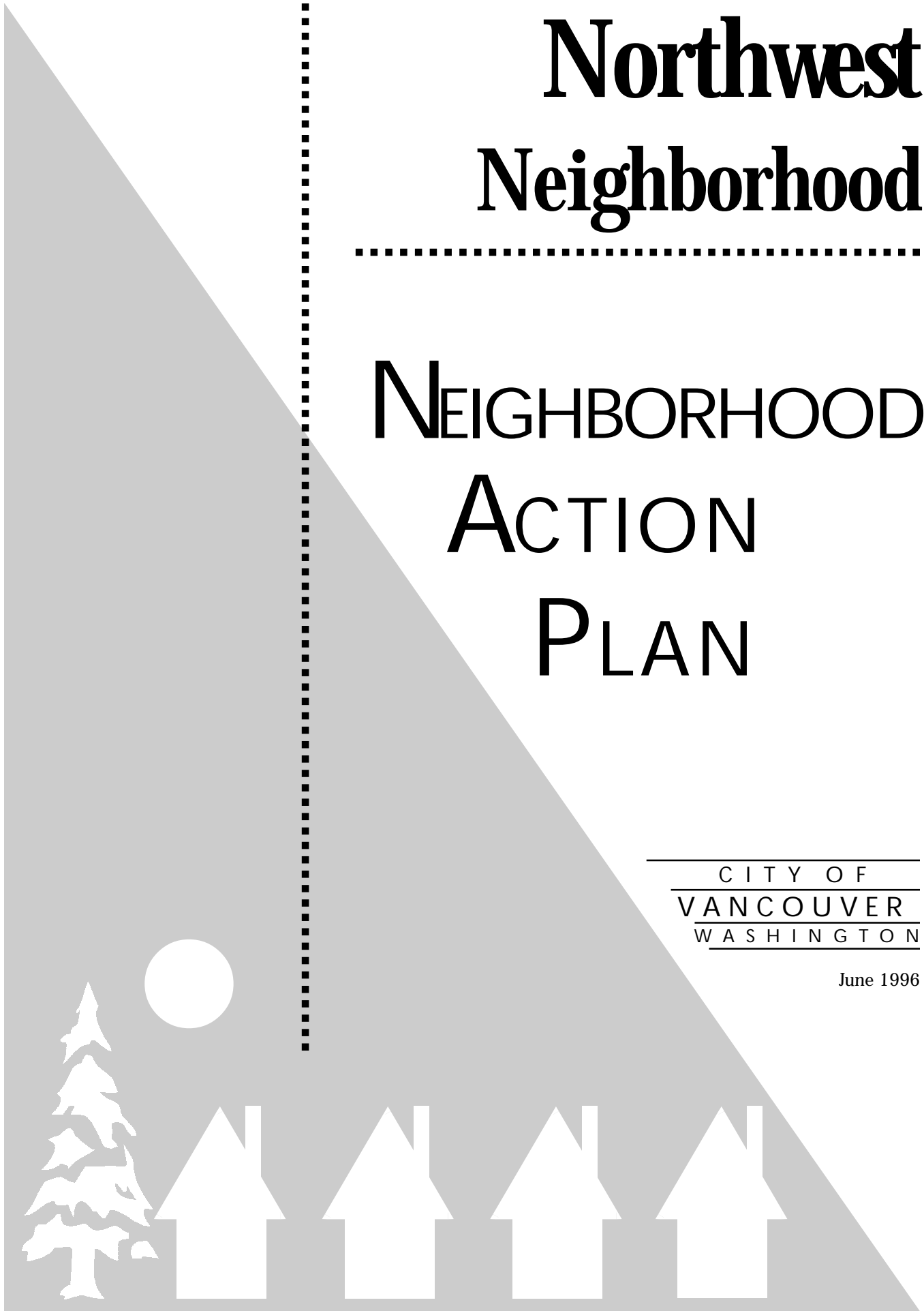


Northwest Neighborhood

NEIGHBORHOOD ACTION PLAN

CITY OF
VANCOUVER
WASHINGTON

June 1996





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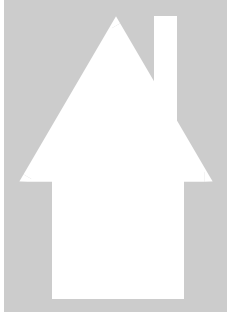
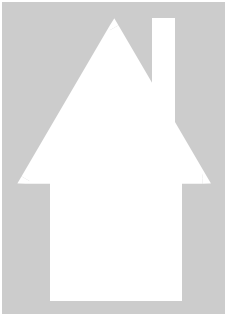


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Introduction

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 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 others' 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 then 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 Northwest 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 was developed by the Northwest Neighborhood Association with assistance from the City of Vancouver Department of Community Preservation and Development. The actual preparation of the plan was 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 the Action Plan was advertised and made available for review and comment by all residents of the neighborhood. After considering and reconciling comments from the residents, the plan was endorsed by the Neighborhood Association according to its specific by-laws, and then forwarded to the Planning Commission for its consideration. The City Council adopted the Plan by resolution.

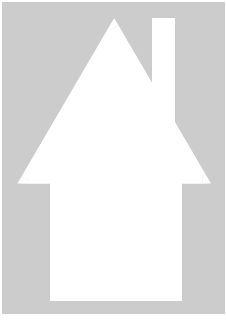
It is intended that City agencies will utilize the action plans as input in developing more specific work programs and in establishing citywide funding priorities. It is recognized that many of the recommendations contained in the action plans are conceptual only and may need to be analyzed in greater 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. Some of

the actions identified in the plan are intended to be initiated and implemented by residents of the neighborhood.



Overview of the Plan

The Plan is organized into four sections. 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** section identifies issues that are of concern to the residents of the neighborhood and potential strategies for addressing those concerns. Finally, the **ACTION CHART** summarizes in table format the strategies developed in the previous section along with additional information identifying responsibilities and priorities.



Neighborhood Profile

THE APPROPRIATELY NAMED Northwest Neighborhood is located in the northwest corner of the city. The neighborhood is generally bounded by 78th Street and Overlook Drive to the north, Columbia (the existing city limits) to the east, Fruit Valley Road to the west, and W 44th, 45th, and 46th Streets to the south.

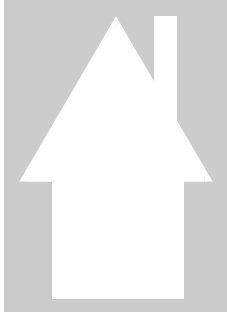
Map is Missing

Northwest's comprehensive plan designations of “Urban Low” and “Open Space” are supported by zoning for low-density residential development (approximately 7,500 to 10,500 square-foot lots) and for parks (*see following map*).

The neighborhood is comprised entirely of single-family development and is characterized by well-kept, older homes. The homes are primarily owner-occupied and the area has a very stable and balanced population of young families, middle-aged people, and retirees. The neighborhood is also home to two el-

ementary schools, Ben Franklin and Our Lady of Lourdes, and three residential care homes.

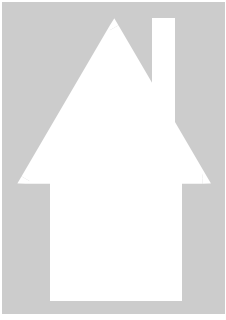
As the neighborhood is situated on a promontory, many neighbors enjoy views of Vancouver Lake, the surrounding lowlands, and Stewart Glen. The Discovery Trail along Burnt Bridge Creek is a popular recreational facility. Franklin Park is a favorite gathering place with tremendous views. The area has abundant trees and landscaping with few curbs and sidewalks. Neighbors say that the Northwest Neighborhood has a “country in the city” feeling.



Vision Statement

THE NORTHWEST NEIGHBORHOOD ACTION PLAN, when implemented, should make the following vision for the neighborhood a reality:

Northwest neighbors envision a friendly, well-kept neighborhood with a “country” feel. Stewart Glen, Franklin Park, and other areas within the neighborhood have been preserved and maintained for open space and recreation, and are used throughout the year. Pathways connect the neighborhood with the Discovery Trail at several points. Neighbors and visitors drive leisurely through the neighborhood, and children walk safely between home and school. The Neighborhood Association is quite active. Neighbors know each other well and work together and with the City of Vancouver and the schools to improve the neighborhood and help each other. Many neighbors are active in local government and keep their neighbors well-informed of and involved in government activities.



Neighborhood Objectives

THIS SECTION identifies issues that are of concern to the residents of the neighborhood, along with potential “action steps” for addressing these concerns. The issues, which are stated in terms of “objectives,” are categorized by topics similar to those found in the City of Vancouver comprehensive plan. The order in which objectives and action steps appear do not necessarily correspond to their relative degree of importance. For a more detailed description of priorities, along with a list of various agencies responsible for implementing each action step, see the ACTION CHART presented in the final section of this report.

Cultural and Historic Resources

OBJECTIVE 1: Identify, preserve, and celebrate the cultural and historic resources of the neighborhood.

The Northwest Neighborhood has several resources of cultural or historic significance. The Stewart House and the Leukko farmhouse are two; other properties may also contain significant features. The Neighborhood is interested in heightening awareness of these resources and attempting to preserve them.

Recommended Action Steps:

- Work with owners of historically or culturally significant properties to heighten awareness of their importance and preserve significant features.

Open Space and Recreation

OBJECTIVE 1: Increase the amount of public open space.

The Northwest Neighborhood is fortunate to border Stewart Glen and to encompass Franklin Park. There are also some other properties that the neighborhood is interested in preserving for open space and recreation purposes as they become available.

Recommended Action Steps:

- Purchase additional lands as they become available.

OBJECTIVE 2: Maintain public open spaces in good condition.

Franklin Park has been subject to litter and vandalism, especially after dark. Neighbors wish to work together and with the City of Vancouver to curtail these activities.

Recommended Action Steps:

- Develop an action plan to curb after-hours use and abuse of open spaces.
- Develop an action plan for positive maintenance of public open spaces.

OBJECTIVE 3: Maximize the involvement of the community schools in the neighborhood.

Ben Franklin Elementary School is scheduled for remodeling. The neighborhood is interested in working with the school district to establish a community room and recreational facilities for neighbors to use after school hours.

Recommended Action Steps:

- Explore partnership opportunities with the school district for the redevelopment of Ben Franklin Elementary School.

 **Land Use**

OBJECTIVE 1: Reinforce the stability, safety, and security of the neighborhood.

The Northwest Neighborhood residents are happy with the single-family residential character of the neighborhood, and their proximity to commercial areas. The neighborhood boundary is rather irregular on the south, and includes some commercial and industrial land at the foot of the steep slope on the west side. It also includes a development which is the only land in the City of Vancouver on the north side of Stewart Glen. The neighborhood is interested in studying and possibly changing the neighborhood boundary. Neighborhood stability depends in part on integrating the interests of all the neighborhood constituents. At this time, those least involved in neighborhood activities are the youth, the schools, and the businesses. The residents would like to actively recruit their participation in the neighborhood association.

Recommended Action Steps:

- Maintain the residential integrity of the neighborhood.
- Support legislation which would prevent the overconcentration of group homes in a neighborhood.

- Reconsider the location of the neighborhood boundary.
- Involve the neighborhood youth, schools, and businesses in neighborhood activities.


 **Community Appearance**

OBJECTIVE 1: Preserve the desirable and distinctive characteristics of the neighborhood.

The Northwest Neighborhood is proud of its appearance. Most houses are well-kept, and the Spring Cleanup has been a rousing success. The Frito Lay plant on Fruit Valley Road emits grease and particulate matter which come to rest on a few of the homes, their patio furniture, automobiles, and other outdoor accessories. In addition, the emissions can be noisy and malodorous.

Recommended Action Steps:

- Develop a program for helping neighbors maintain and enhance the outside appearance of their homes (including landscaping), and access programs for home improvement and structural maintenance.
- Continue and expand the neighborhood Spring Cleanup.
- Continue to work with Frito Lay to reduce noise, odor, and particulate emissions from the plant.

 **Public Facilities and Services**

OBJECTIVE 1: Maintain high-quality law enforcement and safety services.

Northwest neighbors are proud of the high quality of law enforcement and safety services provided by the City of Vancouver, and would like to maintain them. They would also like to become more familiar with law enforcement issues and safety services, and be trained to work with the City and within the neighborhood association, when appropriate, to ad-

dress law enforcement issues.

Recommended Action Steps:

- Sponsor Community Liaison activities and training for the neighbors on law enforcement issues and safety services.



Mobility Management

OBJECTIVE 1: Improve circulation throughout the neighborhood.

Speeding and cut-through traffic are problems, especially on Bernie, Lincoln, Cherry, Franklin, and 49th. Speeding incidents seem to have increased on Cherry since police patrols on Lincoln were increased. Speeding is of particular concern on Cherry where Franklin Park flanks the roadway. Bicyclists often appear unexpectedly over the vegetated berms and ride into the roadway. Drivers, especially speeding ones, find it difficult to avoid them.

Pedestrian safety is another concern. School crossings are not well-marked, and it is difficult for drivers to see them. Pathways linking the neighborhood and the Discovery Trail are needed.

Recommended Action Steps:

- Develop an action plan through the Neighborhood Traffic Control Program to reduce speeding and through traffic, and to provide greater pedestrian safety. Evaluate traffic flow throughout the neighborhood and address identified traffic circulation concerns. Also, evaluate traffic and pedestrian safety throughout the neighborhood and address identified safety concerns.
- Develop pedestrian and bicycle pathways and linkages to the Discovery Trail.
- Continue or improve the availability of public transportation to the neighborhood.

OBJECTIVE 2: Maintain transportation facilities in good condition.

Some of the neighborhood streets have serious drainage problems, making both walking and driving treacherous. The City has been very responsive when notified of individual problems. However, the neighborhood would like to take a more comprehensive approach to addressing drainage issues.

Recommended Action Steps:

- Develop an action plan to improve street drainage throughout the neighborhood, for example, on Lincoln, on Bernie, on 58th, on 53rd at Cherry, Lincoln and Franklin, at the intersection of Lincoln and Bernie, and at the intersection of 59th and Cherry.

OBJECTIVE 3: Reduce transportation-related noise.

The City of Vancouver together with the Northwest Neighborhood Association has been working with Burlington Northern Railroad for many years to reduce noise, especially from idling engines and coupling operations during the night. These efforts have been quite successful; however, diligence and persistence are necessary for continued success.

Recommended Action Steps:

- Continue to work with Burlington Northern Railroad to reduce noise from railroad activity.



Community Building

OBJECTIVE 1: Improve communication among neighbors.

Northwest neighbors feel a need to improve communications among residents of the neighborhood. They would like the youth and the schools to feel a part of the neighborhood and become involved with the neighborhood association. To achieve some of the other objectives of this plan, they need to be aware of neighbors' plans for developing their properties. They also wish to improve participation by appointing a person to identify neighborhood assets

and coordinate volunteer activities.

Recommended Action Steps:

- Explore avenues for Ben Franklin, Our Lady of Lourdes, and the neighborhood to work together for the enhancement of all.
- Appoint a Volunteer Coordinator to identify, organize, and tap neighborhood assets.
- Maintain awareness of plans for property development in the neighborhood.
- Make use of all available avenues for public relations and notices. Share newsletter space with Ben Franklin and Our Lady of Lourdes Elementary Schools.

OBJECTIVE 2: Improve participation in government by encouraging neighbors to seek positions on commissions, committees, and advisory boards.

Northwest neighbors have been very involved in local government over the years serving in a variety of capacities. They wish to encourage even more neighbors to participate, providing greater access to local government activities and additional opportunities for strengthening and enriching the community.

Recommended Action Steps:

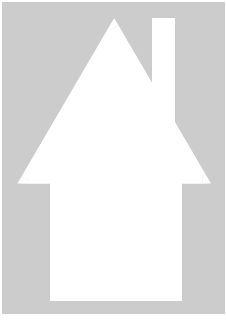
- Notify neighbors of openings on these panels and their meeting times.
- Encourage panel participants to let neighbors know what they are doing and how to contact them.

OBJECTIVE 3: Explore the concept of “defensible space” for possible implementation in the neighborhood.

There is a perception among residents that some of the neighborhood’s safety and law enforcement issues could be addressed through neighborhood design changes. Design changes could include such items as landscaping, lighting, street layout, neighborhood access and other features. Neighbors are interested in exploring ways in which the concept of “defensible space” could be applied to the Northwest Neighborhood.

Recommended Action Steps:

- Develop a program to promote safety through design, perhaps even as a pilot program to be implemented citywide.
- Evaluate all possible methods of financing a program to promote safety through design.



Action Chart

THE ACTION CHART on the following pages summarizes in table format the objectives and action steps identified in the previous section. Additional information identifying the relative priority of each action step, along with those agencies and organizations responsible for implementing the action steps, is also provided.

Recommended action steps identified as having a “High” priority are considered by the Neighborhood Association to be most important, or to need immediate action. “Medium” priority action steps are somewhat less important, or do not require prompt action. “Low” priority action steps are considered least important, or action can be delayed.

Priority has been assigned by the Neighborhood Association for each action step without regard for the timeframe within which the recommendation can realistically be accomplished (short-range, long-range) and without concern for whether funding sources can practically be identified. Accordingly, it is possible that a “High” priority item may not be realized for many years. In contrast, some “Low” priority items could potentially be accomplished in a relatively short amount of time without significant capital expense.

The following is a list of abbreviations used in the table:

- BNR Burlington Northern Railroad
- BUS Neighborhood Businesses
- CTAN Clark County Public Transportation Benefit Area Authority
- FL Frito Lay
- FVNA Fruit Valley Neighborhood Association
- LNA Lincoln Neighborhood Association
- NWNA Northwest Neighborhood Association
- OTH Others as Identified
- OWN Neighborhood Property Owners
- SCH Ben Franklin and Our Lady of Lourdes Elementary Schools
- VCPAD City of Vancouver Department of
Community Preservation and Development
- VLAW City of Vancouver Law Department
- VOHS City of Vancouver Office of Heritage Services
- 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 Department
- VSD Vancouver School District

Objectives and Recommended Action Steps	Priority	Responsible Party
CULTURAL AND HISTORIC RESOURCES		
<p>Objective 1: Identify, preserve, and celebrate the cultural and historic resources of the neighborhood.</p> <p><i>Action Step: Work with owners of historically or culturally significant properties to heighten awareness of their importance and preserve significant features.</i></p>	Medium	NWNA, VOHS
OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION		
<p>Objective 1: Increase the amount of public open space.</p> <p><i>Action Step: Purchase additional lands as they become available.</i></p>	High	NWNA, VCPAD, VPR, OWN
<p>Objective 2: Maintain public open spaces in good condition.</p> <p><i>Action Step: Develop an action plan to curb after-hours use and abuse of open spaces.</i></p> <p><i>Action Step: Develop an action plan for positive maintenance of public open spaces.</i></p>	Medium Medium	NWNA, VPR, VPD NWNA, VPR, VPD
<p>Objective 3: Maximize the involvement of the community schools in the neighborhood.</p> <p><i>Action Step: Explore partnership opportunities with the school district for the redevelopment of Ben Franklin Elementary School.</i></p>	High	NWNA, VSD
LAND USE		
<p>Objective 1: Reinforce the stability, safety, and security of the neighborhood.</p> <p><i>Action Step: Maintain the residential integrity of the neighborhood.</i></p> <p><i>Action Step: Support legislation which would prevent the overconcentration of group homes in a neighborhood.</i></p> <p><i>Action Step: Reconsider the location of the neighborhood boundary.</i></p> <p><i>Action Step: Involve neighborhood youth, schools, and businesses in neighborhood activities.</i></p>	Low High Medium Medium	NWNA, VCPAD NWNA, VCPAD, VON, VLAW NWNA, VON, LNA, FVNA NWNA, SCH, BUS

Objectives and Recommended Action Steps	Priority	Responsible Party
COMMUNITY APPEARANCE		
<p>Objective 1: Preserve the desirable and distinctive characteristics of the neighborhood.</p> <p><i>Action Step: Develop a program for helping neighbors maintain and enhance the outside appearance of their homes (including landscaping), and access programs for home improvement and structural maintenance.</i></p> <p><i>Action Step: Continue and expand the neighborhood Spring Cleanup.</i></p> <p><i>Action Step: Continue to work with Frito Lay to reduce noise, odor, and particulate emissions from the plant.</i></p>	<p>Medium</p> <p>Medium</p> <p>High</p>	<p>NWNA, VCPAD, OTH</p> <p>NWNA, VON, OTH</p> <p>NWNA, FL, VPW</p>
PUBLIC FACILITIES AND SERVICES		
<p>Objective 1: Maintain high-quality law enforcement and safety services.</p> <p><i>Action Step: Sponsor Community Liaison activities and training for the neighbors on law enforcement issues and safety services.</i></p>	<p>High</p>	<p>NWNA, VPD</p>
MOBILITY MANAGEMENT		
<p>Objective 1: Improve circulation throughout the neighborhood.</p> <p><i>Action Step: Develop an action plan through the Neighborhood Traffic Control Program to reduce speeding and through traffic, and to provide greater pedestrian safety.</i></p> <p><i>1. Evaluate traffic flow throughout the neighborhood and address identified traffic circulation concerns.</i></p> <p><i>2. Evaluate traffic and pedestrian safety throughout the neighborhood and address identified safety concerns.</i></p> <p><i>Action Step: Develop pedestrian and bicycle pathways and linkages to the Discovery Trail.</i></p> <p><i>Action Step: Continue or improve the availability of public transportation to the neighborhood.</i></p>	<p>High</p> <p>High</p> <p>Low</p>	<p>NWNA, SCH, VPW</p> <p>NWNA, VCPAD, VPW, VPR</p> <p>NWNA, CTRAN</p>

Objectives and Recommended Action Steps	Priority	Responsible Party
<p>Objective 2: Maintain transportation facilities in good condition.</p> <p><i>Action Step: Develop an action plan to improve street drainage throughout neighborhood, for example on:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bernie 2. 53rd at Cherry and Franklin 3. 58th 4. 59th and Cherry 5. Lincoln, particularly at 53rd 6. Bernie & Lincoln 	Medium	NWNA, VPW NWNA, BNR, VCPAD
<p>Objective 3: Reduce transportation-related noise.</p> <p><i>Action Step: Continue to work with Burlington Northern Railroad to reduce noise from railroad activity.</i></p>	Low	
COMMUNITY-BUILDING		
<p>Objective 1: Improve communication among neighbors.</p> <p><i>Action Step: Explore avenues for Ben Franklin, Our Lady of Lourdes, and the neighborhood to work together for the enhancement of all.</i></p> <p><i>Action Step: Appoint a Volunteer Coordinator to identify, organize, and tap neighborhood assets.</i></p> <p><i>Action Step: Maintain awareness of plans for property development in the neighborhood.</i></p> <p><i>Action Step: Make use of all available avenues for public relations and notices.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Share newsletter space with Ben Franklin and Our Lady of Lourdes Elementary Schools. 	High High High Medium	NWNA, SCH NWNA, VON NWNA NWNA, SCH, VON
<p>Objective 2: Improve participation in government by encouraging neighbors to seek positions on commissions, committees, and advisory boards.</p> <p><i>Action Step: Notify neighbors of openings on these panels and their meeting times.</i></p>	Medium	NWNA NWNA

Objectives and Recommended Action Steps	Priority	Responsible Party
<p><i>Action Step: Encourage panel participants to let neighbors know what they are doing and how to contact them.</i></p>	Medium	
<p>Objective 3: Explore the concept of “defensible space” for possible implementation in the neighborhood.</p>		Nwana, VCPAD
<p><i>Action Step: Develop a program to promote safety through design, perhaps even as a pilot program to be implemented citywide.</i></p>	Low	Nwana, VPW, VPD, VCPAD
<p><i>Action Step: Evaluate all possible methods of financing a program to promote safety through design.</i></p>	Low	