



First Place Neighborhood



NEIGHBORHOOD ACTION PLAN

City of
VANCOUVER
WASHINGTON

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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 comprehensive plan, entitled *Visions for the Vancouver Urban Area*, was adopted in December of 1994 and scheduled to be updated in 2002. The Plan specifically states that the City should: "*create neighborhood plans by assisting neighborhood organizations in identifying issues, policies and implementation measures specific to their areas.*"

The purpose of the First Place 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 First Place Neighborhood Association, with assistance from the City of Vancouver 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 survey was taken and a draft version of this Action Plan has been made available to each household in First Place for review and comment by all residents of the neighborhood. After considering and reconciling comments from the residents, the plan has been endorsed by the Neighborhood Association according to their specific by-laws. After neighborhood approval, the Plan will be forwarded to City Council for consideration and acceptance by resolution.

It is intended that city agencies will utilize the action plans as input in developing more specific work programs and helping to establish citywide funding priorities. It is recognized that many of the recommendations contained in the action plans are conceptual only and may need to be analyzed in greater detail, both individually and in relationship to other recommendations. It should also be emphasized that 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 to carry out the Action Steps. The Vancouver City Council does appropriate grant money each year via Neighborhood Action Planning and matching grant programs to help implement Action Steps. In addition, neighborhoods may be eligible for many private, federal, and state funding programs.

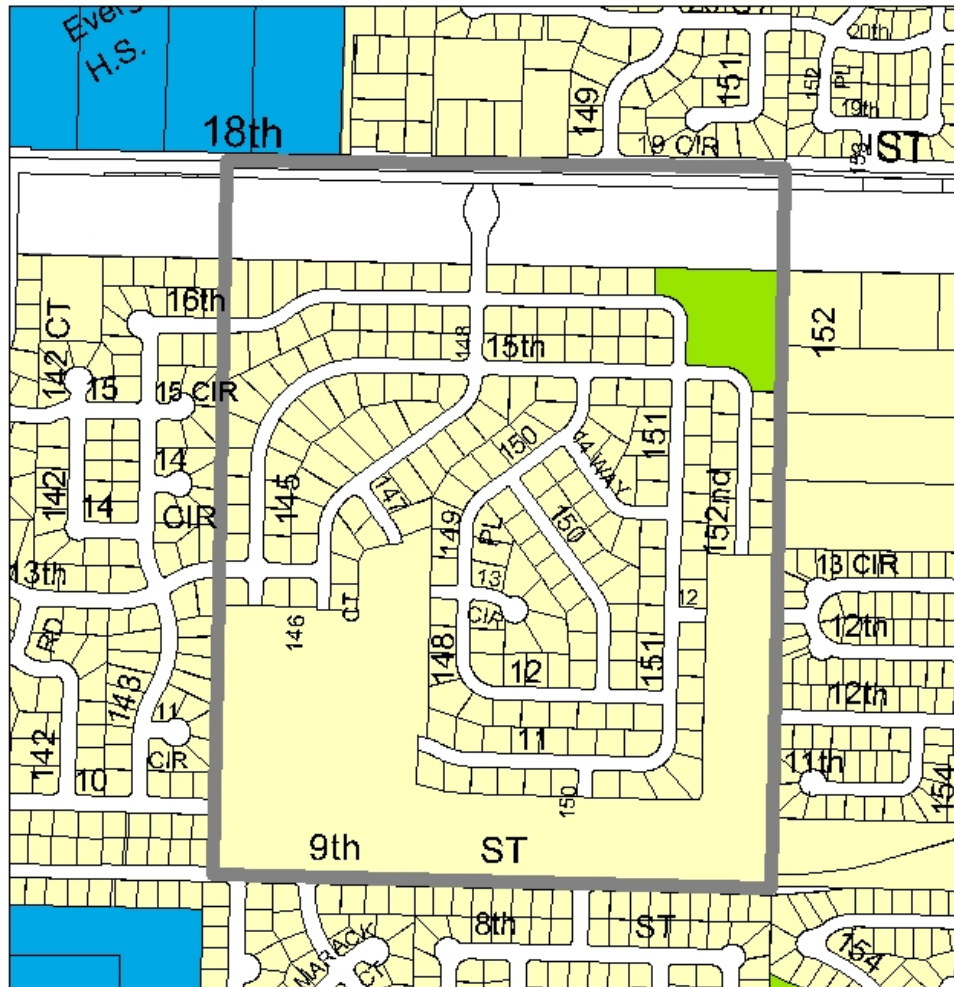
Neighborhood Profile

The First Place Neighborhood is located approximately 8 miles east of the city center. Our neighborhood is approximately 100 acres and consists of a non-grid Street system lined with beautiful flowering trees and numerous mature Douglas Fir trees that have been retained on individual building lots. This roughly equates to 85 Street blocks in size as a reference. The neighborhood is bounded on the north by E.18th Street, on the south by E. 9th Street, on the east by 152nd Avenue and on the west by 144th Avenue. From the neighborhood park, a commanding view of Mt Hood and the Cascade foothills to the east exists.

The First Place Neighborhood is an Al Angelo sub-division developed exclusively for residential use and single family homes only. The sub—division is planned to be built in six phases with phases 3 and 4 in progress and phases 5 and 6 pending. When completed, there will be approximately 300 households included in the neighborhood. Access to the neighborhood is via entrances at NE 148th Avenue, 13th Street and 16th Street.

The Neighborhood Association meets on a frequent basis and the community comes together on a number of events, including an annual picnic, garage sale, ladies tea, neighborhood clean up and other beautification projects to maintain neighborhood common areas.

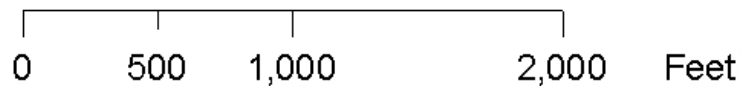
Neighborhood Zoning/Comp Map



Legend

- Urban Low Residential
- Public Facility
- OS/Parks

First Place



Vision Statement

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

We envision a safe environment where families and children are secure while living within the City. We promote a sense of community through welcoming committees, neighborhood watch and a number of neighborhood events. We want to be a good neighbor to bordering neighborhoods and will work with them on common goals.

We believe that an active neighborhood builds a feeling of community, harmony and caring which can be difficult to achieve in today's fast paced, technology driven world without the purposeful efforts of the neighborhood association.

We desire First Place to be a quiet neighborhood that is pedestrian and bicyclist friendly, and a desirable family environment. As a neighborhood, we value and would like to preserve the mature trees and open space by developing our neighborhood park to be a welcoming and usable community gathering place.

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:

AC	Animal Control
FPNA	First Place Neighborhood Association
CERT	Community Emergency Response Team
DRS	Development Review Services
ESD	Evergreen School District
FOT	Friends of Trees
LRPS	Long Range Planning Services
OWN	Neighborhood Property Owners
VUF	Vancouver Urban Forestry
OON	Vancouver Office of Neighborhoods
VPD	Vancouver Police Department
V-CPRD	Vancouver-Clark Parks and Recreation Department
VPW	Vancouver Public Works
VTD	Vancouver Transportation Department
WSDOT	Washington State Department of Transportation.

I. PUBLIC SAFETY

Objective #1

Sustain a level of public safety that meets the expectations of the neighborhood residents.

Public safety is a high priority for most people. Public agencies alone cannot attain the levels of safety and security we want for our families. We must understand the problems and be proactive in preventing crime and making the First Place Neighborhood a safe place to live and enjoy.

<u>Action Steps</u>	<u>Priority</u>	<u>Responsible Parties</u>
• Encourage neighbors to know one another. This includes the promotion of activities, which bring the residents of the neighborhood together.	High	FPNA
• Distribute our "Welcome New Neighbors Kit" to all new neighbors.	High	FPNA
• Report non-working Street lights to the City's Public Works Department for repair on a timely basis and continue to follow-up to insure repair work is completed.	Medium	VPW, FPNA
• Discourage parking and illegal activities in undeveloped areas.	Medium	VPD, FPNA
• Educate residents to identify and report illegal activities.	Medium	VPD, FPNA
• Prevent graffiti and vandalism by understanding the causes and organizing an effective means to combat the problem.	Low	FPNA
• Encourage residents to install lighting in front of their homes.	Low	FPNA
• Keep neighborhood watch phone trees current and active.	High	FPNA
• Use the newsletter to inform and educate residents about public safety issues.	Medium	FPNA

I. PUBLIC SAFETY (continued)

Objective #2

Provide safe access for children to and from school and play.

Children in neighborhoods, such as our own, are one of our highest priorities. The difficulties they face through the lack of sidewalks or paths, inadequate lighting, inadequate traffic control and poor street design is a significant safety issue as they travel to school or to play. It is our goal to integrate our older and newer homes with current standards for all to travel with minimum risk.

Action Steps:	Priority	Responsible Parties
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage enforcement of speed limits through our neighborhood, especially just before and after school. 	High	VPD, FPNA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage the building of sidewalks and paths along public streets in the neighborhood. Emphasis on early connection to identified School Walk Routes and to First Place Park (Figure 2-12, SE NTM Report) 	High	VTD, FPNA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extend School Walk Route to neighborhood from existing Hearthwood Elementary School designated route. 	Medium	VTD, FPNA, ESD
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage the building of bike lanes and bikeways along public streets to connect to schools and parks. 	Medium	VTD, FPNA, ESD, V-CPRD
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Request more street lights to fill in dark spots. 	Medium	VTD, FPNA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage parents to wait with their children at the bus stop for the school bus. 	Medium	FPNA, ESD
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work to lower average emergency response times for First Place and surrounding neighborhoods by (see Figure 2-5, SE NTM Report) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. better street connectivity (9th Street for Station 83 access) between neighborhoods 2. less delay on arterials by signal preemption (VAST project) or other congestion relief projects for responding emergency vehicles 3. adding new fire station(s) to growing north and east portions of city/county community 	High	VTD, FPNA, VPD, VFD

I. PUBLIC SAFETY (continued)

Objective #3

Be prepared to respond to public safety threats to neighborhood and community.

Many threats to the public safety can be lessened through effective preparation and planning. We are fortunate to live in a community where emergencies and disasters are rare; however, when they do occur our level of preparedness can have a major impact on the outcome.

Action Steps:	Priority	Responsible Parties
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage neighbors to complete Community Emergency Response Training (CERT) or equivalent training. 	Medium	FPNA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and publish a plan to help residents learn where to contact appropriate help in case of emergency. 	Medium	FPNA, VFD, VPD, CERT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a plan for neighborhood emergency response and disaster relief including what people can do to improve their own safety. 	Medium	FPNA, VFD, VPD, CERT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publish articles in the "First Place Neighborhood Association Newsletter" about effective emergency preparedness and planning. 	High	FPNA

Objective #4

Maintain an active crime watch program in all parts of the First Place Neighborhood.

An active neighborhood crime watch program can be an effective deterrent to crime and promote a greater sense of security for residents. It can also be a way for neighbors to meet one another and a starting point for learning to work together to achieve other objectives.

Action Steps:	Priority	Responsible Parties
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain a liaison with the Vancouver Police Department. 	High	VPD, FPNA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have a program to keep team captains active and informed and encourage team meetings. 	High	FPNA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep phone trees up to date. 	High	FPNA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain Crime Watch signage. 	Medium	VPD, VPD, FPNA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have a meeting of team captains at least annually. 	Medium	FPNA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hold a practice drill at least once a year. 	Medium	FPNA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educate residents about crime prevention measures such as dead bolt locks, motion detectors, and personal safety awareness. 	Medium	FPNA, VPD

II. MOBILITY MANAGEMENT

Objective #1

Discourage motor vehicle speeding and other inappropriate driver behavior in the neighborhood.

Speeding drivers is a serious and common problem for most neighborhoods. It is viewed primarily as a public safety issue, but higher motor vehicle speeds also increase noise levels, forces residents to abandon outdoor activities, and creates an added threat to pets and native animals. Where speeding is tolerated, it encourages other drivers to follow and can result in average vehicle speeds high enough to cause property damage and pedestrian fatalities. For the First Place Neighborhood the problem is most prevalent on 148th Avenue, 15th Street and 16th Street. Some neighborhood residents are currently a part of the problem as they drive too fast or recklessly.

<u>Action Steps:</u>	<u>Priority</u>	<u>Responsible Parties</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify strategic locations and pursue installation of traffic calming devices such as traffic circles, serpentine roadways, street narrowing devices. Stop signs may also be considered where appropriate, but not as traffic calming devices. Particular emphasis will be on 148th Avenue, 15th Street and 16th Street. These streets were also identified as neighborhood cut through routes in Figure 3-2 of the SE NTM Report. 	High	VTD, FPNA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utilize neighborhood volunteers to watch for and report speeding drivers to the Vancouver Police Department. Pursue use of "radar reader boards" to more accurately measure speeds. 	High	FPNA, VPD, VTD
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report findings of speeds and usage to Vancouver Transportation Department with recommendations. 	High	FPNA, VTD
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a program to inform and educate residents about the importance of honoring neighborhood speed limits. This is to include an outreach effort to bordering neighborhood associations. An example of such program may be the Neighborhood Pace Car program (see http://www.ci.santa-cruz.ca.us/npcp/npcp.html or http://www.peds.org/prog_pace.htm) 	Low	FPNA, VPD, VTD

II. MOBILITY MANAGEMENT (continued)

Objective #2

Improve pedestrian and bicycle safety and access.

Walking and cycling are important sources of recreation and offer viable alternatives to the automobile for shorter trips. Our neighborhood streets, particularly in areas developed under the county, have no bicycle lanes or sidewalks. This creates a hostile environment discouraging walking or cycling.

Action Steps:	Priority	Responsible Parties
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Install calming devices such as traffic circles so as to improve safety of pedestrians and drivers, such device also acts as a deterrent for motor vehicle speeding or cut-through traffic at the following locations: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 148th Avenue at 13th Street 2. 148th Avenue at 15th Street 3. 148th Avenue at 16th Street 4. 145th Avenue at 13th Street • And/or, change the current 2-way stop controlled intersection to a 4-way stop at the following locations: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 148th Avenue and 15th Street 2. 148th Avenue and 16th Street • Provide a bike lane or bike boulevard along the following streets or street intersections: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 148th Avenue 2. 13th Street 3. 18th Street • Add 4-way stop @ current 2-way – corner of 148th Avenue and 15th Street. Add additional 4-way stop @ 148th Avenue and 16th Street • Encourage property owners to keep sidewalks safe and clear of overhanging trees and shrubs. Provide education on proper pruning techniques, tree care and sidewalk maintenance. • Develop a plan in co-operation with Evergreen High School and nearby middle schools to ensure the safety of pedestrians and bicyclists traveling along and crossing 18th Street. 	High	VTD, FPNA
	Medium	VTD, FPNA
	High	FPNA, VPWD, VUF, VTD
	Medium	VTD, FPNA, ESD

Objective #3

Minimize motor vehicle noise from 18th Street and other sources.

Traffic on 18th Street is a major source of noise in the southern part of the neighborhood and will increase as the population grows. Unlike intermittent sources such as the airport and railroad, traffic noise is continuous for most of the day.

Action Steps:	Priority	Responsible Parties
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construct noise barriers along 18th Street as part of future street reconstruction or widening. 	Medium	WSDOT, FPNA, VPW, VUF
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plant native conifer trees to reduce noise levels. 	Medium	FPNA, VTD, VUF

II. MOBILITY MANAGEMENT (continued)

Objective #4

Regional transportation enhancements: plan for proximity not mobility

Work with the City, State and other neighborhood associations to fund and construct regional transportation projects to serve all modes (balanced transportation system), though with an emphasis on mobility and safety of pedestrians, bicyclists, transit users, and emergency responders.

<u>Action Steps:</u>	<u>Priority</u>	<u>Responsible Parties</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide for complete access for pedestrian, bicyclist, and transit users along 18th Street. Safe and convenient crossings shall be placed so that people may comfortably walk or ride to area schools, civic sites, work, and shopping areas without having to travel out of their way. 	Medium	WSDOT, FPNA, VPW, VUF
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with surrounding neighborhood associations and subdivision associations to provide for an effective and safe street network to the area arterials using traffic calming, bike lanes, sidewalks, off street pedestrian links, emergency responder gates, etc. as lots and streets are developed: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 9th Street 2. 10th Street 3. 12th Street 	Medium	VTD, FPNA, VFD
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with the City, other agencies, and developers to plan and implement urban level of transportation services, such as transit and street construction concurrent to development. Such projects may be identified in plans such as the TSP, SE NTM Report, and 6 YR TIP. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. NE 139th Avenue (18th to 9th Streets): Add sidewalks, traffic calming, and driver feedback signs (TSP/ SE NTM Report, \$603,000) 2. Transit Service along 18th Street and connection to any future rapid transit system (rail or bus) along 205. 3. Continued transit service from C-TRANS Evergreen Transit Center. 4. NE Hearthwood Ave. (9th Street to Mill Plain): add pedestrian crossings and connectivity to area retail, schools, and civic facilities (SE NTM Report, \$63,000). 5. NE 155th Avenue (18th Street to Mill Plain): add bike lanes, intersection improvements at 7th Street and sidewalk infill (SE NTM Report, \$623,000) 6. NE 9th Street (139th to 155th Streets): Add sidewalks and bike lanes (SE NTM Report, \$932,000) 	Medium	VTD, FPNA, C-TRAN, Clark County, WSDOT, Tri-Met

III. HOUSING

Objective #1

Ensure single family character of the neighborhood.

The neighborhood provides a mix of residences and residential lots with a minimum of 10,000 square feet and uniform high quality. We advocate that developers build new residential construction consistent with the architectural character of the local areas within the First Place Neighborhood. We also encourage residents to become familiar with their covenants, conditions and restrictions (CC&R's) for the area of the neighborhood where they live. We also recognize the City's role of non-involvement in CC&R's.

<u>Action Steps:</u>	<u>Priority</u>	<u>Responsible Parties</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with the City Development Review and Long Range Planning to monitor and maintain current zoning and density standards for the neighborhood. 	High	DRS, LRPS, FPNA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage residents of the neighborhood to review and enforce their CC&R's. 	Medium	FPNA

Objective #2

Encourage neighborhood residents to maintain their home and property.

First Place Neighborhood residents realize that their well-maintained homes, property, and Streets contribute to the overall character and quality of life in the area. Routine home and yard maintenance contribute to the neighborhood's sense of pride, security, property value, and livability.

<u>Action Steps:</u>	<u>Priority</u>	<u>Responsible Parties</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with city code enforcement to achieve compliance as complaints may arise related to property maintenance. Work with City Council to adopt a Property Maintenance Ordinance. Work with designated city agencies, such as Parking Control, Vancouver Police Department, and Code Enforcement to abate unlawfully parked/stored vehicles. 	High	DRS, VPD, FPNA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage neighborhood compliance with the City 'junk keeping' ordinance. 	Medium	FPNA, DRS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage neighbors to follow principles of responsible pet ownership and city animal control regulations. 	Low	AC, FPNA, DRS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educate and inform residents about the importance of maintaining their property, for example, tree and heritage tree preservation. 	Low	FPNA, VUF
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educate and help neighbors plant trees to maximize canopy cover 	Low	FPNA, VUF
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discourage tall front yard fences, overgrown landscaping, and otherwise encourage compliance with CCR's. City ordinances do not adequately address hazardous vegetation. 	Medium	FPNA, OWN
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sponsor annual neighborhood Yard and Garden Clean-up Day utilizing the City's free dumpster and chipper programs. 	High	OON, FPNA

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ensure that notices of all City and Neighborhood up-keep activities such as Spring-Clean Up reach property owners and residents of the neighborhood.	Medium	FPNA
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IV. OPEN SPACE & RECREATION

Objective #1

Full Development First Place Neighborhood Park to Level 3 Plus additional amenities.

The neighborhood has a 3 acre neighborhood park. The park now has play ground equipment and asphalt walking paths. The next major improvement will be to develop the park to level 3 with irrigation and additional landscaping which is in the approved master plan.

Action Steps:

Priority

Responsible Parties

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote the extension of the REET 2 (Real Estate Excise Tax) to provide a funding source to complete parks to Level 3. 	High	VPR, FPNA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with the City Parks and Recreation Department to determine a timeline for installation of the irrigation (once funding has been identified). 	High	VPR, FPNA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with the City Parks and Recreation Department to establish a timeline for planting additional landscaping in accordance with the master plan (once funding has been identified). 	Medium	VPR, FPNA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore ways of securing additional funding through grants, corporate contributions and neighborhood fund raising to combine with city money for enhancing the beauty, usability and safety of the park. 	Medium	FPNA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design, build and install a plaque showing the distances from different locations around the paved walkways. 	Low	FPNA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish volunteer groups to manage the rose garden maintenance and funds. 	High	FPNA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote natural habitat and shelter for birds and other small animals 	Low	FPNA, VPR
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage Eagle Scout projects in the park such as building a horse shoe pit. 	Low	FPNA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor the park area to ensure it is properly maintained, there are no safety hazards, and it is a safe place for all to use and enjoy. 	High	FPNA, VPR

IV. OPEN SPACE & RECREATION (continued)

Objective #2

Encourage utilization of neighborhood parks and park programs.

The neighbors believe that regular use of the area parks and open space protects those areas from deterioration and keeps them safe. It also improves the sense of community among those who participate in such activities.

Action Steps:	Priority	Responsible Parties
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and support neighborhood oriented recreation programs and opportunities for people of all ages, incomes and abilities. Special priority should be given to involve teens and pre-teens in activities within the neighborhood. 	Medium	VPR, FPNA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage and support organized events such as picnics, fun walks/runs, croquet matches, and Frisbee golf tournaments. • Support and encourage the use and maintenance of sport fields Evergreen High School. • Add necessary structures to increase the functionality of the park. This is to include benches, picnic tables, drinking fountain, and garbage cans. 	<p>Medium</p> <p>Low</p> <p>Low</p>	<p>FPNA</p> <p>ESD, FPNA</p> <p>FPNA, VPR</p>