



**Riveridge Neighborhood
Action Plan
City of Vancouver
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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:

- 6 Educate both city government and neighborhood residents about each other's concerns and visions for the future.
- 7 Promote collaboration between the city and the neighborhood in order to achieve mutual goals and a shared sense of responsibility.
- 8 Create a "sense of place" within the community by identifying and developing the assets within each neighborhood.
- 9 Initiate change, rather than simply reacting to it, by addressing specific issues and opportunities.
- 10 Achieve sensible and coordinated project and program planning within each neighborhood and between all the city neighborhoods.
- 11 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 a well-planned, safe pedestrian environment." (CD-6)

The purpose of the Riveridge Neighborhood Action Plan is to integrate neighborhood needs into the City's budget process, Six-Year Street Improvement 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 Riveridge Neighborhood Association with assistance from the 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 was made available to each household in Riveridge 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 NAP 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 the funding. However, your neighborhood may be eligible for limited city funding or private, federal and state funding programs.

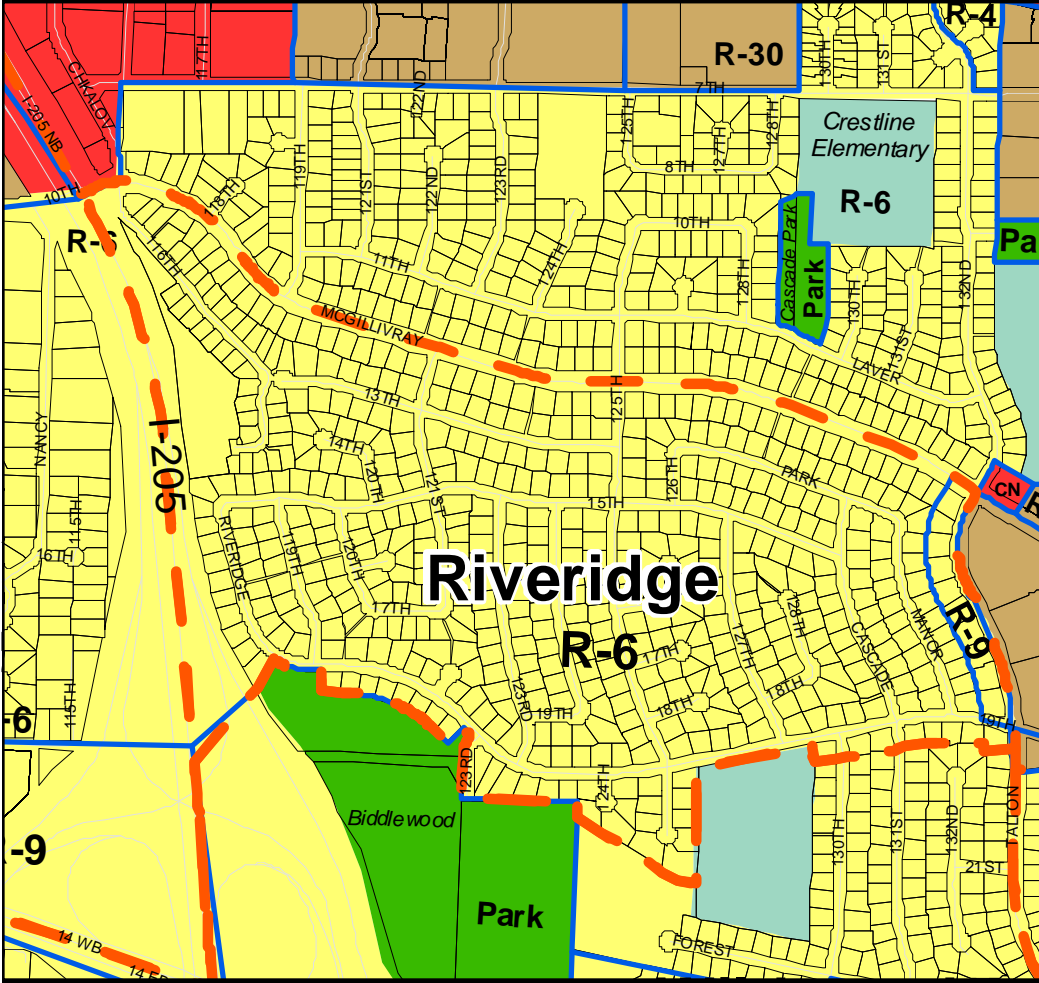
Neighborhood Profile

The Riveridge neighborhood is located approximately 2.5 miles from downtown Vancouver. The neighborhood consists of approximately 500 homes, is all residential with heavy home-ownership and some rental properties. Our boundary to the North is McGillivray Avenue, to the South, Riveridge Drive/19th Street, to the East is Talton and to the West, I-205.





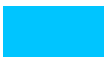


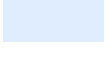


Our neighborhood is characterized by a variety of home styles, all having been built between 1970 and 1979, as well as mature landscaping, heavy tree canopy and a quiet, peaceful atmosphere. Residents in Riveridge have easy access to grocery stores and amenities on Chaklov as well as quick access to stores and services on 164th Avenue, medical services and entertainment via car, bike or walking. The neighborhood has close access to both I-5 via Hwy 14 and I-205 via Chaklov. Our neighborhood includes the Riverview Elementary School and Biddlewood Park.

As a neighborhood we value and would like to preserve our mature trees and open space to reflect the regional landscape of the Pacific Northwest. We recognize the benefits of trees (cleanse the air, provide oxygen, reduce amount of energy to cool and heat our homes, intercepting stormwater, contribute to neighborhood livability, and they calm and slow traffic, improve wildlife habitat, reduce erosion, and mitigate flooding) and unlike many other investments that depreciate, a tree's value increases with each passing year. We also realize 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 increase our urban canopy to the city's goal of 28% within our neighborhood to maximize these benefits. Based on the 2011 Tree Canopy Study, Riveridge's tree canopy was 26%.

Neighborhood Zoning/Comp Map



Legend

-  Neighborhood Boundary
 -  Urban Lower Residential
 -  Urban Higher Residential
 -  Commercial & Mixed Use
 -  Industrial
 -  Public Facility
 -  Open Space
 -  Water
 -  Zoning Boundary
-  0 250 500 1,000 Feet

Vision Statement

We envision ourselves as a quiet, family-oriented community diverse in age, ethnicity and economic background. Through our efforts we strive to preserve, protect and enhance the quality of life in our neighborhood.

As residents, we're committed to maintaining the safety of our homes and streets, as well as preserving, maintaining, and developing our tree canopy and open spaces. In addition we understand the value of a fully developed park within a large neighborhood such as ours and we will strive to make Biddlewood Park a gem within Vancouver's park system. We want to continue to develop a strong foundation for resident volunteerism by providing the opportunity to participate in neighborhood focused events and projects. Protecting property values is also a high priority. We believe that attention to these main features of the Riveridge Neighborhood will increase property values, resident satisfaction and the quality of life for all who live here, especially our children.

We intend to work with the City for improvements that are focused on the needs of the neighborhood and its residents moving forward.

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:

BC	Business Community
CED	Community & Economic Development
CITY	All Responsible City Departments
CMS	Community Mediation Services
CPU	Clark Public Utilities
CTRAN	CTRAN
DVP	Developers
EPS	Evergreen Public Schools
FOT	Friends of Trees
NTSA	Neighborhood Traffic Safety Alliance
OTH	Other organizations
OWN	Neighborhood Property Owners
PMG	Property Management Groups
RNA	Riveridge Neighborhood Association
USPS	United States Postal Services
VCC	Vancouver Code Compliance
V-CPRD	Vancouver-Clark Parks and Recreation Department
VFD	Vancouver Fire Department
VON	Vancouver Office of Neighborhoods
VPD	Vancouver Police Department
VPS	Vancouver Parking Services
VPW	Vancouver Public Works
VSWS	Vancouver Solid Waste Services
VUF	Vancouver Urban Forestry

I. COMMUNITY APPEARANCE

To encourage and support all residents in maintaining the visual appearance of their home and property, thereby preserving and enhancing the overall livability and marketability of the neighborhood.

Objective #1

Riveridge Neighborhood residents understand that well-maintained homes, properties and streets contribute to the overall character of the neighborhood, quality of life within the neighborhood, and maintain or increase the value of the homes within the neighborhood.

Action Steps	Priority	Responsible Parties
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue providing annual neighborhood clean-up day including providing the wood chipper and metal recycling. 	HIGH	RNA, VSWS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Committee formation for bi-annual survey of neighborhood for derelict and/or vacant properties and to work with appropriate authorities to remedy the property problems. 	HIGH	RNA, VPD, VFD, VCC
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage residents to notify the appropriate parties of ordinance violations concerning abandoned cars, junk keeping, street visibility ordinances (landscaping) 	LOW	RNA, VCC, VPS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a plan to replace street and neighbor’s trees that are dying, have died or are causing property damage and to properly prune and maintain existing trees. 	MEDIUM	OWN, RNA, VUFD, FOT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage residents to recognize the benefits of trees for the neighborhood and property value and to protect them from unnecessary removals. 	LOW	VUFD, RNA, VCC, FOT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with the City to hold educational and training seminars for our residents on maintenance topics such as: proper tree pruning, native landscaping, attracting native wildlife to yards, home maintenance - roof care, cement care, house painting etc. 	LOW	RNA, VUF, CITY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a “sponsorship” program for 		

<p>assisting residents with landscape maintenance and up keep.</p>	<p>LOW</p>	<p>RNA, VUF, OWN</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Re-design neighborhood entrance signage, clean blue “Riveridge Neighborhood” signs and any other street signage that needs it. 	<p>MEDIUM</p>	<p>RNA, VPW, VON</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participate in City sponsored programs designed to educate residents: Neighborwoods Steward Program, etc. 	<p>MEDIUM</p>	<p>RNA, VUF, CITY</p>

II. TRAFFIC & NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY including CRIME PREVENTION

To ensure that all residents feel and are safe in their homes and the neighborhood at large through incident reporting, neighborhood monitoring, and community is policing efforts. Neighbors of the Riveridge Neighborhood wish to work together to improve safety during crises and to prevent crimes in our neighborhood.

Objective #1

Monitor and control speeding on the main thoroughfare's within Riveridge. To promote traffic safety, especially for children, walkers and bicyclists, a coordinated engineering, enforcement and education (the 3 E's) approach should be used to control speeding – with an emphasis on education

Action Steps:	Priority	Responsible Parties
•		

Objective #2

Control speeding on McGillivray Boulevard; since McGillivray is Riveridge's Northern boundary, it is our concern that speed limits be observed along this corridor. It has become an alternate route to Mill Plain Blvd. for motorists who are able to avoid the many lights on to Mill Plain Blvd and whom disregard the 25 mph speed limit. Riverview Elementary, Wy'East Middle and Mountainview High all funnel onto McGillivray.

Action Steps:	Priority	Responsible Parties
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify strategic locations for installing traffic-calming devices and work with the Transportation Department to install such devices where necessary, priority locations include: entrances to the neighborhood on SE 121st, SE125th, SE 19th & Talton, and on SE 15th Street, as well as the long stretch of Riveridge that is the Southern border street of the neighborhood. 	HIGH	VPW, RNA, NTSA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore additional funding resources to install traffic calming devices at the above locations. 	HIGH	RNA, NTSA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage neighbor's to report any and all incidences, whether on personal or public property within the neighborhood boundary. 	HIGH	RNA, VPD
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with the City of Vancouver to maintain street lights, improve 	MEDIUM	RNA, VPW, CITY, NTSA

<p>neighborhood signage regarding no parking area's/traffic directional's and painted sidewalk area's.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launch public safety campaigns to diminish speeding within neighborhood boundaries. • Speed awareness yard signs - "SLOW DOWN - We Live Here"/"Commit to drive 25", brought to you by the Riveridge Neighborhood Association. • Reserve VTD radar reader board for community monitoring of traffic speeds – free to neighborhoods on a weekly rotation. • Preserve and plant street trees as a traffic-calming technique. Street trees narrow a driver's field of vision and reducing traffic speed. 	HIGH	RNA, VON
		RNA, VON
	HIGH	RNA, VPW, VPD, NTSA
	??	VPW, VUF, FOT

Objective #3

Increase pedestrian and bicycle access and safety throughout the neighborhood. Walking and cycling are important sources of recreation and are prevalent within all age ranges within our neighborhood. Many children walk and bike to Riveridge Elementary School and there is a large population of walkers within our neighborhood.

Action Steps:	Priority	Responsible Parties
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify need for painted crosswalks and take steps to install at all 4-way stops and entrances to neighborhood. • Identify and install painted stop lines at existing unsigned 2-way stop and T intersections anywhere warranted. • Install a sidewalk on one side of the street to connect to a crosswalk that will create a safe thoroughfare for school children and neighborhood walkers. • Apply for all available grants to achieve traffic and safety objectives. 		<p>CED, VPW, EPS, CITY</p> <p>VPW, CITY</p> <p>VPW, EPS, NTSA, RNA</p> <p>RNA, NTSA</p>

III. COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Objective #1

To invite residents to participate in the Riveridge community through volunteerism, participation in neighborhood events, and to create communication networks and places where residents can gather.

Action Steps:	Priority	Responsible Parties
Plan and host annual neighborhood barbeque in the park.	HIGH	RNA, VON, VPW
- Continue to organize the annual neighborhood cleanup day.	HIGH	RNA, VON, VSW
- Develop community “contests” that are beneficial to the neighborhood - “prune your property” raffle.	LOW	RNA, VON, VUF
• Participate in the annual National Night Out campaign through a “night out” event in our neighborhood.	HIGH	RNA, VPD
• Promote and utilize existing modes of neighborhood communication. Develop phone trees, a Street Captain program and an emergency plan for Riveridge. “What do you need” emergency info/kit.		RNA, VFD, VON
• Encourage neighbors to complete the Map Your Neighborhood Program for disaster preparedness throughout the neighborhood.		RNA, VONRNA
• Encourage residents to reach out to others through activity specific groups: book club, walking groups, game nights, etc.		RNA, VUF, FOT
• 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.		

IV. OPEN SPACE & NEIGHBORHOOD RECREATION

Create a park environment that serves the needs of the majority of residents in Riveridge, allowing kids to play safely, families and neighbors to picnic and play games, dogs to run, and residents to exercise and enjoy the park and other open spaces to their fullest potential.

Objective #1

The Riveridge neighborhood intends to maintain and enhance our open space of Biddlewood Park through neighborhood events and volunteerism that build a sense of community and foster a sense of pride in ourselves and our neighborhood.

Action Steps	Priority	Responsible Parties
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Schedule Biddlewood clean up days prior to neighborhood Clean-up day. 	MEDIUM	RNA, VCPR
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participate in the Adopt-a-Park program offered by the City of Vancouver. 	HIGH	RNA, VCPR, VON
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Schedule playground equipment inspection and cleaning days. Monitor, report and prevent illegal and after-hours activity. 	HIGH	RNA, VPD

Objective #2

Full development of Biddlewood Park to Level 3 plus additional amenities. Work with Vancouver-Clark Parks and Recreation Department to improve park amenities and maintenance services.

(Comment from Parks Department:

The biggest challenge to move any of these forward will be financing of the improvements and the long term maintenance of these improvements. The city is not in a position to take on new development, i.e. picnic tables and play equipment, or the maintenance of these items. We can explore options with the neighborhood for funding and maintenance if needed. Picnic tables would need to be city standards and include a concrete pads and an accessible paved walkway to each one. Adding play equipment may not be possible. It would have to be verified if all the play equipment per plans were installed or not. If not, there might be an opportunity. If it is all installed, there is not adequate room to add new equipment within the current curbed area. Removing the curb and expanding the play area would be challenging and expensive because of the surrounding steep slopes and path system. There are safety guidelines that identifies fall areas and spacing between play equipment that we need to adhere to. Most of the pieces of play equipment must be 12 ft. apart and located a minimum of 6 ft. from the curbs. Greater distances are required for swings and end of slides.

Action Steps	Priority	Responsible Parties
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performance of site grading for picnic tables and additional playground equipment. • Purchasing and installation of additional playground equipment. • Site locations for tree plantings. • Explore funding options for desired park amenities listed above. • Measure and mark mileage of paved paths within groomed park area; name and maintain off-trail paths. 	MEDIUM	VCPR, VPW
	MEDIUM	RNA, VCPR, CITY
	LOW	VUF, RNA, FOT
	HIGH	RNA, CITY
	LOW	VCPR, RNA
<p>Objective #3 Identify and develop open community spaces and/or resident curb spaces into gardens for the enjoyment of neighborhood residents and to create native habitat within the neighborhood.</p>		
Action Steps:	Priority	Responsible Parties
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify open spaces: ivy patch at end of 13th Street; South corners of SE 13th Streets and 121st Avenue. 	HIGH	RNA, VCPR, VPW

V. NOISE & NUISANCE

We strive to encourage neighborly behavior when dealing with minor nuisance's as well as following the appropriate channels for issue resolution for major nuisances.

Objective #1

Encourage neighbors to get to know one another in order that requests for behavior/activity change(s) may be given and heard in the spirit of neighborliness, with empathy and understanding and a willingness to work together.

Action Steps:	Priority	Responsible Parties
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop a "resolution" protocol so that the simplest step is made first to prevent escalation and promote continued neighborhood harmony.• Identify noisiest holidays (July 4th/New Year's Eve), deliver notices prior to holiday regarding city ordinances, resident responsibilities for clean-up.	MEDIUM	RNA, VON, CMS RNA, VON