



## **SISTERS URBAN RENEWAL AGENCY**

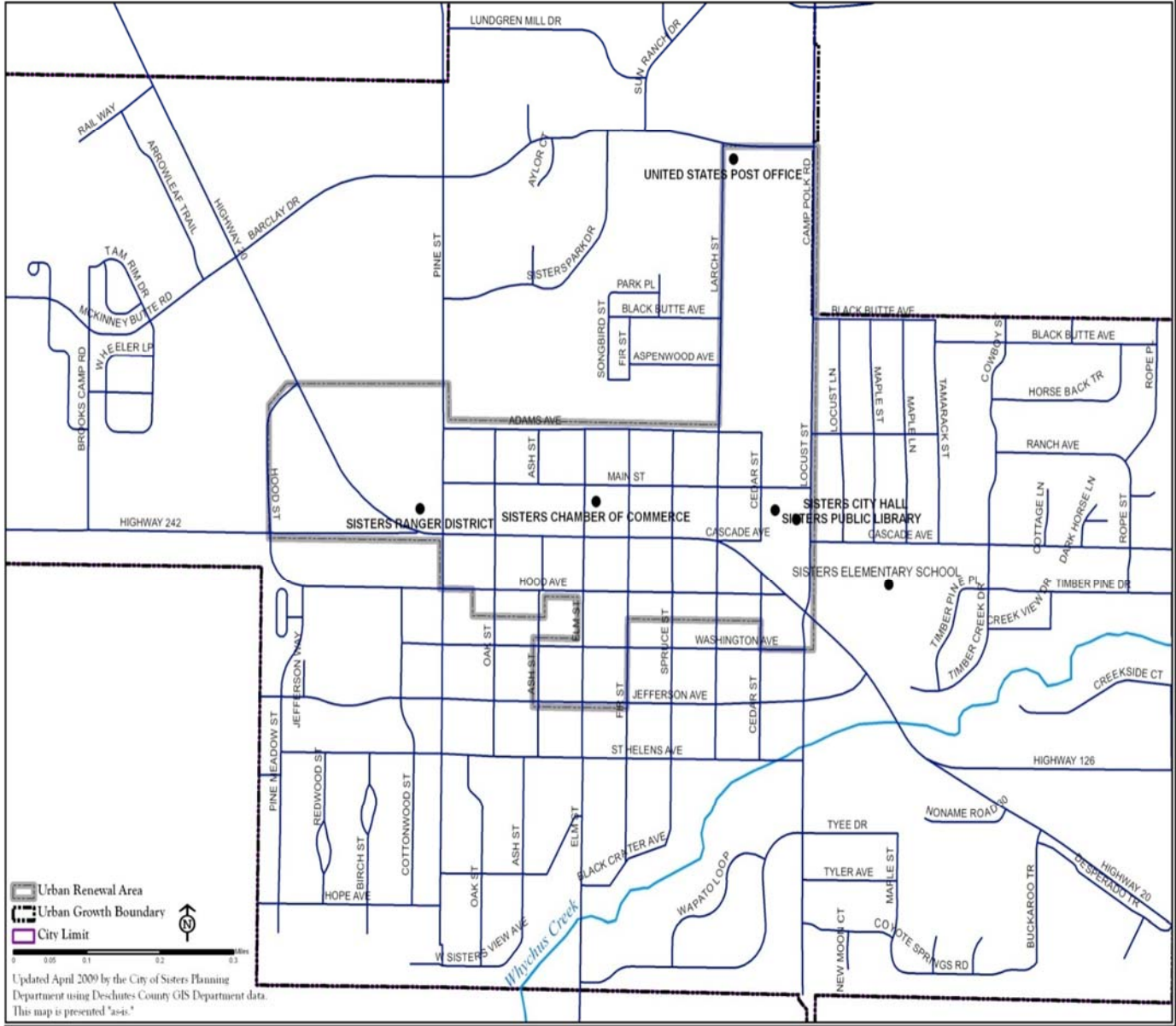
**Annual Report  
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2016**

**This report fulfills the requirements, as prescribed in ORS.457.460, for the filing of an annual report detailing the financial activity of an urban renewal area established in Oregon.**

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# City of Sisters Urban Renewal Area



## Agency History

The Sisters Urban Renewal Agency (URA) was established in 2003 and is a legally separate entity from the City of Sisters. The Sisters City Council serves as the Board of Directors for the URA and is financially accountable for its operations. The URA has one Urban Renewal District covering much of the Sisters' downtown commercial district (the Sisters Downtown Urban Renewal Plan.) In accordance with Oregon budget law, the URA prepares its own budget, and the Board of Directors approves its annual appropriations.

Urban renewal agencies are designed to borrow money and make expenditures for community development and implementation of the urban renewal plan. Increased property tax values that occur with development generate incremental tax revenue, which is used to repay debt and implement the plan.

The Sisters Downtown Urban Renewal Plan is intended to promote the development of downtown as the commercial and cultural center of the Sisters community. The Plan identifies a number of projects to improve sidewalks, streetscape, building and other physical improvements as specified in the plan. It will also assist property owners in the rehabilitation, development or redevelopment of their properties.

### **Assessed Value Information**

When an urban renewal district is first created, the assessed value within the district boundaries is established as the "frozen base". If the urban renewal efforts are successful, the value of the district will grow above the frozen base amount. That increase is called the "incremental" or "excess" value. Overlapping jurisdictions (schools, general governments, bonds) continue to receive property tax revenue on the frozen base while the urban renewal agency receives property tax revenue related to the incremental value. This is called the "division of tax" method of raising revenue in an urban renewal district.

## Downtown Urban Renewal Plan

### ***Strengthen Downtown Sisters' Role as the Heart of the Community***

- Expand the range of commercial services in downtown Sisters.
- Promote the development of civic and cultural facilities.
- Assist in improvement and redevelopment and/or reuse of existing public buildings to expand the range of civic, commercial and residential services.

### ***Improve Vehicular and Pedestrian Circulation Through and Within the Downtown to Accommodate Through Traffic and Downtown Patrons.***

- Provide an alternative (to Cascade Avenue) route for through traffic, especially trucks and recreational vehicles, that relieves downtown congestion.
- Use the alley system downtown for pedestrian and bicycle circulation, as well as to connect existing informal pedestrian ways.

### ***Promote a Mix of Commercial and Residential Uses Oriented to Pedestrians.***

- Develop a year round pedestrian environment that encourages use and patronage of downtown businesses.
- Provide professional and technical expertise to assist property owners in maximizing the benefits of pedestrian circulation.

- Provide on-street and off-street parking locations that make pedestrian circulation safe and convenient.
- Promote development of housing units above commercial space to enhance the range of housing opportunities and create more downtown activity.

***Enhance the Pedestrian Environment of Streets and In Public Parks, A Town Square and Public Gathering Places.***

- Develop a consistent system of streetscape improvements that create a continuous pedestrian environment throughout the downtown.
- Develop a town square, parks and other public gathering spaces that provide pedestrian destinations and accommodate public events.
- Use roadway paving material and design in conjunction with a town square to create a public “living room” in the heart of downtown.

***Promote High Quality Design and Development Compatible with the Sisters Western Frontier Architectural Theme.***

- Make available professional and technical expertise to help property and business owners achieve design objectives.
- Provide financial assistance for rehabilitation, development or redevelopment in order to promote design that incorporates and enhances the Western Frontier Architectural Theme.

***Encourage Intensive Development of Downtown Properties.***

- Provide public parking facilities to reduce the need for private on-site parking.
- Assist in ongoing review of on-site parking requirements. Design streetscape improvements to reduce the need for private on-site pedestrian space.

***Promote Employment Uses to Generate Year-Round Jobs.***

- Work with state, regional and county economic development staff to attract appropriate light manufacturing uses that are commercial in nature to downtown Sisters.
- Assist in ongoing review of land use regulations to encourage employment uses appropriate for downtown Sisters.

## Projects Completed in the Last Fiscal Year

- Processed two Trash Enclosure Grants
- Processed eight Small Business Improvement Grants
- Completed Village Green Parking Project
- Complete Village Green Restroom Project
- Completed Chamber Building ADA and Landscaping

## Active Projects

### Small Projects Improvement Grant Program

- Continue to process outstanding Small Business Improvements Grants

### Clemens Park Restroom

The restroom is being funded by the City of Sisters to accommodate the facility needs of families while visiting Clemens Park.

## Financial Reporting

An annual audit is conducted each year. In addition, pursuant to ORS 457.460, a detailed accounting of the financial activity specifically related to the urban renewal area is required to be reported on an annual basis. The following sections respond to the requirements of this statute.

### Tax Revenue Received

*ORS 457.460 (a)*

For FY 2015/2016, the Deschutes County Assessor levied \$157,139 for Sisters URA. At year's end, the amount received within the fiscal year (from current year tax revenue) was \$149,545. Additional revenue was received from past due taxes not collected in prior years, and interest earnings.

### Expenditures

*ORS 457.460 (b)*

Year-end expenditures for FY 2015/16 are shown in Table 1 (Capital Projects Fund) and Table 2 (Debt Service Fund).

**Table 1. Capital Projects Fund – FY15/16 Expenditures**

Budget Categories	Expenditures
Materials and Services	4,352
Capital Outlay	354,664
<b>Total Capital Projects Fund Expenditures</b>	<b>359,016</b>

**Table 2. Debt Service Fund – FY15/16 Expenditures**

<b>Budget Categories</b>	<b>Expenditures</b>
Principle	190,939
Interest	36,020
<b>Total Debt Service Fund Expenditures</b>	<b>226,959</b>

**Estimated Revenues for Current Fiscal Year (FY15/16)***ORS 457.460 (c)*

The estimated tax revenues budgeted for FY 2015/16 are \$125,000, of which \$2,000 is anticipated to come from past due taxes levied in prior years. An additional \$2,000 in interest earnings is also estimated.

**Adopted Budget for Current Fiscal Year (FY15/16)***ORS 457.460 (d)*

The adopted budget for FY15/16 estimates tax revenue and other financial resources to be received, as well as expenditures planned for projects, administration, and repayment of debt, as shown in the Capital Projects Fund (Table 3) and the Debt Service Fund (Table 4) below:

**Table 3. Capital Projects Fund – FY15/16 Adopted Budget**

<b>Budget Categories</b>	<b>Budget</b>
<b>Revenue</b>	
Beginning Fund Balance	383,726
Revenue - Loan Proceeds and Interest	111,875
<b>Total Resources</b>	<b>495,601</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>	
Operating Contingencies	111,151
Materials and Services	4,200
Capital Outlay	380,250
<b>Total Requirements</b>	<b>495,601</b>

**Table 4. Debt Service Fund – FY15/16 Adopted Budget**

Budget Categories	Budget
<b>Revenue</b>	
Beginning Fund Balance	255,187
Revenue - Taxes and Interest	127,000
<b>Total Resources</b>	<b>382,187</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>	
Reserve for Future Expenditures	157,373
Debt Service	224,814
<b>Total Requirements</b>	<b>382,187</b>

**Impact on Taxing Districts**

ORS 457.460 (e)

Urban renewal agencies do not create an additional tax. Instead, during the agency's lifespan, overlapping taxing districts "forego" a percent of their permanent rate. Once the urban renewal area is terminated, the taxing jurisdictions receive their full permanent rate. For the majority of taxing districts this impact is less than 1% of their permanent rate levy. The greatest impact is on the City of Sisters, at 3.16% of its permanent rate.

An analysis of the tax collection impact on the permanent rate of other tax districts is as follows:

**Table 5. Impact on Taxing Districts FY15/16**

Taxing District	FY 15/16 Forgone Revenue	FY 15/16 Permanent Rate Levy	% of Permanent Rate Levy
Deschutes County	13,840	26,621,431	0.05%
Fairgrounds Bond	1,380	2,634,080	0.05%
County Library	5,947	11,376,512	0.05%
Countywide Law Enforcement	11,044	21,097,417	0.05%
County Extension/4H	212	463,899	0.05%
9-1-1	1,734	3,347,270	0.05%
City of Sisters	28,635	907,064	3.16%
Sisters/Camp Sherman Fire District	29,218	2,152,341	1.36%
Sisters Park & Recreation District	2,372	268,631	0.88%
School District #6	44,457	7,600,635	0.58%
School #6 Bond 2001	10,548	1,803,149	0.58%
High Desert ESD	1,026	1,969,097	0.05%
C.O.C.C.	6,725	12,664,174	0.05%
<b>Total</b>	<b>157,139</b>	<b>92,905,699</b>	<b>0.17%</b>

Source: Deschutes County 2015-16 Summary of Assessment and Tax Roll