

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

HOW CAN I FIND OUT IF A SURVEY EXISTS FOR MY PROPERTY?

The Multnomah County Surveyor's Office has a research website called [SAIL](#) (Survey and Assessor Image Locator), where you can research for surveys, plats, assessor maps and other records. If you need assistance navigating our site, or if you are having problems, or if you find something out of place, please call (503) 988-3600. You can also come into our office and our staff will assist you in your research.

WILL THE COUNTY SURVEY MY PROPERTY FOR ME?

The County does not perform survey work on private property. If you want your property surveyed, you must hire a private land surveyor. The yellow pages of the phone book have a listing under "Surveyors-land." You can also visit SAIL and find out if there has been a private land surveyors working in the area. The County Surveyor's Office does not make recommendations.

WHO CAN LEGALLY PERFORM A LAND SURVEY?

In the State of Oregon only a Professional Land Surveyor (PLS) can legally assume the responsibility for a land survey. The Professional Land Surveyor is an individual whose highly specialized background, training and skills have been rigorously examined, and who has been licensed by the State of Oregon to practice land surveying.

HOW DO I LOCATE A LAND SURVEY PROFESSIONAL?

Most survey work is acquired through the personal recommendations of satisfied clients, or through attorneys, real estate companies, and title companies who frequently handle real estate transactions. If it is difficult to obtain a recommendation, probably the most direct way would be to check the listings under "Surveyors - Land" in the classified section of the telephone directory. According to Oregon law, only licensed practitioners can advertise themselves as Land Surveyors. While the County Surveyor's Office cannot make recommendations, they may be able to provide you with the names of surveyors who have worked in your specific area in the past. Surveyors should be able to provide you with references for their previous work.

WHAT INFORMATION SHOULD I FURNISH THE SURVEYOR?

Furnish the Land Surveyor with an explanation of why the survey is desired (if requested, he/she will maintain confidentiality). With the client's purpose in mind, the Professional Land Surveyor can work more efficiently and thus reduce costs. If you have a deed or mortgage description, aerial photograph of the land, or an abstract, give a copy to the Land Surveyor. In addition, if you have knowledge of a stone, wooden stake, iron rod or pipe, etc. which was reported to you as a property corner, pass that information along to the Land Surveyor. He/she will make the professional judgment as to which evidence should be used.

WHAT WILL THE LAND SURVEYOR FURNISH ME?

The Land Surveyor's final product will vary with each survey (depending upon the reason for the survey), but generally you will be furnished with a copy of a signed and stamped plat or map showing what the Land Surveyor has done, showing the corners monumented or otherwise identified. A narrative on the map will describe why and how the survey was performed. Since 1947, Oregon law has required that all surveys performed by licensed surveyors (in which a property corner is set) be filed with the County Surveyor. Your survey should be on file and copies available to the public if it was performed after 1947.

HOW DO I FIND OUT WHY A SURVEY CREW IS WORKING IN MY NEIGHBORHOOD OR ON MY LAND?

If possible, contact the crew and ask them what they are doing and who they are working for. You may have to get their company phone number and call their supervisor for more information. You can also try to get a company name off of the vehicle they are driving. New survey monuments are required to be marked with caps with the surveyor's registration number or company/business name on them. If you find such a monument, you can call the Oregon State Board of Examiners for Engineers and Surveyors at 503-362-2666, and they can provide you with information on how to contact the surveyor or the company. Your neighbors could be another source of information.

The County Surveyor's Office crews use clearly marked trucks. You can get information regarding a County survey crew by calling **503-988-5573** or **503-988-5050 ext 28169**.

Any Questions or comments should be directed to: jim.s.clayton@multco.us