



Harney Heights Neighborhood

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NEIGHBORHOOD ACTION PLAN

City of
VANCOUVER
WASHINGTON

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Harney Heights Neighborhood Action Planning Committee

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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 Harney Heights 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 Harney Heights Neighborhood Association with assistance from the City of Vancouver Neighborhood Services has developed this plan. The actual preparation of this plan is being coordinated by the Neighborhood Action 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 sent to each household in Harney Heights 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 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.



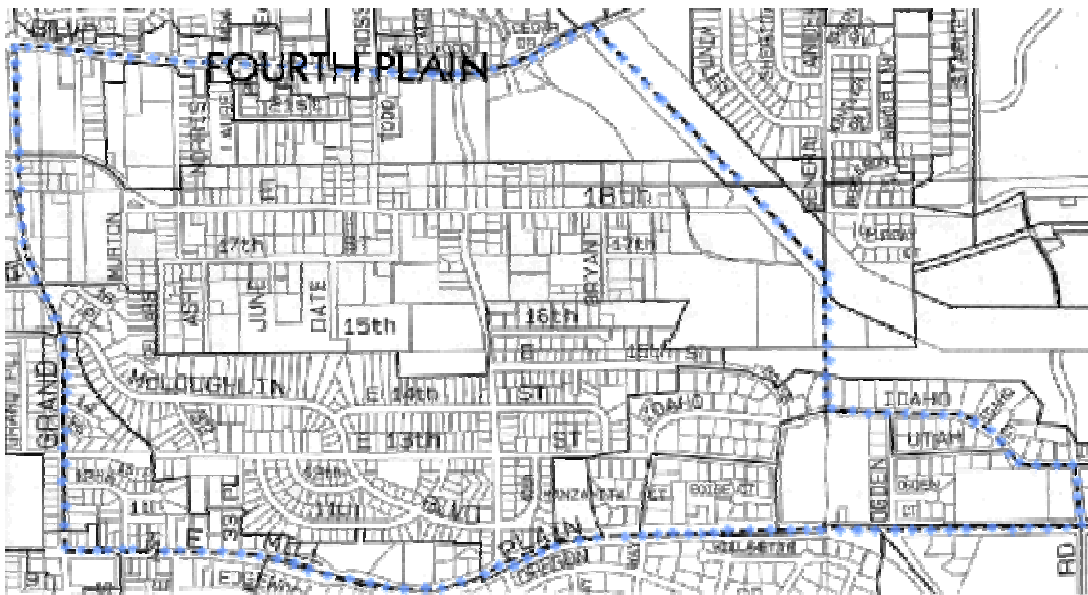
Overview of the Plan

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

Harney Heights neighborhood lies in the center of Vancouver. It's boundaries extend from Grand Avenue at the westerly end to its most easterly edge at Devine Rd, and from its most northern edge beginning at Fourth Plain Blvd. the neighborhood extends to Mill Plain Blvd. on its southern edge.

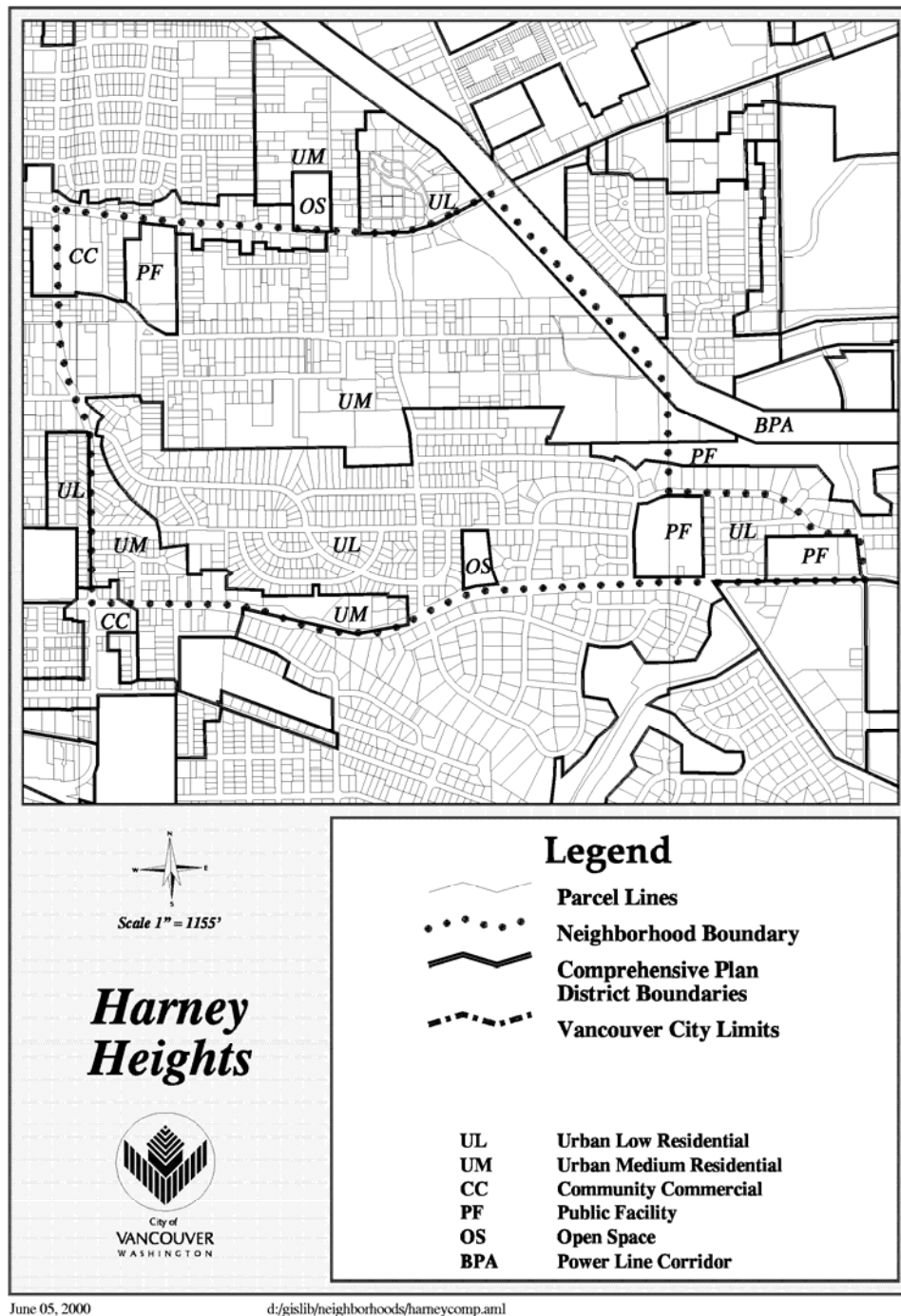
Harney Heights is zoned residential with a mix of R-18, R1-5 and R-22, which accounts for the higher than usual density of households within its boundaries. The Neighborhood is comprised of approximately 3000 residences with over 5,500 residents. As of today, there is only one little lot of an open space left in the neighborhood and the neighborhood has access to only one park.



Harney Heights is characterized by tidy older homes (many of which were built to house Kaiser shipyard workers), apartment houses, condominiums, and community commercial areas. There is a feel of a comfortable “home town” within a big city. Commercial areas along Fourth Plain Blvd., Mill Plain Blvd. and 18th Street provide Harney Heights with excellent access to numerous businesses including restaurants, gas stations, grocery and convenience stores, and a financial institution.

Residents of the neighborhood have determined that enhancement of the single park existing in the neighborhood and the development of additional parks within its boundaries to be a priority. Other priorities include installation of safe bicycle and walking paths, and regulation of vehicular speed in our neighborhood.

Neighborhood Zoning/Comp Map



Vision Statement

Harney Heights has retained the desirable old neighborhood characteristics and charm of the Kaiser ship building neighborhood from which it evolved. Harney Heights comprises landscaped homes, apartments, condos and businesses. The memory of the shipyards has lead to a sense of cohesiveness and pride though out the neighborhood. These high standards are the cornerstones to a thriving, productive community where a variety of people reside, attend school, work, carry out business and play.

The people of Harney Heights perceive safe streets and well-kept yards as a given. Code enforcement and community policing are in place and actively supported by all members of the neighborhood through an aggressive volunteer program. We embrace the concept of self and family enrichment by supporting and participating in the arts, music and continuing education through our schools and community groups.

We enjoy leisurely walks and bicycle rides though the attractive tree lined streets where traffic volume and speed are closely controlled. Businesses are “neighbor-oriented” making them a pleasure to patronize. This strengthens the neighborhood’s character as a historic and livable neighborhood.

A strong neighborhood asset is our willingness to maintain and improve our neighborhood’s many parks. Our parks and green spaces bring balance to otherwise crowded neighborhood. Here we can play with our children, relax and have a neighborhood picnic, or attend a concert. Our green spaces host educational opportunities offered by our schools and community groups. The sight and sound of the birds, fragrance of flowers and trees that inhabit the areas enrich our lives and bring contentment.

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:

BUS	Neighborhood Businesses
CC	Clark County
CITY	Mayor's Office
CHS	Community and Housing Services
CMS	Community Mediation Services
CTRAN	CTRAN
DRS	Development Review Services
Health District	South West Washington Health District
HHNA	Harney Heights Neighborhood Association
LRPS	Long Range Planning Services
OTH	Other organizations
OWN	Neighborhood Property Owners
PUD	Clark Public Utilities
VCE	Vancouver Code Enforcement
VCMO	City Manager's Office
VHA	Vancouver Housing Authority
VNS	Vancouver Neighborhood Services
VPD	Vancouver Police Department
VPR	Vancouver Parks and Recreation Services
VPW	Vancouver Public Works
VSD	Vancouver School District
VSWS	Vancouver Solid Waste Services
VTs	Vancouver Transportation Services
WSDOT	State of Washington Department of Transportation

I. Public Safety and Mobility Management

Objective #1

Improve pedestrian and bicycle safety through out the neighborhood.

We will create a safe and accessible network of sidewalks and bikeways, to encourage and promote pedestrian and bicycle travel within the neighborhood.

<u>Action Steps:</u>	<u>Priority</u>	<u>Responsible Parties</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Install bicycle lanes on major through streets to connect with other existing or proposed bicycle lanes in the area. McLoughlin, Mill Plain, Fourth Plain, 18th St. 	High	HHNA, VTS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve/repair old sidewalks. 	High	HHNA, VTS, VPW
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess the condition and continuity of our sidewalk network. 	High	HHNA, VTS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Survey our current lighten conditions and identify areas in need of improvement. 	Medium	PUD, VTS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clean sidewalk areas of obstructions such as trees, shrubs, etc. 	Low	HHNA, VTS, VCE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess which area have visibility problems and improve visibility at all applicable intersections. 	High	HHNA, VTS, VPW

Public Safety and Mobility Management

Objective #2

Speeding and Traffic Safety Issues

Harney Heights is primarily residential. We need to provide a safe environment for our high concentration of young children, pedestrians, and bicyclists. Also, we want to be a safe place for those who commute through out our neighborhood. We encourage drivers not to speed and obey traffic laws.

Action Steps:

- Survey Neighborhood to identify problem areas associated with speeding and traffic volume issues.
- Work with Vancouver Police to discourage speeding through enforcement of traffic laws.
- Explore possible solutions for the removal of abandoned cars, which create traffic visibility problems.
- Monitor infill developments for possible traffic problems.
- Identify problem “parking” areas and work to minimize them.
- Work with apartment managers and neighbors to minimize demand for on-street parking.

Priority

High

High

High

High

High

High

Responsible Parties

VTs

VPD

DRS, VCE, CITY

DRS, VTs

VPD – Enforcement

HHNA

Objective #3

Access to a balanced regional transportation system.

Action Steps:

- Work with surrounding neighborhoods and employers on convenient transit services.
- Provide shelters and safe bus stops.
- Support establishment of a network of regional bikeways and pedestrian walking routes.

Priority

Medium

Medium

Medium

Responsible Parties

CTRAN

CTRAN

CTRAN

II. Crime Prevention

Objective #1

Residents of Harney Heights would like to see a crime free neighborhood.

No-one should be afraid to walk around in our Neighborhood after dark. Neighbors can leave their homes without worry for their personal safety and with the knowledge that their belongings will be there when they get back. Drug usage and selling of drugs should not occur in our neighborhood.

<u>Action Steps:</u>	<u>Priority</u>	<u>Responsible Parties</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage Neighbors to report all crimes. 	High	HHNA, VPD
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage residents to report all graffiti and educate them on methods of removal and the importance of quick removal. 	High	HHNA, VPD
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide information to Owners and Managers on methods of tenant screening for rental properties. 	Medium	HHNA, VPD
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage and foster relationship with our Neighborhood's Police Liaison. 	High	HHNA, VPD
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide information to residents on how to secure their homes. 	Medium	HHNA, VPD
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote Neighborhood Crime Watch. 	Medium	HHNA, VPD
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a <i>safe house</i> for neighborhood kids. 	Medium	HHNA

III. Community Building

Objective #1

Acquire a Neighborhood Center.

We would like to acquire a neighborhood center. This facility will be used by the neighborhood for meetings, gatherings, social events and serve as a place where neighborhood would promote it-self and get more citizens involved. This would further benefit the neighborhood and our city.

Action Steps:

- Survey neighborhood for possible locations of a neighborhood center.
- Explore options for funding a neighborhood center. Explore different options for building acquisition. Seek for in-kind donation of a building from a local business or the city. This will reduce cost and up keep.

Priority

Medium

High

Responsible Parties

HHNA, VPR

HHNA, VPR, BUS

Objective #2

Communication.

Establish good relationship with our neighbors and have an open communication. Get neighbors to interact, get to know each other. Implement variety of neighborhood communication strategies such as newsletters, flyers, meetings, annual events, neighborhood web site, etc.

Action Steps:

- Create and distribute neighborhood newsletters.
- Plan annual events (clean up, picnic, etc.).
- Encourage open communication at neighborhood level & promote the use of Community Mediation Services when needed.
- Maintain and promote our existing web site.

Priority

High

Medium

Medium

Medium

Responsible Parties

HHNA, VNS

HHNA, VNS

HHNA, CMS

HHNA

Community Building

Objective #4

Community Appearance

Encourage residents to maintain their property while adhering to the health standards and city codes.

<u>Action Steps:</u>	<u>Priority</u>	<u>Responsible Parties</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to be involved with in City's Clean up program (disposal coupons for yard debris, leafs, and tires, appliance pick ups, neighborhood clean ups). 	High	HHNA, VNS, VSWS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage neighbors to keep their yards clean. 	High	HHNA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage neighbors to use community mediation when necessary. 	High	HHNA, CMS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide residents with information about code enforcement issues such as junk ordinances, abandoned cars, etc. 	High	HHNA, DRS, VCE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research information about different programs and/or agencies that maybe helpful in our effort to assist the elderly and/or disabled in maintaining their homes. 	High	HHNA, OTH
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discourage illegal dumps and garbage. 	High	HHNA, VSWS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attempt to find a way to stop illegal dumping and cleanup existing dumping sites. 	High	HHNA, VSWS

IV. Open Space and Recreation

Objective #1

New park areas in the neighborhood.

The neighborhood wants to see more open space for recreation and public use. We will work to create new small neighborhood parks.

Action Steps:

- Identify locations for new parks.
- Seek funding to acquire open space properties (if available).

Priority

Medium

Medium

Responsible Parties

HHNA, VPR

HHNA, VPR

Objective #2

Enhance existing park.

We want to improve the appearance of our existing neighborhood park. Our desire is to update the play equipment, create a walking trail, and to build a Gazebo.

Action Steps:

- Seek funding for improvements of existing parks.
- Survey neighborhood to establish recreational needs of our residents.
- Acquire new playground equipment for John Rogers Complex. Utilize great open space owned and maintained by the city.
- Repair and improve the Discovery trail.
- Explore funding for “pooper-scooper”.

Priority

Medium

Medium

High

Medium

High

Responsible Parties

HHNA, VPR

HHNA, VPR

HHNA, VPR, VSD

HHNA, VPR

HHNA, VPR, VNS

Open Space and Recreation

Objective #3

Enhance the neighborhood.

Create a plan to enhance appearance of our neighborhood. Increasing the tree population in the area.

Action Steps:

- Plant more trees in our parks and throughout our neighborhood. Encourage residents to plant more trees in their yards.
- Seek funding for tree purchasing.
- Investigate different options for acquisition of trees.
- Encourage community involvement in planting the trees. Have a tree-planting day.
- Identify heritage trees.
- Assess current tree coverage and condition.

Priority

Low

Low

Low

Low

Medium

Medium

Responsible Parties

HHNA, VPR – Urban Forestry

HHNA, VPR – Urban Forestry, VNS

HHNA, VPR, Urban Forestry

HHNA, VPR – Urban Forestry

HHNA, VPR – Urban Forestry

HHNA, VPR – Urban Forestry

Objective #4

Improve Burnt Bridge Creek wetlands.

Clean up Burnt Bridge Creek's (BRC) habitat, which will lead to restoration of the wetlands. Make sure that the creek meets health standards.

Action Steps:

- Develop a strategy to improve current condition of the wetlands in Harney Heights.
- Encourage community involvement in the spring clean up of the area. Keep BRC area in the neighborhood clean.
- Have the water tested for contaminates.

Priority

Medium

Low

Low

Responsible Parties

HHNA, VPR, LRPS

HHNA, LRPS, VPW

HHNA, Health District

V. Housing

Objective #1

Encourage home ownership and neighborhood pride.

Provide information about different housing programs, funding, and homeownership to more residents.

Action Steps:

- Research funding available to residents and provide information about housing.
- Invite local financial institutions, city and county housing programs to make presentation at neighborhood meetings.

Priority

Medium

Medium

Responsible Parties

HHNA, CHS, OTH, VHA

HHNA, CHS, CC

Objective #2

Encourage responsible development.

Action Steps:

- Work with developers who plan to build in the Harney Heights Neighborhood.
- Continue working with City's Development Review Services to be notified regarding development proposals in the neighborhood. Participate in the pre-app process.
- Work with Long Range Planning Services to maintain zoning and density standards for the neighborhood.
- Work with the City/developers to minimize vehicle trips and parking generated by new development.

Priority

High

High

High

High

Responsible Parties

HHNA, DRS

HHNA, DRS

HHNA, LRPS

HHNA, DRS