

CITY MANAGER

CANNON BEACH *Oregon*



Why Apply?



Oregon's premier coastal community is seeking its next City Manager to lead a dedicated, high-performing team. Named one of the Most Beautiful Towns in America by Condé Nast Traveler, Cannon Beach boasts unsurpassed natural beauty and a welcoming village atmosphere. The current City Manager retired after 8 years in the role, and the next manager will enjoy an enviable financial position, a new police station and city hall, and a staff that embraces customer service at the highest level.



Welcome to CANNON BEACH

Located on Oregon's North Coast about 80 miles west of Portland, Cannon Beach is a close-knit community of roughly 1,500 residents and one of the Pacific Northwest's most popular coastal destinations. Stretching about four miles along a wide sandy beach, the city welcomes more than 1.5 million visitors annually who come for its dramatic shoreline, walkable village atmosphere, and easy access to some of the most scenic places on the Oregon Coast. National Geographic named Cannon Beach one of the World's 100 Most Beautiful Places in 2013 and one of the 21 Best Beaches in the World in 2017.

A coastal resort village for more than 70 years, Cannon Beach has retained its charm and friendly, small-town atmosphere. Three distinct commercial areas—Downtown, Midtown, and Tolovana Park—add variety, while the walkable downtown is lined with locally owned restaurants, brewpubs, boutiques, and bookstores. Home to more than 15 galleries, Cannon Beach has developed a nationally recognized arts community that includes public art, live glassblowing, the Coaster Theatre Playhouse, and several festivals.

Cannon Beach is best known for Haystack Rock, a basalt sea stack rising 235 feet above the beach. At low tide, its base is surrounded by tide pools, while the rock provides important nesting habitat for seabirds, including tufted puffins. The City's Haystack Rock Awareness Program places seasonal interpreters on the beach to help visitors explore the protected Marine Garden and wildlife refuge responsibly. Nearby Ecola and Oswald West state parks offer secluded beaches and miles of trails through old-growth forests, putting some of the region's best outdoor recreation just minutes from town.

Residents care deeply about their city, with an ethos of volunteerism, environmental stewardship, and active participation in local government. The community gathers for annual traditions like the Stormy Weather Arts Festival, Haystack Holidays, and the Sandcastle Contest—which began in 1964 to encourage visitors to return after a damaging tsunami. It is now Oregon's oldest sandcastle competition and Cannon Beach's signature celebration.



THE CITY OF CANNON BEACH

Incorporated in 1957, the City of Cannon Beach serves approximately 1,500 residents across 1.54 square miles in Clatsop County, while welcoming more than 1.5 million visitors each year.

The City operates under a Council-Manager form of government, with a City Council composed of the Mayor and four Council Members, all elected at large to four-year terms and limited to eight years of continuous service. The City Manager is appointed by and reports to the City Council.

The City has a 2026 total budget of approximately \$79.5 million and a workforce of 47 regular staff. Departments include Executive, Community Development, Emergency Management, Finance, IT, Police, and Public Works.

The City also operates the Farmers Market and Haystack Rock Awareness Program. Fire protection and emergency medical services are provided by the Cannon Beach Rural Fire Protection District. City Hall recently moved into a new facility with 9,865 square feet of office space after more than 50 years in its former location.

The City's work is shaped by the realities of being a small municipality and a world-class destination. With more than 40 hotels, motels, and resorts and more than 30 eateries, tourism is central to Cannon Beach's local economy and the City's financial structure.





THE CITY MANAGER

The City Manager serves as the City's Chief Administrative Officer and is responsible for leading municipal operations in accordance with the City Charter, Municipal Code, and policies established by the City Council. The City Manager provides strategic leadership and professional management to ensure effective service delivery, fiscal responsibility, and organizational excellence while working collaboratively with the Council, staff, community, businesses, and partner agencies.

The City Manager is expected to lead with integrity, professionalism, and transparency while fostering a workplace culture of teamwork, accountability, innovation, and respect. Direct reports include the Chief of Police, Community Development Director, Emergency Management Director, Farmers Market Manager, Finance Director, Haystack Rock Awareness Program Director, IT Director, Public Works Director, and Recorder.

THE IDEAL CANDIDATE

- A high-level communicator who can translate and disseminate Council goals and priorities to staff and the community and keep Council informed on issues and concerns as they occur.
- A transparent, open, and personable leader with unimpeachable integrity and ethics who embraces being visible and active in the community.
- A proven track record of collaborating and building relationships with an engaged set of stakeholders including the local Chamber of Commerce, lodging and hospitality stakeholders, a thriving arts community, and local nonprofits.
- Politically astute, but not political in approach or demeanor, and willing to accept input and ideas from Council, staff, and the community in the decision-making process.
- A strong, thick-skinned leader who approaches the job with humor and humility.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR LEADERSHIP

Community Familiarity – Cannon Beach is a community with highly engaged residents and will require a candidate who is willing to spend the first 3–6 months getting to know the City Council, staff, residents, and the hospitality and tourism operators that provide critical funding for City programs and services.

Workforce Housing – Like many high-cost coastal communities, Cannon Beach lacks affordable workforce housing options. The next City Manager will work with staff, Council, and the community to identify potential sites, build partnerships, and identify funding to address this critical need.

Budget and Program Evaluation – The City is in an excellent financial position, but the Council would like the next City Manager to conduct a deep dive into operating budgets, services, and programs within the first 6–12 months and recommend efficiencies where appropriate.

Watershed Protection and Preservation – Cannon Beach’s primary water supply comes from three springs east of the city. The City is currently pursuing land acquisitions to protect the watershed, and the next City Manager will work with the Council to identify additional opportunities for long-term protection.

NeCus’ Site – The City has set aside funds to reimagine and redevelop the NeCus’ property near the commercial heart of Cannon Beach. Formerly an elementary school, the site currently includes a detached gymnasium and houses the local food pantry. Because the property is culturally significant to the Clatsop-Nehalem Confederated Tribes, redevelopment will require close consultation with the Tribes and the broader community.

Transportation Improvements – With an adopted Transportation System Plan in place, the next City Manager will work with staff and Council to prioritize projects and begin implementation efforts to improve community mobility, including walkability and bikeability. Potential initiatives include pursuing a City-operated trolley service during peak tourism season.

Strategic Parking Management – High visitor demand and a constrained downtown create ongoing parking challenges. The City will need a strategic approach that balances the needs of visitors, local businesses, and residential neighborhoods. Potential solutions include paid parking, expanded transit options, residential parking permits, employee parking programs, time-limited parking, improved wayfinding, remote parking with shuttle service, and better use of existing public and private parking resources.



EDUCATION & EXPERIENCE

- Bachelor's degree in public administration, business administration, political science, finance, or related field.
- 5 years of progressively responsible local government management experience, including supervisory responsibilities.
- Any satisfactory combination of education, training, and experience demonstrating the knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary to perform the position may be considered.

PREFERRED:

- ICMA Credentialed Manager or ability to obtain.
- Experience managing municipal water and wastewater utilities.
- Knowledge of Oregon municipal government and land use planning.
- Experience with collective bargaining, capital improvement planning, and grant administration.
- Experience in coastal communities that rely on hospitality and tourism to fund critical programs and services.

COMPENSATION & BENEFITS

The City of Cannon Beach offers an annual salary range of \$165,000 – \$180,000, based on qualifications and experience, along with a comprehensive [benefits](#) package.

RESOURCES

[City Charter](#)

[City Budget](#)

[Org Chart](#)

[Community Development & Management Plans](#)

[Public Works Management & Master Plans](#)

[Community Bulletin](#)

[Visit Cannon Beach](#)



**TO
APPLY**

Apply Online: gmphr.com

First Review: November 8, 2026

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