

Vancouver Heights Neighborhood

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NEIGHBORHOOD ACTION PLAN

City of

VANCOUVER

WASHINGTON

November, 1997

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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.



Relationship to the Comprehensive Plan

In general, a comprehensive plan is intended to provide broad policy direction which is implemented through more specific development regulations and capital expenditure programs. Comprehensive plans do not,

however, typically address the more immediate needs and concerns of individual neighborhoods. This is the purpose of a sub-area or neighborhood plan.

The City's new comprehensive plan, entitled *Visions for the Vancouver Urban Area*, was adopted in December of 1994. The Plan specifically states that the City should: "*create neighborhood plans by assisting neighborhood organizations in identifying issues, policies and implementation measures specific to their areas.*"

The purpose of the Vancouver Heights Neighborhood Action Plan is to integrate neighborhood needs into the City's budget process, Six-Year Street Improvement Program, Neighborhood Traffic Control Program, Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan, and other planning and funding programs. The general policy statements included in the Action Plan may also be used by the City Council to guide future decisions involving development proposals and plan amendments affecting the neighborhood.



The Neighborhood Action Planning Process

The Vancouver Heights Neighborhood Association (VHNA) with assistance from the City of Vancouver Department of Community Preservation and Development has developed this plan. The actual preparation of the 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 the Action Plan will be advertised and made available for review and comment by all residents of the neighborhood. After considering and reconciling comments from the residents, the plan will be endorsed by the Neighborhood Association according to their specific by-laws, and then forwarded to the Planning Commission for their consideration. The City Council will then adopt 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.



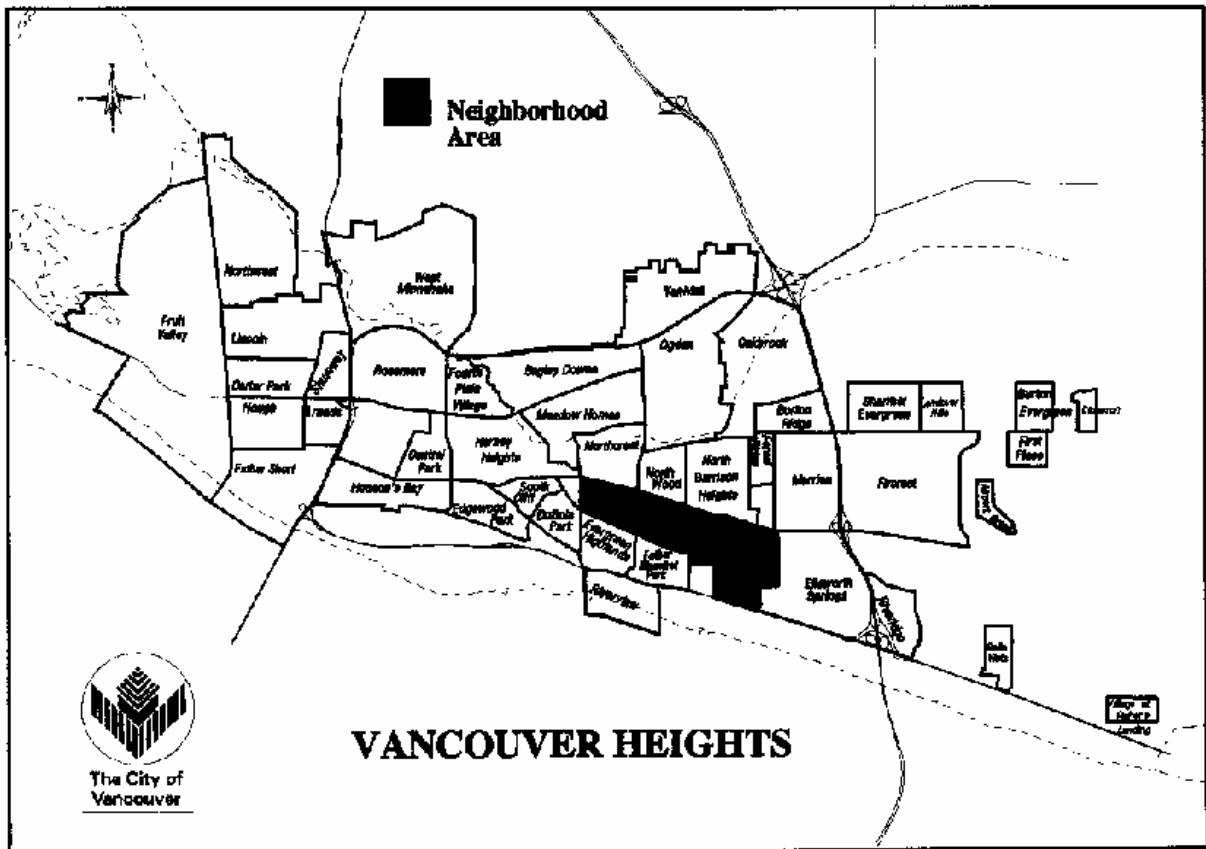
Overview of the Plan

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 VANCOUVER HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD, located in the south central portion of the City, feels like a comfortable “home town” within a big city. As a microcosm of the larger community, it includes over 1600 residences, 45 businesses, public facilities, and open spaces. The neighborhood is bounded on the east by 98th Ave., on the north by Mill Plain Boulevard, on the west by Devine Road, and generally on the south by MacArthur Boulevard from Devine Road, east to Friedel where the boundary steps down to SR14, and then follows the North side of 98th Avenue. (See neighborhood map)



Development in the neighborhood began during World War II, and over time has resulted in a mature neighborhood with few vacant lots. Most of the land is developed for single family residential use, but also includes some higher density uses. The main

commercial uses are scattered along Mill Plain, with small commercial pockets along Andresen Road, MacArthur Boulevard and St. Helens Street.

The mature trees, landscaping, parkways, parks, and open spaces are elements which make Vancouver Heights a great place to live. Lieser Crest and Carl Gustafson parks, along with the school grounds provide open spaces for recreation.

The neighborhood has access to SR-14, I-5, and I-205 freeways. Mill Plain Boulevard, MacArthur Boulevard, Andresen Road, and Lieser Road are the major streets serving the neighborhood. The parkways along Mill Plain Boulevard, MacArthur Boulevard, and Andresen Road help buffer the neighborhood from traffic impacts.

Medical emergency services are available nearby at the Southwest Washington Medical Center. Medical offices within the neighborhood include internal medicine, dentists, chiropractors, and optometrists. Fire Station #84 is located near the northwest

corner of the neighborhood and can deliver fire and rescue services quickly.

Marshall Elementary School, McLoughlin Middle School, and the Early Childhood Development Center provide public education. The Western Business College, a branch of Clark College, and St. Joseph's Catholic School are located in the neighborhood and serve the greater community. Baptist, Christian, Lutheran, and Presbyterian churches are located within the neighborhood and there are several churches of other denominations close by.

Numerous businesses, including restaurants, gas stations, grocery and convenience stores, personal services, financial institutions, health clubs, and even a cemetery, are located within the neighborhood.

Vision Statement

WE desire that the VANCOUVER HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD will be preserved as a comfortable “home town” within the big City. The neighborhood association will take an active role in preserving and enhancing this vision. Residents and the City will work together to maintain and improve the mature trees, landscaping, encircling parkways, parks, and open spaces.

Neighbors will continue to preserve and enhance the appearance of their property by participating in City and neighborhood association sponsored clean-ups. Through the neighborhood association, volunteers will be available to help those who need assistance. Homes within the neighborhood will be connected to public sewer.

Effective traffic control will divert traffic around the neighborhood, instead of through it. The parkways, sidewalks, and designated bike paths will make it safer and more enjoyable for people who walk or bike along the neighborhood streets. Frequent bus service will be available.

However one travels, convenient shopping, medical, financial, and personal services will continue to be available within the local vicinity. Residents will support local businesses as a vital part of the community. The business community will be active participants in supporting the neighborhood vision.

Neighbors will take a personal sense of responsibility for the well-being of the neighborhood, and a spirit of volunteerism will prevail to meet their neighbor’s needs.

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.

Community Appearance

OBJECTIVE 1: Enhance landscaping within the neighborhood.

There are many opportunities to enhance landscaping within the neighborhood. Landscaped planting strips make sidewalks safer for pedestrian use. They also buffer buildings and activities from traffic and other related nuisances. Some commercial properties and parking areas within the neighborhood could be improved with more landscaping.

Recommended Action Steps:

- Develop a landscape and sidewalk program that can be coordinated with street improvements, and publicly owned properties.
- Develop programs for residents and businesses to encourage landscaping and tree planting throughout the neighborhood.
- Educate and encourage homeowners to maintain their older trees with proper pruning methods.
- Notify the public utilities to prune trees that are in the power lines.
- Create and maintain a list of landscapers from neighborhood recommendations.
- Identify volunteers willing to share their

knowledge or ability relating to landscaping.

- Ask local youth organizations and volunteers to get involved in neighborhood clean-up and yard work for those unable to do it for themselves.

OBJECTIVE 2: Create a tree lined boulevard along MacArthur.

MacArthur Boulevard acts as the southwestern gateway to Vancouver Heights. Its appearance is important for creating a good impression of the neighborhood. It is currently undergoing an experimental drainage and tree-growing program. With the proper maintenance, MacArthur Boulevard has the opportunity of becoming a beautiful attraction for Vancouver Heights and the adjacent neighborhoods.

Recommended Action Steps:

- Create a partnership with adjacent neighborhoods and the City to develop a plan for improving MacArthur Boulevard. Suggestions include:
 - Plant trees and landscape the median area.
 - Address traffic safety concerns with the existing landscape median. Work with City’s Transportation Division to prevent sight restrictions from being created.
 - Develop a maintenance program for MacArthur Boulevard.
 - Provide a landscaped planting strip between the sidewalk and street, which includes trees.

OBJECTIVE 3: Support the City’s efforts to regulate wireless communications facilities and other infrastructure that can have a negative visual impact on the neighborhood.

Recommended Action Steps:

- Participate in opportunities to work with the City as it develops ordinances to regulate transmission equipment, power stations, and communication poles.

- Encourage the City to develop standards for regulating other types of above ground infrastructure to reduce visual impacts on the neighborhoods.

OBJECTIVE 4: Provide mechanisms to maintain a clean, junk free, painted, appearance for public and privately owned buildings and open spaces.

Recommended Action Steps:

- Provide litter receptacles at bus stops and City parks. Ask business and churches to help sponsor them.
- Gather information on programs for clean-up assistance that may be available through the City and tap into these sources.
- Take measures to involve the business community to sponsor clean-up efforts.
- Continue to encourage residents to participate in Spring Clean-up.
- Sponsor a mural wall on a building as a teen summer project.
- Provide information to educate residents on City junk ordinances and procedures to file complaints.

OBJECTIVE 5: Recognize efforts to enhance neighborhood appearance.

Recommended Action Steps:

- Seek outside recognition and present awards to individuals and businesses for design efforts that enhance the aesthetic character of the neighborhood.
- Actively promote Vancouver Heights' assets and accomplishments to enhance the neighborhood's public image and commercial success.
- Lobby for a property tax break instead of increasing the property tax for a well-maintained property.

Community Building

OBJECTIVE 1: Foster communication among neighbors and promote common values of the neighborhood.

Communication with respect between and among neighbors is vital to discovering what the community's shared values are. Creating the opportunity for neighborhood involvement can lead to increased communication, greater understanding, and awareness of shared values, thereby enhancing a sense of community. Improved communication among neighbors encourages them to become more involved with neighborhood issues.

Recommended Action Steps:

- Hold regular Neighborhood Association meetings.
- Expand and improve newsletter distribution.
- Encourage neighbors to increase newsletter submissions.
- Utilize all available means of communication including a web site, phone hot line and neighborhood newsletter.
- Set aside time for neighbors to share news and concerns at the association meetings.
- Review and amend by-laws to facilitate communication.
- Survey neighbors on their concerns, issues and priorities for action.

OBJECTIVE 2: Facilitate neighborhood participation in local government.

Participation in local government processes informs the neighborhood of important issues facing the community. Local involvement also provides additional opportunities for strengthening and enriching the neighborhood and the City. It also provides another channel for making the interests of the neighborhood known to City

decision-makers.

Recommended Action Steps:

- Educate neighbors on how to participate effectively in local government.
- Support local events and organizations which benefit the neighborhood such as the Neighborhood Conference, the Neighborhood Alliance, and public forums which address specific issues.

OBJECTIVE 3: Promote mutual respect among neighbors.

Vancouver Heights Neighborhood has a diverse population, which includes residences, businesses, and public institutions. A strong sense of community enables neighbors' concerns to be addressed and remedied with consideration for cultural diversity and shared values.

Recommended Action Steps:

- Develop programs for improving understanding and relationships among neighbors.
- Encourage and support use of the City Office of Mediation.
- Review and amend by-laws to facilitate respect.

OBJECTIVE 4: Provide opportunities for-social interaction among neighbors.

Social events allow neighbors to get to know one another, exchange information in a relaxed and less formal setting, and create opportunity for cross-generational interaction among all residents within the neighborhood.

Recommended Action Steps:

- Set aside time at the association meetings for socializing.
- Hold several socials each year.
- Look into opportunities for establishing a community center for neighborhood and local

events.

Economic Development

OBJECTIVE 1: Encourage businesses to be “good neighbors”.

Residents of Vancouver Heights Neighborhood value the convenience of its local businesses that offer the goods and services they need. It is important to the residents of Vancouver Heights to create a neighborhood partnership with local businesses by encouraging them to participate in local activities and be responsive to the concerns of the residents.

Recommended Action Steps:

- Continue to invite local businesses to participate in neighborhood activities and decision-making.
- Continue to encourage neighborhood residents to support businesses in and adjacent to the neighborhood.
- Encourage local business owners to continue posting flyers to publicize neighborhood activities.
- Designate a VHNA business liaison to share residents' input with local businesses on neighborhood and business issues.
- Establish a neighborhood program with local businesses to encourage the employment of youth.
- Promote and support the Educational Service District's "Partnerships in Education" programs. (A youth/work program)

OBJECTIVE 2: Recognize efforts of neighborhood business that enhance the livability of the neighborhood.

Local businesses are a vital part of the neighborhood and the services they provide do much to increase its livability. It is important to recognize businesses as they respond to the needs of the neighborhood.

Recommended Action Steps:

- Acknowledge businesses that are active and responsive to the neighborhood.
- Encourage neighborhood businesses to be ecologically responsible.

OBJECTIVE 3: Promote Vancouver Heights as a good place for businesses to locate.

Empty commercial buildings and vacant lots attract graffiti and vandalism. They detract from the appearance of the community. Businesses which close down leave a void in the goods and services available within the neighborhood. It is important for the neighborhood to have an active and successful commercial district.

Recommended Action Steps:

- Assist owners of empty commercial space in promoting Vancouver Heights as an excellent business location.
- Actively participate in the recruitment of businesses to locate in the Vancouver Heights Neighborhood.
- Communicate to the City concerns residents have over the siting of “adult oriented” businesses within the neighborhood.

Housing

OBJECTIVE 1: Provide information to residents on purchasing a home.

Home ownership encourages residents to take better care of their property and creates pride in ownership. This helps to make the entire neighborhood more attractive. It also helps create a greater pride in and sense of belonging to the neighborhood.

Recommended Action Steps:

- Maintain information on The Community Housing Resource Center. This organization has information about many different programs available in Clark County to help people achieve home ownership.

OBJECTIVE 2: Encourage residential construction and remodeling that reflects the character of the neighborhood.

Most of the housing was built in the 1950’s and 1960’s, and has a distinctive character. It is important to the residents to maintain this character. New residential construction and remodeling should be designed to reflect the existing scale, setbacks, major architectural elements, and general appearance of nearby residences.

Recommended Action Steps:

- Work with the City to develop residential design guidelines for the neighborhood that address new residential construction and remodeling.

OBJECTIVE 3: Encourage residents to maintain their home and property.

Most of the residents within the neighborhood take pride in their home and yard by keeping them well maintained. This pride in ownership reflects on the neighborhood as being a desirable place to live and attracts new residents and businesses. Residents are interested in exploring ways to encourage home maintenance.

Recommended Action Steps:

- Through the neighborhood association, identify volunteers willing to share their knowledge or ability relating to home maintenance.
- Create and maintain a list of contractors from neighborhood recommendations.
- Identify and advertise programs in the neighborhood newsletter which assist residents in home improvement and

maintenance.

- Increase awareness and provide information on the City of Vancouver Paint Program so residents may take advantage of it.
- Work with organizations such as First Independent Bank that have programs in which employees volunteer to paint houses for low-income elderly people.

Land Use

OBJECTIVE 1: Maintain the current balance of land uses and density in the neighborhood.

VHNA is a predominantly residential neighborhood surrounded by business and public properties along Mill Plain and MacArthur boulevards. Local businesses provide convenient services that are valued by the neighborhood. It is important to residents that these businesses remain successful. Higher density residential properties are scattered throughout and provide a mix of housing opportunities for the residents. This current mix of density provides a good population base to help support the business community. However, the VHNA believes that no significant increase of density is desirable. Home-based businesses are allowed by City ordinance to the extent that they continue to appear residential and do not cause significant increases in traffic or parking problems on neighborhood streets. It is important to the character of the neighborhood that home-based businesses operate within the law.

Recommended Action Steps:

- Maintain the current residential zoning.
- Maintain the existing commercial zoning.
- Support and offer assistance to concerned residents regarding violations of the City ordinance regarding Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) (Ord. 20.91.202).

OBJECTIVE 2: Enhance communications between the City and the Vancouver Heights neighborhood.

VHNA will endeavor to provide expedient and complete information to residents regarding any up-coming development. There has been concern that some zoning ordinances have not been enforced or that variances are permitted too easily. The action steps below are designed to create a better understanding of the City's policies and implementation measures.

Recommended Action Steps:

- Create a land use committee to review, report, and recommend action to the neighborhood on proposed projects and/or zoning changes, as well as provide testimony at public hearings
- Provide information to residents about the planning and zoning process.
- Establish and maintain open communication with the Vancouver School District (VSD) regarding use by the community, and any future development on school sites in the neighborhood.

OBJECTIVE 3: Discourage widening or elimination of medians or parkways along Mill Plain Boulevard, Andresen Road, and MacArthur Boulevard.

The parkways are valued by the neighborhood. There are unfunded plans to increase the lanes on Mill Plain Boulevard and Andresen Road in the twenty-year transportation plan. Widening of Andresen is presently planned north of Mill Plain. Any increase in the width of Andresen south of Mill Plain would have a negative impact on the neighborhood and is not desired.

Recommended Action Steps:

- Create a partnership with adjacent neighborhood associations to protect common

parkways. Encourage these neighborhoods to include parkway issues in their action plans.

- Petition the City to maintain the existing width of Mill Plain Boulevard, Andresen Road, and MacArthur Boulevard.

OBJECTIVE 4: Encourage clean, environmentally conscientious, and family oriented businesses in this neighborhood.

Recommended Action Steps:

- Be informed about current laws and work with City government to strengthen or establish zoning laws to prohibit a potentially toxic industry from locating within or near the neighborhood.
- Review current regulations regarding fencing to find what building ordinances prohibit use of barbed-wire, razor wire, and slatted fences where visible by the public.
- Support legislation to limit the use of unattractive barriers and encourage attractive landscape and earth berm buffering.

Mobility Management

OBJECTIVE 1: Facilitate safe and efficient pedestrian and bicycle transportation.

Neighbors like to walk or bicycle within the neighborhood for recreation and fitness. The traffic volume combined with the general absence of sidewalks and bicycle lanes are not only a disincentive, but actually make these forms of travel hazardous. The neighborhood strongly desires to preserve existing sidewalks and bike lanes, and also to increase safety, improve connections, and create a continuous network.

Recommended Action Steps:

- Support bicycle lanes on appropriate streets in and adjacent to the neighborhood.

- Support and assist neighbors in forming LID's and applying for grants to fund sidewalks.
- Improve sidewalk markings across MacArthur Boulevard between Charleston and Friedel avenues.
- Install a safer crossing at the corners of 98th Avenue at 10th Street and St. Helens.
- Explore opportunities for installing tactile markings for crosswalks for the blind.

OBJECTIVE 2: Slow traffic around Marshall Elementary School.

Speeding in front of the Marshall Elementary School is a concern of local residents, especially during peak student access times at the beginning and end of the school day.

Recommended Action Steps:

- Monitor and enforce the speed limit of 20 mph in neighborhood school zones.
- Explore opportunities to increase the school zone around Marshall Elementary School.
- Install signs in school zones warning motorists of double traffic fines for speeding in these areas.
- Encourage residents to continue participation in the "Speed Watch" program.

OBJECTIVE 3: Discourage speeding and cut-through traffic.

Neighbors are concerned with both the speed and number of motorists who cut through the neighborhood to avoid traffic and signals on the main streets serving the area. This additional traffic is both disruptive and dangerous. Residents would like to work with the City to discourage this behavior.

Recommended Action Steps:

- Identify streets which could benefit from traffic calming devices and encourage the City to include these improvements in the Transportation Improvement Plan .

- Support a stop sign southbound on SE 98th Avenue at 10th Street.
- Support a 4-way stop at 98th Avenue and St. Helens.
- Support traffic calming devices on Silver Star Drive.
- Study the potential for installing traffic calming devices on Ohio Drive, St. Louis Way and Carolina Loop.

OBJECTIVE 4: Improve traffic circulation and reduce congestion on designated streets.

Recommended Action Steps:

- Join with the City’s Transportation Department and adjacent neighborhoods to implement improved traffic flow for the MacArthur Boulevard/Lieser Road and the MacArthur Boulevard/Andresen Road intersections.
- Support a northbound off ramp for I-205 at 18th Street.
- Support the installation of a left turn signal at the intersection of Mill Plain Boulevard and Garrison Road.
- Support improved mass transit including installing bus shelters at high use locations and other pedestrian improvements.
- Participate in a regular review of City and state capital facilities and transportation plans to keep informed of projects and provide comments to the decision-makers in the project selection process.
- Support a right-turn lane from MacArthur Blvd. to Andresen Road.

OBJECTIVE 5: Identify and eliminate traffic hazards.

Vancouver Heights is a well-established neighborhood with mature landscaping. Over the years, some trees and shrubs have become overgrown and block the view of cross traffic. This creates a hazard for cars, pedestrians and bicyclists as they travel in the neighborhood. Many residents are unfamiliar with the City’s

requirements which govern obstructions to the safe movement of traffic.

Recommended Action Steps:

- Educate neighbors regarding the sight triangle standard for visibility.
- Notify property owners of sight triangle problems and work to resolve them.
- Educate neighbors on how to report problems to the City related to street repairs and traffic signs.

OBJECTIVE 6: Minimize the impacts of the curb extensions along St. Helens on pedestrians and bicyclists.

The existing curb extensions are not a workable solution to slowing traffic along St. Helens. They create a hazard for both bicyclists and pedestrians. Also, the sidewalks between the extensions have not been installed creating a discontinuous pathway, forcing pedestrians to continually change their traveling pattern between the street and sidewalk.

Recommended Action Steps:

- Develop a plan to modify curb extensions to improve bike safety.
- Install bike lanes along St. Helens
- Complete the installation of sidewalks along St. Helens for pedestrian safety.

Noise and Nuisance

OBJECTIVE 1: Mitigate noise impacts from Portland International Airport.

The Vancouver Heights neighborhood is subject to substantial noise impacts from Portland International Airport (PDX), especially when certain weather conditions, such as southerly winds, require aircraft to use the north-south

“cross-wind “ runway. The Port of Portland is currently conducting its periodic review of the Noise Abatement Plan.

In addition to the particular noise impacts of planes flying over, the entire neighborhood is affected by general airport noise when airplanes land and take off. It is important to inform the Port of Portland of all concerns and nuisances regarding the operation of the Portland airport.

The Port of Portland has recently completed an “Airside Capacity Study” to forecast the aircraft operations required to support the region’s future air passenger and cargo requirements. Undoubtedly, increased operations at PDX will mean increased noise.

Recommended Action Steps:

- Encourage residents to call the Port of Portland’s Noise Abatement Office regarding specific incidences of unusual noise problems.
- Encourage residents to attend the Noise Abatement Committee meetings which are open to the public.
- Encourage residents to educate themselves about the airport’s Noise Abatement Plan and the Airside Capacity Study.

OBJECTIVE 2: Mitigate noise impacts of Burlington Northern Railroad.

The Vancouver Heights neighborhood is subject to noise associated with the movement of trains using the tracks running east and west along the Columbia River. The most conspicuous noises are associated with trains accelerating and the sounding of whistles at grade crossings. It may be possible to work with Burlington Northern to mitigate the impacts of these noises.

Recommended Action Steps:

- Initiate discussions with Burlington Northern Railroad to explore possible ways to reduce noise within the City limits.

OBJECTIVE 3: Mitigate noise impact of State Highway 14.

Highway noise along SR-14 detracts from livability at the southeastern edge of the Vancouver Heights Neighborhood. Commonly used mitigation measures include the construction of sound walls and placing restrictions on the use of air brakes. The funding for the construction of soundwalls along existing highways is usually provided only in conjunction with other improvements.

Recommended Action Steps:

- Initiate discussions with the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) to identify possible funding for the construction of a soundwall along SR-14.
- Initiate discussions with WSDOT to restrict the use of exhaust brakes along SR14.

OBJECTIVE 4: Work with residents to be responsible and courteous neighbors.

Many residents find that loud, frequent, repetitive sounds from motor vehicles, machines, musical instruments, or sound amplifiers can create nuisances. Neighborhood dogs can create nuisances for residents by running at large, defecating on public or private property, and barking for extended periods of time. These nuisances are unlawful and are covered by chapter 8A.16 “Offenses Against, Public Order” of the Municipal Code of Vancouver. Some pet behaviors create nuisances such as cats killing birds or digging and defecating in flower beds. Though not regulated by ordinance, such activities become troublesome.

Recommended Action Steps:

- Educate neighborhood residents about noise

and nuisance ordinances by reprinting sections of these ordinances in the Neighborhood association's newsletter.

- Report violations to the police department.
- Encourage the use of the City's Neighborhood Mediation Program for nuisance problems that cannot be solved among neighbors.
- Encourage pet owners to be responsible and, to the extent possible, be aware of pet behaviors that create a nuisance to others.
- Encourage residents to be aware of exterior lighting impacts in residential areas.

Open Space and Recreation

OBJECTIVE 1: Protect and improve parks, parkways, and open space.

The parks, parkways, and open spaces of VHNA are central features and enhance the neighborhood. The open spaces created by the school campuses, cemetery, neighborhood parks, and Ellsworth Springs are an important part of the neighborhood's character. With the exception of the cemetery, maintenance of these spaces is minimal. The following actions will improve the quality of these areas.

Recommended Action Steps:

- Install bollards at entrances to Gustafson Playground and Lieser Crest to prevent motorized vehicles from driving onto the grass.
- Seek funding to upgrade playground equipment at Gustafson Park.
- Study, determine, and implement a defining feature for Gustafson and Lieser Crest Parks such as a fountain, rose garden, a butterfly garden, bird nesting, feeding and other bird friendly features, etc.
- Irrigate Gustafson and Lieser Crest Park.
- Develop and execute improved landscapes for Gustafson and Lieser Crest Parks.
- Add two new picnic tables with benches for Lieser Crest Park.

- Study the option to locate a skateboard/bicycle jump feature in the area.
- Remove and replace dead and dying plants along the parkway on the east side of Andresen Road, south of Mill Plain Boulevard.
- Study with the City option for uses of Ellsworth Springs I.

OBJECTIVE 2: Increase accessibility and use of open spaces within the neighborhood.

Recommended Action Steps:

- Create a comprehensive landscaping plan for all open spaces. Provide trails, gazebos, site furniture, statues, and other features as well as vehicle turnouts and parking.
- Reestablish the community gardens. (formerly located along MacArthur Boulevard by Baptist Church).
- Irrigate parkways and open spaces to keep green year around.

OBJECTIVE 3: Improve recreational opportunities for youth.

There have been problems with vandalism to public and commercial sites within the neighborhood. One way to combat that problem is to provide the youth with something better to do. Night basketball, after school events, special neighborhood events including community service as well as social ones, and weekend activities provide youth with more options and help develop a sense of belonging and pride in the neighborhood.

Recommended Action Steps:

- Support and publicize the "fun van" summer program for kids.
- Pursue programs and recreational funding for teens within the neighborhood such as Tapping the Talent of Teens and Summer of Service.
- Encourage and sponsor after school events,

including clubs for children such as Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and Camp Fire Boys and Girls.

Public Facilities and Services

OBJECTIVE 1: Eliminate the use of on-site sewage disposal systems.

Many of the homes in areas of the Vancouver Heights neighborhood were built at a time when public sewer was not available and must rely on private septic systems. Whenever possible, the City encourages homeowners to connect to public sewer and has established a Septic Tank Elimination Program (STEP) to subsidize a portion of the cost.

Recommended Action Steps:

- Increase awareness and make information available about the City's Septic Tank Elimination Program, and other incentive programs and funding mechanisms available to eliminate on-site sewage disposal systems.
- Encourage and support neighbors who choose to form an L.I.D. (Local Improvement District) for the purpose of connecting to the public sewer.

OBJECTIVE 2: Make use of public facilities and services within and adjacent to the neighborhood.

There are two schools, school grounds, public administration buildings, the Vancouver Housing Authority community center, and other buildings open to the public which could be used by neighborhood residents and the association for special events.

Recommended Action Steps:

- Provide information to neighbors in the newsletter on facilities and public buildings which are available for neighborhood meetings and gatherings.
- Gather information and encourage the use of services and recreational activities for adults and children within the neighborhood.

OBJECTIVE 3: Work to improve commercial and residential street lighting where appropriate.

Concerns have been raised among the residents concerning safety along some of the streets at night. Although residents do not favor high intensity/auto oriented streetlights, additional low intensity street lighting would be appropriate along particularly dark streets.

Recommended Action Steps:

- Install additional street lighting where needed throughout the neighborhood.
- Replace existing streetlights in commercial centers and along MacArthur Boulevard with light fixtures appropriate to the character of the neighborhood.
- Consult with residents effected by the installation of new lighting to mitigate impacts.

OBJECTIVE 4: Identify and improve stormwater drainage deficiencies.

Some of the streets in the neighborhood are without adequate storm drainage. This causes localized flooding and forces excess water to stand in the road and along the roadside where there are no curbs.

Recommended Action Steps:

- Identify areas that lack adequate drainage and inform the Public Works Department.
- Educate neighbors on how to report storm drainage problems in high water situations.
- Encourage residents to keep storm drains free

of debris.

- Encourage residents to clean-up common household chemicals used in the driveway and automobile lubricants that spill or leak from automobiles so pollutants do not end up in the storm sewer.
- Encourage residents to direct roof water into an on-site drainage system so water can be absorbed by the ground and go back into the aquifer instead of the storm sewer.

OBJECTIVE 5: Improve and protect water quality and services.

The City’s water supply is a valuable commodity that needs to be protected to ensure safe water for all residents. It is important to the neighborhood to do its share in protecting the water supply. Residents should be encouraged to become informed and develop an understanding about aquifer protection and participate in programs to protect this resource.

There are times when residents of the neighborhood experience low water pressure which can make certain tasks difficult. It will be important to address this problem with the City in order to find a solution.

Recommended Action Steps:

- Educate neighbors about water conservation and aquifer protection measures.
- Request the City to check water pressure and install pressure boosters as necessary to maintain adequate water pressure in the neighborhood.

OBJECTIVE 6: Relocate above ground utilities.

Power lines in Vancouver Heights were constructed above ground. In order to improve the appearance of the neighborhood and save some of the mature trees from being trimmed to avoid

power line obstruction, it would be advantageous to relocate utilities in the ground. Major public works projects such as street improvements or replacement of utilities could include burying the utilities in the street right-of-way.

Recommended Action Steps:

- Investigate the feasibility and cost to place utilities underground at the time major public works projects are undertaken.

OBJECTIVE 7: Promote paving and repairing of local streets in disrepair.

Many of the streets within the neighborhood have not been resurfaced for many years. Rough pavement and pot holes in the street create a dangerous situation for pedestrians, bicyclists, and vehicles.

Recommended Action Steps:

- Survey and identify neighborhood streets which are in need of repair.
- Work with the City to prioritize street repair projects within the neighborhood.

Public Safety

OBJECTIVE 1: Eliminate graffiti and vandalism in the neighborhood.

The neighborhood has a low rate of reported crime, but there are opportunities for improvement. One of the major concerns is graffiti and vandalism both on commercial and residential properties.

Recommended Action Steps:

- Promote use of the Graffiti Hot Line at 696-8033.
- Notify absentee landlords of graffiti on their property and work with them to get it

repainted.

- Encourage local businesses to support the “Responsible Retailer” program to restrict sales of spray paint to those under 18 years of age.
- Support legislation which bans sale of spray paint to minors.
- Explore and educate neighbors about new paint technology which is graffiti resistant.

OBJECTIVE 2: Create a network to support safety in the neighborhood.

Being safe is a critical component of livability in the community. In the final analysis residents are the best crime fighters in the neighborhood. An ongoing commitment to safety requires participation by neighbors.

Recommended Action Steps:

- Promote the effective use of the “Neighborhood Watch” program.
- Promote a “Block Home” program for the safety of children on neighborhood streets.
- Help residents form neighborhood crime patrols.

OBJECTIVE 3: Promote public and private safety programs already established.

Sometimes residents fail to take advantage of public safety programs because they are not aware of them. One responsibility of the neighborhood association is to publicize safety programs.

Recommended Action Steps:

- Support the RSVP, “Are You O.K.?” automated calling program for the elderly.
- Support the Triad program to reduce crime among the elderly.
- Promote and organize a neighborhood “CERT” team.

OBJECTIVE 4: Support community policing and crime prevention as a means of increasing public safety.

Recommended Action Steps:

- Educate neighbors about the community-policing concept.
- Encourage police bike patrols of parks.
- Inquire about the use of the Radar Reader Trailer which flashes the speed of vehicles as they pass.
- Request increased police patrols during spring and summer evenings.
- Support a web site that would provide access to information available to the public from the Sheriff’s office on sex offenders.

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 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 timeframe 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 be accomplished in a relatively short amount of time without significant capital expense.

Listed below are abbreviations used in the ACTION CHART:

Abbreviations:

BAC	Clark County Bicycle Advisory Committee
CC	Clark County
VPD	City of Vancouver Police Department
VPR	City of Vancouver Parks and Recreation Department
VPW	City of Vancouver Public Works
VHNA	Vancouver Heights Neighborhood Association
VTD	City of Vancouver Transportation Department
VCCD	City of Vancouver Community Development Department
NC	Vancouver Neighborhood Alliance
PDX	Portland International Airport
VCC	Vancouver Chamber of Commerce
RTC	Regional Transportation Council
VHA	Vancouver Housing Authority
VCMO	City Manager's Office
OTH	Other organizations
OWN	Neighborhood Property Owners
CITY	Mayor's Office
VOMD	Vancouver Office of Mediation
BUS	Neighborhood Businesses
CTRAN	CTRAN
VSD	Vancouver School District
PUD	Clark Public Utilities
VON	City of Vancouver Office of Neighborhoods
WSDOT	State of Washington Department of Transportation

Objectives and Action Steps	Priority	Responsible Party
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Community Appearance

Objective 1: Enhance landscaping within the neighborhood.

Action Step: Develop with the city a landscape and sidewalk program.

M VPW

Action Step: Develop programs with the City to encourage landscaping and tree planting by residents and businesses.

M VPW

Action Step: Educate and encourage homeowners to maintain their older trees with proper pruning methods.

L VPW, VHNA

Action Step: Work with public utilities to prune trees in the power lines.

M PUD, VPW

Action Step: Create and maintain a list of landscapers from neighbors' recommendations.

L VHNA

Action Step: Identify volunteers who will share their knowledge or ability in landscaping.

L VHNA

Action Step: Ask local youth organizations and volunteers to be involved in neighborhood clean up and yard work for those unable to do it for themselves.

M VHNA

Objective 2: Create a tree-lined boulevard along MacArthur Blvd.

Action Step: Develop a plan for improving MacArthur Boulevard with the adjacent neighborhoods and the City.

H VPW, VTD, OTHERS

Objective 3: Support the City's efforts to regulate wireless communications facilities and other infrastructure

Action Step: Participate with the City as it develops ordinances to regulate transmission equipment, power stations, and communication poles.

M VCDD

Objectives and Action Steps	Priority	Responsible Party
Action Step: Encourage the City to develop standards to regulate other types of above ground infrastructure.	M	VCDD
Objective 4: Provide mechanisms to maintain a clean, junk free, painted appearance for public and privately owned buildings and open spaces.		
Action Step: Provide litter receptacles at bus stops and city parks.	H	CTRAN, VPR
Action Step: Tap into all available assistance with the City for Spring Clean up.	M	VON, VPW, VHNA
Action Step: Involve the business community to sponsor clean-up efforts .	M	BUS, VHNA
Action Step: Encourage residents to participate in the Spring Clean-up.	M	VHNA, VON
Action Step: Provide information to educate residents on City junk ordinances and procedures to file complaints.	L	VHNA, VCDD
Objective 5: Recognize efforts to enhance neighborhood appearance.		
Action Step: Seek outside recognition and present awards to individuals and businesses for efforts that enhance the aesthetic character of the neighborhood.	L	VHNA
Action Step: Actively promote Vancouver Heights' assets and accomplishments to enhance the neighborhood's public image and commercial success.	M	VHNA
Action Step: Replace existing street lights at commercial centers and along MacArthur Blvd. with light fixtures appropriate to the neighborhood character.	L	VPW
Action Step: Lobby for a property tax break instead of increasing the property tax for a well-maintained property.	H	VCDD, VHNA, VON

Objectives and Action Steps	Priority	Responsible Party
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Community Building

Objective 1: Foster communication and promote common values among neighbors.

Action Step: Hold regular association meetings	H	VHNA
Action Step: Expand and improve newsletter distribution	H	VHNA
Action Step: Encourage neighbors to increase newsletter submissions.	M	VHNA
Action Step: Utilize all available means of communication: web site, phone hotline, and neighborhood newsletter.	H	VHNA, VON
Action Step: Set aside time for neighbors to share news and concerns at association meetings.	H	VHNA
Action Step: Review and amend by-laws to facilitate communication.	L	VHNA
Action Step: Survey neighbors on their concerns, issues, and priorities for action.	H	VHNA, VON

Objective 2: Facilitate neighborhood participation in local government

Action Step: Educate neighbors on how to participate effectively in local government.	M	VHNA, VCDD, VCMO, NC
Action Step: Support events and organizations, which benefit neighborhood.	L	VHNA

Objective 3: Promote mutual respect among neighbors.

Action Step: Develop programs for improving understanding and relationships among neighbors.	M	VHNA, VHA, VSD, VON
Action Step: Encourage and support use of the City office of Mediation.	M	VHNA, VOMD
Action Step: Foster interaction across generations.	M	VHNA
Action Step: Review and amend by-laws to facilitate respect.	L	VNHA

Objectives and Action Steps	Priority	Responsible Party
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Objective 4: Provide opportunity for social interaction among neighbors.

Action Step: Set aside time at the association meetings for socializing.	M	VHNA
Action Step: Create opportunity for cross-generational interaction among residents.	M	VHNA, VPR, VON
Action Step: Hold several socials each year	M	VHNA
Action Step: Establish a neighborhood community center.	L	VPR, VHNA

Economic Development

Objective 1: Encourage businesses to be good neighbors.

Action Step: Invite local businesses to participate in neighborhood activities and decision-making.	M	VHNA, VCC
Action Step: Encourage residents to support local businesses.	L	VHNA, VCDD, VON
Action Step: Ask local business owners to post flyers to publicize neighborhood activities.	L	VHNA, BUS
Action Step: Designate VHNA business liaison to share residents' input with local businesses on neighborhood and business issues.	L	VHNA
Action Step: Establish a neighborhood program to encourage youth employment.	M	BUS, VHNA, VSD
Action Step: Promote and support the Educational Service District's "Partnership in Education" programs.	L	BUS, VHNA, VON, VSD

Objective 2: Recognize efforts of neighborhood businesses that enhance livability of the neighborhood.

Action Step: Acknowledge businesses that are active and responsive to the neighborhood.	L	VON, VHNA, VCC
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Objectives and Action Steps	Priority	Responsible Party
Action Step: Encourage and acknowledge local businesses to be ecologically responsible.	L	VCC, VHNA, VON
Objective 3: Promote Vancouver Heights as a good place for businesses to locate.		
Action Step: Assist owners of empty commercial space in promoting Vancouver Heights as an excellent business location.	H	VCC
Action Step: Actively participate in recruitment of businesses to locate in the neighborhood.	L	VHNA, VCC, VON
Action Step: Address concerns of neighbors regarding siting of adult oriented businesses within the neighborhood.	M	BUS, VHNA, VON
Housing		
Objective 1: Provide information to residents on purchasing a home.		
Action Step: Maintain information on the Community Housing Resource Center.	M	VHNA
Objective 2: Encourage residential construction and remodeling that reflects the character of the neighborhood.		
Action Step: Develop residential design guidelines with the City for the neighborhood for new residential construction and remodeling.	M	VHNA, VCDD
Objective 3: Encourage residents to maintain their home and property.		
Action Step: Identify volunteers willing to share their knowledge or ability relating to home maintenance.	M	VHNA
Action Step: Create and maintain a list of contractors from neighborhood recommendations.	L	VHNA

Objectives and Action Steps	Priority	Responsible Party
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Action Step: Identify and advertise programs in the neighborhood newsletter on home improvement and maintenance.

Action Step: Increase awareness and provide information on the City Paint Program.

Action Step: Work with organizations who have employees volunteer to paint houses for low-income elderly people.

L
 M
 L

VHNA
 VHNA, VCCD
 VHNA, BUS

LAND USE

Objective 1: Maintain current balance of land uses and density in the neighborhood.

Action Step: Maintain current residential zoning.

Action Step: Maintain the existing commercial zoning.

Action Step: Support and offer assistance to residents regarding violations of the City Accessory Dwelling Units Ordinance.

L
 L
 M

VCDD
 VCDD
 VHNA

Objective 2: Enhance communication between the City and neighborhood.

Action Step: Create a land use committee to review, report, and recommend action on proposed project/zoning changes.

Action Step: Provide information to residents about planning and zoning process.

Action Step: Establish and maintain open communication with Vancouver School District regarding use and future development of VSD sites.

H
 H
 M

VHNA
 VHNA, VCDD
 VHNA, VSD

Objective 3: Discourage widening or elimination of medians or parkways along Mill Plain Blvd., Andresen Road, and MacArthur Blvd.

Objectives and Action Steps	Priority	Responsible Party
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Action Step: Work with adjacent neighborhood associations to protect the parkways.

M

VTD, VON,
VHNA
VTD, VCDD,

Action Step: Share concern with the City that increasing the number of lanes on these streets would have a negative impact on the neighborhood.

L

VHNA

Objective 4: Encourage clean, environmentally conscientious, and family oriented businesses.

Action Step: Be informed about current law and strengthen or establish zoning laws to prohibit a potentially toxic industry from locating within or near the neighborhood.

L

VHNA, VCDD

Action Step: Review fencing regulations to determine what building ordinances prohibit use of barbed wire, etc., in public view.

H

VHNA, VCDD

Mobility Management

Objective 1: Facilitate safe and efficient pedestrian and bicycle transportation.

Action Step: Support bicycle lanes on major arterials in and adjacent to the neighborhood.

H

VPW, VTD, VHNA,
RTC, BAC

Action Step: Support and assist neighbors in forming LID's and applying for grants to fund sidewalks.

M

VHNA, VCDD,
VON, VPW, VTD

Action Step: Improve sidewalk markings across MacArthur Boulevard between Charleston and Friedel Avenues.

M

VTD

Action Step: Create a safer crossing at the corners of 98th Ave. at 10th St. and St. Helens.

M

VTD

Action Step: Install tactile markings for crosswalks with input from the local blind community.

L

VPW, OTH

Objective 2: Slow traffic around Marshall Elementary School.

Objectives and Action Steps	Priority	Responsible Party
Action Step: Monitor and enforce with the police depart. the speed limit of 20 mph in neighborhood school zones.	H	VPD, VHNA, VSD
Action Step: Increase the school zone area around Marshall Elementary School.	M	VSD, VTD
Action Step: Install signs in school zones warning motorists of double traffic fines for speeding in these areas.	L	VTD, VSD
Action Step: Participate in the “Speed Watch” program.	L	VHNA, VTD, VSD
Objective 3: Discourage speeding and cut-through traffic.		
Action Step: Identify streets that could benefit from traffic calming devices and encourage the city to include these improvements in the Transportation Improvement Plan .	M	VTD, VHNA
Action Step: Support (provide) a stop sign southbound on SE 98th Avenue at 10th Street.	M	VTD
Action Step: Support (provide) a 4-way stop at 98th Avenue and St. Helens.	H	VTD
Action Step: Support (review) calming devices on Ohio Drive, St. Louis Way, and Carolina Loop.	M	VTD, VHNA
Action Step: Study installation of calming devices on Silver Star Drive.	L	VTD, VHNA
Objective 4: Improve traffic circulation and reduce congestion on designated streets.		
Action Step: Implement improved traffic management for the MacArthur Boulevard/Lieser Road and the MacArthur Boulevard/Andresen Road intersections.	H	VTD, VHNA, VON, Father Blanchet and DuBois
Action Step: Support (provide) a northbound off ramp for I-205 at 18th Street.	L	Neighborhoods. VTD, WSDOT,
Action Step: Support (provide) the installation of a left turn signal at the intersection of Mill Plain Blvd. and Garrison Road.	M	VHNA VTD, VHNA

Objectives and Action Steps	Priority	Responsible Party
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Action Step: Work with CTRAN to install bus shelters at high use locations and other pedestrian improvements that will improve bus ridership.	M	VTD, WSDOT, VHNA, CTRAN
Action Step: Participate in regular review of City and state capital facilities and transportation plan.	L	VHNA, VTD, VCDD VTD, VHNA
Objective 5: Identify and eliminate traffic hazards.		
Action Step: Educate neighbors regarding the sight triangle standard for visibility.	L	VTD, VHNA
Action Step: Notify property owners of sight triangle problems and work to resolve them.	L	VHNA, VPW,
Action Step: Identify street areas, which need improved drainage.	L	VTD
Action Step: Educate neighbors on how to report street repairs, drainage, and sign problems to the City.	L	VHNA, VPW
Objective 6: Minimize the impacts of the curb extensions along St. Helens.		
Action Step: Work with the City and property owners along St. Helens to modify curb extensions to improve bike safety.	H	BAC, VHNA, VTD
Action Step: Complete the installation of sidewalks along St. Helens for pedestrian safety.	H	VPW, VHNA, VTD
Action Step: Install bike lanes along St. Helens.	H	BAC, VHNA, VTD

Objectives and Action Steps	Priority	Responsible Party
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Noise and Nuisance

Objective 1: Mitigate noise impacts from Portland International Airport.

Action Step: Encourage residents to call the Port of Portland’s Noise Abatement Office regarding specific incidences of unusual noise problems.	M	VHNA, PDX, VON
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Action Step: Encourage residents to attend the Noise Abatement Committee meetings.	L	VHNA, PDX
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Action Step: Encourage residents to educate themselves about the airport’s Noise Abatement Plan and the Airside Capacity Study.	L	VHNA, PDX
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Objective 2: Mitigate noise impacts of Burlington Northern Railroad.

Action Step: Initiate discussions with Burlington Northern Railroad to explore ways to reduce noise within the city limits.	L	VPW, BNR, VON, VCDD, VHNA
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Objective 3: Mitigate noise impact of SR14.

Action Step: Initiate discussions with the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) to identify funding for a soundwall along SR-14.	L	WSDOT, VPW, CC
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Action Step: Initiate discussions with WSDOT to restrict the use of exhaust brakes on SR14.	L	WSDOT, VPW
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Objective 4: Work with residents to be responsible and courteous neighbors.

Action Step: Educate residents about noise and nuisance ordinances.	H	VHNA, VON
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Action Step: Report violations to the police department.	L	VHNA, VPD, RESIDENTS
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Action Step: Encourage use of the City’s Neighborhood Mediation Program for problems that cannot be solved among neighbors.	H	VHNA, VON, VPD, VOMD
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Objectives and Action Steps	Priority	Responsible Party
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Action Step: Encourage pet owners to be responsible and be aware of pet behaviors that create a nuisance.

M

VHNA, VON, VOMD, OWN

Open Space and Recreation

Objective 1: Protect and improve parks, parkways, and open spaces.

Action Step: Install bollards at entrances to Gustafson Playground and Lieser Crest Park.

M

VPR, VHNA

Action Step: Upgrade playground equipment at Gustafson Playground .

H

VPR, VHNA

Action Step: Study, determine, and implement a defining feature for Gustafson Playground and Lieser Crest Park.

L

VHNA, VPR

Action Step: Irrigate Gustafson Playground and Lieser Crest Park.

L

VPR, VHNA, VPW

Action Step: Develop and execute improved landscapes for Gustafson and Lieser Crest Parks.

M

VHNA, VPR

Action Step: Maintain the Lieser Crest Park basketball court.

H

VHNA

Action Step: Add two new picnic tables at Lieser Crest Park.

M

VPR, VHNA

Action Step: Study locating a skateboard/bicycle jump feature in the area.

M

VPR, VHNA

Action Step: Remove and replace dead and dying plants along Andresen Road.

M

VPW, VHNA

Objective 2: Increase accessibility and use of open spaces within the neighborhood.

Action Step: Create a landscaping plan for all open spaces.

M

VSD, VCDD, VPR
VHNA

Action Step: Reestablish the community gardens.

M

VHNA, VPW, VPR

Action Step: Irrigate parkways and open spaces.

L

VPW, VPR, VHNA

Objective 2: Improve recreational opportunities for youth.

Action Step: Support and publicize the “fun van” summer program.

M

VHNA

Objectives and Action Steps	Priority	Responsible Party
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Action Step: Pursue programs and recreational funding for teens within the neighborhood.

Action Step: Encourage and sponsor after school events for youth.

H
VHNA, VPR, VSD

M
VSD, VPR, VHNA

Public Facilities and Services

Objective 1: Eliminate the use of on-site sewage disposal systems.

Action Step: Increase awareness and make information available about the City’s STEP program, and other incentives to eliminate on-site sewage disposal systems.

Action Step: Encourage and support neighbors who form an L.I.D. (Local Improvement District) to connect to the public sewer.

H
VHNA, VPW

H
VPW, VHNA

Objective 2: Make use of public facilities and services within and adjacent to the neighborhood.

Action Step: Provide information to neighbors in the newsletter on facilities and public buildings which are available for neighborhood meetings and gatherings.

Action Step: Gather information and encourage the use of services and recreational activities for adults and children in the neighborhood.

L
VHNA

M
VHNA, VPR, VSD

Objective 3: Improve street lighting where appropriate.

Action Step: Install additional street lighting where needed for safety.

H
VPW

Objective 4: Identify and improve storm water drainage deficiencies.

Action Step: Identify areas that lack adequate drainage and inform the Public Works Department.

H
VHNA, VPW

Objectives and Action Steps	Priority	Responsible Party
Action Step: Educate neighbors on how to report storm drainage problems.	H	VHNA, VPW
Action Step: Encourage residents to keep storm drains free of debris.	M	VHNA
Action Step: Encourage residents to clean up oil that spills or leaks from automobiles.	M	VHNA
Action Step: Encourage residents to direct roof water into an on-site drainage system.	M	VHNA
Objective 5: Improve and protect water quality and services.		
Action Step: Educate neighbors about water conservation and aquifer protection measures.	H	VHNA, VPW
Action Step: Request the City check water pressure and install pressure boosters as necessary.	M	VPW, VHNA
Objective 6: Relocate above ground utilities.		
Action Step: Investigate feasibility and cost ramifications of relocating overhead utilities when major public works projects are undertaken.	L	VPW
Objective 7: Promote paving and repairing of local streets in disrepair.		
Action Step: Survey and identify neighborhood streets which are in need of repair.	H	VTD, VHNA
Action Step: Prioritize street repair projects with the City.	H	VTD, VHNA
Public Safety		
Objective 1: Eliminate graffiti and vandalism in the neighborhood.		
Action Step: Promote use of the Graffiti Hot Line.	H	VHNA, VON, VPD OWN, VHNA,
Action Step: Notify absentee landlords of graffiti on their property.	M	VPD

Objectives and Action Steps	Priority	Responsible Party
Action Step: Encourage local businesses to support the “Responsible Retailer” program.	M	VHNA, VON, VCDD, VCC
Action Step: Support legislation, which bans sale of spray paint to minors.	M	VHNA
Action Step: Explore and educate neighbors about new paint technology which is graffiti resistant	L	VCC, VON, VHNA
Objective 2: Create a network to support safety in the neighborhood.		
Action Step: Promote “Neighborhood Watch” .	M	VPD, VHNA, VON
Action Step: Initiate a “Block Home” program.	M	VHNA, VSD, VPD
Action Step: Help residents form neighborhood crime patrols.	M	VPD, VHNA
Objective 3: Promote public and private safety programs already established.		
Action Step: Support the RSVP, “Are You O.K.?” calling program for the elderly.	L	VHNA, VON
Action Step: Support the Triad program.	M	VHNA, VPD, VON
Action Step: Promote and organize a neighborhood “CERT” team.	H	VHNA, SWWMC, VON
Objective 4: Support community policing and crime prevention as a means of increasing public safety.		
Action Step: Educate neighbors about the community policing concept.	M	VPD, VHNA, VON
Action Step: Encourage police bike patrols of parks.	L	VPD, VHNA, VPR
Action Step: Inquire about use of the Radar Reader Trailer.	L	VTD, VHNA
Action Step: Request increased police patrols during spring and summer evenings.	M	VPD, VHNA
Action Step: Support a web site for access to information on sex offenders from the Sheriff’s office.	H	CCSD, VHNA, VPD, VON