

Salem Historic and Cultural Protection Zone

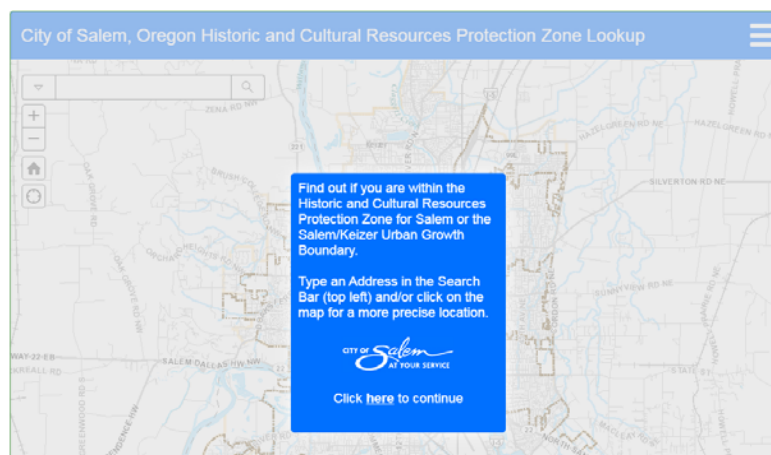
Frequently Asked Questions

What is Salem's Archaeological Compliance Program?

Archaeological resources below the surface of our buildings and urban environment are often the only source of knowledge about our city's prehistory and largely undocumented history and lives of our historically marginalized populations, immigrants and the poor. The purpose of the City of Salem's Archaeological compliance program is to assist both public and private property owners with the management of archaeological resources on their property by establishing processes to help these owners identify whether or not they have a high probability of encountering archaeological resources during development. If so, we work to assist with project planning by identifying where these resources are, to help avoid encountering these resources during construction. Further, if impacting these resources cannot be avoided, we then work with property owners and developers to ensure they are in compliance with applicable state and federal laws to protect archaeological resources by assessing their significance and assisting owners and developers with options to mitigate potential damage development may do to these resources.

How do I know if I might have Archaeological Resources on my property?

The City of Salem has worked with the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office and interested Tribes to identify areas where there is a high probability of encountering archaeological resources and have created a map known as the City of Salem **Historic and Cultural Protection Zone Map**. This map can be accessed: <https://www.cityofsalem.net/Pages/protecting-salem-historic-and-cultural-resources.aspx>



While the City of Salem has over 250 known archaeological sites within its boundaries, if your property is within this zone, it does not necessarily mean that there is a significant known archaeological site on your property. The City Archaeologist will be able to assist you with identifying what resources are on your site and determining next steps if you are planning on redeveloping your property

How will Archaeological Compliance impact my Project Budget and Construction Schedule?

There are many levels of archaeological compliance which range from an archaeologist being present prior to work beginning to complete archaeological testing and excavation and remaining on site for all ground disturbing activities; to having one available on call in the event of an inadvertent discovery. The level of archaeological compliance required will depend upon the nature of the project and the site, the source of funding and type of property ownership, the significance of the resource and the potential of the construction project to impact this resource. It is important to know that if you are utilizing public funds or if the property is owned by a public agency, then additional archaeological compliance may be required which could include archaeological testing, excavation/resource recovery and monitoring. If you discover that you have a significant archaeological site on your property, development of an archaeological compliance plan with the assistance of a qualified archaeologist based upon archival research and initial field survey and testing can provide a good foundation which will assist in managing potential costs and impacts to the budget and schedule. Like with all contracting work, we encourage you to seek multiple bids from professional archaeologists.

At a minimum, if your property is within Salem's Historic and Cultural Protection Zone, you will be required to have an Inadvertent Discovery Plan (IDP) in place during all ground disturbing activity. This IDP provides instructions to your contractors regarding what to do should any archaeological resources be inadvertently discovered during construction.

If archaeological deposits or features are present or discovered on your site and the deposits are diagnostic or significant, consultation with the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and any interested Tribes will be needed to discuss how to avoid the resource during construction or treat the deposit or feature. SHPO may require that an archaeological permit be obtained. Once a treatment plan has been agreed upon, the project can move forward.

The City of Salem offers assistance with **Historic and Cultural Compliance Coordination** through the Historic Preservation Program within the Community Development Department. Please contact Kimberli Fitzgerald, Salem's Historic Preservation Program Manager and City Archaeologist at kfitzgerald@cityofsalem.net or 503 540-2397