



Fircrest Neighborhood

" A Community with pride working with a City with vision"

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NEIGHBORHOOD ACTION PLAN

City of

VANCOUVER

WASHINGTON

October 28, 1998

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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. This is the purpose of a sub-area or neighborhood plan.

The City's new comprehensive plan, entitled *Visions for the Vancouver Urban Area*, was adopted in December of 1994. 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 Fircrest 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 Fircrest Neighborhood Association with assistance from the City of Vancouver Department of Community Development 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 sent to each household in Fircrest 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, and then forwarded to the Planning Commission for their consideration. The City Council will accept the Plan 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 implemented 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.

Neighborhood Profile

The Fircrest neighborhood, about five miles east of the city center is a diverse neighborhood that is approximately 400 square blocks. It is bounded to the north by 18th Street, to the east by 136th Avenue, to the south by Mill Plain Boulevard and to the west by I-205. The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) has asked to be part of our neighborhood, is adjacent to our border and has a vested interest in our neighborhood.

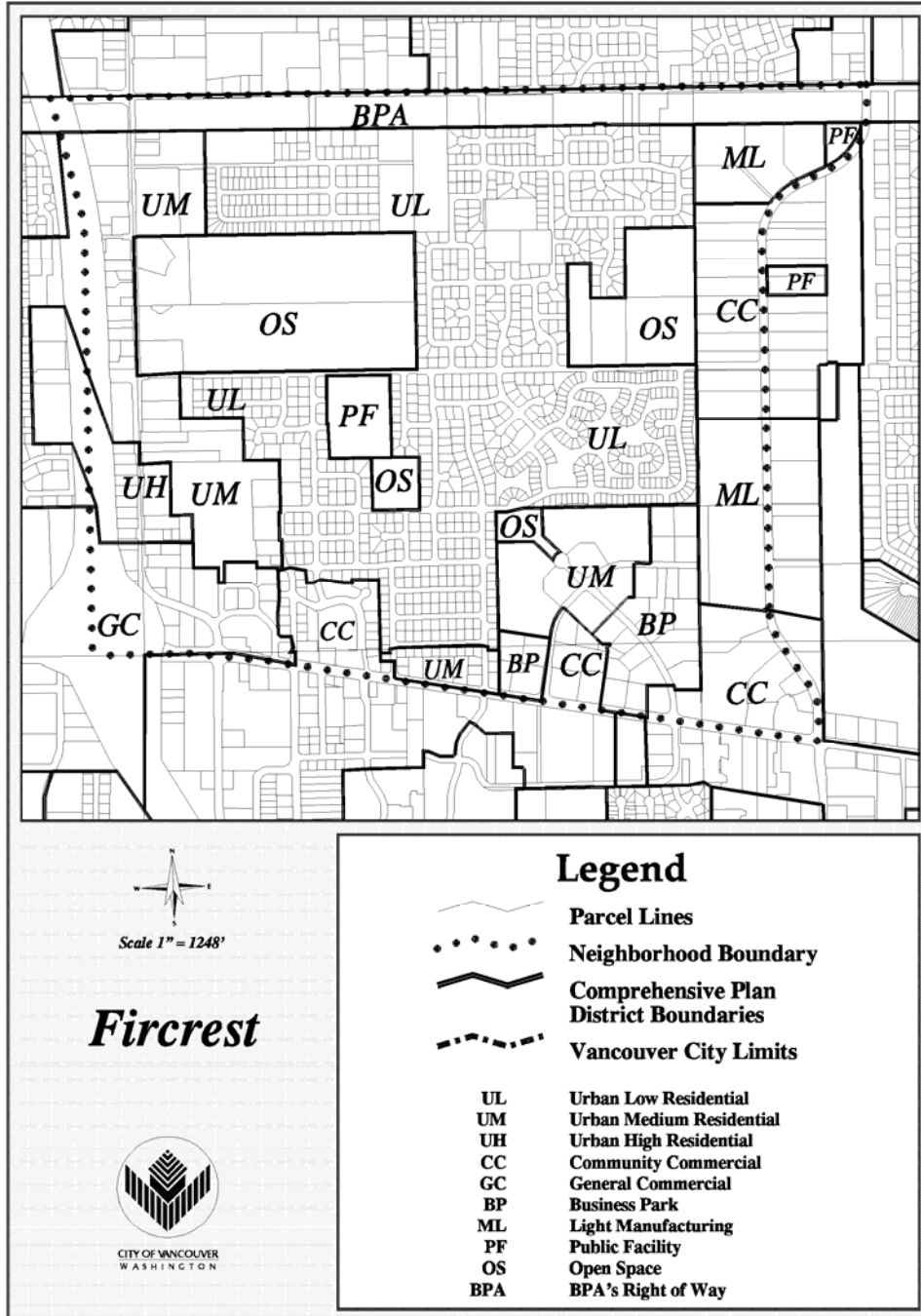
The housing within the neighborhood is diverse as to its uses. The majority of the homes were built in the 1970's in several subdivisions, though there are some recently built in-fill. A majority of the homes located within our neighborhood are single family. There are now 2 major apartment complexes, The Park with 565 units and Autumn Chase with 400 units.

The neighborhood is large and developed for different uses. It has residential, commercial and agricultural uses. Located along Mill Plain Boulevard, in a general and community commercial zone, businesses such as restaurants, shops and hotels thrive. Off 136th Avenue, areas are zoned for light industrial, community commercial and office campus. Along the western border is an area that is zoned for multifamily use but currently *Joe's Place Farms* farms the land and on lots along 18th street. Most of the neighborhood is developed for residential use developed in 7,500 square foot lots. About one quarter of the neighborhood's area is developed for multi-family use with designations ranging from R-18 (18 units per acre) to R-30 (30 units per acre).

Many services are available within our neighborhood. There is a water tower within our neighborhood serving most of the East Side of Vancouver. Other services within our neighborhood include two churches, an ambulance service, fire station and a C-TRAN Transit Station.

Even though Fircrest's southern border is one of the city's major arterials, it is still one of the most rural neighborhoods in Vancouver having over 110 acres of undeveloped land. Our mature neighborhood has plenty of shade due to the plentiful trees and flora located throughout. It contains fruit orchards, large lots and many open spaces. There are four areas zoned as parks or open spaces. Included in these areas is the Evergreen Memorial Gardens Cemetery of approximately 80 acres. The Fircrest open space of five acres is located in the center of the neighborhood. The 29.7 acre Haggen Park has an open field abutting an area that has dense vegetation with trails, bordering 9th Street. Haagen Park is scheduled for development in 2002. The second park is a three-acre corner walled in behind "The Park" apartments which is designated Urban Forest. There is no parking near this area without infringing upon the apartment area and the wall surrounding it on two sides discourages foot traffic. The developer recklessly cleared some of the natural vegetation when it was developed, however, human recreation is kept at a minimum to maintain its Urban Forest designation. Use by many species of wildlife of such a small-enclosed area seems unlikely although certain songbirds and small mammals may be found. Adding to the abundant open space is the Fircrest Elementary School's large lot of eleven acres and surrounding open space. Fircrest Elementary School, which is located on 9th street, is the center of our neighborhood.

Neighborhood Zoning/Comp Map



September 29, 1998

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Vision Statement

Fircrest Neighborhood Association is a safe, well-maintained neighborhood. Northeast 9th street remains a dead end. Our 30 acres of parkland adjoining NE 9th street has been minimally developed with trails through the woods and fields. Over time, our park was phased in development similar to that done at Orchards Park. Our wild areas remain primitive and conducive to the proliferation of wildlife.

Non-residential traffic does not invade us, and the non-neighborhood “cut through” traffic is discouraged by way of innovative traffic design. We have pedestrian and bicycle transportation that is safe for our children and neighbors with sidewalks and a bicycle path system.

We are a family-oriented business community actively involved with the neighborhood, jointly planning and supporting parks and recreation, traffic control, alternative transportation for their clients and employees and general increased livability for the residents and the community as a whole.

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:

| | |
|--------------|---|
| BAC | Clark County Bicycle Advisory Committee |
| BUS | Neighborhood Businesses |
| CC | Clark County |
| CITY | Mayor's Office |
| CMS | Community Mediation Services |
| CTRAN | CTRAN |
| ESD | Evergreen School District |
| FNA | Fircrest Neighborhood Association |
| NA | Vancouver Neighborhood Alliance |
| OTH | Other organizations |
| OWN | Neighborhood Property Owners |
| PDX | Portland International Airport |
| PUD | Clark Public Utilities |
| RTC | Regional Transportation Council |
| VCC | Vancouver Chamber of Commerce |
| VCDD | City of Vancouver Community Development Department |
| VCMO | City Manager's Office |
| VHA | Vancouver Housing Authority |
| VON | City of Vancouver Office of Neighborhoods |
| VPD | City of Vancouver Police Department |
| VPR | City of Vancouver Parks and Recreation Department |
| VPW | City of Vancouver Public Works |
| VTD | City of Vancouver Transportation Division |
| WSDOT | State of Washington Department of Transportation |

I. OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION

Objective #1

Preserve, develop, and manage our three parks in a responsible manner

The Fircrest Greenspace is a natural park that has large fir trees and seeded lawns. It is being replanted with native vegetation to encourage wildlife to proliferate. The second park is a three-acre corner walled in behind “The Park” apartments, which is a designated Urban Forest. Haagen Park is an undeveloped community park of approximately 30 acres, 1/3 of it wooded which is slated for development in 2002.

Our neighborhood cannot tolerate extending 9th street through to 136th avenue, as it will compromise the safety and livability of the neighborhood. Development of the eastern fields of Haagen Park to allow multiple usage is paramount. Some oppose installing night lighting at the playing fields planned to the eastern section of Haagen Park. All are concerned that over-zealous park development will deplete the forest; woodlands are increasingly rare and a precious resource in this area. The removal of trees and woodland would destroy the beauty and screening effect, which the forest provides to the residents. A wall or buffer zone should be created to ensure the privacy of the neighbors who are located at the northeast end of Haagen Park adjacent to the open fields.

| <u>Action Steps:</u> | <u>Priority</u> | <u>Responsible Parties</u> |
|--|-----------------|----------------------------|
| ◆ Those residents whose property abuts the forested area of Haagen Park should be guaranteed that no trees or natural vegetation will be removed from or near the park borders to the north, east, and west. | High | VPR, FNA |
| ◆ Specifically, preserve the trees on the eastern side of Haagen Park as a screen for parking. | Medium | VPR, FNA |
| ◆ Install a natural buffer of trees or bushes to screen the Northern Haagen Park border. | Medium | VPR, FNA |
| ◆ Installing a flat backstop for baseball near the outer edges of the fields will allow seasonal use of the fields for both baseball and soccer. | High | VPR, FNA, VCMO |
| ◆ Continue ongoing dialogue and liaison with Vancouver Parks and Recreation. | Low | FNA, VPR |
| ◆ On an interim basis, encourage | | |

| | | |
|---|--------|---|
| volunteers to continue to build and maintain trails and paths, and to periodically clean up Haagen Park. | High | FNA, VPR |
| ◆ Meet with and provide necessary input to the landscape design architects to ensure that our needs and desires as to park development are implemented. | High | FNA, ESD, VPR, and Local Environmental Groups |
| ◆ Enter into a partnership with Fircrest Elementary School and local environmental groups to encourage planting of trees and preservation of wildlife within the parks. | Medium | VPR, FNA |
| ◆ Install playground equipment in Haagen Park and also build drinking fountains, place tables and benches and place garbage cans near parking. | Medium | VPR, VPWF, VTD, FNA |
| ◆ Erect berms or take other steps to minimize parking on NE 9 th street adjacent to Haagen Park. | High | VTD, FNA |
| ◆ Direct vehicular traffic to designated parking areas within the park off of 136 Ave through Haagen Memorial drive or to the east near NE 136 th Avenue. | High | VPR, VPWF, FNA |
| ◆ Locate the main entrance to Haagen Park on NE 136 th Avenue, several hundred yards north of the dead end of NE 9 th Street. | High | VPR, FNA |
| ◆ Put benches and water in our Fircrest Park with no other development to maintain the natural environment. | High | VPR, FNA |
| ◆ Establish and renew a fir tree border in Haagen Park. | | |

OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION

Objective #2

Improve access to open space and parks.

It is important that all residents in the neighborhood have ready access to open space and parkland. Regrettably, that is not currently the case. Residents in the northwest area of the neighborhood, in the development near the water tower have only one road into their development, from NE 18th Street. No permanent walking paths allow access to Fircrest Greenspace or to the East, toward Haagen Park. Residents of Mill Plain One are literally walled in, without a means of ingress/egress other than via Mill Plain Road. Sidewalks on NE 9th street are non-existent as are bike lanes. These are necessary to serve the anticipated pedestrian and bike traffic along NE 9th Street to Haagen Park.

| <u>Action Steps:</u> | <u>Priority</u> | <u>Responsible Parties</u> |
|---|-----------------|----------------------------|
| ◆ Build a path on the eastern border of the cemetery property, to allow access to residents near the water tower to Fircrest Elementary and NE 9 th Street, thus opening access to Haagen Park. Perhaps align this with PUD Right of Way.. | High | VPR, VPWF, FNA, ESD, PUD |
| ◆ Build a road and trail(s) from Mill Plain One to the east, linking with NE 136 th Avenue, thus allowing easy access to Haagen Park for Mill Plain One residents. | Medium | VPWF, VTD, FNA |
| ◆ Erect sidewalks the length of NE 9 th Street, with bike lanes. | High | VTD, VPWF, FNA |
| ◆ Provide only pedestrian and bicycle access to Haagen Park from the north, via NE 130 th Avenue. | Medium | VPR, FNA, VPWF, VTD |

OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION

Objective #3

Minimize the likelihood of crime or criminal activity in Haagen Park, while conserving trees and wildlife.

There is speculation that development of Haagen Park will lead to increased criminal activity, including assault, vehicle prowling, and burglary of adjacent homes. While neighbors have not yet raised this concern, we are advised that some people may request a denuding of the forest to help minimize predatory crime within the park. There may be a request also to clear-cut the forest to install roads to allow police to cruise through to ensure safety. The Fircrest Neighborhood Association resists the above intrusive steps, and desires to keep the forest intact and complete for the mutual enjoyment of humans and wildlife. Development of the park will demonstrably impact wildlife, which have been shocked and severely depleted by the recent clear-cutting activity near Haagen Park. Haagen Park is their last refuge, and should be preserved at all costs.

| <u>Action Steps:</u> | <u>Priority</u> | <u>Responsible Parties</u> |
|--|-----------------|----------------------------|
| ◆ Participate in Haagen Park design with landscape architects and others, to make certain that the woods remain intact and complete, as a viable, safe, permanent haven for displaced and indigenous wildlife, saving as many trees and underbrush as possible without limbing firs. | High | VPR, FNA |
| ◆ Erect a fence on the northern and western boundary of Haagen Park. Allow each resident abutting the fence the option, at their own expense, to place a gate in the fence, with a lock if they so choose. | Medium | VPR, FNA |
| ◆ Erect a jogging trail within Haagen Park | Low | VPR, FNA |
| ◆ Increase the network of unimproved trails through the woods. | Medium | VPR, FNA |
| ◆ Implement a “park watch” program using concerned neighbors and citizens to regularly walk through the park property and trails. | Medium | FNA |
| ◆ Erect several bicycle/BMX trails, with small bumps or hills as a safe and sane outlet for the energies of local youth. | Medium | VPR, FNA, Youth Commission |

OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION

Objective #4

Remove dead vegetation from Haagen Park.

There is a large amount of dead vegetation in Haagen Park. Most of it is the result of natural forces such as wind and aging of trees. Some of the dead vegetation is the result of vandalism and from limb cutting by the Clark PUD or its contractors, who have pruned limbs as part of an ongoing process of maintaining their right-of-way for the north/south power line through Haagen Park. The branches and debris caused by human activity should be removed, and those caused by natural forces should remain as a benefit to wildlife, unless it is unsightly or a hazard.

| <u>Action Steps:</u> | <u>Priority</u> | <u>Responsible Parties</u> |
|--|-----------------|----------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Continue working with Clark PUD and its designees to induce them to remove the limbs which they or their contractor have cut, and to induce them to remove them promptly in the future upon pruning. | High | PUD, FNA |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Engage in an on-going program of park improvement and maintenance via removal of debris from the park using employees of the Vancouver Parks and Recreation Department, juvenile offenders, criminal offenders or others through organized channels. | High | VPR, FNA |

II. TRAFFIC AND PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

Objective #1

Increase pedestrian and bicycle access and safety throughout the neighborhood.

One of the main concerns in the Fircrest neighborhood is the concern for residents to be able to travel throughout the area either by foot, bicycle or by auto with a reasonable degree of safety. Except for the immediate area surrounding the school, there are no sidewalks to separate the children from the street. The Fircrest neighborhood has two parks that are scheduled for improvements during the next five years by the City of Vancouver Parks Department, which will increase the need for traffic calming devices and strategies as use increases. There are also many residents who utilize walking, jogging bicycling as their primary source of exercise.

Concerns include a number of intersections identified by residents as being dangerous, safety of children walking to and from Fircrest Elementary School, and a relatively large number of automobiles consistently exceed the posted speed limits. These traffic issues are caused by both residents of the neighborhood as well as non-residents who cut through the neighborhood to travel to businesses on Mill Plain Blvd. A significant number of the drivers are of high school age who during the school year travel from Evergreen High School to various restaurants on Mill Plain at lunch time and after school.

Therefore, there is a major concern by many of the residents that the plans for Ninth Street include the extension of the street from 132nd Avenue to 136th Avenue. The information we have been given by the city also states that Ninth Street will also be considered an arterial, which will drastically increase the amount of traffic in the neighborhood. We are strongly opposed to the extension of 9th Street as the city wishes to use our neighborhood as a relief valve for Mill Plain traffic. The number one priority of our neighborhood association is to eliminate the proposed extension of 9th Street to 136th Avenue. The extension will endanger our children walking to school on 9th street, and decrease livability by increasing cut through traffic as a means to avoid Mill Plain and as an alternate route to access Wall Mart.

Specific streets identified as having a large number of speeding motorists include 9th St., in front of Fircrest Elementary School, 5th St. in front of the Greenspace and , 118th, and 125th Avenues as well as 124th Ave. & 130th Ave. on 18th St. which are major entrances to the neighborhood.

TRAFFIC AND PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

Objective #1 Continued

| <u>Action Steps:</u> | <u>Priority</u> | <u>Responsible Parties</u> |
|---|-----------------|----------------------------|
| ◆ Prohibit the extension of 9 th street from current traffic plans. | High | VTD, FNA |
| ◆ Eliminate the arterial designation for 9 th Street from the current traffic plan. | High | VTD, FNA |
| ◆ Reduce the posted speed limit on 9 th Street from 35 mph to 25 mph. | High | VTD, FNA |
| ◆ Ensure that 9 th Street is not identified as a Truck route on any city maps. | High | VTD, CDD, FNA |
| ◆ Identify strategies for installing traffic calming devices such as speed bumps, traffic circles and stop signs at the above listed locations. | High | VTD, VPWF, FNA |
| ◆ Increase the police patrol and enforcement of speed limit regulations within the neighborhood in general and specifically in front of Fircrest Elementary School within school zones during school hours. | High | VTD, FNA |
| ◆ Establish a neighborhood-based program to educate residents about the importance of honoring speed limits and controlled intersections within the neighborhood. | Medium | VPD, VTD, FNA |
| ◆ Meet with representatives of the Evergreen School district to develop methods to eliminate the cut-through traffic from Evergreen High School, including a closed campus during lunchtime as an option. | High | ESD, VTD, FNA |
| ◆ Install bicycle lanes on the streets listed above. | High | VTD, FNA |
| ◆ Install sidewalks on the above listed streets. | Medium | VTD, FNA |
| ◆ All streets within the Fircrest boundaries between Mill Plain Blvd. And 18 th Street, and 136 th Ave. and 112 th Ave. should be marked as 25 mph. | High | VTD, FNA |
| ◆ Sidewalks should be installed on both sides of Ninth Street from 112 th Avenue to Haagen Park. | High | VPWF, FNA, VPR |

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ A paved walking/bicycle path should be installed around Haagen Park to intersect with the Ninth Street sidewalks and bicycle lanes. | <p style="text-align: center;">Low</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">FNA, VTD, VPR</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Installation of flashing lights on 118th Ave. as a school zone | <p style="text-align: center;">High</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">VTD, ESD, FNA</p> |

III. NOISE AND NUSIANCE

Objective #1

Decrease noise in our neighborhood through methods of noise abatement.

Even though we are strong supporters of the continued use of Evergreen Airport, we continue to have problems with the noise level of the larger jets landing at PDX.

| <u>Action Steps:</u> | <u>Priority</u> | <u>Responsible Parties</u> |
|--|-----------------|---|
| ◆ Whenever possible we would like the aircraft to maintain a higher altitude to reduce noise over residential areas. | Low | PDX, CITY, FNA |
| ◆ Evergreen airport users should avoid cutting the landing pattern. | High | Evergreen Airport, FNA, City of Vancouver |
| ◆ Install sound barriers along Interstate 205 to mitigate the increasing sound of freeway traffic. | High | WSDOT, VTD, FNA |

IV. HOUSING

Objective #1

Minimize the adverse impact of new multi-family housing within the neighborhood.

Multi-family structures should be appropriately sited, economically and demographically mixed, of appropriate scale and architecture, and situated on lots so as to provide adequate green space and tree preservation. Traffic is a major issue in our neighborhood, therefore; additional growth is a concern due to increased use on already failing intersections and the impact to our existing open space and natural wildlife remaining in our neighborhood. Future developments should be designed and permitted as to integrate the character of our neighborhood.

| <u>Action Steps:</u> | <u>Priority</u> | <u>Responsible Parties</u> |
|---|-----------------|----------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Create a standing “Housing Review Committee” of the neighborhood association. Duties would include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Inventory potential sites for new housing; site-specific recommendations for appropriate types of housing. ◆ Upgrade existing street lighting and street surface conditions, improving as needed to meet current standards. ◆ Develop criteria for newly constructed housing and major rehabilitation projects. ◆ Make the criteria known to developers, investors, and public agencies that have either decision-making authority or resources available to assist development. ◆ Work with potential housing developers early in the process. ◆ Ensure that new multi-family projects incorporate a combination of private outdoor spaces for each unit as well as larger common areas that are attractive, useable and likely to be well | High | VCDD, FNA |

| | | |
|--|--------------------|------------------|
| <p>maintained.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Ensure that new multi-family projects have sufficient amenities and recreational/playground equipment for their residents. ◆ Establish a committee to further analyze the current multifamily zoning designations in our neighborhood and apply for a zoning and comprehensive plan change to a single-family zoning designation through the Annual Comp Plan Review Process if warranted. | <p>High</p> | <p>VCDD, FNA</p> |
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HOUSING

Objective #2

Promote neighborhood stability.

Maintaining stability of the neighborhood is of prime importance in creating livability. A stable neighborhood is less likely to experience many of the problems, such as crime, associated with urban living. To that end, future housing in the neighborhood should be designed to promote neighborliness and a sense of permanence. While we realize that sometimes people need to rent their housing, home ownership can and should be encouraged.

Huge apartment complexes promote a sense of disassociation from the neighborhood, as well as creating enormous impact on the neighborhood itself in terms of traffic and crowded schools. Future multifamily development should be limited within the minimum number of units allowed by current zoning and should not be built in close proximity to each other. If necessary, present zoning should be changed to accommodate this.

| <u>Action Steps:</u> | <u>Priority</u> | <u>Responsible Parties</u> |
|---|-----------------|----------------------------|
| ◆ Promote home ownership within the neighborhood. | High | CHRC, FNA, VHA, VCDD |
| ◆ Encourage responsibility by homeowners, landlords and tenants in maintaining properties in accordance with existing C.C.R's and ordinances. | High | FHA, VCDD, CMS |
| ◆ Increase funds and awareness of the Paint Program in order for more Fircrest residents to take advantage of it. | Medium | VCDD, FNA, VON |
| ◆ Work with Neighbors in Deed and other organizations such as First Independent Bank, which has a program in which bank workers paint houses for low-income elderly people. | Medium | BUS, FNA, OTH |
| ◆ Encourage neighbors to paint at least one Fircrest home each year through volunteer labor and supplies. | Medium | FNA, OTH, BUS |
| ◆ Promote socioeconomic diversity as a key element of neighborhood stability. | Medium | FNA, VCDD |
| ◆ Support Fircrest Elementary School and its multiple use by the community. | High | ESD, FNA |
| ◆ Encourage communication between the | High | CITY, FNA |

| | | |
|--|------|-----------------|
| City and Evergreen School District ◆ Support traffic concurrency to ensure adequate infrastructure <u>before</u> continued growth is allowed. | High | VCDD, VPWF, FNA |
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V. PUBLIC SERVICES AND FACILITIES

Objective #1

Increase water pressure throughout the Fircrest Neighborhood

Many residents complain that their water pressure and /or water volume is insufficient, especially when compared to other neighborhoods nearby. We are told that our proximity to the water tower is the cause. Other theories have been advanced, including clogged/narrow pipes within our homes, over use of the water mains caused by increased development and insufficient water depth in the water tower. Steps should be taken to help ensure water pressure and volume in the neighborhood. It is suspected that there are numerous leaks in the water line serving the neighborhood, which may be the cause of the widespread buckling/ heaving of the neighborhood roadways.

| <u>Action Steps:</u> | <u>Priority</u> | <u>Responsible Parties</u> |
|--|-----------------|----------------------------|
| ◆ Induce a dialogue with the public works department on water pressure issues. | High | VPWF, FNA |
| ◆ Keep the water tower 90% full at all times to increase water volume/ pressure. | Medium | VPWF |
| ◆ The city should locate and construct another water source to serve Cascade Park and points East. | Medium | VCMO, VPWF, FNA |
| ◆ A pump should be installed to help pressurize the flow of water from the water tower into the water mains serving the Fircrest neighborhood. | Low | VPWF, FNA |
| ◆ Devise a program to assist property owners in replacing old and inadequate pipe. | High | VPWF, FNA |

PUBLIC SERVICES AND FACILITIES

Objective #2

Increase lighting in areas such as 120th Ave. and Major Street and bring areas into compliance for standard street lighting.

| <u>Action Steps:</u> | <u>Priority</u> | <u>Responsible Parties</u> |
|---|-----------------|----------------------------|
| ◆ Investigate forming a lighting district to improve safety by increasing lighting in all areas that were overlooked by the original development. | High | VPWF, PUD, FNA |
| ◆ Clear vegetation from around all street lights. | High | PUD, VPWF, FNA |

Objective #3

Support state guidelines in keeping the septic structures as originally constructed.

Fircrest Neighborhood does not want to be forced to hookup to sewer, as many of our residents are currently on septic without sewer lines in their area. The cost of putting in a line and sewer hook up is prohibitive.

| <u>Action Steps:</u> | <u>Priority</u> | <u>Responsible Parties</u> |
|---|-----------------|----------------------------|
| ◆ Encourage regular maintenance by our residents of their septic system to meet SW Washington health standards. | High | FNA |
| ◆ Seek alternative funding sources for those residents who desire to hookup to the sewer system. | High | VPWF, FNA |

PUBLIC SERVICES AND FACILITIES

Objective #4

Maintain city streets to be clear of water and in a safe usable condition.

In the rainy season many of our streets do not drain. This is a safety hazard and a nuisance. The flooding is regular at several intersections and the water drainage problems are deeper than grate level.

| <u>Action Steps:</u> | <u>Priority</u> | <u>Responsible Parties</u> |
|---|-----------------|----------------------------|
| ◆ Encourage prompt and continuous maintenance to clear the water drains allowing adequate water flow. | High | VPWF, FNA |
| ◆ During times of downpours encourage appropriate utility agencies to automatically check streets for flooding and provide current emergency numbers for resident reporting of problem areas. | High | VPWF, FNA |
| ◆ Resurface 130 th Avenue portion of the neighborhood with a slurry seal to decrease future maintenance. | Medium | VPWF, FNA |

VI. LAND USE

Objective #1

Maintain a balance between commercial and residential land uses.

While the majority of the land in our neighborhood is residential, the residential area is virtually surrounded by commercial interests. The Mill Plain commercial interests are very busy as well as older residences on 112th Ave. being converted to businesses and the land on either side of 136th Ave. readied for business and light industrial the balance weighs heavily toward commercial use.

There is a concern about growth in our neighborhood due to increased use on already failing intersections and the impact to our existing open space and natural wildlife remaining in our neighborhood. Future developments should be designed and permitted as to integrate the character of our neighborhood.

Fircrest neighborhood believes that a healthy mix of both residential and commercial uses will contribute to the convenience of the residents, the security of the businesses, and the overall sense of activity within the neighborhood. Density should be kept as low as possible to reduce traffic concerns on major arterioles and increase livability.

| <u>Action Steps:</u> | <u>Priority</u> | <u>Responsible Parties</u> |
|--|-----------------|----------------------------|
| ◆ Maintain all existing single-family zoning. | High | FNA, VCDD |
| ◆ Apply for an annual comprehensive plan rezone to low density residential to areas currently commercial that are adjacent to existing single-family zoning, such as First Street. | High | FNA, VCDD |
| ◆ Apply for an annual comp plan rezone of existing multi-family designation on 120 th Avenue to business/single-family designations. | High | FNA, VCDD |
| ◆ Home-based businesses should be allowed only to the extent that they do not create more traffic and change the appearance from residential to a business. | High | FNA, VCDD |
| ◆ Fircrest Neighborhood Association strongly disapproves of orientation of adult-based entertainment business in the Fircrest Neighborhood boundaries. | High | VCDD, FNA |
| ◆ Pursue zoning changes that would allow single family residential dwellings along 112 th Avenue to be taxed as residential not as commercial. | High | VCDD, FNA, CC |

LAND USE

Objective #2

Continue to encourage and support farming in our neighborhood.

Joe's Place Farms is one of the few, if only, existing farms within the city limits. Annexation has proved to be detrimental to this existing commercial interest with additional restrictions on building farm structures, zoning issues and lack of city ordinances to accommodate farming practices. With much of the agricultural land under power lines it is excellent use for this land. It is one of the businesses that add a special character to our neighborhood. Fircrest Neighborhood Association wants to offer our continued support for their growth and success. We appreciate the aesthetic quality they add to our neighborhood.

| <u>Action Steps:</u> | <u>Priority</u> | <u>Responsible Parties</u> |
|--|-----------------|----------------------------|
| ◆ Encourage adoption of code changes and implementation measures to protect agricultural and mineral resource activities, and provide notification to residents of our neighborhood. | High | VCDD, FNA |
| ◆ Recommend adoption of a farm-friendly ordinance allowing the continuation of farming and the sale of agricultural products within our neighborhood.. | High | VCDD, FNA |
| ◆ Encourage tax abatement to foster the continued existence of farming in our neighborhood and city. | High | VCDD, FNA |

VII. PUBLIC SAFTEY

Objective #1

Respond to public safety threats to all of the residents of our neighborhood.

We have seen an increase in crime and drug related activity in our neighborhood. Threats to the safety of our neighborhood can be alleviated by effective preparation, planning, and education. Through combining resources and forming partnerships we hope to take an holistic approach to the issue of safety.

| <u>Action Steps:</u> | <u>Priority</u> | <u>Responsible Parties</u> |
|---|-----------------|---|
| ◆ Provide workshops in cooperation with various emergency services. | High | VPD, VFD, CITY, American Red Cross, FNA |
| ◆ Create a plan for neighborhood emergency response and disaster relief including what people can do to improve their own safety. | Medium | CITY, FNA |
| ◆ Begin and maintain a neighborhood crime watch program with the cooperation of the Vancouver Police Department. | High | VPD, FNA |
| ◆ Encourage and support the future relocation of the Vancouver Police Department's East Precinct to our neighborhood. | High | VPD, CITY, FNA |
| ◆ Keep phone trees up to date. | Low | FNA |
| ◆ Work with agencies and institutions to combine programs and resources to enhance the safety in our neighborhood. | High | ESD, CTRAN, OTH, CC, VPD, FNA |
| ◆ Create a neighborhood sponsored block house program. | High | FNA |
| ◆ Create partnerships with local businesses to promote mutual safety awareness and vigilance. | Medium | BUS, FNA, VPD |
| ◆ Create a community center for neighbors to access city services on the Eastside of Vancouver. | Low | CITY, FNA |