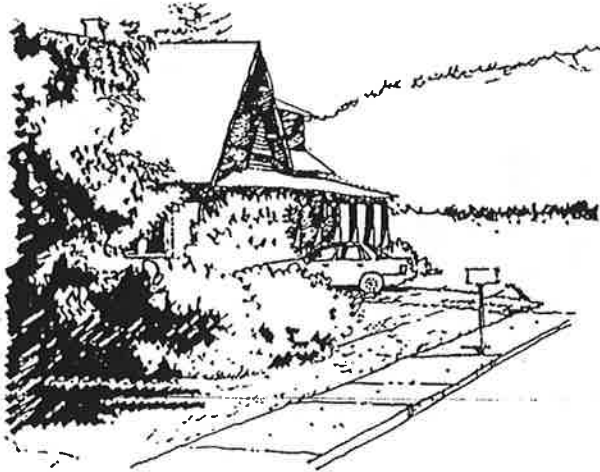
*"People always complain about pollution. Well, why don't we stop it?"* Jackie Lyddon



## Housing is Affordable by All

It is important to encourage ethnically diverse neighborhoods with housing at various price levels. We can do this by:

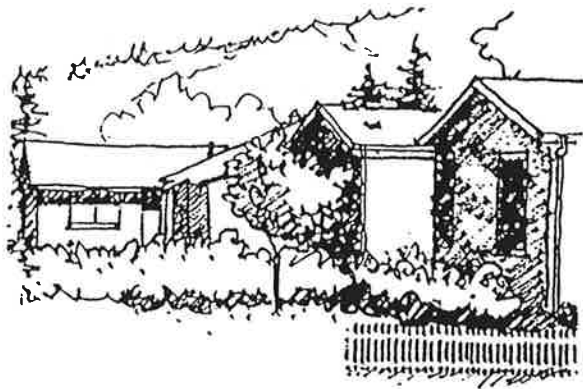
- ◆ Increasing densities in the city core.
- ◆ Working with developers to provide appropriate incentives for low and moderate income homes.



*"No more people with no more homes."*  
Bryan Matthews

*"I would like you to make a plaza."* Maria Jaimes

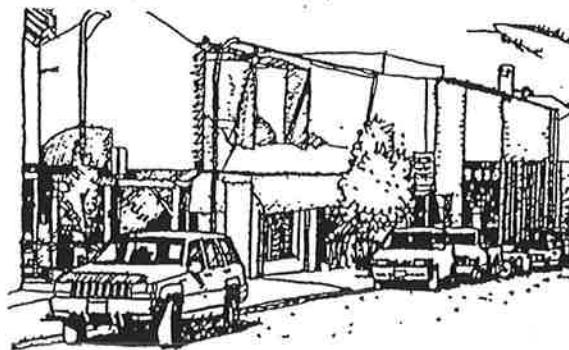
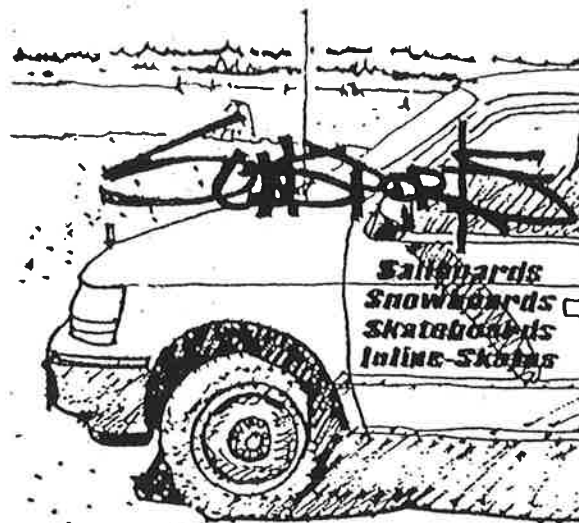
*"I don't want to see people living and working in huge buildings."* Dan Hinrich



## Clean, Light Industry Provides Family-Wage Jobs

Hood River will thrive with many types of industry, including service and tourism. All contribute to the healthy economic diversity of the community. We need policies that:

- ◆ Encourage year-round use of facilities.
- ◆ Promote tourism as well as other business and commercial activities.
- ◆ Provide incentives for family-wage jobs.



*"The only thing they shouldn't develop is the mountain because it's beautiful the way it is."*  
Ryan Smith

*"I would like to see more stores and more places to work and have jobs."* Nora Trejo

## What's Next?

This vision is the first step in an ongoing process that will allow Hood River to meet the challenges of the future with confidence. The path Hood River takes must be a joint effort of the citizens and their civic leaders. The Citizens Task Force will meet periodically to monitor the progress. Residents are strongly encouraged to attend all meetings and to make suggestions directly to the city planning department. Working together, our community can grow and still preserve its uniqueness.

## **Citizens Task Force**

Greg Baker  
Phil Bourquin  
Dan Bubb  
Chuck Bugge  
Ron Cohen  
Sally Donovan  
Irene Fields  
Steve Gates  
Glen Haack  
Jurgen Hess  
Renie Kelly  
Dana Lance  
Linda Maddox  
Tina O'Banion  
Bev Rowland

Bob Palmer, Mayor  
Lynn Guenther, City Manager  
Cindy Walbridge, Planning Director

## **Consultants**

Cogan Owens Cogan  
Lloyd D. Lindley II, ASLA





More information? Call the City Planning  
Department, 387-5217.

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