



Cascade Highlands

Neighborhood Action Plan

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Cascade Highlands Neighborhood Action Planning Committee

Mark Johnson, Chairperson
Gary Bohman
Son Do
Shareefah Hoover
Erika Johnson
Jean Kent
Eric Peterson
Dan West

City Council

Anne McEnery-Ogle, Mayor

Bart Hansen
Bill Turlay
Ty Stober

Linda Glover
Laurie Lebowsky
Erik Paulsen

City of Vancouver

Eric Holmes, City Manager
Jan Bader, Policy and Program Manager
Judi Bailey, Neighborhoods Coordinator

Contributing Staff

Judi Bailey, Office of Neighborhoods
Jennifer Campos, Community & Economic Development
Jessica George, PW Urban Forestry
Julie Gilbertson, PW Solid Waste Services
Gene Juve, Emergency Management Services
Jordan Macfarlane, Vancouver Police Department
Bryan Monroe, Community & Economic Development
Natasha Ramras, City Liaison

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Introduction

The purpose of a neighborhood action plan is to identify issues 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 help fulfill the overall community vision and 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 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 react 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.

The city's comprehensive plan was adopted in 1994 and updated in 2004 and again in 2011. The plan recognizes that "Vancouver is a city of neighborhoods." It also references the neighborhood action plans as a vehicle for "identifying issues of local concern such as public safety, traffic, housing and land use and recommending solutions." The comprehensive plan outlines that while NAPs are "not formally adopted as part of the Plan, they are consistent with the plan's direction and are submitted for review and acceptance by the Vancouver City Council."

The purpose of the Cascade Highlands Neighborhood Action Plan is to integrate neighborhood needs into the city's budget process; Six-Year Street Improvement Program; Neighborhood Traffic Control Program; Comprehensive Parks, Recreation and Natural Areas 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 Cascade Highlands Neighborhood Association, with assistance from the City of Vancouver Office of Neighborhoods, has developed this plan. The actual preparation of this plan has been coordinated by the Cascade Highlands Neighborhood Action Plan Update Committee, whose members were appointed by the neighborhood association to represent the interests of the neighborhood as a whole.

A draft version of this action plan was made available to each household in Cascade Highlands for review and comment by all residents of the neighborhood. After consideration and reconciliation of resident's comments, the plan was endorsed by the neighborhood association according to its bylaws. After neighborhood approval, the plan will be forwarded to Vancouver City Council for consideration and acceptance by resolution.

It is intended that city agencies will use the action plans as input in developing more specific work programs and helping establish citywide funding priorities. It is recognized that many of the recommendations contained in the action plans are only conceptual 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 OBJECTIVES component identifies issues of concern to the residents of the neighborhood. The ACTION STEPS portion includes specific potential strategies for accomplishing the identified objectives. Each action step is prioritized and identifies the parties responsible for implementing those strategies.



Funding and Financial Resources

Having a neighborhood action plan does not ensure funding. The Vancouver City Council does appropriate funding annually via the Neighborhood Traffic Calming Program. Funding for applicable neighborhood projects is also available through the Watersheds Alliance of Southwest Washington, a local nonprofit organization. In addition, the neighborhood may be eligible for many private, federal and state funding programs.

Neighborhood Profile

Cascade Highlands Neighborhood Association (CHNA), one of the larger Vancouver neighborhood associations with a total population of approximately 3,500, is between Southeast McGillivray and Mill Plain boulevards and between Southeast Blairmont Drive/Southeast Park Crest Avenue (including 152nd Court) and Southeast 164th Avenue. It was recognized as the City of Vancouver's 49th neighborhood association on Dec. 20, 1999.

The area is a mix of commercial shopping centers, many smaller specialty retail stores, Homestead Park at 1800 SE 159th Place, two mobile home parks, a nursing home, an assisted living facility, 1,050 units of multi-family apartments in three separate complexes and 978 single-family rentals/owner-occupied homes.

Southeast 164th Avenue and Southeast Mill Plain Boulevard are two extremely busy and heavily traveled thoroughfares. Southeast Blairmont fronts Mountain View High School, which, though not technically within CHNA's boundaries, affects the tenor and ambience of a significant portion of the neighborhood. It's noteworthy that from many places within this association, one can view both the dramatic Mount St. Helens and the spectacular Mount Hood in either snow-clad white brilliance or summer brownish-gray.

Our neighborhood zoning is primarily single and multifamily residential with some commercial and office-residential zoning particularly in the northeastern corner. R-22 is multifamily residential (22 units per acre), OCI is office/commercial/industrial, CC is community commercial and R-9 is single-family residential (one unit per minimum-lot size of everything from 5,000 to 20,000 square feet).

Residents can readily hear Portland International Airport airplane activity, traffic noise from state Route 14, geese flying overhead, occasional speeders and sometimes peaceful quiet.

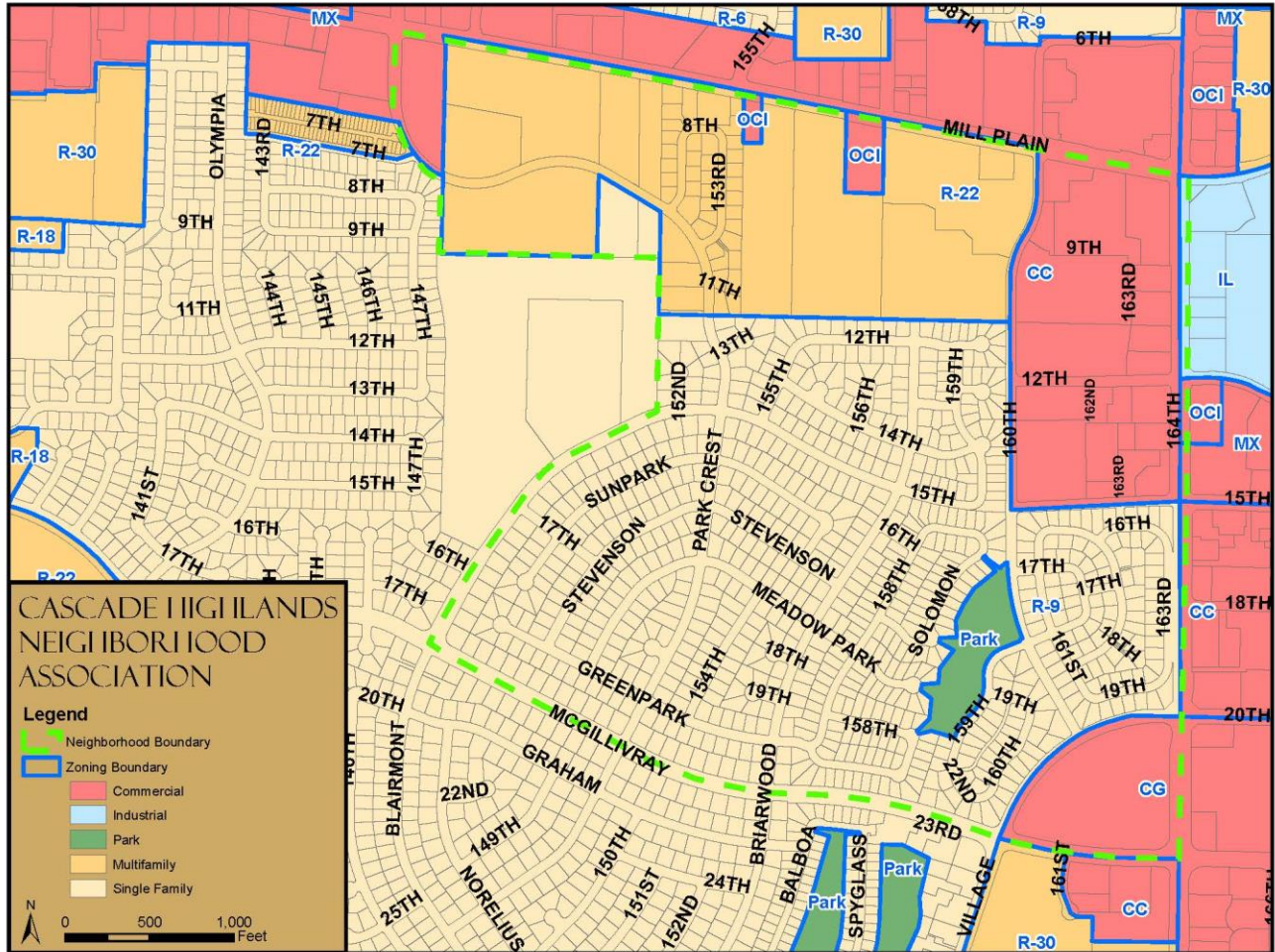
Cascade Highlands neighborhood children attend Mill Plain or Crestline Elementary schools; Wy'east or Shahala middle schools or, rarely, Pacific Middle School; and Mountain View High School or, rarely, Evergreen High School.

CHNA is 375 acres located in Township 2 north, Range 2 east, Section 36 which places us directly in the middle of the traditional Mill Plain, historically a relatively flat and treeless area. That means our soil is composed of sand and gravel-sized deposits along with larger and sometimes huge rocks left from the glacial outbursts from the ancient Lake Missoula, which swirled around Camas' Prune Hill 10,000-plus years ago.

Before about 1900 but after the first settlements were established, the whole section was set aside as school land. Later the area was sold off as "Mill Plain Homestead Lots," most of which were around 20 acres each.

The area just east of what is now Southeast Blairmont Drive was developed in 1979 and called "Cascade Highlands." Next came Mountain View High School (1981); Morningside, which sits just north of McGillivray (1984); Trader's Green (1986); Homestead Place (1988); and Homestead Acres (1989). All land within the association's boundaries has been developed.

Neighborhood Zoning/Comp Map



Vision Statement

The Cascade Highlands Neighborhood Association is a forum, catalyst and advocate for effective and respectful engagement and action among neighbors and with the City of Vancouver, Clark County, community partners and others to maintain a robust, livable, environmentally healthy and value-sustaining neighborhood.

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 – short range or long range – within which the recommendation can realistically be accomplished 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
CCVM	Clark County Vegetation Management
CHNA	Cascade Highlands Neighborhood Association
CITY	All Responsible City Departments
CRESA	Clark Regional Emergency Services Agency
CTRAN	Clark County Public Transit Benefit Area Authority (C-TRAN)
FOT	Friends of Trees
NPGA	Nonprofit Granting Agencies
VCC	Vancouver Code Compliance
VCVC	Vancouver City Volunteer Coordination
VPR	Vancouver Parks and Recreation
VFD	Vancouver Fire Department
VON	Vancouver Office of Neighborhoods
VPD	Vancouver Police Department
VPW	Vancouver Public Works
VSWS	Vancouver Solid Waste Services
VUF	Vancouver Urban Forestry
WSUCCE	WSU Clark County Extension

I. Community Maintenance and Appearance

Objective #1

Motivate and mobilize residents, businesses and property owners to maintain reasonable curb appeal of their homes, yards and commercial facades, including abutting rights-of-way such as sidewalks and pass-throughs.

<u>Action Steps</u>	<u>Priority</u>	<u>Responsible Parties</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage the trimming of bushes, raking of leaves, removal of obstacles. 	Medium	CHNA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publish neighborhood newsletter articles regarding neighbors' responsibility to maintain sidewalks, pass-throughs and other public rights-of-way adjacent to their property. 	Medium	CHNA, VCC
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recruit city code enforcement officials to speak at neighborhood meetings, addressing the scope of their jurisdiction and how neighbors can help prevent and report issues. 	Medium	VCC
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Educate residents on permit requirements regarding tree removals (street trees and private trees) to help the neighborhood retain mature, healthy trees and help residents avoid necessary expense. 	Medium	VUF
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Educate neighbors on positive connections between property values and curb appeal. 	Low	CHNA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reach out to businesses to discuss the problem, encourage improvement and determine next steps if their property appears littered, unkempt or bereft of maintenance. 	Low	CHNA, VCC

Objective #2

Encourage and help facilitate prevention, reduction and cleanup of litter, graffiti, vandalism and illegal dumping.

<u>Action Steps</u>	<u>Priority</u>	<u>Responsible Parties</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Remind neighbors to immediately report any graffiti, vandalism or illegal dumping to the appropriate authorities.	High	CHNA, VPD
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Host and promote — in collaboration with the City of Vancouver and other partners — an annual neighborhood cleanup to accept yard debris, recyclable metal, food and cash donations for a designated charity, reusable bikes and household junk.	High	CHNA, VSWS
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Publish neighborhood newsletter articles discussing ways to prevent household waste and recycle unwanted materials.	Medium	CHNA, VSWS
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Encourage neighbors to pick up litter they come across in the neighborhood whenever they can safely do so.	Low	CHNA
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reach out to businesses where illegal dumping appears to occur, discussing key ways to prevent and address it and encouraging the businesses to take those steps.	Low	CHNA, VPW, VPD

Objective #3

Advocate for upkeep of public areas such as Homestead Park.

<u>Action Steps:</u>	<u>Priority</u>	<u>Responsible Parties</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Coordinate with the City of Vancouver and other partners to set up Homestead Park work parties to perform maintenance.	Medium	CHNA, VPR, VCVC
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Replant bare areas using grants for plant purchases and city personnel for tools and support.	Medium	CHNA, VCVC, NPGA
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Advocate to the City of Vancouver as needed to maintain adequate sprinklers; repair and update exercise and play equipment; maintain turf and pathways; and ensure minimum level of regionally appropriate perennials, shrubs and trees in Homestead Park.	Low	CHNA, VCVC
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Coordinate leaf cleanups along Southeast Village Loop, 160th Avenue and McGillivray Boulevard as needed.	Low	CHNA
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Advocate that the City of Vancouver conduct grasscycling at Homestead Park.	Low	CHNA, VPW

II. Disaster Preparedness

Objective #1

Educate, encourage and support neighbors on ways to prepare for and survive disasters.

<u>Action Steps:</u>	<u>Priority</u>	<u>Responsible Parties</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage individuals to be Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) trained, with CHNA covering tuition for two residents per year as funds allow. 	High	CHNA, CRESA, VFD
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Educate residents on stocking supplies for disasters, with the goal of being self-sufficient for two weeks. 	High	CHNA, CRESA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage residents to make their house numbers readily visible from the street. 	High	CHNA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publish articles in the neighborhood newsletter describing key ways individual households and neighborhood blocks can boost their disaster preparedness. 	Medium	CRESA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recruit speakers to neighborhood association meetings to advise on household and neighborhood-block preparedness in the event of a disaster. 	Medium	CHNA, CRESA, VPD, VFD
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alert Cascade Highlands neighbors to local disaster-preparedness training opportunities. 	Medium	CHNA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage smaller areas of the neighborhood to participate in the Map Your Neighborhood program. 	Medium	CHNA, CRESA, VON
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work to form a team of trained CERT neighbors that will meet periodically. 	Medium	CHNA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Educate and raise awareness on the radon gas hazard, including ways to reduce the risk of radon poisoning. 	Medium	CHNA

III. Environmental Health and Sustainability

Objective #1

Improve energy efficiency while eliminating or reducing light pollution within our community.

<u>Action Steps:</u>	<u>Priority</u>	<u>Responsible Parties</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Educate residents on the dangers and adverse effects of the various forms of light pollution, including the benefits and pitfalls of new lighting technologies. 	Low	CHNA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Motivate residential and commercial neighbors to take corrective action to eliminate or reduce light pollution originating from their properties. 	Low	CHNA, BC
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the establishment by the city of appropriate, reasonable and enforceable standards for outdoor lighting and signage to eliminate or reduce the various forms of light pollution. 	Low	CHNA, CITY

Objective #2

Facilitate neighbor awareness and action in contributing to healthy air, water and soil, including on the use of household chemicals, the recycling of materials and the disposal of household hazardous waste.

<u>Action Steps:</u>	<u>Priority</u>	<u>Responsible Parties</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote public collection events and other local options for proper recycling and disposal of household hazardous waste. 	High	CHNA, VSWS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Educate and encourage the proper recycling of materials, including use of the RecycleRight app. 	High	CHNA, VSWS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Educate residents on green-cleaning, grasscycling, mulching, sustainable car-washing, composting, tree-planting and other environmentally friendly practices. 	Medium	CHNA, VSWS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publicize free or publicly sponsored workshops and other events that teach waste reduction or recycling. 	Medium	CHNA, VON
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Host guest speakers at neighborhood meetings to discuss ways residents can support clean air, clean water and healthy soil. 	Medium	CHNA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publicize the regional Don't Drip and Drive program to help reduce polluted runoff from vehicles. 	Medium	CHNA, NPGA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Educate neighbors on proper ways to get rid of items they no longer want and the importance of reporting illegal dumping to law enforcement. 	Low	CHNA, VPW, VPD

Objective #3

Encourage and facilitate habitat restoration that enhances neighborhood livability.

<u>Action Steps:</u>	<u>Priority</u>	<u>Responsible Parties</u>
• Educate about proper tree selection, pruning and care and the need for increased tree canopy.	High	CHNA, VUF
• Promote opportunities to collaborate with Friends of Trees or other potential partners and volunteers to expand the neighborhood's tree canopy.	Medium	CHNA, VUF, FOT, NPGA
• Solicit neighborhood and City of Vancouver partners to help ensure English ivy and other invasive plants are removed from or kept out of Homestead Park and area medians.	Low	CHNA, VCVV
• Publish tips to help neighbors identify and remove state- or locally designated noxious weeds or invasive plants from their own property.	Low	CHNA, WSUCCE, CCVM

IV. Traffic Mobility

Objective #1

Motivate residents and businesses to keep their abutting rights-of-way — including sidewalks and pass-throughs — accessible and unobstructed.

<u>Action Steps</u>	<u>Priority</u>	<u>Responsible Parties</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publish articles explaining (1) the benefits, examples and importance of keeping sidewalks and other rights-of-way unobstructed and (2) whose role it is to keep such areas clear. 	Medium	CHNA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build awareness of the city’s code-enforcement office and ways to report issues. 	Medium	CHNA, VCC
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reach out to businesses if their property poses access problems via obstructive signage or other impediments. 	Low	CHNA, BC
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Host speakers at neighborhood meetings to discuss legal responsibilities in keeping sidewalks, pass-throughs and other rights-of-way unobstructed. 	Low	CHNA, VCC

Objective #2

Reduce reliance on personal vehicles and encourage the use of feet, bicycles, public transit and other alternative lower-emission forms of transportation.

<u>Action Steps</u>	<u>Priority</u>	<u>Responsible Parties</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Educate neighbors on the local amenities available by foot, bike, wheelchair and other non-car options.	Medium	CHNA, CTRAN
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Build awareness about local and regional bike lanes, bike safety and bike lane infrastructure.	Low	CHNA, VPW
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Promote opportunities to speak at public meetings and other events involving transit and other car-alternative transportation options affecting residents or the neighborhood.	Low	CHNA
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Encourage neighbors to reach out to their favorite businesses whose presence in the neighborhood or in neighborhood-adjacent areas would contribute to local walkability, encouraging the companies to site in or near the neighborhood.	Low	CHNA

Objective #3

Promote legal parking and vehicle registration in accordance with Washington state statutes and city ordinances.

<u>Action Step</u>	<u>Priority</u>	<u>Responsible Parties</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Publish newsletter articles and attachments regarding Washington registration laws and Vancouver parking ordinances.	Medium	CHNA, VON

V. Public Safety

Objective #1

Increase neighborhood safety and security through safety-related volunteerism.

<u>Action Steps:</u>	<u>Priority</u>	<u>Responsible Parties</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote proper 311 and 911 usage and ways to report crimes, illegal dumping, streetlight outages, potholes and other concerns. 	High	CHNA, CRESA, CITY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publicize Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training. 	High	CHNA, VFD, CRESA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publicize Neighbors on Watch (NOW) program, including encouraging residents to participate and engage with the program. 	Medium	CHNA, VPD

Objective #2

Raise awareness about and help advocate for well-lit streets, sidewalks and front-porch areas.

<u>Action Steps:</u>	<u>Priority</u>	<u>Responsible Parties</u>
• Educate and encourage neighbors to report to the appropriate city department any outages or blockage of city-operated streetlights.	High	CHNA, VPD, CRESA
• Educate on the use of lighting for the purpose of home and neighborhood safety and security.	Medium	CHNA

Objective #3

Facilitate crime-watch education, collaboration and mobilization.

<u>Action Steps:</u>	<u>Priority</u>	<u>Responsible Parties</u>
• Motivate residents to report crimes – no matter how seemingly small – to the appropriate authorities.	High	CHNA
• Invite local law enforcement to answer public safety questions at a neighborhood meeting.	High	CHNA, VPD
• Encourage residents to participate in crime prevention and crime watch activities, including raising awareness regarding opportunities and resources.	Medium	CHNA
• Encourage the establishment of phone trees on a per-block basis to help neighbors look out for each other.	Medium	CHNA