

City of Vancouver Office of Neighborhoods

Marrion Neighborhood

NEIGHBORHOOD ACTION PLAN

City of
VANCOUVER
WASHINGTON
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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 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 2003-2023* was adopted in May 2004. One of the Comprehensive Plan's specific goals is to: "Maintain and facilitate development of stable, multi-use neighborhoods that contain a compatible mix of housing, jobs, stores, and open and public spaces in well planned, safe pedestrian environment." (CD-6)

The purpose of the Marrion 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

This plan has been developed by the Marrion Neighborhood Association with assistance from the City of Vancouver Community Development Department. The actual preparation of the plan is being coordinated by the Neighborhood Action Planning Committee, whose members were appointed by the Neighborhood Association officers to represent the interests of the neighborhood as a whole.

The Neighborhood Action Planning Committee conducted a survey to seek out neighbors concerns and priorities. A draft version of this Action **Plan was posted on the Marrion website for review** and comment by all residents of the neighborhood. After considering and reconciling comments from residents, the plan has been adopted by the Neighborhood Association according to their specific by-laws. 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 city-wide 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. Some 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.

Funding and Financial Resources

Having the Neighborhood Action Plan does not guarantee funding. The Vancouver City Council does appropriate grant funding annually to help implement action steps. In addition, your neighborhood may be eligible for many private, federal and state funding programs.

Neighborhood Profile

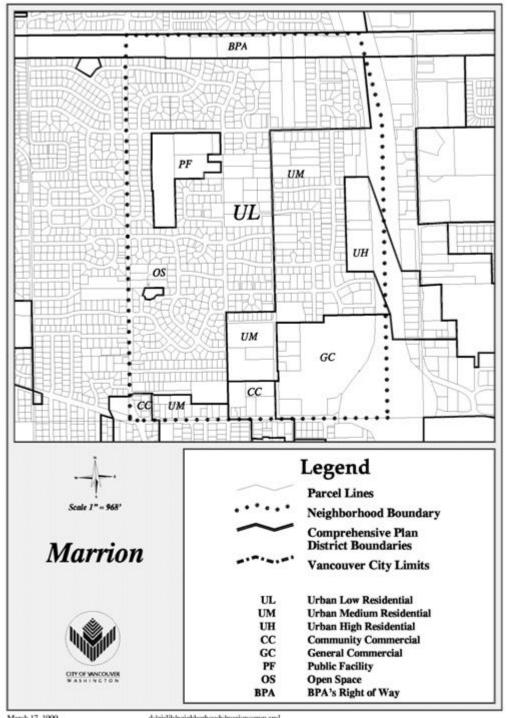
The Marrion Neighborhood is located approximately 6 miles east of the city center. The neighborhood, which occupies an area of approximately 200 square blocks, is bounded to the north by 18th Street and the BPA corridor, on the east by I-205, to the south by Mill Plain Boulevard and to the west by 97th Avenue.

Access to the neighborhood is available from a number of streets via 97th Avenue. Mill Plain Boulevard contains only two accessing streets, 97th and 104th Avenue. From the north off 18th Street, there is only one access street: 107th Avenue. There are speed cushions along 14th Street to calm speeding. Except for 104th Avenue, the streets are wide although most do not have sidewalks.

The Marrion neighborhood is home to approximately 3,500 people. This mature neighborhood attracts residents for its quiet streets and country feel. The heart of the neighborhood contains some of the oldest homes, interspersed with newer single family and multi dwelling complexes. The majority of residents, roughly 78%, live in owner occupied housing compared to the citywide average of 46%. There are three large apartment complexes within the neighborhood.

Most of the land within the Marrion boundaries is residential. The neighborhood contains one public school, Marrion Elementary and two private Montessori schools. Multiple commercial establishments are located along the Mill Plain Boulevard corridor, which include diverse retail businesses, and both fast food and "sit down" restaurants. Marrion is entirely developed with the exception of a few open spaces.

As a neighborhood we value and would like to preserve our mature trees and open space to reflect a northwest look and feel. Based on Vancouver's most recent tree canopy study, Marrion's tree canopy coverage was 22 percent, which is above the city's average of 19 percent. We recognize the benefits trees provide (cleanse the air, provide oxygen, reduce amount of energy to cool and heat our homes, intercepting stormwater, contribute to neighborhood livability, how they improve shopping districts, reduce city noise and glare, and they calm and slow traffic, improve habitat for endangered fish, migratory birds, and other wildlife, reduce erosion, and mitigate flooding) and unlike many other investments that depreciate, a tree's value increases with each passing year. 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 sustain and increase our urban canopy within our neighborhood to maximize these benefits.



March 17, 1999

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Vision Statement

Marrion residents wish to preserve the lifestyle we currently enjoy, as well as improving/adding amenities such as tree canopy, parks and sidewalks, to further enhance the overall livability of our neighborhood. We see the following improvements within the next several years:

- Effective traffic control will divert traffic around the neighborhood instead of through it.
- We envision Marrion as a neighborhood with safe, well lit and congestion-free roads that are pedestrian and bicycle-friendly a good place to raise a family.
- We place significant importance on the establishment and maintenance of parks, which preserve our tree canopy and open space.
- We wish to have a strong working relationship with the businesses in our neighborhood and encourage their participation in our association.
- We will have developed an Emergency Plan that it is embraced by our neighbors.
- We work closely with the three schools within our boundaries and encourage our youth to volunteer in the neighborhood.
- We envision a new pride among our residents in their property and the Marrion neighborhood.

The neighborhood recognizes the importance of working with the City of Vancouver to implement the strategies identified in this plan to create a safe and livable neighborhood. The neighborhood association will take an active role in preserving and enhancing this vision.

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 Home Builders Association
CITY	•
CPU	
CTRAN	
	Evergreen School District
FOT	_
	Marrion Neighborhood Association
	Neighborhood Property Owners
PF	
	Regional Transportation Council
	Vancouver Neighborhood Alliance
	Vancouver Chamber of Commerce
	Vancouver Community Development Dept.
VCMO	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,
	Vancouver Fire Dept.
	Vancouver Housing Authority
	Vancouver Office of Mediation
	Vancouver Office of Neighborhoods
	Vancouver Police Department
	Vancouver Parks & Recreation Dept.
	Vancouver Public Works
VTD	Vancouver Transportation Dept.
	Vancouver Urban Forestry
WS	
	<u> </u>

I. Open Space & Recreation

Objective #I

Establish Neighborhood Parks

The Marrion neighborhood does not have sufficiently developed parks for the size of our neighborhood. The residents have identified a need to establish neighborhood parks for all neighbors to enjoy and serve as a venue for community gatherings. We have a plan to make improvements to our existing parks and to possibly add a new park space to serve the southeast area of Marrion. We look forward to working with the Parks and Recreation Department in the development of our parks. The following action steps have been suggested.

Action Steps	Priority	Responsible Parties
Marrion Elementary School Park		
 Improve park entrances so they a ADA compliant 	re H	MNA, VPR
 Work with Urban Forestry and the School District to plant additional trees throughout the park and specifically plant shade trees near the playground equipment area 	ı H	MNA, VUF, ESD
 Add 2 picnic tables (I in gazebo and I by park's playground equipment) 	Н	MNA, VPR, ESD
 Work with the City to modify the irrigation system to allow waterin during summer and to set up a mowing schedule 		MNA, VPW, ESD
Tranquility Nature Area		
 Improvements should be limited to maintain it's natural appearance 	to H	MNA, VPR, VPW
 Improve drainage and maintain trails – re-route trail to prevent washouts 	Н	MNA, VPR, VPW

 Involve the neighborhood residents and local schools to maintain and enhance park appearance through trail clearing and cleanup 	Н	MNA, ESD, VPR
 Ask City to annex property located between the Montessori and Brodohl property next to Tranquility at NE 104th and NE 14th to serve as a future parking area for the nature area 	Н	MNA, VPR, CITY
Look into possible uses for funds in the Parks Foundation account	Н	MNA, PF
New Park • Purchase land for new Park to serve SE Marrion residents that is not within ½ mile of a park. Parcels will be identified as potential sites in the southeast Marrion Neighborhood	М	MNA, VPR
 After acquisition of property, work together to create a Master Plan for park 	М	MNA, VPR, VUF
 Implement improvements as outlined in Master Plan for the new park, through neighborhood grants and other funding sources 	М	MNA, VPR, VON
Tanglewood Park		
Work with Urban Forestry to plant additional trees in appropriate areas	М	MNA, VUF
 Investigate adding the property to the north of the Tangelwood park to the Tangelwood park 	М	MNA, VPR

Objective #2
Improve recreational opportunities for youth by providing our children with increased opportunity for planned activity and recreation.

Action Steps	Priority	Responsible Parties
 Pursue programs and recreational use of Marrion Elementary School facilities during holidays and summer vacation 	н	MNA, ESD
Work with Marrion Elementary school for ideas and leadership	М	MNA, ESD
Add Baseball/Softball field in the south area of the Marrion Elementary Park	Н	MNA, VPR

II. Mobility Management

Objective #1

Eliminate excessive speeding through the neighborhood.

Many of the streets in our neighborhood are used as short cuts by speeding commuters. As identified in our neighborhood survey, neighbors have expressed a concern about excessive speeding by cutting through traffic especially on 9th St. and 104th Ave.

Action Steps:	Priority	Responsible Parties
 Install caution pedestrian signs at NE 97th and NE 16^{th.} 	Н	VTD, MNA
 Post "slow children" signs on streets known to be a problem speed areas around schools. 	н	VTD, MNA
 Install speed cushions to slow traffic on 97th and NE 16^{th.} 	н	VTD, MNA
 Install street lights on 97th and 16th for visibility. 	н	VTD, MNA, CPU
 Install additional speed limit signs on 104th Ave. 	н	VTD, MNA
 Install a street light for intersection of NE 3rd and NE 97th to insure pedestrian visibility. 	н	VTD, MNA

Objective #2
Improve neighborhood pedestrian safety and accessibility.

Action Steps:	Priority	Responsible Parties
 Complete the sidewalk on the west side of NE 104th from Mill Plain to NE 14th, so that this sidewalk has ADA accessibility for at least one side of NE 104th 	Н	MNA, VTD
 Add a sidewalk to the north side 14th Street from 97th to 106th and north to 18th Street for the safety of the Marrion Elementary School's students 	н	MNA, VTD
 Improve the access path from NE 16th Circle to NE 15th Ave. to make it ADA compliant 	М	MNA, VTD
 Create a crosswalk at NE 97th & NE 10th for the safety of children walking to the Marrion Elementary School 	Н	MNA, VTD, ESD
 Create a crosswalk at NE 97th & NE 9th with a flashing red light because of the heavy traffic of school children going to Marrion Elementary school 	н	MNA, VTD, ESD
 Install traffic signs indicating "Pedestrians Walking" on NE 97th from Walgreen's to NE 14th 	н	MNA, VTD
Plant street trees as a traffic-calming technique. Street trees narrow a driver's field of vision and reduce traffic speed	Н	MNA, VTD, VUF

III. Public Safety

Objective #1

Insure the safety and security of the neighborhood.

The Marrion neighborhood presently has an increase in crime and needs attention by the police department and continued vigilance of Marrion citizens. The neighborhood is also in need of a comprehensive emergency plan to cover as many types of disasters or emergency situations as possible.

Action Steps	<u>Priority</u>	Responsible Parties
Develop and encourage participation in the NOW program	Н	MNA, VPD
Increase police patrol throughout our neighborhood	Н	MNA, VPD
Promote the Neighborhood Watch Program	М	MNA, VPD
Invite speakers from NOW and Neighborhood Watch to our meetings to educate residents on programs	Н	MNA
 Encourage Marrion Neighbors to report incidents and suspicious activity by calling 911 	М	MNA, VPD

Objective #2

Encourage neighbors to personally prepare for emergencies and natural or man-made disasters.

Action Steps:	Priority	Responsible Parties
Discover if all or any parts of our neighborhood is in a flood plain or another type of high-risk area. Discuss any special needs or strategies to help	L	MNA
protect people from injury in advance Resource: http://www.emd.wa.gov/hazards/haz_in_dex.shtml • Facilitate MNA participation in the Map		MNIA VED
Your Neighborhood (MYN) disaster preparedness program. Explore the range of neighbor needs that the program can help address, including checking on neighbors during inclement or severe weather and/or the creation of a neighbor support network that helps neighbors help each other with tasks such as snow	Н	MNA, VFD
 Support the organization and maintenance of one or more neighborhood CERT Teams, comprised of several cooperating neighbors 	Н	MNA
 In the same way a treasurer's report is delivered at each meeting, include a "standing report" on the MNA agenda from CERT team members. This could include updates on CERT activities, training, drills and special safety or preparedness initiatives 	L	MNA
Contact local fire Station Captain to learn how firefighting companies are	Н	MNA

 trained to respond during a significant natural or man-made disaster; report information back to association members Sign up for updates to the City's www.cityofvancouver.wa.us/prepare and/or www.vanfire.org websites Consider and assess special needs and outreach to elderly, disabled or non-English-speaking neighbors 	Н	MNA MNA
 Identify strategies and partners to support smoke alarm installation, development of home fire escape plans and establishment of meeting place to support fire and life safety Create a shed for emergency 	H M	MNA, VFD MNA
equipment such as radios, a generator and possibly a snow plow to be used in emergencies.		

Objective #3

Encourage households to prepare themselves with a custom 72-hour family self-sufficiency kit.

Action Steps:	Priority	Responsible Parties
Appoint a committee chairperson to coordinate activities and initiate reminders for publications and group gatherings. Work would include researching Vancouver/Clark County sources for kit contents such as tools and first aid kit contents	Ħ	MNA
Publish regular newsletter articles/tips		

	focused on building and maintaining 72-hour kits, including links to online sources of information including the Red Cross	Н	MNA
•	Invite speakers to MNA meetings to demonstrate various home 72-hour kits, including those customized for special needs such as elders, infants, pets, offices and automobiles	Н	MNA
•	Distribute information on Shelter In Place strategies via NH newsletter	Н	MNA
•	Incorporate displays of neighbors' 72-hour kits at MNA functions	Н	MNA

IV. Community Building

Objective #1

Promote and encourage communications with neighbors.

Neighborhood communication helps to prevent neighbor to neighbor conflict. Getting to know one another will eliminate fear, distrust, and discrimination by extending a hand of friendship.

Action Steps:	Priority	Responsible Parties
Develop better neighborhood meetings through the newsletters and neighborhood meeting signs	Н	MNA
 Create social events such as picnics, ice cream socials, fund raisers and neighborhood sales 	н	MNA
Develop ongoing communication with neighborhood businesses such as Wal- Mart, Walgreen's and Shorty's to attend neighborhood meetings as an encouragement to better relationships	н	MNA
 Communicate to the Columbian newspaper events and accomplishments of the Marrion Neighborhood Association 	М	MNA
Celebrate Marrion accomplishments as they occur with brief meetings or get- togethers	Н	MNA

Organize community-based volunteer tree plantings in the neighborhood. New trees will beautify the neighborhood and provide other environmental, social, and economic benefits. The tree planting itself will be a community-building activity that brings neighbors together in an effort to get to know one another and work together to improve the neighborhood.	Н	MNA, FOT, VUF
 Encourage at least one resident to participate in NeighborWoods program annually. Utilize that NeighborWoods Steward as a resource to help educate residents about the benefits of trees, proper tree care, and the city's tree codes and to help plan neighborhood tree planting projects 	H	MNA, VUF

٧. **Community Appearance**

Objective #1
Preserve and enhance the character of our neighborhood.

A	ction Steps:	<u>Priority</u>	Responsible Parties
•	Promote two cleanup days per year. One in spring or summer for overall cleanup and one in the fall to help with leaves prevent clogging of the sewer system	Н	MNA
•	In addition to these we would have a street clean up day or a neighborhood parks clean up day with participation of the entire neighborhood. After one of these events we will have a picnic	Н	MNA
•	Participate in the Vancouver Sparkles program by nominating deserving Marrion residents	н	MNA
•	Present the Sparkles winners with awards and publish those details in our newsletter	Н	MNA, VON
•	Report graffiti to have it removed ASAP	н	MNA
•	Educate and inform residents about the importance of properly maintaining their landscapes and property. Promote tree preservation and proper tree pruning, specifically encouraging residents not to top their trees	H	MNA, VUF

VI. Land Use

Objective #I

Increase involvement in land development projects affecting our neighborhood.

Our neighborhood association wishes to meet with project developers early in the development planning process to ensure proposed projects affecting our neighborhood are compatible with existing uses.

Action Steps:	Priority	Responsible Parties
 Send neighborhood representatives to city Council Meetings to testify on behalf of our neighborhood association 	н	MNA
 Collectively take positions on citywide zoning clarifications and decisions on specific parcels of land 	Н	MNA
 Invite development interest to attend neighborhood meetings to present their projects 	н	MNA
 Create a land use committee to discuss and review proposed 	Н	MNA
 Support the city to encourage developers to preserve and incorporate existing trees; and plant native trees where appropriate to maintain the character of our neighborhood 	Н	MNA, VUF