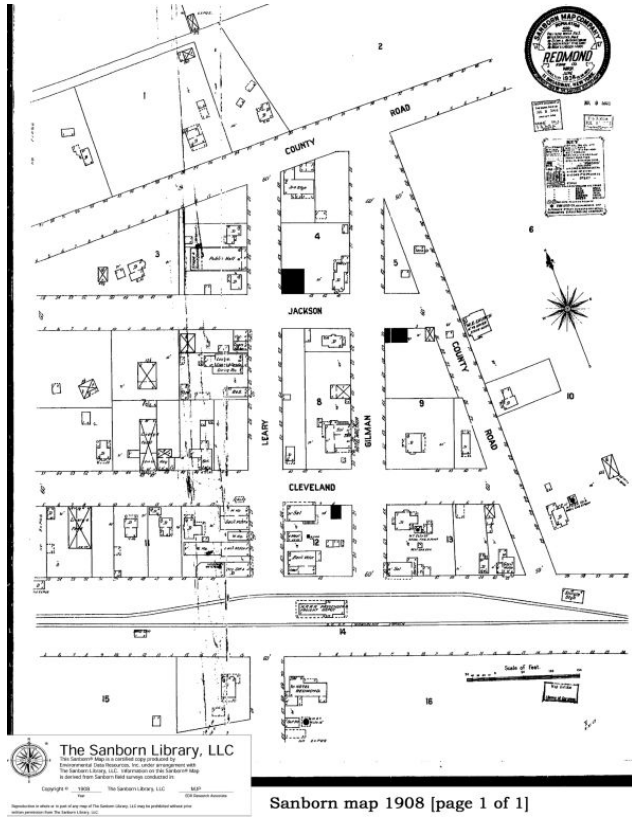


Old Town Historic Core Draft Vision



The nature of Old Town is its uniqueness, small lots, and street front variety as Redmond’s historic core. Bounded by Bear Creek Parkway on the south, 162nd Avenue NE on the west, NE 80th Street on the north and 164th Avenue NE on the east, the historic core was the starting point for Redmond’s emergence from a settlement into a town and to today’s vibrant city. This significance calls for celebration, recognition, restoration and preservation.

Dedicated City programs and actions such as the Heritage Grant Program and Economic Development help support and maintain community vitality. Businesses thrive and reinvest in Old Town. The public realm such as along Leary Way has been refurbished and is maintained in partnership with community stewardship. Redmond’s Zoning Code guides

preservation and rehabilitation so that property owners and tenants easily address and adapt designs consistent with Old Town’s historic character. Detailed design guidelines also help new and renovated structures support this character.

As Downtown continues to develop as one of Redmond’s urban centers, Old Town’s historic core provides a starting point and foundational fabric for places, activities and amenities such as the Cleveland Streetscape, Downtown Park, the Central Connector and the farmers’ market.

Though aspects of Old Town’s historic core have been redeveloped, placemaking and wayfinding continues to tell Redmond’s historic stories. Artistic and informational icons provide storytelling tools for the community to connect with and learn about current and previous historic places and people. Special events celebrate the long-standing, preserved Old Town structures and serve as reminders of the people and structures of Redmond’s past. Public and private projects incorporate interpretive opportunities such as a historic kiosk at the future East Link light rail Downtown Redmond station.

Strategies

Design

Establish minimum requirements for preservation as well as allowing expansion to rear and height

Provide drawings to demonstrate the future “historic” vision to owners

Maintain current mass and form; match the number of stories to maintain historic character

Storefronts – use a lite level of standards; allow new storefront appearance with aspects that maintain compatibility with older, neighboring properties

Address Old Town sign code

Reassess the change in zoning at the back half of Leary (west) – consider this transition area to the new Downtown Park

164th is a gateway to Woodinville

Green connection = Gilman + 80th

To maintain character & single-story properties, consider downzoning and compensation for property owners

Encourage façade improvements along Leary Way

Provide a community process/discussion for Gilman Street

Gilman provides for 6-stories – consider relationship to the historic core

Partner with the Hotel Café/Walther Hotel

Remove metal siding and rehabilitate historic character

Invest

Plan for filling in parking lots

Support/incentivize uses that support the function that people desire: bakery, café, uses appropriate to two-stories

Attachment B – Draft Vision and Strategies for Old Town’s Historic Core

Consider E/W mid-block, alleyway pedestrian connection from Downtown Park to Gilman;
include a plaza/fountain/community gathering amenity

Celebrate

Plan for placemaking, wayfinding and interpretive opportunities

Enhance the Strategic Art Master Plan specific to Old Town’s historic core

Develop and implement the telling Old Town’s story such as through 4Culture’s Site Specific grant program

Subareas and Neighborhood Notes

Gilman

Incorporate old and new

Central Connector

Do not recreate history (no false sense)

Cleveland

Blend and transition

Do not establish repetition

Not seeing a historic character in new development

Leary

Character is not obvious today

Cultural resources are no longer present

Has (re-)developed over different time periods