

NORTHFIELD Neighborhood



NEIGHBORHOOD ACTION PLAN

City of
VANCOUVER
WASHINGTON
May, 2007

Northfield Neighborhood Action Planning Committee

Esther Schrader, Facilitator

Terry Conner
Ginny Leiker
Brenda Loupé
Brian McClary

Bob Koches
Donna Lien
Marie Marshall
Roger Poissant

City Council

Royce E. Pollard, Mayor

Larry Smith
Jeanne Harris
Pat Jollota

Tim Leavitt
Dan Tonkovich
Jeanne Stewart

City of Vancouver

Pat McDonnell, City Manager

Jan Bader, Program & Policy Development Manager

Contributing Staff

Julianna Marler, Procurement Services
Ryan Durocher, Urban Forestry Program
Tami Kihns, Vancouver Fire Department
Jim Crawford, Vancouver Fire Department
Nannette Kistler, Vancouver Police Department
Marion Swendsen, Vancouver Police Department
Todd Boulanger, Transportation Services
John Manix, Transportation Services
Elsie Deatherage, Solid Waste Services
John Manley, Community Planning
Greg Newkirk, Community Planning
Jane Kleiner, Parks and Recreation Department
Colleen Kawahara, City Manager's Office
Judi Bailey, Office of Neighborhoods

Table of Contents

Introduction.....4
The Neighborhood Action Planning Process.....5
Neighborhood Profile.....6
Neighborhood Zoning/Comp Map.....7
Vision Statement.....8
Objectives and Action Steps.....9
I. Neighborhood Safety.....10
II. Traffic Management.....11
III. Community Appearance.....12
IV. Community Building.....13

Introduction

The purpose of a neighborhood action plan is to identify issues that are of concern to the residents of the neighborhood, and to devise strategies for addressing these concerns. In conjunction with broader policies and implementation measures contained within the City's comprehensive plan, the neighborhood action planning process is intended to protect and enhance the livability within specific neighborhoods, as well as to help fulfill the overall community vision and to create a more livable city. More specifically, neighborhood action plans are intended to:

- Educate both city government and neighborhood residents about each other's concerns and visions for the future.
- Promote collaboration between the city and the neighborhood in order to achieve mutual goals and a shared sense of responsibility.
- Create a "sense of place" within the community by identifying and developing the assets within each neighborhood.
- Initiate change, rather than simply reacting to it, by addressing specific issues and opportunities.
- Achieve sensible and coordinated project and program planning within each neighborhood and between all the city's neighborhoods.
- Strengthen neighborhoods.

Relationship to the Comprehensive Plan

In general, a comprehensive plan is intended to provide broad policy direction, which is implemented through more specific development regulations and capital expenditure programs. Comprehensive plans do not, however, typically address the more immediate needs and concerns of individual neighborhoods. This is the purpose of a sub-area or neighborhood plan.

The City's comprehensive plan, entitled *Visions for the Vancouver Urban Area*, was adopted in December of 1994 and scheduled to be updated in 2002. The Plan specifically states that the City should: "*create neighborhood plans by assisting neighborhood organizations in identifying issues, policies and implementation measures specific to their areas.*"

The purpose of the Northfield Neighborhood Action Plan is to integrate neighborhood needs into the City's budget process, Six-Year Street Improvement Program, Neighborhood Traffic Control Program, Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan, and other planning and funding programs. The general policy statements included in the Action Plan may also be used by the City Council to guide future decisions involving development proposals and plan amendments affecting the neighborhood.

The Neighborhood Action Planning Process

The Northfield Neighborhood Association with assistance from the City of Vancouver Office of Neighborhood has developed this plan. The actual preparation of this plan is being coordinated by the Neighborhood Action Planning Committee, whose members were appointed by the Neighborhood Association to represent the interests of the neighborhood as a whole.

A survey was taken and a draft version of this Action Plan was made available to each household in Northfield for review and comment by all residents of the neighborhood. After considering and reconciling comments from the residents, the plan has been endorsed by the Neighborhood Association according to their specific by-laws. After neighborhood approval the Plan will be forwarded to City Council for consideration and acceptance by resolution.

It is intended that city agencies will utilize the action plans as input in developing more specific work programs and helping to establish citywide funding priorities. It is recognized that many of the recommendations contained in the action plans are conceptual only and may need to be analyzed in greater detail, both individually and in relationship to other recommendations. It should also be emphasized that financial resources may not exist for implementing all of the recommendations identified in the plan.

Overview of the Plan

This Plan contains four components. The NEIGHBORHOOD PROFILE contains a general description of the current conditions within the neighborhood. The VISION STATEMENT describes the neighborhood's sense of identity and vision for its future. The NEIGHBORHOOD OBJECTIVES identifies issues that are of concern to the residents of the neighborhood. The NEIGHBORHOOD ACTION STEPS includes specific potential strategies for accomplishing the identified objectives. Each Action Step is prioritized and identifies the responsible parties for implementing those strategies.

Funding and Financial Resources

Having the Neighborhood Action Plan does not guarantee the funding. The Vancouver City Council does appropriate grant funding annually to help implement action steps. In addition, your neighborhood may be eligible for many private, federal and state funding programs

Neighborhood Profile

The Northfield community was established as part of Fisher's Landing, with construction beginning in the late 1990's. All 215 homes are owner-occupied. Of that number, 98 are duplex condominiums and 117 are single-family houses. The area is fully built up, with no vacant lots. There are no rentals or other commercial properties within Northfield.

The resident owners of Northfield Neighborhood range from young families to retirees, with a homogeneous blend of ethnicities and economic levels.

Northfield is a quiet, friendly community served by Columbia Valley Elementary School, Shahala Middle School, and Evergreen High School. Shopping and restaurants are plentiful within walking distance, as are doctors, veterinarians, and other professional services. Portland Airport is conveniently near, with C-Tran bus service providing easy access to Portland and to the rest of Clark County. Outdoor enthusiasts can fish, bike, windsurf, boat, hike, or just enjoy the magnificent scenery featuring two mountains and the Columbia River.

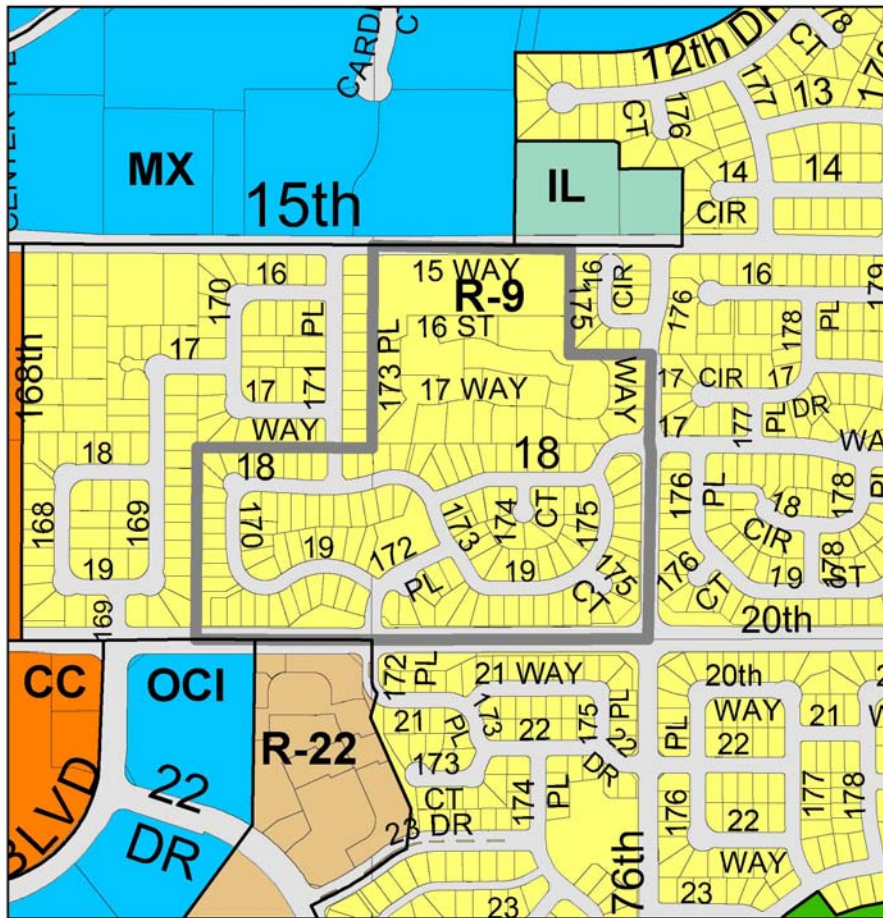
The Northfield Condominium Owners Association governs the condominiums through CC&R's and other regulations. The Northfield Community Association governs through CC&R's and other regulations as an umbrella over the houses and, where governance is not separately set aside, the condominiums. The Northfield Neighborhood Association has no governing duties, but provides a venue for working with the City of Vancouver on issues affecting the quality of life of its residents as well as a means of addressing concerns beyond the boundaries of Northfield.

Northfield Park, owned by the Northfield Community Association, is a lovely green oasis surrounded by houses. A pathway meanders from the park through the condominiums and exits at SE 15th Street halfway between SE 171st Place and SE 176th Avenue.

Formerly part of Fisher's Landing East Neighborhood Association, the Northfield community split off and its residents voted to form Northfield Neighborhood Association on September 14, 2005. On October 17, 2005, the City of Vancouver recognized Northfield as the 62nd official neighborhood association within the city limits.

The boundaries of Northfield are SE 15th Street on the north, SE 20th Street on the south, SE 176th Avenue on the east (except for the area cut off by SE 16th Circle), and SE 170th Avenue on the west between SE 18th Street and SE 19th Street.

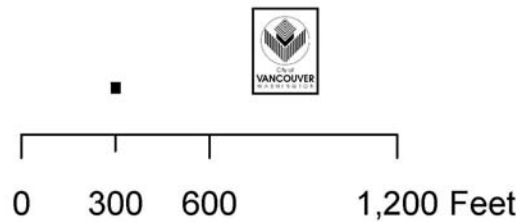
Neighborhood Zoning/Comp Map



Legend

- Urban Lower Residential
- Urban Higher Residential
- Commercial & Mixed Use
- Industrial
- Public Facility
- Open Space

Northfield



Vision Statement

As residents of Northfield Neighborhood, we see ourselves as a family-oriented community dedicated to preserve and enhance our quality of life. The maintenance of our homes, yards, and common areas, reflective of our pride of ownership and sensitivity to residential property values, will continue to be a high priority for us.

Our vision for the future includes our on-going commitment to keeping our homes, streets, park, and sidewalks safe through active involvement in our Neighborhood Crime Watch and personal vigilance. Emergency preparedness, a recent area of focus for us, will remain a priority in our community in the years to come.

The Northfield Neighborhood Association will continue to nurture its healthy relationship with the City of Vancouver and will strive to work with and through them to preserve and improve the resources of our immediate neighborhood, as well as those of the larger Fisher's Landing community.

Objectives and Action Steps

The following recommended action items identified as having a "high" priority are considered by the Neighborhood Association to be most important. "Medium" priority action steps are somewhat less important. "Low" priority action steps are considered least important.

Priority has been assigned by the Neighborhood Association for each action step without regard for the time frame within which the recommendation can realistically be accomplished (short-range, long-range) and without concern for whether funding sources can be practically identified. Accordingly, it is possible that a "High" priority item may not be realized for many years. In contrast, some "Low" priority items could be potentially accomplished in a relatively short amount of time without significant capital expense.

Listed below are abbreviations for the various responsible parties used throughout the document:

ABBREVIATIONS:

BC	Business Community
CITY	All Responsible City Departments
CMS	Community Mediation Services
CPD	Community Planning Department
CPU	Clark Public Utilities
CTRAN	CTRAN
DRS	Development Review Services
DVP	Developers
NCA	Northfield Condominium Association
NFCA	Northfield Community Association
NNA	Northfield Neighborhood Association
OTH	Other organizations
OWN	Neighborhood Property Owners
PMG	Property Management Groups
PS	Postal Services
VCE	Vancouver Code Enforcement
V-CPRD	Vancouver-Clark Parks and Recreation Department
VFD	Vancouver Fire Department
VON	Vancouver Office of Neighborhoods
VPD	Vancouver Police Department
VPW	Vancouver Public Works
VSWS	Vancouver Solid Waster Services
VTD	Vancouver Transportation Department
VUF	Vancouver Urban Forestry

I. NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY

Objective #1

To achieve a fully functional Neighborhood Crime Watch

<u>Action Steps</u>	<u>Priority</u>	<u>Responsible Parties</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appoint Block Captains to every block in Northfield 	High	NNA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Train Block Captains in their duties, providing materials 	High	NNA, VPD
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Choose Head Block Captain to coordinate activities and hold annual meeting 	Medium	NNA

Objective #2

To encourage residents through education to take charge of their own emergency preparedness

<u>Action Steps</u>	<u>Priority</u>	<u>Responsible Parties</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide annual Emergency Preparedness Forums 	High	NNA, VFD, VPD
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage residents to take CERT training 	Medium	VFD
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organize Neighborhood CERT Team 	Medium	NNA, VFD
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Newsletter articles focused on how to prepare for emergencies 	Medium	NNA, OTH
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare Neighborhood disaster response plan 	Medium	NNA, VFD, VPD

II. TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT

Objective #1

To achieve safe Neighborhood traffic flows

<u>Action Steps:</u>	<u>Priority</u>	<u>Responsible Parties</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with City Transportation Staff to investigate potential modification to the roundabout at SE 171st Place and SE 18th Street. 	Medium	NNA, VTD, NFCA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with Condo Board and City Transportation Staff to evaluate revision of traffic control inside the SE 176th Avenue entrance. 	High	NNA, VTD, NCA, NFCA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utilize Slowski signs to inhibit speeding and warn of children in the area 	High	OWN
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with City Transportation Staff on alternative striping treatment for cul de sac corners, in order to define street and play-zone space more clearly. 	Medium	NNA, VTD, NFCA

Objective #2

To provide pedestrian safety on SE 20th Street

<u>Action Steps:</u>	<u>Priority</u>	<u>Responsible Parties</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Install traffic lights at intersection of SE 20th Street and SE 176th Avenue 	Medium	NNA, VTD, NFCA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide crosswalk at intersection of SE 20th Street and SE 172nd Avenue 	High	NNA, VTD, NFCA

III. COMMUNITY APPEARANCE

Objective #1

To provide park improvements that promote health

<u>Action Steps:</u>	<u>Priority</u>	<u>Responsible Parties</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Obtain permanently-mounted trash receptacles to eliminate garbage and litter problems 	Medium	NNA, NFCA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Install permanent benches near playground equipment 	Medium	NNA, NFCA

Objective #2

To encourage residents to exhibit pride of ownership

<u>Action Steps:</u>	<u>Priority</u>	<u>Responsible Parties</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide instruction in proper tree trimming techniques 	Medium	VUF, NFCA, OWN
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recognize individual homes where yards, patios, home improvements, or seasonal decorations are most attractive within Neighborhood goals and guidelines 	Medium	NNA, NCA, NFCA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nominate residents for annual Vancouver Sparkles awards 	High	NNA, VON
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish annual Chipper Day for residents to dispose of tree and shrub trimmings 	Medium	NNA, VSWS, VPW, NFCA

IV. COMMUNITY BUILDING

Objective #1

To bring Northfield residents closer together as neighbors

<u>Action Steps</u>	<u>Priority</u>	<u>Responsible Parties</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Combine annual Northfield picnic with National Night Out and expand activities in Northfield Park	High	NNA, VPD, NFCA
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Add other activities to attract more participation by residents	Medium	OWN, NFCA
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Encourage residents to get acquainted with their nearest neighbors and exchange emergency information with them	Medium	NNA, VPD
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Spotlight individuals or households in Northfield newsletters	Medium	OTH