



# Northcrest Neighborhood

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## NEIGHBORHOOD ACTION PLAN

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City of  
VANCOUVER  
WASHINGTON  
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# Introduction

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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, address 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 is 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 Northcrest 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 Northcrest 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 has been made available to each household in Northcrest 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 funding sources may not exist for implementing all of the recommendations identified in the plan. All of the actions identified in the plan are intended to be initiated and supported by residents of the neighborhood.



## 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 \$100,000 per year via Neighborhood Action Planning Grant to help implement action steps. In addition, your neighborhood may be eligible for many private, federal and state funding programs.

# Neighborhood Profile

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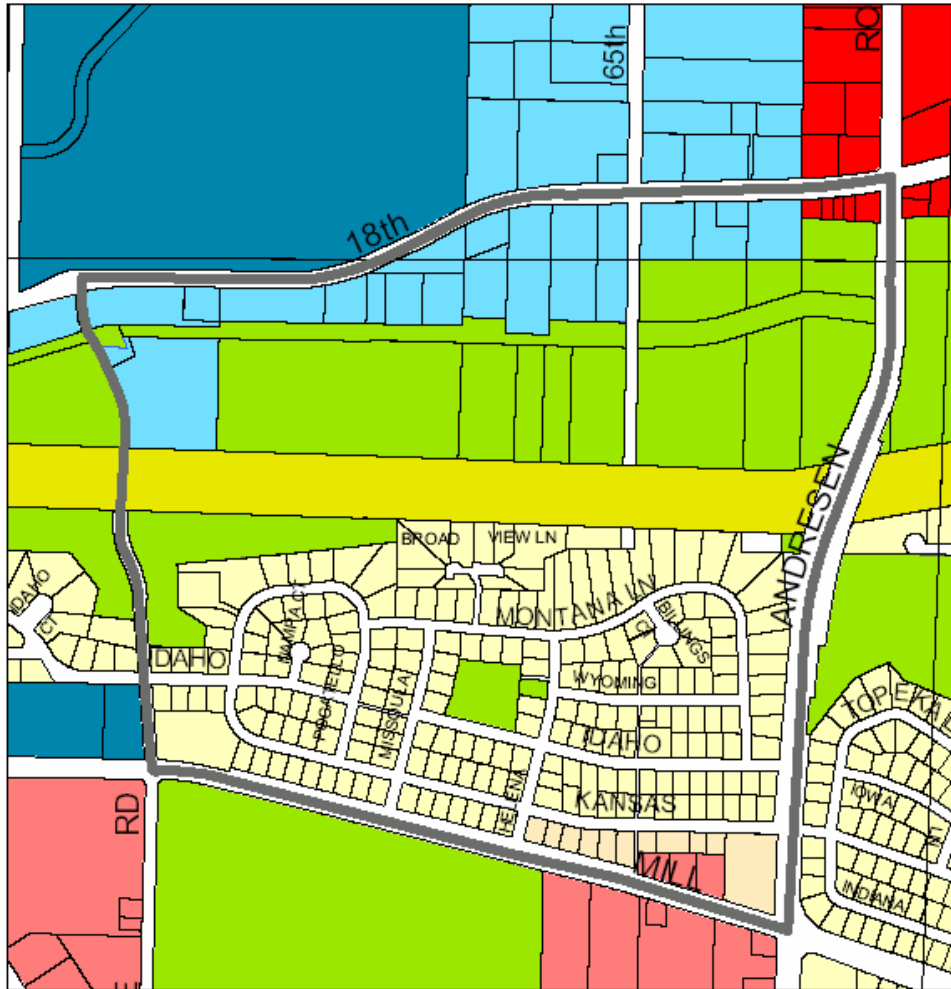
The Northcrest Neighborhood Association is located approximately 4 miles east of downtown Vancouver in what is commonly called "the Heights." The neighborhood is south of the Burnt Bridge Creek. Residents who border the bluff overlook the creek and the fields below. The majority of homes were built in the 1960s.

The neighborhood consists primarily of residential properties with the exception of the northern boundary which is zoned light manufacturing and agriculture open space. The corner of Mill Plain Blvd. and Andresen Rd. is zoned R-18 (Multi-family with 18 units per acre) with a small portion zoned CC (Community Commercial.) Currently, this corner is occupied by a church and several businesses along Mill Plain Blvd and is for sale.

Residents are primarily homeowners with two adults (spouses) living at the residences. Generally residents of the Northcrest neighborhood are long-time residents. The average homeowner is approaching retirement age and the average household income is leveling off. (At the time of this report, only 1990 census numbers were available. They do not accurately represent the current status of the Neighborhood.)

Currently, the Neighborhood Association is trying to generate new membership and cultivate new leaders. The board also hopes to stimulate awareness through neighborhood activities and the implementation of the Neighborhood Action Plan.

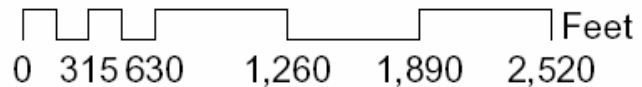
# Neighborhood Zoning/Comp Map



## Legend

- Urban Low Residential
- Urban Medium Residential
- Community Commercial
- General Commercial
- Light Industrial
- Public Facility
- OS/Parks
- BPA

## Northcrest



# Vision Statement

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*Northcrest residents will work together to preserve and improve the overall livability of our neighborhood. We will work together to unite our residents in common interests and promote the welfare of the neighborhood and its residents. Partnering with the City of Vancouver, we will be enabled to enhance the neighborhood for the benefit of all.*

*We envision a safe neighborhood, where residents of all ages feel secure while living within the City of Vancouver. We would like to promote neighborhood unity and a sense of community through neighborhood activities, block parties, picnic, holiday parties, and a neighborhood watch.*

*We envision Northcrest to remain a quiet neighborhood that welcomes pedestrian and bicyclists and is a desirable place to raise a family. We appreciate our wide streets and enjoy the convenience of nearby shopping, public transportation, and medical centers.*

# Objectives and Action Steps

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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:

<b>BPA</b>	<b>Bonneville Power Administration</b>
<b>CDBG</b>	<b>Community Development Block Grant</b>
<b>CMS</b>	<b>Community Mediation Services</b>
<b>CPU</b>	<b>Clark Public Utilities</b>
<b>DRS</b>	<b>Development Review Services</b>
<b>LRPD</b>	<b>Long Range Planning Department</b>
<b>NNA</b>	<b>Northcrest Neighborhood Association</b>
<b>OON</b>	<b>Office of Neighborhoods</b>
<b>OTH</b>	<b>Other Organizations</b>
<b>OWN</b>	<b>Neighborhood Property Owners</b>
<b>VCE</b>	<b>Vancouver Code Enforcement</b>
<b>VPD</b>	<b>Vancouver Police Department</b>
<b>VPR</b>	<b>Vancouver-Clark Parks and Recreation Department</b>
<b>VPW</b>	<b>Vancouver Public Works</b>
<b>VSWS</b>	<b>Vancouver Solid Waster Services</b>
<b>VTS</b>	<b>Vancouver Transportation Services</b>
<b>VUF</b>	<b>Vancouver Urban Forestry</b>

# I. Neighborhood Traffic and Mobility Management

## Objective #1

**Improve safety through out the neighborhood by reducing speeding and cut-through traffic.**

<u>Action Steps:</u>	<u>Priority</u>	<u>Responsible Parties</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a northbound merge lane coming from Idaho to Andresen.</li> </ul>	High	NNA, VTS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Investigate options for traffic calming and/or additional stop control at the following intersections:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At Montana Lane and Kansas</li> <li>• At Montana Lane and Idaho</li> <li>• At Montana Lane and Pocatello</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	High	NNA, VTS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase the number of stop signs in the neighborhood.</li> </ul>	Medium	NNA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Post speed awareness signs that could be moved around in the neighborhood</li> </ul>	Medium	NNA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Install ADA ramps.</li> </ul>	Medium	NNA, CDBG
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve the ineffective crosswalk on Mill Plain Blvd. 500 feet west of Andresen or replace with pedestrian traffic signal.</li> </ul>	High	NNA, VTS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with residents on corner lots to cut back landscaping to improve sight distances.</li> </ul>	Med/high	NNA, VTS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Install the Burnt Bridge Trail along the creek from Devine to Andresen and beyond.</li> </ul>	Low	NNA, VPR

**Objective #2**

**Inform residents on issues to improve safety and traffic flow.**

<b><u>Action Steps:</u></b>	<b><u>Priority</u></b>	<b><u>Responsible Parties</u></b>
• Temporarily set up the city's digital speed board at the intersections mentioned in Objective #1.	High	NNA, VTS
• Post regular notices in the neighborhood newsletter concerning traffic safety and street safety.	Low	NNA, VTS
• Invite city transportation staff to make a presentation at a meeting about traffic calming options and devices.	High	NNA
• Invite neighborhood police liaison to neighborhood meetings to discuss safety and traffic safety.	High	NNA, VPD

## II. Neighborhood Safety & Security

### Objective #1

**It is the goal of Northcrest neighborhood to have a safe and secure neighborhood in which to live, play and raise families.**

Action Steps:	Priority	Responsible Parties
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inform neighbors immediately of crimes that have taken place.</li> </ul>	High	NNA, VPD
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage opportunities and make an effort to get to know your immediate neighbors.</li> </ul>	Medium	NNA, OWN
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create and maintain a current neighborhood telephone directory.</li> </ul>	Low	NNA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create a crime watch system.</li> </ul>	High	NNA, VPD
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Invite our Police Liaison/support specialist to neighborhood meetings to discuss crime prevention.</li> </ul>	High	NNA, VPD
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clean and maintain open spaces to discourage transients and illegal activities.</li> </ul>	Medium	NNA

### III. Public Services

**Objective #1**

**Improve or maintain street lighting in and around the neighborhood and park(s).**

<b><u>Action Steps:</u></b>	<b><u>Priority</u></b>	<b><u>Responsible Parties</u></b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct a periodic inventory of the Neighborhood's streetlights.</li> </ul>	Medium	NNA, VTS, VPW
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with the City to identify lighting deficiencies within the neighborhood.</li> </ul>	Medium	NNA, OWN, CPU
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage the City and Clark Public Utilities to trim trees that surround streetlights to obtain maximum benefit.</li> </ul>	Low	NNA, VPW, CPU

## IV. Open Space and Recreation

### Objective #1

**Further develop the park to improve accessibility and aesthetics while maintaining safety for children and adults.**

<u>Action Steps:</u>	<u>Priority</u>	<u>Responsible Parties</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discourage transients in greenbelt and on BPA right-of-way.</li> </ul>	High	NNA, BPA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Obtain signage for Sam Brown Park.</li> </ul>	Low	NNA, VPR
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eliminate vehicle vandalism by placing barriers along affected area of Sam Brown Park.</li> </ul>	High	NNA, OON, VPR
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plant low maintenance shrubs in Sam Brown Park.</li> </ul>	Medium	NNA, VPR, VPW
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Place additional tables and benches in Lancaster park.</li> </ul>	Low	NNA, VPR, VPW
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cut back undergrowth along the back of the Canyon.</li> </ul>	Medium	NNA, VPR, VPW

## V. Land Use & Housing

### **Objective #1**

**To preserve the neighborhood existing quality of housing. Inform property owners and residents about the responsibilities for property, building, and sidewalk maintenance.**

<b><u>Action Steps:</u></b>	<b><u>Priority</u></b>	<b><u>Responsible Parties</u></b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with Development Review Services staff and the City Council to adopt a Property Maintenance Ordinance.</li> </ul>	High	NNA, DRS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage participation in annual Neighborhood Clean Up and Chipper program.</li> </ul>	High	NNA, VNS, VSWS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage residents to participate in the Free Curbside Appliance Pick Up program.</li> </ul>	High	NNA, VNS, VSWS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create a "Pick Up and Hauling" procedure to accommodate the elderly.</li> </ul>	High	NNA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work closely with the City and potential developers with any requested rezoning requests affecting the neighborhood quality of life (i.e. corner of Mill Plain and Andresen Blvd.)</li> </ul>	High	NNA, LRPD
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Actively work with the City on any potential cell phone towers in the neighborhood.</li> </ul>	Medium	NNA, LRPD
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evaluate the northern boundary of the neighborhood on or near 18<sup>th</sup> St.</li> </ul>	Medium	NNA

## VI. Community Appearance

### Objective #1

**To maintain and improve the quality of living in our great neighborhood. To encourage residents to be considerate of others while respectful of laws.**

<u>Action Steps:</u>	<u>Priority</u>	<u>Responsible Parties</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage residents and property owners to trim trees, shrubs, and plants from growing into pedestrian walkways.</li> </ul>	Medium	NNA, OWN, VUF
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Publish reminder in neighborhood newsletters to remove recycling bins and garbage cans from sight.</li> </ul>	Low	NNA, OWN
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage regular maintenance of private property to avoid eyesores.</li> </ul>	Medium	NNA, OWN
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Report abandoned vehicles promptly.</li> </ul>	Medium	NNA, VCE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Report graffiti and remove when possible.</li> </ul>	High	NNA, OWN, VPD
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Report RV's trailers and boats parked on public-right-of way.</li> </ul>	Medium	NNA, OWN, VCE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Report vehicles parked on lawns.</li> </ul>	Medium	NNA, OWN, VCE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage residents of neighborhood to respect and adhere to Vancouver Municipal Codes.</li> </ul>	Medium	NNA, VCE

## VII. Community Building

### **Objective #1**

**To improve communication and involvement of our neighbors through interactive committees, neighborhood functions and meetings, and fundraising events.**

<b><u>Action Steps:</u></b>	<b><u>Priority</u></b>	<b><u>Responsible Parties</u></b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communicate consistently through the neighborhood newsletter.</li> </ul>	High	NNA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create committees to work on areas of this Neighborhood Action Plan.</li> </ul>	High	NNA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Involve more residents in neighborhood activities and planning.</li> </ul>	High	NNA