



AIRPORT GREEN



NEIGHBORHOOD ACTION PLAN

City of
VANCOUVER
WASHINGTON

Revised November 2003

Airport Green Neighborhood Action Plan Review Committee

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We would like to recognize the contributions made by the following members towards the 1999 Airport Green Neighborhood Action Plan.

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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.

The City's comprehensive plan, entitled *Visions for the Vancouver Urban Area*, was adopted in December of 1994 and scheduled to be updated in 2003. 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 Airport Green 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 Airport Green Neighborhood Association with assistance from the City of Vancouver Neighborhood Services has developed this plan. The actual preparation of this plan is being coordinated by the Neighborhood Action Plan Review 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 Airport Green 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 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 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 funding annually via the Neighborhood Action Planning Grant, Neighborhood Matching Grant and Neighborhood Community Development Block Grant program to help implement action steps. In addition, your neighborhood may be eligible for many private, federal and state funding programs.

Neighborhood Profile

The Airport Green Neighborhood is located near the southern edge of, and is within, the section of East Vancouver known as Evergreen. To the northeast of historic Evergreen Airport, ours is a relatively small and well-defined neighborhood, sock-like in shape, occupying an area of approximately 60 acres. The neighborhood boundaries are described as the center line of Hearthwood Blvd. west to NE 138th Avenue, the northeasterly side of SE 1st Street, including the landscaped setback area of the Airport Green Industrial Park (plated as Tract “A”), north to the center line of NE 9th Street.

Most of the Airport Green Neighborhood consists of single-family residences on R1-7.5 lots, those on the west side of 138th Avenue being larger as the result of an airplane taxiway easement providing homeowners with access to the Evergreen Airport to the south and the North-South Air Park to the north, along NE 139th Avenue. The neighborhood includes OR-18 zoning currently the site of 46 duplex units, an office building and a church/meeting hall of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. A strip of land along SE 1st Street, designated as a landscaped buffer between single-family residences and the Airport Green Industrial Park, is zoned ML.

Historical Background

In the early 1890’s, most of the Cascade Park-Evergreen area came under the ownership of the Jacob Duback family. Roy Sugg, in 1944, purchased 325 acres north of Mill Plan “Road” and opened an airport the following year. In 1946, Sugg Field was sold to Waldo (Wally) Olson, a legendary aviator, who renamed it Evergreen. The Sugg family retained 221 acres northeast of the airport which was sold in 1958 to Kenneth and Marjorie Hanson. The couple operated a Christmas tree farm and planted approximately 200,000 trees, many of which remain today as full-grown Douglas firs. In 1969, when plans for the development of Cascade Park were announced, the Hansons sold all but 5 acres to a Dr. Dowd, who developed the Hearthwood subdivision. The Airport Green property passed to Wallace & Joan Teuscher and Asghar Sadri in 1978. Most of the single-family homes were built in the 1980’s while subsequent development occurred in the 1990’s.

The Airport Green Neighborhood Association (AGNA) was formed in 1993. The association focused its attention on underdeveloped Hearthwood Park. AGNA pressed immediately for brush-clearing and increased maintenance. In the spring of 1994, members planted flowering plum trees at the park, along Hearthwood Blvd. Later that year, AGNA officers were successful in obtaining approval from the Clark County Commissioners for greenspace improvements, which were accomplished during the fall of 1995. AGNA was recognized on March 3, 1997, as the City of Vancouver’s 31st neighborhood association and its initial Neighborhood Action Plan was approved by the membership in November 1999. Improving Hearthwood Park continued to be an association priority. AGNA members were major participants in the development of a master plan for the park in 2001. Level 2 amenities, including playground equipment, were installed the following year. AGNA obtained a NAP grant for an additional park bench and picnic table in the playground plaza.

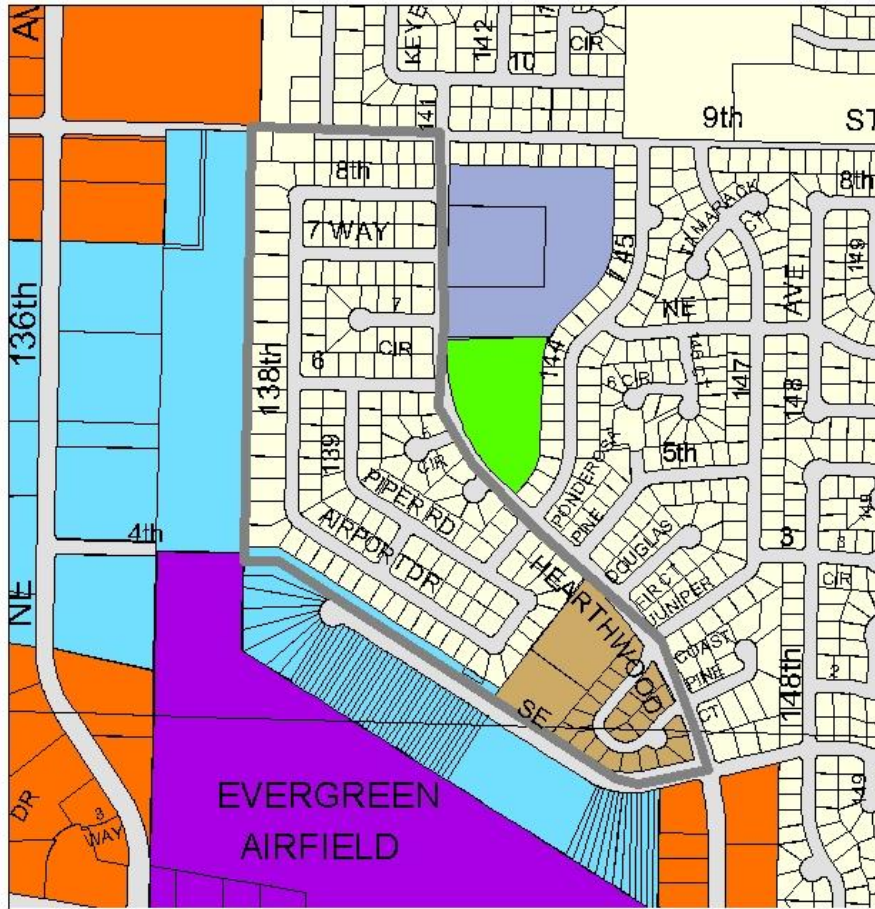
Our Neighborhood Today

We seek to preserve and improve our community as a means of maintaining our high quality of life. We feel safe in our neighborhood and support a well-organized neighborhood watch program to promote continued security. Walkers, joggers and cyclists of all ages enjoy our quiet and clean sidewalks and streets. Excessive vehicular speed on Hearthwood Blvd., a collector arterial bordering our neighborhood, raises safety concerns for pedestrians, cyclists and those in wheelchairs. In 2003 AGNA saw to the installation of an entrance island, with a pedestrian safety sign, on Hearthwood Blvd. to address these concerns.

Our lives are enriched by many nearby amenities. Hearthwood Park provides a venue for recreation, relaxation and community-building activities. The adjacent Hearthwood Elementary School not only offers educational opportunities for youth, but also serves as a multi-use facility for the community and a meeting place for the neighborhood association. The Cascade Park branch of the library, a full-service Post Office, essential shopping and a planned community center are within walking distance. The nearby airport and the antique airplanes that fly overhead give our neighborhood a unique ambiance.

East Vancouver's rapid growth and inadequate freeway access has resulted in traffic congestion on area arterial roadways creating a major threat to our quality of life. The sale of part, and eventually all, of the Evergreen Airport for development as well as in-fill development along Mill Plain Blvd. and 136th Avenue are cause for concern. The challenges resulting from growth demand, and receive, our attention and energy.

Neighborhood Zoning/Comp Map



Legend

- Urban Low Residential
- Urban Medium Residential
- Community Commercial
- Light Industrial
- Public Facility
- Open Space
- Airport

Airport Green



Vision Statement

The Airport Green neighborhood envisions friendly, considerate and caring residents who take pride in well-kept homes and yards. We see neighbors lending a helping hand when needed and working together to maintain safety, security, and to preserve a high quality of life.

Neighborhood sidewalks and streets are well-lit, free of hazards and nuisances. Neighbors can easily and safely access numerous area amenities by foot, wheelchair, bicycle and automobile.

Residents partner with the City of Vancouver and community stakeholders proactively seeking solutions to the challenges posed by growth and development, implementing strategies to preserve and enhance the neighborhood's livability, character and quality of life.

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:

AGNA	Airport Green Neighborhood Association
AC	Animal Control
CCSO	Clark County Sheriff's Office
CMO	City Manager's Office
CMS	Community Mediation Services
DRS	Development Review Services
LRPD	Long Range Planning Department
OWN	Neighborhood Property Owners
USPS	US Postal Service
VCE	Vancouver Code Enforcement
VFD	Vancouver Fire Department
V-CPRD	Vancouver-Clark Parks and Recreation Department
VON	Vancouver Office of Neighborhoods
VPD	Vancouver Police Department
VPW	Vancouver Public Works
VSW	Vancouver Solid Waste Services
VTD	Vancouver Transportation Department
VUF	Vancouver Urban Forestry

I. MOBILITY MANAGEMENT

Objective #1

Slow traffic throughout our neighborhood.

The excessive traffic speed on Hearthwood Blvd. is a primary concern. Pedestrians of all ages must cross Hearthwood Blvd. to access the elementary school, park, and other amenities. Existing sidewalks and bicycle lanes are utilized. Raised crosswalks and an entrance island have been installed in the school/park area, but other portions of Hearthwood Blvd. warrant attention. Efforts to improve speed awareness and driving habits must be continued.

<u>Action Steps</u>	<u>Priority</u>	<u>Responsible Parties</u>
◆ Continue speed awareness and education program utilizing radar reader board annually and other visual aids.	High	AGNA, VTD, VPD
◆ Work with Vancouver Police Department for appropriate speed enforcement.	High	AGNA, VPD
◆ Advocate for continued maintenance of traffic signs and posts	Low	AGNA, VPW

Objective #2

Manage mobility in and around our neighborhood.

The neighborhood association is proactive in addressing pedestrian safety and accessibility priorities, traffic management issues, and Level of Service features of area streets and future roadways, including street extensions and connections.

<u>Action Steps</u>	<u>Priority</u>	<u>Responsible Parties</u>
◆ Develop a neighborhood Traffic Management Plan (TMP) to address mobility issues.	High	AGNA, VTD
◆ Develop a neighborhood Traffic Improvement Plan (TIP) to address infrastructure improvements related to the traffic management plan.	Medium	AGNA, VTD

II. SAFETY

Objective #1

Increase the safety for pedestrians within our neighborhood and in the surrounding area.

Walking and bicycle riding are popular recreational activities in and around our neighborhood. Neighborhood amenities need to be more accessible, especially the park and library. Excessive vehicle speeds, unimproved infrastructure and inadequately marked crosswalks and bicycle lanes can discourage the use of sidewalks and bike lanes by walkers, joggers, bicyclists, and those utilizing wheelchairs. The neighborhood association has worked effectively to have a shelter placed at the nearest bus stop, and ADA curb ramps and in-fill sidewalks installed between Mill Plain Blvd. and NE 9th Street. Efforts should be made to extend sidewalks with curb ramps to NE 18th Street where many young people attend schools.

<u>Action Steps:</u>	<u>Priority</u>	<u>Responsible Parties</u>
◆ Work with Transportation Services to plan and install pedestrian safety improvements at SE 1 st Street & Hearthwood Blvd., and at NE 9 th Street & Hearthwood Blvd.	Medium	AGNA, VTD
◆ Advocate for marked crosswalk improvements on Hearthwood Blvd. at 6 th Street and at SE 1 st Street	High	AGNA, VTD
◆ Advocate for sidewalk in-fill on SE corner of Hearthwood Blvd. and NE 9 th Street.	Medium	AGNA, VTD
◆ Advocate for enhanced delineation devices to mark bicycle lanes and improve driver awareness.	High	AGNA, VTD
◆ Work for installation of sidewalk infill on south side of 9 th Street to 139 th Avenue, and sidewalk on west side of 139 th Avenue from 9 th Street to 18 th Street	High	AGNA, VTD
◆ Advocate for a pedestrian safety device on Hearthwood Blvd. at NE Coast Pine Ave.	High	AGNA, VTD
◆ Retrofit and standardize curb-ramp styles along Hearthwood Blvd. for improved safety and uniformity of design.	Low	AGNA, VTD
◆ Advocate for ADA curb ramps on Hearthwood Blvd. for the “Hearthwood” cul-de-sac (a.k.a., NE 4 th Circle) and NE corner of NE 144 th Avenue.	Low	AGNA, VTD

II. SAFETY (Continued)

Objective #2

Ensure our neighborhood is prepared for emergencies or disasters.

Neighborhoods should be proactive in making reasonable preparations for emergencies or disasters. A U. S. Geological Survey risk assessment of our area ranking it sixth in the country of the highest earthquake potentials and the War on Terrorism has prompted emergency services to urge neighborhoods to form Citizen Emergency Response Teams.

<u>Action Steps</u>	<u>Priority</u>	<u>Responsible Parties</u>
◆ Continue and enhance program of painting house numbers on curbs to assist emergency response.	High	AGNA
◆ Form and maintain a Citizen Emergency Response Team (CERT).	High	AGNA, VFD, VPD

Objective #3

Maintain a high level of public safety within our neighborhood.

We have a high expectation of public safety and realize that our police and fire personnel alone cannot eliminate dangers in our neighborhood. We must take the initiative to know our neighbors, recognize and report suspicious activity, and take precautions to protect our homes and families.

<u>Action Steps</u>	<u>Priority</u>	<u>Responsible Parties</u>
◆ Maintain an effective Neighborhood Watch Program and give recognition to Section Captains.	High	AGNA
◆ Foster partnerships with Vancouver Police and Fire Departments.	High	AGNA, VFD, VPD
◆ Publicize internet access for offender information.	High	AGNA, CCSO, VPD
◆ Publicize City phone numbers for reporting inoperative street lights and other safety issues.	High	AGNA, VPW

III. APPEARANCE/NUISANCE

Objective #1

Encourage and maintain pride in our neighborhood.

<u>Action Steps:</u>	<u>Priority</u>	<u>Responsible Parties</u>
◆ Encourage responsible pet ownership and compliance with city scoop laws, utilizing newsletter and other means.	High	AGNA, AC
◆ Encourage compliance with vehicle parking and residential regulations, utilizing newsletter and other means.	High	AGNA, VPD, VCE
◆ Recognize neighbors for improving the appearance of their homes and yards.	Medium	AGNA, VON, CMO
◆ Form a committee to help neighbors with house and yard work.	Medium	AGNA
◆ Encourage area landlords to maintain their properties.	High	AGNA, VCE, OWN

Objective #2

Reduce the noise in the neighborhood.

<u>Action Steps:</u>	<u>Priority</u>	<u>Responsible Parties</u>
◆ Work with U. S. Postal Service and area businesses to mitigate early morning and unnecessary noise at existing sites and in future development.	High	AGNA, USPS, OWN
◆ Encourage compliance with responsible pet ownership and city dog barking regulations.	Medium	AGNA, AC, CMS
◆ Encourage consideration in the use of auto and home music systems.	High	AGNA, VCE, VPD, CMS

IV. PARKS

Objective #1

Create more amenities in our neighborhood park

In 1995 the Airport Green Neighborhood Association worked with the Clark County Parks & Recreation Department to obtain funding to bring Hearthwood Park from an undeveloped site to a Level 1 (greenspace) park. Picnic tables, a bench and the walking path were installed in 1996, following grading and grass seeding. Trash containers were added in January, 2000. A Master Plan for the park was also developed with participation from area residents. Level 2 amenities, consisting of the playground plaza with a picnic table, bench and water fountain, were added in 2002. AGNA obtained a grant from the city for an additional picnic table and bench to complement the playground area. The neighborhood is pleased with the current character of Hearthwood Park.

<u>Action Steps</u>	<u>Priority</u>	<u>Responsible Parties</u>
◆ Urge the Vancouver-Clark Parks and Recreation Department to forestall Level 3 development in order to maintain the park's current character.	High	AGNA, V-CPRD
◆ Advocate for the addition of small amenities, such as benches and a pet pick up station.	High	AGNA, V-CPRD
◆ Work with Vancouver-Clark Parks and Recreation Department for improved landscaping and shade trees around the playground plaza.	High	AGNA, V-CPRD, VUF
◆ Urge the Vancouver-Clark Parks and Recreation Department to upgrade signage at the park to foster compliance with regulations.	Medium	AGNA, V-CPRD
◆ Work with the City of Vancouver to form a "Friends of Hearthwood Park" program to enhance park maintenance and prevent misuse of amenities.	Medium	AGNA, V-CPRD, CMO

V. ZONING & DEVELOPMENT

Objective #1

Maintain the current zoning designations within our neighborhood and promote compatible zoning and development in the broader area.

Traffic congestion in the East Mill Plain Blvd. and NE 136th Avenue corridors is a major threat to our quality of life. Commercial and/or industrial development on the current Evergreen Airport property, along with continuing area development, present additional challenges.

<u>Action Steps:</u>	<u>Priority</u>	<u>Responsible Parties</u>
◆ Work with area property owners and Development Review Services to maintain current zoning designations and land uses in our neighborhood.	High	AGNA, OWN, DRS, LRPD
◆ Work with area property owners and Development Review Services to promote zoning designations and development in the broader area which will be compatible with our neighborhood.	High	AGNA, OWN, DRS, LRPD
◆ Work with area property owners and Development Review Services to develop site plans which address and mitigate issues related to security, safety, noise, light, traffic congestion, etc.	High	AGNA, OWN, DRS, LRPD

VI. PUBLIC SERVICES

Objective #1

Create partnerships with neighborhood and city resources to enhance quality of life and improve services.

The neighborhood association believes that improving city services and controlling costs can be realized by proactive initiatives. Creating partnerships with service providers is an effective strategy to achieve desired results. We support efforts to protect the quality of ground water, and reduce solid waste and light pollution.

<u>Action Steps:</u>	<u>Priority</u>	<u>Responsible Parties</u>
◆ Create and implement strategy for installation of modern and efficient streetlights.	High	AGNA, VTD, VPW
◆ Create and implement strategy to control cost of trash service.	High	AGNA, VSW
◆ Encourage residents to recycle through education program, utilizing training through the annual neighborhoods recycling contest.	High	AGNA, VSW
◆ Continue neighborhood cleanup event.	High	AGNA, VSW
◆ Encourage responsible disposal of household hazardous waste.	High	AGNA, VSW
◆ Encourage residents to protect the quality of ground water.	High	AGNA, VPW
◆ Organize recycling and yard waste events.	Medium	AGNA, VSW

VII. COMMUNITY BUILDING

Objective #1

Foster neighborly relationships.

Everyone feels more relaxed, safe and secure when residents know their neighbors and look out for each other. The neighborhood association sponsors activities which foster neighborly relationships. The Airport Green Neighborhood values the many community resources (such as schools, parks, libraries, postal services, etc.) that exist nearby and appreciate the opportunities they provide. The neighborhood supports the construction of a community center on NE 136th Avenue.

<u>Action Steps:</u>	<u>Priority</u>	<u>Responsible Parties</u>
◆ Continue to sponsor annual 4 th of July parade and picnic, the neighborhood garage sale and cleanup.	High	AGNA
◆ Hold more activities sponsored by AGNA.	High	AGNA
◆ Strengthen working relationships with schools, parks, libraries, postal services, community centers, etc. and encourage residents to take advantage of their programs and services.	High	AGNA
◆ Create a greeting committee to welcome new neighbors and to create, and distribute, a new neighbor "Welcome Kit."	Medium	AGNA