



Neighborhood Action Plan



**City of Vancouver
Office of Neighborhoods**

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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 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 *Vancouver Comprehensive Plan 2011-2030*, was updated in November 2011. 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 Rose Village 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 Rose Village Neighborhood Association, with assistance from the Office of Neighborhoods, 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 draft version of this Action Plan has been advertised and made available to each household in Rose Village 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 NAP 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 funding, however the neighborhood may be eligible for many private, federal and state funding programs.

Neighborhood Profile

General Overview

Today's Rose Village Neighborhood includes the area historically known as Rosemere, which was bounded by St. Johns Blvd and S Street, SR500, and Fourth Plain Blvd. The current Rose Village Neighborhood maintains the northern and southern boundaries of SR500 and Fourth Plain, and spans from Interstate 5 on the west to Grand Blvd. on the east.

Rose Village is very conveniently located to access Downtown Vancouver, and the major thoroughfares. SR500 to the north and Interstate 5 to the west offer easy, quick access to Vancouver's east side, and points north and south as well. The city of Portland, Oregon, is just ten minutes away on I-5, so this neighborhood is convenient for commuters as well. Minor routes include Fourth Plain Boulevard to the south and St Johns from Fourth Plain to the northeast corner of the neighborhood. Both 33rd and 29th Streets connect with adjacent neighborhoods Shumway to the west and Fourth Plain village to the east. Fort Vancouver Way connects Rose Village to Central Park, Clark College, the Veterans hospital, County Health Department, and Hudson's Bay High School.

The area has been represented by active neighborhood associations for over 25 years. The Rose Village Neighborhood Association (RVNA) was established June 5, 2005 and is recognized by the City of Vancouver as the official Neighborhood Association for the area.

Its History

It is unclear where the Rosemere name originated, though historians presume it is the name of the area's original developer. Around 1907–08, a woman named Emily Rosemere lived in the neighborhood and it is possible that she is the neighborhood's namesake. The word Rosemere includes the British suffix -mere, meaning "pond."

Situated close to Vancouver's Downtown, Rose Village is one of the city's older neighborhoods and has many interesting stories that also tell the story of Vancouver's development.

In the late 19th and early 20th Centuries, the Rose Village area was largely farmland, with orchards, wheat,

and cows. As the city's population grew, the area became more residential but still retained its rich, green character with plenty of shade trees, green lawns, and bountiful backyard gardens.

In 1911, the area bounded by 28th, 31st, R, and S Streets was purchased for the neighborhood's first school, which was a one-room portable unit. The school did close for two terms during WWI, but grew to two portable units when it reopened in 1918. The first permanent building on the site was erected in 1921 and remained in use until 1965. A larger, more modern building replaced it in 1966 and it was again replaced in 2003, when LSW Architects designed a very modern, state-of-the-art building for our area's schoolchildren. The new school features accommodations for about 400 students and an outdoor amphitheater. Plans are currently in the works for an expanded Community/Family Resource Center, which will provide an even stronger connection between the school and the surrounding neighborhood.

Washington Elementary's rambling grounds include a playground, ball field, basketball court, picnic shelter, and open space. When students are not present, the grounds are open to the public for use as a neighborhood park. Leach Park at 28th and K Streets is in the southwest corner of the neighborhood, and also includes a playground. And just outside the neighborhood's boundaries, both Central Park to the south and Leverich Park to the north offer excellent green spaces for children and families to walk and play.

The intersection at St Johns and 33rd marks the location of a trolley line that served the neighborhood near the turn of the Twentieth Century. The building on the NE corner, which currently houses Cascade Auto Body, once housed the trolley barn and, later, the Vancouver Bus Company—proving that it is a good corner for vehicles, whether they are trolleys, buses, or cars. Cascade is the second auto body business to occupy the building since the buses left.

The neighborhood consists mostly of smaller, single-family homes on smaller lots, most of which were built between and during the two World Wars. In 1942, Henry Kaiser built a shipyard on the Columbia River, to supply ships for the overseas military efforts. As Kaiser hired more and more workers to build the ships, he also built housing for them on what was then the outskirts of town. From February to July 1942, Vancouver's population more than quadrupled, going from 18,000 residents to 85,000. Most of those people lived in homes in Fourth Plain Village and Rose Village.

Curiously, Rose Village is the only documented Vancouver neighborhood to have ever been hit by a meteorite! In 1946 a nurse who lived in the neighborhood was traveling down 33rd Street with her mother. Around 33rd and M Street, a meteorite fell from the sky! No one was injured, and the curious woman picked it up and was surprised to note how lightweight it was. According to past City Councilmember and local storyteller Pat Jollota, the meteorite somehow ended up in Oregon and “they won't give it back!”

The Present

Under the rejuvenated neighborhood association, community participation has grown steadily. The support of local businesses, churches, and other organizations have been paramount in the formation and continued success of the Association. Because of RVNA efforts, curbs have been improved, wheelchair access ramps have been installed at street corners, neighborhood gardens are being established, street trees are being added, and a resolution that supported Vancouver School District holding a symposium to develop a Family Resource Center at Washington Elementary School was held.

Today, the neighborhood is home to many older residents who have lived here for decades, as well as first-time buyers who appreciate the quality craftsmanship of an older home, the affordability of a smaller lot and structure, and the close proximity to downtown and I-5. Zoning changes allowed some duplexes to be built in the neighborhood, and apartments are generally concentrated along Fourth Plain and St Johns.

A few commercial areas provide the area with convenient shopping, mostly along St. Johns Blvd. and Fort Vancouver Way. Commercial establishments include restaurants, used automobile sales, auto body shop, barber shops and hair salons, laundromats, gas stations and convenience stores, a grocery store, a bakery, fast food, pet care, and attorneys.

Under development are two new neighborhood parks, one on the corner of 35th and T Streets and the other at 30th and Z Streets. The park on 35th and T Street has undergone extensive planning, with development expected in 2012.

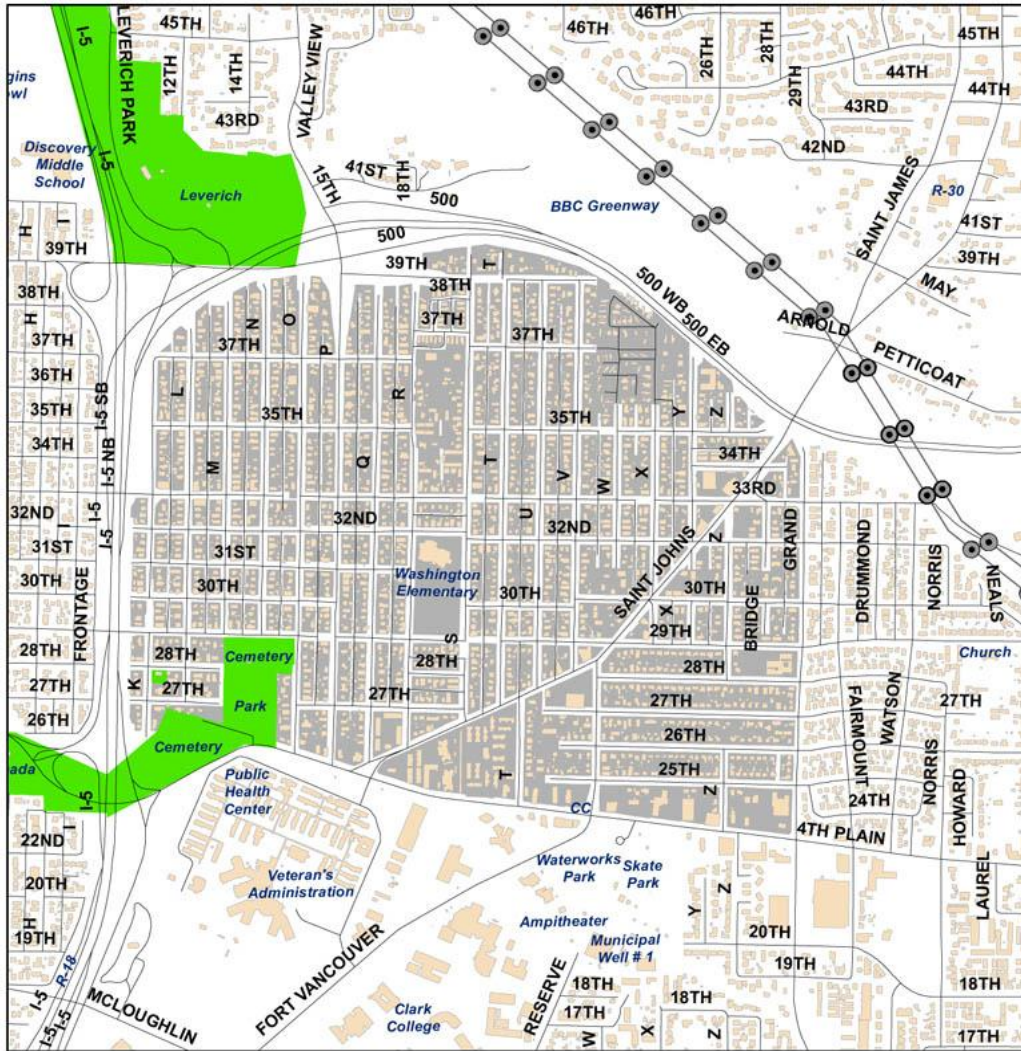
As a neighborhood we value and would like to preserve our mature trees and open space to reflect the regional landscape of the Pacific Northwest. We recognize the benefits of trees (cleanse the air, provide oxygen, reduce amount of energy to cool and heat our homes, intercepting stormwater, contribute to neighborhood livability, and they calm and slow traffic, improve wildlife habitat, reduce erosion, and mitigate flooding) and unlike many other investments that depreciate, a tree's value increases with each passing year. We also realize houses on tree-lined streets command prices that are up to 20 percent higher than houses in neighborhoods without trees. All neighborhood residents actively work to increase neighborhood tree canopy to maximize the environmental, social, and economic benefits of trees by planting new trees wherever possible and by preserving mature trees through proper maintenance. Therefore we will strive to increase our urban canopy to the city's average of 18% within our neighborhood to maximize these benefits.

Places of Interest

Some of the oldest landmarks within the neighborhood are the final resting places for hundreds of Vancouverites; The Vancouver Barracks Cemetery (VBC) and Mother Joseph Catholic Cemetery (MJCC). VBC is located at Fourth Plain Boulevard and Interstate-5. The cemetery dates back to 1882, and is the final resting place of over 1,400, including 3 Medal of Honor recipients. Next to VBC is the Mother Joseph Catholic Cemetery of Vancouver (formerly known as St. James Acre). This cemetery dates back to 1871 and is the final resting place of Mother Joseph and 169 sisters of Providence, who were instrumental in the formation of the Catholic faith in the Pacific Northwest and Southwest Washington. MJCC serves Catholics from St. James, St. Joseph, Our Lady of Lourdes and Holy Redeemer.

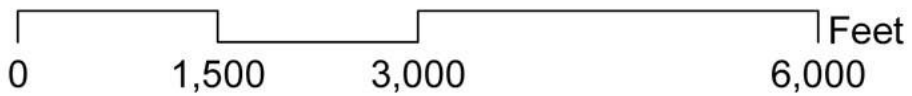
The neighborhood features a neighborhood park (Leach Park) on 28th Street and K Street (as well as at Washington Elementary), neighborhood gardens on 39th and P Street and next to IGA, a Heritage Tree (Tuliptree) on 33rd Street and St. Johns Boulevard, and property for the two proposed parks previously mentioned.

Neighborhood Area Map

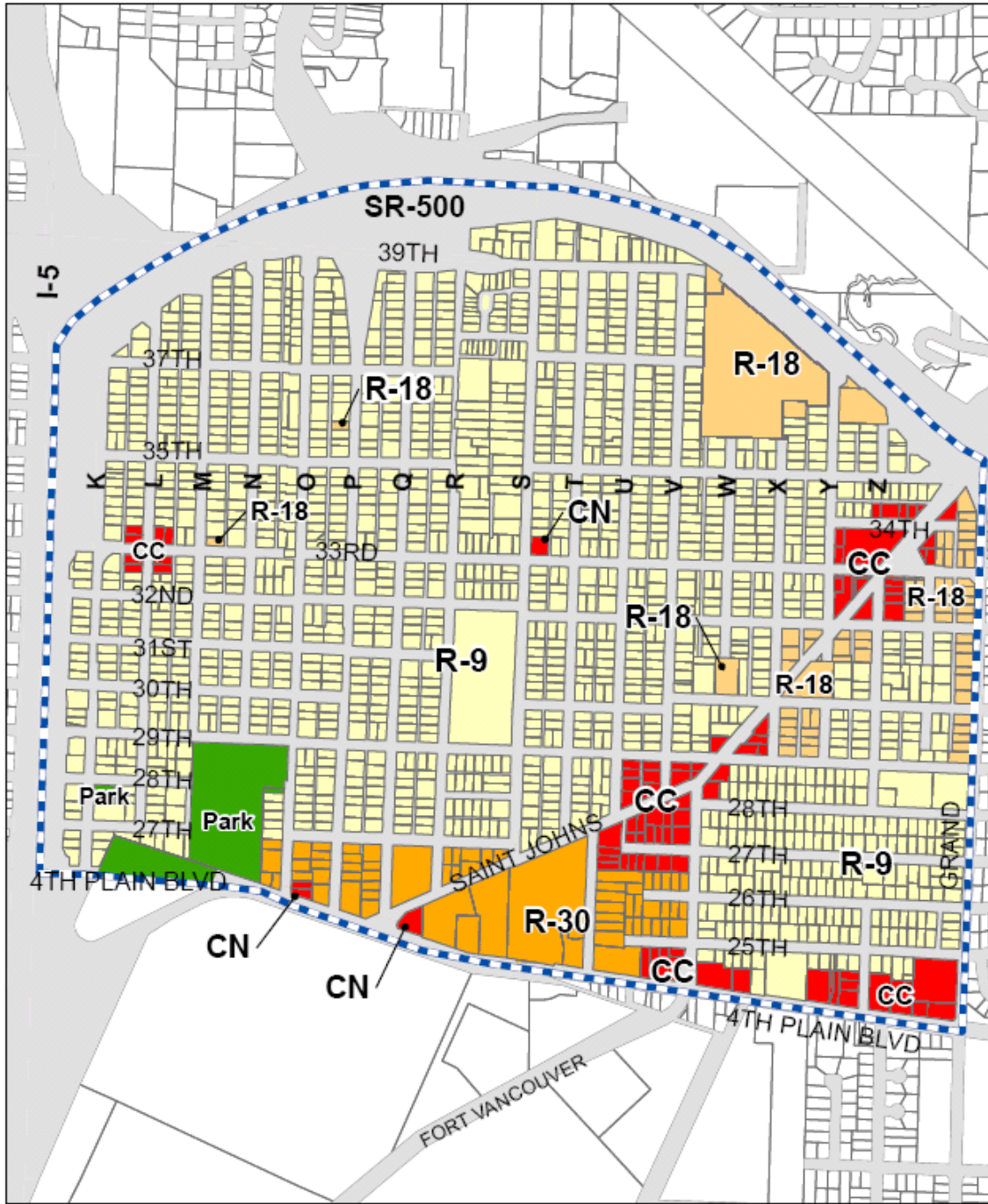


Rose Village

Zoning Map: C-4 & C-5



Neighborhood Zoning Map



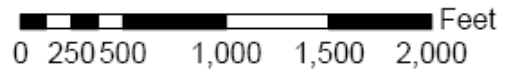
Legend

ZONING DESCRIPTION

- Park
- Low Density Residential-9du/ac (R-9)
- Higher Density Residential (R-18)
- Higher Density Residential (R-30)
- Community Commercial (CC)
- Neighborhood Commercial (CN)

ROSE VILLAGE ZONING

February, 2012



Vision Statement

Rose Village neighbors value the comfortable, affordable and friendly quality of the neighborhood, and we see the area's cultural and social diversity as one of the key factors that make Rose Village a desirable place to live. Through good communication, cooperation and continued and increased citizen participation we will maintain a neighborhood that is safe, friendly, inviting, and clean.

We envision safer streets, sidewalks and lighting, to create a better walking and bicycling environment for all ages and seasons. The Rose Village Neighborhood supports focusing growth and density along the arterial and transit streets, so that we may maintain single family zoning in the core.

We embrace the opportunity to work with other neighborhood associations and our businesses as we strengthen and maintain our community.

As a neighborhood association, we intend to help neighbors meet neighbors, advocate for neighborhood projects, promote safety and security, encourage neighborhood cohesion, and enable the citizens of the neighborhood to become full participants in the life of the City. We aim to foster and maintain an environment where neighbors have a personal sense of responsibility for the well-being of the neighborhood, and a spirit of volunteerism prevails to meet our own and our fellow neighbors' needs.

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:

4PTF	Fourth Plain Task Force
APC	Animal Protection and Control
BC	Business Community
CCPH	Clark County Public Health
CERT	Community Emergency Response Team
CITY	All Responsible City Departments
CMS	Community Mediation Services
CPU	Clark Public Utilities
CTRAN	CTRAN
DSHS	Washington State Department of Social Health Services
DVP	Developers
FOT	Friends of Trees
NOW	Neighbors on Watch
OTH	Other organizations
OWN	Property Owners
PMG	Property Management Groups
PS	Postal Services
RVNA	Rose Village Neighborhood Association
SCTF	Safe Communities Task Force
SWCLT	Southwest Washington Community Land Trust
TAAG	Taking Action Against Graffiti Task Force
VCC	Vancouver Code Compliance
VCD	Vancouver Community Development
V-CPRD	Vancouver-Clark Parks and Recreation Department
VFD	Vancouver Fire Department
VHA	Vancouver Housing Authority
VON	Vancouver Office of Neighborhoods
VPD	Vancouver Police Department
VPS	Vancouver Public Schools
VPW	Vancouver Public Works
VSWS	Vancouver Solid Waste Services
VUF	Vancouver Urban Forestry

I. PUBLIC SAFETY

Objective #1: Increase public safety and security

Personal safety, graffiti and gang activity, and security of property are issues in the Rose Village neighborhood. The neighborhood supports continuing efforts to work with the City to identify and educate residents about safety concerns.

<u>Action Steps</u>	<u>Priority</u>	<u>Responsible Parties</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the level of participation in the Neighbors on Watch program. 	High	VPD, RVNA, NOW
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designate a NOW Coordinator for the neighborhood. 	High	VPD, RVNA, NOW
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote participation in the program through the newsletters and electronic media. 	High	RVNA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educate neighborhood about radon and lead paint. Seek opportunities to provide testing kits and remediation. 	High	RVNA, CCPH
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make information available to residents describing simple strategies for increasing personal safety and security. 	Medium	VPD, RVNA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage and support neighbors to make an effort to get to know everyone on their own block, especially the elderly and families with small children. 	Medium	RVNA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage the use of the spring clean-up and chipper day to remove excess vegetation and debris. 	Low	RVNA

I. PUBLIC SAFETY

Objective #2: Improve Street lighting and sidewalk access in neighborhood

Create well-lit, pedestrian-friendly thoroughways to encourage and bolster resident feelings of security and pride, and to discourage crime and gang activity.

<u>Action Steps</u>	<u>Priority</u>	<u>Responsible Parties</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct an annual inventory of the neighborhood's street lights. 	High	RVNA, VPW
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with the City to identify lighting deficiencies within the neighborhood. 	High	RVNA, VPW
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Install supplemental low-intensity lighting as required. 	Medium	VPW, CPU
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with residents to ensure sidewalks and ramps remain accessible during inclement weather. 	Medium	RVNA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluate and work to correct damaged sidewalks, particularly due to damage caused by street trees. 	Medium	RVNA, VPW, VUF
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify crosswalk needs and work with the City to increase pedestrian safety (i.e. St. Johns & 29th). 	Medium	RVNA, VPW
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage residents to provide front and back yard lighting. 	Low	RVNA, CPU

I. PUBLIC SAFETY

Objective #3: Improve Neighborhood Preparedness

Develop a comprehensive emergency plan for the neighborhood to ensure a comprehensive, integrated response to any disaster/emergency.

<u>Action Steps</u>	<u>Priority</u>	<u>Responsible Parties</u>
• Designate a CERT Coordinator for the neighborhood.	High	RVNA
• Participate in the “Map Your Neighborhood” program as part of developing a comprehensive emergency plan for the neighborhood.	Medium	RVNA
• Work to identify the neighborhood’s most vulnerable to ensure well-being during inclement weather.	Low	RVNA

II. MOBILITY MANAGEMENT

Objective #1: Discourage speeding/establish traffic calming

Speeding vehicles are a common problem in our neighborhood, both on residential streets as well as on 39th, 33rd, 29th, St. Johns, Grand and Fourth Plain Boulevard. Some of this speeding is associated with cut-through traffic. An equally large percentage of the speeding, however, can be attributed to vehicles driven by residents of the neighborhood.

<u>Action Steps</u>	<u>Priority</u>	<u>Responsible Parties</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with the City to prepare a Neighborhood Traffic Plan specific to our neighborhood. 	High	RVNA, VPW
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incorporate into the traffic plan various traffic-calming measures, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Traffic signals - Roundabouts - Speed bumps - Narrowing - Street tree plantings 	High	RVNA, VPW, VUF
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase speed enforcement. • Increase use of speed monitoring. 	High Medium	VPD RVNA RVNA, 4PTF
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work in conjunction with the Fourth Plain Task Force to explore opportunities to increase the use of traffic calming measures on Fourth Plain Blvd. • Educate residents of the importance of honoring speed limits. 	Medium	RVNA, VPD

II. MOBILITY MANAGEMENT

Objective #2: Improve pedestrian and bicycle access

Despite Rose Village's close proximity to downtown, pedestrian access to, from, and within the neighborhood is somewhat restricted due to inadequate pedestrian facilities. Rose Village was laid out before much of the current city code was in place, and many streets still lack sidewalks and curbs to promote safe pedestrian travel. Many students walk to school at Washington Elementary or other nearby schools, and must traverse long stretches of damaged or nonexistent sidewalk. Inconsistent curbs also create severe difficulties for our residents with mobility issues, who use walkers or motorized scooters and cannot navigate uneven curbs.

<u>Action Steps</u>	<u>Priority</u>	<u>Responsible Parties</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve sidewalks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 33rd and 29th Streets from I-5 to Grand • St. Johns from SR 500 to 29th Street • Fourth Plain from I-5 to Grand 	High	VPW
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inventory and prioritize installation of sidewalks and incorporate into Neighborhood Traffic Plan. 	High	VPW, RNVA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add or repair ADA-accessible ramps at corners on 33rd and 29th Streets, St. Johns, Ft. Vancouver and Fourth Plain, and elsewhere as necessary. 	High	VPW
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apply for CDBG funds to pay for street/sidewalk improvements 	High	RVNA, VCC
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with City Code Compliance to achieve compliance about responsibilities for property maintenance concerning sidewalks. 	High	RVNA, VPW
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perform an annual survey of curbs, sidewalks and storm drains, paying special attention to the condition/maintenance of storm drain stencils. 	High	RVNA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research creation of bike lanes and incorporate into Neighborhood Traffic Plan. 	High	VPW, RNVA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the Walking School Bus for Washington Elementary 	Medium	RVNA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Properly maintain and sweep bike lanes on St. Johns and Fort Vancouver Way, to avoid debris pile-up that makes lanes unusable. 	Medium	VPW
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify crosswalk needs and work with the City to increase pedestrian safety (i.e. St. John's & 29th). 	Medium	RVNA, VPW
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote increased public transit use 	Low	RVNA, CTRAN

II. MOBILITY MANAGEMENT

Objective 3: Improve vehicle traffic and access

Poorly maintained roads create hazards and safety issues, as drivers focus on navigating potholes and abandoned vehicles and turn their attention away from looking out for pedestrians or bicycles. “Patch” work by public works is often undertaken instead of actual street repair. While we recognize that the City is managing a strained budget, these stop-gap efforts often do more harm than good, as the patches do not stay in place and become yet more debris that must be avoided in order to travel safely.

<u>Action Steps</u>	<u>Priority</u>	<u>Responsible Parties</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regularly repair and maintain roads with long-term, sustainable solutions (i.e. 33rd – P Street to St. Johns Blvd, 37th – N Street to P Street). 	High	VPW
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with Code Compliance to remove vehicles included in the No-Camping, Junk, and Abandoned Vehicle Ordinances. 	Medium	VCC, RVNA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finish paving alleys in Rose Village. 	Low	VPW

III. AFFORDABLE, QUALITY HOUSING

Objective #1: Maintain a range of Affordable Housing Opportunities

Rose Village has one of the city's highest ratios of rental homes to owner-occupied homes. Affordable, available rental housing is critical to the city's livability, but can often be problematic for maintenance and tenant investment in the community. RVNA is committed to maintaining affordable housing in the community for owners as well as renters, and to holding owners and tenants accountable for the maintenance and upkeep of their properties. For properties with appropriate zoning, encouraging the development and/or use of properties in innovative ways (such as live/work) that helps meet this objective will be considered.

<u>Action Steps</u>	<u>Priority</u>	<u>Responsible Parties</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with Southwest Washington Community Land Trust to advertise the program that keeps property in a public trust and allows buyers to spend less on a home. 	Medium	RVNA, SWCLT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with Clark County Rental Association and landlords to foster a more positive rental environment within the neighborhood. 	Medium	RVNA, CCRA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with neighborhood landlords and VHA to identify new opportunities for low-income housing, including Section 8 opportunities. 	Medium	RVNA, VHA, OWN
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain the current amount of single-family zoning within the neighborhood while encouraging multifamily or live/work properties along arterials and transit lines. 	Low	RVNA, VHA

III. AFFORDABLE, QUALITY HOUSING

Objective #2: Encourage maintenance and cleanliness of property, landscaping standards

Attractive, well-maintained, properties deter theft and vandalism and create pride of ownership for all community members. It is our goal for individual residents to embrace this pride of place.

<u>Action Steps</u>	<u>Priority</u>	<u>Responsible Parties</u>
• Hold rental landlords accountable for property maintenance	High	RVNA, VCC, OWN
• Continue annual “Chipper Day” and “Neighborhood Clean Up”	High	RVNA, VPW, VSWS
• Work with Code Compliance to establish baseline standards and enforce code violations.	High	RVNA, VCC
• Educate neighbors on the value of mature, large trees in the neighborhood and publicize resources for proper tree maintenance and discourage the improper practice of tree topping.	High	VUF
• Increase neighborhood mobilization in neighborhood-wide beautification events (such as “Chipper Day,” Neighborhood Clean Up,” and “Make a Difference Day”)	Medium	RVNA
• Encourage homeowners to improve their own property value by maintaining lawns and properties at or above code.	Medium	RVNA, OWN

III. AFFORDABLE, QUALITY HOUSING

Objective #3: Ensure that new and remodeled single-family residential construction is consistent with the architectural character of the neighborhood.

We encourage building new compatible single-family homes on vacant in-fill lots zoned for single-family residential use. All housing new to Rose Village should be compatible with the area’s typical homes in terms of architecture style, materials, scale and street orientation.

<u>Action Steps</u>	<u>Priority</u>	<u>Responsible Parties</u>
• Participate in the development review process for in-fill housing.	Low	RVNA, DVP, VCD
• Inventory potential sites for locating new single-family housing and encourage building of homes that fit within the architectural character of the neighborhood.	Low	RVNA, DVP
• Make efforts to establish dialogue with developers early in the process.	Low	RVNA, DVP
• Encourage neighbors to preserve existing trees and plant native trees where appropriate to maintain the historic character of our neighborhood.	Low	RVNA, VUF

IV. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & APPEARANCE

Objective #1: Foster stronger school partnerships

With nearly two-thirds of neighborhood households consisting of families, a strong partnership with Washington Elementary is paramount in building a strong bond between residents.

<u>Action Steps</u>	<u>Priority</u>	<u>Responsible Parties</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with the VPS to support development of the Family Community Resource Center (FCRC) at Washington Elementary. 	High	RVNA, VPS, FCRC
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with the Washington Elementary FCRC Coordinator to encourage neighborhood support and involvement in school programs (such as the Walking School Bus and Lunch Buddy Programs). 	High	RVNA, VPS, FCRC
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partner with local service organizations and nonprofits to engage school-age children and neighbors in service projects throughout the community. 	Medium	RVNA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with Safe Communities Task Force and associated organizations in the development and enhancement of after-school and summertime programs for school-age children. 	Medium	RVNA, SCTF

IV. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & APPEARANCE

Objective #2: Educate residents about the importance of maintaining their property, and support their efforts to do so.

Attractive, well-maintained properties deter theft and vandalism, and create pride of ownership for all community members. It is our goal for all residents to embrace this pride of place.

Occasional graffiti and vandalism in the neighborhood diminish the residents' sense of pride, security and well-being. The neighborhood recognizes the need to work together with the City and with each other to keep the neighborhood clean and safe.

<u>Action Steps</u>	<u>Priority</u>	<u>Responsible Parties</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase enforcement of the City's junk ordinance, and other existing regulations intended to ensure that properties are properly maintained. 	High	RVNA, VCC
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annually schedule and promote the City's "chipping" program to help neighbors maintain their trees and shrubs. 	High	RVNA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage at least one resident to participate in the NeighborWoods program annually. Utilize the NeighborWoods Steward as a resource to help educate residents about the benefits of trees, proper tree care and assist with tree issues. 	High	RVNA, APC, VUF
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage residents to protect and plant trees plantings for traffic calming, air quality, beauty and noise buffers. 	High	RVNA, APC, VUF
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage residents to organize a monthly litter pickup/crime walk along their streets. 	Medium	RVNA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with TAAG to educate the residents about graffiti, gang "tagging" and the City's anti-graffiti program and work with neighbors to promptly address any new graffiti. 	Medium	RVNA, TAAG
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage residents to be responsible pet owners (marking, roaming, clean-up, care). 	Low	VCD, RVNA, APC
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design the placement of cellular towers, advertisement, or other business related items within the neighborhood to reduce the negative impact on neighborhood aesthetics. 	Low	RVNA, VCD
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discourage tall front yard fences and similar design features that encourage separation from neighbors. 	Low	RVNA

IV. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & APPEARANCE

Objective #3: Build and strengthen community resources

By creating access to resources for the entire neighborhood, RVNA aims to increase neighborhood interaction and investment in the community, reducing turnover and encouraging partnership with each other and neighborhood organizations.

<u>Action Steps</u>	<u>Priority</u>	<u>Responsible Parties</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the efforts of non-profit groups like ABC to paint and repair neighborhood houses and properties 	High	RVNA, ABC
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to organize community-based volunteer tree plantings in the neighborhood as a way to beautify the neighborhood while also serving as a community-building activity. 	High	RVNA, ABC, FOT, VUF
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support efforts to create and maintain individual and neighborhood gardens, parks, and green spaces. Work collaboratively with the City on maintenance solutions. 	Medium	RVNA, V-CPRD, VPW
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue holding a National Night Out event, working with the IGA or other business to develop a strong neighborhood block party. 	Medium	RVNA, VPD
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase coordination with nearby neighborhoods to increase awareness and promotion of local shopping opportunities. 	Medium	RVNA, VON
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utilize “gateway signs” to welcome people to the neighborhood and increase neighborhood awareness. 	Medium	RVNA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote a tool library that is available for use by RVNA residents. 	Low	RVNA

V. SUSTAINABILITY

Objective #1: Encourage recycling and composting

Recycling and composting are two very simple ways for community members to live more sustainably, and save themselves and the City money.

<u>Action Steps</u>	<u>Priority</u>	<u>Responsible Parties</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use the newsletter to educate residents about recycling opportunities including standard waste removal, block foam recycling, Empower Up, yard debris, etc. 	Medium	RVNA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use newsletter to promote opportunities to learn about composting, which can also improve gardening efforts. 	Medium	RVNA

V. SUSTAINABILITY

Objective #2: Encourage residents to take advantage of opportunities to make their homes more energy efficient.

<u>Action Steps</u>	<u>Priority</u>	<u>Responsible Parties</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote and support efforts to affordably weatherize homes; educate neighbors about benefits of energy efficiency, using newsletter and meetings in addition to individual outreach. 	High	RVNA, CPU
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote, and educate residents on, the use of plant vegetation as a tool to increase the energy efficiency of buildings. 	Medium	RVNA, ABC, VUF

V. SUSTAINABILITY

Objective #3: Increase use of electronic communication

RVNA recognizes that not all neighbors have ready access to computers, but the prevalence of electronic communication and “smart” phones have made electronic communication very effective and less wasteful than paper communication. As a neighborhood association, we can reduce paper waste and increase effective communication by strategically adopting electronic means of communication, with well-planned non-electronic redundancy.

<u>Action Steps</u>	<u>Priority</u>	<u>Responsible Parties</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a strategic communications plan that includes paper/non-electronic/in-person communication in appropriate amounts. 	High	RVNA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop an efficient, easy-to-monitor means of electronic communication for all members. (Email list, Facebook, Twitter, website or blog?) 	Medium	RVNA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote this communication throughout the neighborhood and actively work to engage residents. 	Medium	RVNA