

# **Riverview** Neighborhood

# NEIGHBORHOOD Action Plan

City of VANCOUVER

WASHINGTON

June , 1998

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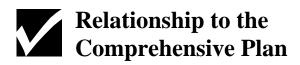
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# Introduction

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 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 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.



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 Riverview 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 Riverview Neighborhood Association with assistance from the City of Vancouver Department of Community Development 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 draft version of this Action Plan has been advertised and made available 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, and then will be forwarded to the Planning Commission for their consideration. The City Council will endorse 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. All of the actions identified in the plan are to be initiated and implemented by residents of the neighborhood and the appropriate city departments.

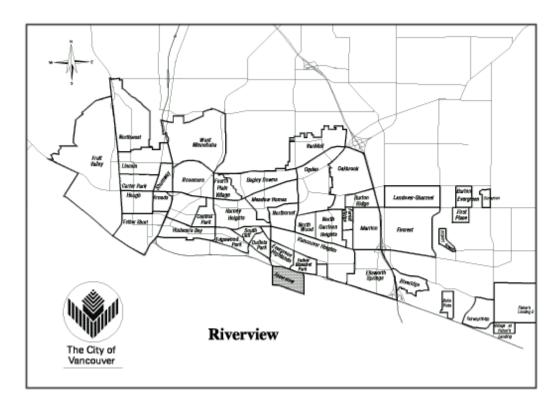


This Plan contains four components. The NEIGHBORHOOD PROFILE contains a general description of the current conditions within the neighborhood. The VISION STATEMENT describes the neighborhood's sense of identity and vision for its future. The NEIGHBORHOOD OBJECTIVES identifies issues that are of concern 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**

The Riverview Neighborhood is in the southeastern quadrant of the City of Vancouver, approximately 3-1/2 miles from the downtown central business district (see attached map). Occupying an area of less than 20 square blocks, the neighborhood is bounded on the north by SR-14, the "Tidewater" site to the West, approximately 73<sup>rd</sup> Avenue to the East, and the Columbia River to the South.

This neighborhood is sandwiched between SR - 14 on one side and the Columbia River on the other and suffers from noise pollution from a variety of sources. Vehicle, railroad, boat and air traffic generated from the Portland International Airport directly across the River are all noise producers.



The Riverview Neighborhood is a developed stable residential neighborhood zoned almost exclusively for large lot (10,000 sq. ft.), single-family use. However, within this neighborhood there are several R-18 zones that are multifamily condo units. Contemporary homes on large lots many with views of the Columbia River, are featured throughout the neighborhood. Residents of the neighborhood value and enjoy the location of their homes and the river views they share. Thereby, building height restrictions are strictly adhered to, but trees are a constant threat to the views that have attracted residents in the past.

Wintler Park, on the shores of the Columbia River, is a significant regional attraction that boasts over a quarter mile of sandy beach. It is one of only two parks that has a significant sandy beach for

miles along the Columbia River. The park has a restored rest room area and has parking to accommodate approximately 36 vehicles. Picnic tables are available for use by park users. The park's only vehicular access exists to the south of Evergreen Boulevard, along Beach Road.

Riverview neighbors do recognize that Wintler Park is a regional draw. Although the park has much to offer, residents want to have the park as a safe and usable environment. Over the years, residents have witnessed an increase in drug and alcohol use, elements that lead to vandalism and other criminal activities.

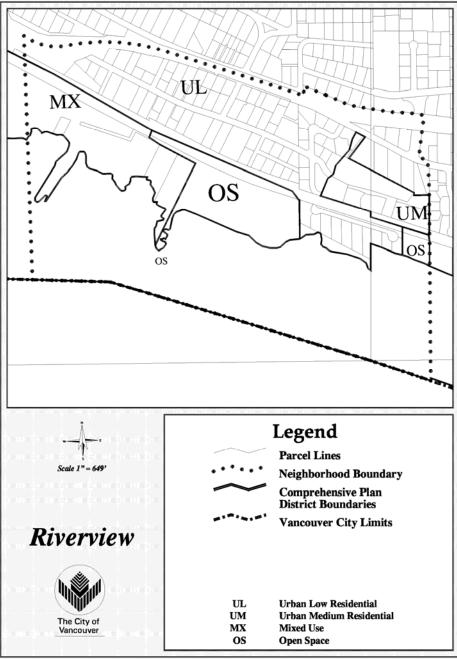
Much of the neighborhood does not have sidewalks or curbs. Narrow neighborhood streets make walking dangerous where sidewalks are not available. Additional infrastructure concerns include poor storm water drainage, and with subsequent flooding concerns.

# **Vision Statement**

Our Neighborhood is a comfortable and stable residential community, where neighbors are concerned about each other and involved in working together to preserve the qualities that originally attracted them to the neighborhood. We value our close knit community. Block parties and backyard barbecues will continue to help us to get to know one another and strengthen lasting bonds.

We are continually interested in preserving the amenities we currently enjoy, as well as adding amenities, which would further enhance the enjoyment and livability of our neighborhood. The residents desire that their views of Columbia River be protected against trees and other obstructions. A safe Wintler Park is valued by our residents which would be enhanced by lighting and a resident park caretaker.

We continually work together to strongly petition the City for the basic neighborhood necessities: a safe neighborhood park within walking distance of many of the homes, pedestrian sidewalks for improved safety, and adequate stormwater drainage facilities. We envision our residents proactively working with the City of Vancouver to implement strategies to create a safe and livable neighborhood that is commensurate with our fiscal contribution to the City of Vancouver.



April 28, 1998

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# **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, longrange) 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:

BAC	Clark County Bicycle Advisory Committee
BUR	Burlington Northern Railroad
CC	Clark County
CCHBA	Clark County Home Builders Association
CITY	Mayor's Office
CMC	Community Mediation Services
CTRAN	C TRAN
RNA	Riverview Neighborhood Association
FHA	Federal Highway Administration
NPS	National Park Service
OWN	Neighborhood Property Owners
PDX	Portland International Airport
PUD	Clark Public Utilities
RTC	Regional Transportation Council
VCA	Vancouver City Attorney's Office
VCC	Vancouver Chamber of Commerce
VCDD	Vancouver Community Development Department
VCMO	City Manager's Office
VHA	Vancouver Housing Authority
VNA	Vancouver Neighborhood Alliance
VON	Vancouver Office of Neighborhoods
VPD	Vancouver Police Department
VPR	Vancouver Parks and Recreation Department
VPWF	Vancouver Public Works Functions
VSD	Vancouver School District
VTD	Vancouver Transportation Division
WSDOT	Washington State Department of Transportation

# I. OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION

#### Objective #1

#### Promote the safe use of Wintler Park

Due to Wintler Park's popularity and its easy access off of SR-14, the park frequently draws more visitors than it can handle. The parking provided is inadequate, and thus there is a spillover onto the neighborhood streets, which at times severely restricts the mobility of Riverview residents. Drug and alcohol use and other criminal activity are a continuous problem on the park grounds. These problems are a threat to residents and park users.

Action Steps:	<u>Priority</u>	<b>Responsible Parties</b>
• Work with the City to hire a resident, on- site park caretaker to patrol and maintain	High	VPR, RNA
<ul> <li>the park.</li> <li>Establish residential permit parking program along Chelsea Avenue and Topper Lane that would limit the hours of</li> </ul>	Medium	VCMO, VTD
<ul> <li>use and availability of on-street parking.</li> <li>Enforce parking regulation surrounding the park.</li> </ul>	High	VPD,VTD, RNA
• Increase the number of parking spaces in the park's parking lot.	Medium	VPR
<ul><li>Prohibit open fire pits within the park.</li><li>Install shepherd crook lights in the park.</li></ul>	High Medium	VPR
• Connect the park to the Evergreen trail and Officer's Row as a continuance of the Columbia Papaiasanaa project	High	VPR
<ul> <li>Columbia Renaissance project.</li> <li>Add amenities to the park that would encourage family and neighborhood friendly activities.</li> </ul>	High	VPR

### **OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION**

#### Objective #2

#### Reduce the criminal activity in and around Wintler Park

Wintler Park's relative isolation is a magnet for criminal activity. The park has been the scene of criminal activity such as murder, gang related fire arm activity, drug dealing and usage, and burglary which has spilled over into the residential portion of the neighborhood. The most serious of recent incidents was a running gun battle through the neighborhood. Neighborhood residents are concerned that Wintler Park suffers from insufficient police presence due to its out of the way geographic location.

Residents want the City of Vancouver to help ensure that this is a safe and usable environment by encouraging an increase in the presence of police, enforcement of city rules and regulations that apply to park use, and other steps that may help to mitigate safety concerns in the neighborhood.

Action Steps:	Priority	<b>Responsible Parties</b>
• Hire a residential park caretaker.	High	VPR VPD
• Increase the police presence throughout the neighborhood and park.	High	VPD, VPR
• Increase police patrol of park during hours of operation as well as hours that the park is closed.	High	VID, VIK
Work to establish Neighborhood     Watch/Crime Prevention program.	Medium	RNA,VPD
• Patrol areas of park with video camera and cellular phone.	Medium	VPD, RNA, VPR
• Educate the neighbors through the newsletter about the importance of reporting criminal activity.	High	RNA
• Enforce the hours of park operation, and lock vehicular access on the west side when park is closed.	High	VPR, VPD
• Enforce the camping ordinance.	High	VPD
• Assist the City in establishing a drug/alcohol free zone ordinance for the park and post signs that the park is to be	High	VCDD, VPR, RNA
<ul> <li>drug/alcohol free.</li> <li>Remove cotton wood trees to facilitate "sight" lines into and within the park so neighbors can report criminal activity.</li> </ul>	High	VCCD, VPR

### **OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION**

#### Objective #3

Extend the proposed Evergreen Trail to connect with Evergreen Boulevard.

The neighborhood has access to Wintler Park on the Columbia River, and would like access to the improved Columbia River Renaissance Trail along the Old Evergreen Highway. This trail will extend from Frenchman's Bar to Camas. All Clark County residents use the trail for bicycling, walking, and jogging. Residents are excited that such a trail will extend recreational opportunities. However, they want to ensure that the City of Vancouver takes reasonable steps to mitigate any impacts that the completion of the trail may cause and allows for multiple points of access to the trail. The neighborhood is interested in the park's success by enhancing the opportunity for regional use without disturbing neighborhood integrity.

Action Steps:	Priority	Responsible Parties
• Ensure pedestrian and bicycle trail access from different parts of the City of Vancouver, identifying such access points across SR-14 as Lieser Road, Ellsworth, Blandford, and to connect with Grand Boulevard and Officer's Row.	High	VPR, VTD
<ul> <li>Mitigate concerns regarding parking and other issues of access to the Evergreen Trail.</li> </ul>	High	VPR, VTD
• Pursue city, county, state, and federal funding to extend the trail from Officer's Row to Evergreen Trail to Columbia Way to connect the waterfront park.	High	RNA, VCDD, VPR

# **OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION**

#### Objective #4

#### Develop the designated neighborhood park east of Topper Landing.

Residents of the Riverview neighborhood do not have access to a neighborhood park or open space. Wintler Park is a regional park without many amenities. The enhancement of open space for use on a neighborhood level continues to be an issue. Most residents of Riverview want the area to the east of Topper Lane designated as a park to be developed.

Action Steps:	Priority	Responsible Parties
<ul> <li>Determine location and appropriate funding mechanisms for a neighborhood park.</li> <li>Work with the Parks and Recreation Department to develop the designated park area east of our neighborhood.</li> </ul>	Low Low	RNA, VPR VPR, RNA

# **II. PUBLIC FACILITIES AND SERVICES**

#### Objective #1

Construct neighborhood sidewalks, curbs, and bike paths to connect the Evergreen Trail, Officer's Row, Wintler Park and Waterfront Park.

Action Steps:	<b>Priority</b>	Responsible Parties
<ul> <li>Work with the City to establish the route as a "Safewalk" project.</li> <li>Identify a priority listing of neighborhood streets needing sidewalk and curb</li> </ul>	High High	VCDD, VTD, VPW, VPD, RNA RNA, VPW
<ul> <li>Pursue funding mechanisms for sidewalk/curb improvements.</li> </ul>	Medium	VPW, RNA

# PUBLIC FACILITIES AND SERVICES

#### Objective #2

Identify and eliminate storm water deficiencies.

Most neighborhood residents currently are without sidewalks and adequate drainage facilities. This lack of suitable infrastructure leads to significant safety concerns. Some residents have experienced extensive periodic flooding causing property damage. Although ditches have been regularly maintained, the roadway has not been brought up to current standards in compliance with the 1995 Street Standards. Deep ditches and steep dropoffs exist on the northside of Riverside.

Action Steps:	Priority	Responsible Parties
Provide needed infrastructure.	High	VPW
• Install storm drains on Chelsea Avenue as previously promised to occur in Spring 1998.	Medium	VPW
• Identify and mitigate the new "leak" running down Chelsea Road.	Medium	VPW

#### Objective #3

Install adequate lighting throughout the neighborhood as a part of the "Safewalk" project.

As previously identified in objective #1. Lighting is needed for safety.

Action Steps:	<b>Priority</b>	Responsible Parties
• Install appropriate lighting along the route of Evergreen Trail and throughout the park.	High	VPW
<ul> <li>Install lighting within the neighborhood streets.</li> </ul>	High	VPW

# **III. PUBLIC SAFETY**

#### Objective #1

#### Ensure the security of the neighborhood.

Residents of the Riverview neighborhood cherish their safety, both within their own home as well as the public areas shared by all. Residents of the Riverview neighborhood voice concerns about burglaries. Easy access to and from SR-14 Highway is a problem.

The Neighborhood understands that a safe environment is an important issue. Increased police patrol and pedestrian amenities such as sidewalks and increased street lighting would add to the safety of the neighborhood.

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Action Steps:	<u>Priority</u>	<u>Responsible Parties</u>
Establish Neighborhood Crime Watch (Crime Prevention program	Medium	VPD, RNA
<ul> <li>Watch/Crime Prevention program.</li> <li>Encourage increased familiarity of residents through block parties and</li> </ul>	High	RNA
<ul><li>Neighborhood Association meetings.</li><li>Sponsor forums about home and public</li></ul>	High	RNA, VPD
safety, especially detailing steps that should be taken to protect the home environment.		
<ul> <li>Encourage frequent and ongoing police patrol.</li> </ul>	High	VPD, RNA
<ul> <li>Educate residents of the importance of reporting criminal activity to the proper authorities as soon as possible.</li> </ul>	High	RNA, VPD
• Work with the Vancouver Police Department to decrease response time to neighborhood calls.	High	VPD, RNA

# **PUBLIC SAFETY**

#### Objective #2

Improve neighborhood pedestrian safety and accessibility.

The neighborhood has access to Wintler Park on the Columbia River, and would like access to the improved Columbia River Renaissance Trail along the Old Evergreen Highway. Currently, the only points of access to the Columbia River Renaissance Trail are the Water Resource Center, Beaches restaurant, and near the Interstate 5 bridge. It is the residents' understanding that the trail will continue uninterrupted south of Toppers Landing.

Action Steps:	<b>Priority</b>	<b>Responsible Parties</b>
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• Install stop sign eastbound on Columbia Way prior to Riverside Drive to prevent further accidents to vehicles exiting and accessing SR-14 at Exit 3.	High	VTD
• Identify areas within the neighborhood and Wintler Park that need improved lighting and other infrastructure to	High	VPW
<ul> <li>increase safety.</li> <li>Install pedestrian and bike lane connections within the neighborhood, Wintler Park, and the Discovery Trial.</li> </ul>	Medium	VTD, VPR
• Install sidewalks throughout the neighborhood to encourage safe pedestrian traffic.	High	VPW
• Petition the railroad to install an overpass on Beach Road over the railroad that leads into the park.	Low	BR, RNA, VCMO

# **PUBLIC SAFETY**

#### Objective #3

Eliminate criminal activity in Wintler Park.

Criminal activity continues in Wintler Park. An efficient and effective method of eliminating park use that is a danger to the neighborhood residents and legitimate park users is to hire a resident on-site caretaker.

Action Steps:	<b>Priority</b>	Responsible Parties
<ul> <li>Work closely with the Vancouver Police Department to develop a plan to eliminate the drug and gang activity in Wintles Pede</li> </ul>	High	VPD, RNA
<ul> <li>Wintler Park.</li> <li>Petition the Parks and Recreation Department to hire an on-site resident</li> </ul>	High	VPR,RNA
<ul> <li>caretaker to monitor park activity and open and close the park entrance gate.</li> <li>Establish a neighborhood-walking group to show a neighborhood presence in the park.</li> </ul>	High	RNA

# IV. NOISE AND OTHER NUISANCES

#### Objective #1

Mitigate increasing noise impacts from the State Highway 14.

The Riverview Neighborhood has experienced a tremendous increase in noise due to a large increase in car traffic along SR-14 as the waterfront is continuing to be developed and the Columbia House interchange has been installed, and the subsequent development of the Park & Ride off of SR-14.

Action Steps:	Priority	Responsible Parties
<ul> <li>Work with the City staff to identify funding strategies and install sound barriers along the East-West SR-14.</li> <li>Work with the Washington State</li> </ul>	High	WSDOT, VTD, RNA
<ul> <li>Work with the Washington State Department of Transportation to change discriminatory policies toward existing residential neighborhoods. Soundwalls are required and installed for new subdivisions only.</li> </ul>	Medium	WSDOT, RNA, VTD
only.		

# NOISE AND OTHER NUISANCES

#### Objective #2

Mitigate increasing noise impacts from the Portland International Airport.

The Riverview neighborhood is subject to substantial noise impacts from Portland International Airport (PDX).

Action Steps:	<u>Priority</u>	<u>Responsible Parties</u>
<ul> <li>Obtain a copy of the Port of Portland's periodic review of the airport's Noise Abatement Plan.</li> <li>Petition the City of Vancouver and Clark County representatives who serve on the PDX Noise Abatement</li> </ul>	Medium High	RNA, VCDD CITY
<ul> <li>Advisory Committee to encourage the reduction of impact on the neighborhood.</li> <li>Participate in the Portland International Airport Noise Abatement Advisory Committee.</li> </ul>	Medium	RNA, PDX
• Mitigate late night maintenance and ramp-up noise.	High	PDX
• Request that military planes use the south runway at night.	High	PDX, RNA
• Request PDX to build a "hush house" to accommodate all size planes.	High	PDX

# NOISE AND OTHER NUISANCES

#### Objective #3

Mitigate increasing noise impacts from the Columbia River.

The Riverview neighborhood sits on the banks of the Columbia River. Although the river is very nice to look out upon, river traffic is something of a noise generator.

Action Steps:	Priority	<b>Responsible Parties</b>
• Work with the river patrol to enforce the water vehicle use regulations.	Medium	VPD, RNA, CC
<ul> <li>Petition the City of Vancouver and Clark County to create safety and noise regulations specific to the use of jet ski.</li> </ul>	High	CC, CITY
<ul> <li>Petition the City of Vancouver and Clark County representatives who serve on the Columbia River Noise Abatement Advisory Committee to encourage the reduction of impact on the neighborhood.</li> </ul>	Medium	CITY

# NOISE AND OTHER NUISANCES

#### Objective #4

Mitigate increasing noise impacts from the railroad.

The Riverview neighborhood is subject to substantial noise impacts from the Burlington Northern Railroad that runs directly through the neighborhood. The frequent freight trains are considerably load than the Amtrak trains.

Action Steps:	Priority	Responsible Parties
• Work with State Representatives to create a federal ordinance to lower the train whistles noise decibel	High	RNA
<ul> <li>Encourage residents to call Burlington Northern Division Superintendent at 418-6371 when</li> </ul>	High	BNR
<ul> <li>train engineers abuse the use of train horns.</li> <li>Work with Burlington Northern to be more responsive to neighborhood about excessive noise.</li> </ul>	High	BNR

# V. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

#### Objective #1

Establish clear, honest communication between the City of Vancouver and the Riverview Neighborhood.

Action Steps:	<u>Priority</u>	<b>Responsible Parties</b>
• Establish a clear policy that requires accountability from city staff when communicating with citizens.	High	VCMO, CITY, RNA, VON, ALL CITY DEPARTMENTS
• The Vancouver City Staff should attempt to explicitly understand what the Riverview neighborhood desires, and furthermore be explicit	High	VCDD, CITY, RNA, VON
<ul> <li>about what the City can deliver in a desired time frame.</li> <li>Co-Sponsor an Open Community Forum night with City Council with the Edgewood and Shorewood East and West Neighborhood Associations.</li> </ul>	Medium	VON, CITY, RNA
<ul> <li>Establish a clear process for the Riverview Neighborhood Association to request services and maintenance from the various City departments.</li> </ul>	Medium	CITY, VON, VCDD, RNA

## **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

#### Objective #2

Promote and encourage diversity with the neighborhood.

Action Steps:	Priority	Responsible Parties
• Develop a neighborhood "diversity" statement to support the City's Diversity Statement.	High	RNA, VON

# VI. COMMUNITY APPEARANCE

#### Objective #1

Maintain and improve the appearance of the neighborhood.

Action Steps:	Priority	Responsible Parties
<ul> <li>Organize an annual "Wintler Park Clean up" day.</li> </ul>	High	RNA, VPR
• Work with the Parks and Recreation Department to provide other family and neighborhood friendly	High	VPR, RNA
recreational opportunities in Wintler Park.		
• Beautify the Exit 3 off-ramp of SR- 14.	Medium	WSDOT, VTD, RNA
<ul> <li>Work to develop the area designated to the east of Topper Landing as a Neighborhood Park.</li> </ul>	Low	VPR, RNA

# VII. MOBILITY MANAGEMENT

#### Objective #1

Provide alternative sources of transportation to the aging population in our neighborhood.

There is not sufficient access to bus stops. It is over a mile to the nearest stop from the eastern part of our neighborhood. We have several elderly residents who are unable to walk the distance.

ction Steps:	Priority	Responsible Parties
Work with C-Tran to install a bus stop within the neighborhood boundaries.	High	C-TRAN, RNA
Investigate and educate neighborhood residents regarding the scheduled and on- going services provide by C-Tran.	High	C-TRAN, RNA
Improve the accessibility to the existing bus stop by installing sidewalks and lighting.	Medium	VPW, RNA
Encourage C-Tran to improve the timing of scheduled bus routes as well as provide emergency on-call service.	Medium	C-TRAN, RNA

Improve the traffic flow in our neighborhood.

Action Steps:	Priority	<b>Responsible Parties</b>
• Install a "two-way traffic" sign on Columbia Way.	High	VTD, RNA
• Post and enforce a 35 m.p.h. speed limit on the Columbia Way overpass.	High	VTD, RNA
• Enforce the neighborhood speed limit of 25 m.p.h.	High	VPD, RNA