



# **SISTERS COUNTRY HORIZONS DRAFT VISION & TOP STRATEGIES**

**Vision Based on Community Input to Date  
Top Strategies Validated by Online Community Survey II**

**Sisters Country Horizons – Our Community Vision  
City of Sisters, Oregon  
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**NXT Consulting Group**  
envision.plan.achieve.



## **OUR VISION FOR SISTERS COUNTRY**

*SISTERS COUNTRY proudly stands at a pivotal moment in its history – with a past we choose to honor, a present we seek to improve, and a future we aspire to create that is uniquely and positively our own. We honor and strive to maintain our spectacular natural environment, our small town feel, the experience of caring and belonging, our outstanding schools, and our Western identity. We actively seek to improve our quality of life, economic opportunity and affordability, and the community facilities, programs and services that enrich and sustain our lives. We aspire to create a prosperous economy rooted in arts, craft, recreation and innovation, a livable city that remains welcoming even as it grows, resilient people better prepared for a changing world, and a connected community that works together for the common good. OUR VISION is to seize this moment, choose our preferred future, and create an enduring legacy for generations to come.*

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## VISION FOCUS AREAS



## STRATEGIES FOR A PROSPEROUS SISTERS

**This focus area is about creating a Sisters Country that is more prosperous for all its residents. Here are the top five strategies as identified by the community in the Online Community Survey II.**

- 1. Oregon's Artisanal Capital.** Develop and promote Sisters Country as the "Artisanal Capital of Oregon", building on its strategic location and spectacular environment, expanding the artisanal economy including visual artists, trades and crafts people, musicians, performance artists, writers, brewers, distillers, and farm-to-table chefs.
- 2. Sisters Makers District.** Develop and promote a Sisters "Makers District" in Sisters, where metal crafts, woven crafts, pottery, and arts studios mix with restaurants, coffee houses and craft brew pubs, creating a pedestrian-friendly zone that compliments and expands existing retail on Cascade and Hood avenues.
- 3. Four-Season Tourist Destination.** Strategically develop Sisters Country's year-round tourism and destination economy, increasing the number of shoulder season and winter events and attractions, such as performances, festivals, and outdoors sports tournaments.
- 4. Comprehensive Broadband & Internet.** Ensure fast, comprehensive, high-quality broadband and Internet access for all of Sisters Country, identifying service gaps and substandard service areas and working with public and private sector interests to address them.
- 5. Forest Service Property Development.** Develop a masterplan for a signature development on the U.S. Forest Service property that is compatible with the community's character and identity, combining mixed-used commercial, residential and recreational facilities that anchor and define the community, create new jobs, and provide housing options.

**Here are the other Strategies for a Prosperous Sisters in order of their popularity. For their complete texts, see the Online Community Survey II report under "Learn More" at [www.sistershorizons.org](http://www.sistershorizons.org).**

6. Outdoor Recreational Mecca
7. Vocational Education & Workforce Development
8. Entrepreneurial Infrastructure
9. Thriving Agricultural Economy
10. Sisters Country Agritourism
11. Arts & Crafts Retreat Center
12. Sisters Compatible Light Industrial
13. Home-Based Businesses

## STRATEGIES FOR A LIVABLE SISTERS

**This focus area is about creating a Sisters Country that is more livable for all its residents. Here are the top five strategies as identified by the community in the Online Community Survey II.**

- 1. Walkable Downtown.** Continue to expand pedestrian-friendly amenities in Downtown Sisters, encouraging residents and visitors to get out of their cars and walk. Encourage and support evening pedestrian activity in Downtown Sisters.
- 2. Affordable Housing.** Increase the availability of affordable housing in Sisters Country, including a comprehensive review of the Sisters Housing Plan (2010), promotion of a diverse mix of housing types, and support for private and volunteer programs that address the issue of housing affordability.
- 3. Integrated Transportation System.** Implement the updated Sisters Transportation System Plan addressing changes in local/regional growth and new State transportation policies. Determine a preferred alternative to address congestion on Highway 20 in Downtown, exploring alternate routes and roadway designs, traffic management strategies, bicycle and pedestrian options, signage, and centralize public parking.
- 4. Expanded Trail System.** Support Sisters Trails Alliance and the U.S. Forest Service in expanding and integrating bicycle and hiking trails throughout Sisters Country and beyond, connecting unincorporated rural communities with Downtown, linking Sisters to Redmond and Bend, and facilitating appropriate access to recreational areas.
- 5. Parks, Recreation & Greenspace.** Identify potential new parks, greenspaces and recreation sites and facilities in Sisters Country to meet the needs of a growing resident population and create new public amenities and visitor attractions. Recognize and honor the City of Sisters' status as a Tree City.

**Here are the other Strategies for a Livable Sisters in order of their popularity. For their complete texts, see the Online Community Survey II report under "Learn More" at [www.sistershorizons.org](http://www.sistershorizons.org).**

6. Planning For Future Growth
7. View Corridors & Dark Skies
8. Compatible Employment Sites
9. Whychus Creek Corridor
10. Arts Facilities & Amenities
11. Sisters Country Livability Forum
12. Improved Regional Public Transit
13. Bike Sharing Program

## STRATEGIES FOR A RESILIENT SISTERS

**This focus area is about creating a Sisters Country that is more resilient for all its residents. Here are the top five strategies as identified by the community in the Online Community Survey II.**

**1. Urgent Care Facility.** Aggressively pursue establishment of a comprehensive facility in Sisters to provide walk-in urgent care and related ambulatory care and medical services for a rapidly growing population, as well as the increasing numbers of visitors and tourists.

**2. Access to Healthy Outdoor Activities (TIE).** Create year-round opportunities for exercise and healthy outdoor activities accessible to both residents of and visitors to Sisters Country, promoting greater community wellness and psychological well being.

**2. Age-Friendly Community (TIE).** Support the increased awareness of an "age-friendly" community in Sisters Country, coordinating key organizations in sharing resources, funding and advocacy including issues of relevance to all ages and abilities.

**4. Fire/Drought Resistant Building & Development Codes.** Review and update City of Sisters and Deschutes County building and development codes to improve and enhance the fire and drought resistance of homes, communities and landscapes in Sisters Country.

**5. Disaster Preparedness & Response.** Continue to promote enhanced coordination of disaster preparedness and response efforts in Sisters Country with the statewide network. Improve and enhance free disaster preparedness and socioeconomic resilience training and education programs, working through key agencies including the City, Schools, Parks, Fire District, County Sheriff, ARC, Chamber of Commerce, and local/regional businesses.

**Here are the other Strategies for a Resilient Sisters in order of their popularity. For their complete texts, see the Online Community Survey II report under "Learn More" at [www.sistershorizons.org](http://www.sistershorizons.org).**

6. Public Safety Planning & Coordination
7. Communications Connectivity
8. Pedestrian Safety for Residents, Visitors & Children
9. Low-Income Advocacy
10. Emergency Response Volunteer Programs
11. Enhanced After-School Programming
12. Service Providers Quality & Capacity
13. Emergency & Homeless Housing
14. Sisters Country Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan

## STRATEGIES FOR A CONNECTED SISTERS

**This focus area is about creating a Sisters Country that is more connected, making all its residents feel welcome and involved. Here are the top five strategies as identified by the community in the Online Community Survey II.**

**1. Small-Town Atmosphere.** Promote the small-town atmosphere and friendly vibe of Sisters Country as the city and region grow, increasing outreach and opportunities for face-to-face contacts, neighbor-to-neighbor cooperation, and visitors-to-locals connections and commerce.

**2. Educational Innovation in Schools.** Support the innovative curriculum, unique programming, community-based initiatives, and year-round use of existing facilities of Sisters School District, bolstering the district as the "hub of the community" and connecting its students to the community and beyond.

**3. Multi-Purpose Community Center.** Plan, finance and develop a multi-purpose community center in Sisters, featuring year-round programming and opportunities for community members of all ages and abilities to gather and connect, take part in healthy recreation and exercise, and participate in classes, arts, lectures, and community events.

**4. Diversity & Inclusion.** Bring Sisters Country's less frequently heard voices into a more diverse, welcoming and inclusive community conversation, fostering greater tolerance in the community helping newcomers as well as long-time residents to feel valued and supported.

**5. School Enrollments.** Support Sisters School District in its efforts to increase school enrollments, keeping local students in the District and serving Sisters Country families and the wider community.

**Here are the other Strategies for a Connected Sisters in order of their popularity. For their complete texts, see the Online Community Survey II report under "Learn More" at [www.sistershorizons.org](http://www.sistershorizons.org).**

6. Young Adult Participation in Public Affairs
7. New Leadership Training & Development
8. Opportunities for Millennials & iGens
9. Managing Conflict in the Public Realm
10. Vision Plan Implementation
11. Sisters Country Volunteer Corps
12. Discovery Center & Museum
13. Official 'Welcoming City'
14. Regional Communications Hub