



# Wildwood Neighborhood



## NEIGHBORHOOD ACTION PLAN

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City of  
VANCOUVER  
WASHINGTON

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# Introduction

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The purpose of a neighborhood action plan is to identify issues that are of concern to the residents of the neighborhood, and to devise strategies for addressing these concerns. In conjunction with broader policies and implementation measures contained within the City's comprehensive plan, the neighborhood action planning process is intended to protect and enhance the livability within specific neighborhoods, as well as to help fulfill the overall community vision and to create a more livable city. More specifically, neighborhood action plans are intended to:

- ◆ Educate both city government and neighborhood residents about each other's concerns and visions for the future.
- ◆ Promote collaboration between the city and the neighborhood in order to achieve mutual goals and a shared sense of responsibility.
- ◆ Create a "sense of place" within the community by identifying and developing the assets within each neighborhood.
- ◆ Initiate change, rather than simply reacting to it, by addressing specific issues and opportunities.
- ◆ Achieve sensible and coordinated project and program planning within each neighborhood and between all the city'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 comprehensive plan, entitled *Visions for the Vancouver Urban Area*, was adopted in December of 1994 and scheduled to be updated in 2002. 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 Wildwood 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 Wildwood Neighborhood Association with assistance from the City of Vancouver Office of Neighborhoods has developed this plan. The actual preparation of this plan is being coordinated by the Neighborhood Action Planning Committee, whose members were appointed by the Neighborhood Association to represent the interests of the neighborhood as a whole.

A survey was taken and a draft version of this Action Plan will be made available to households in Wildwood for review and comment by residents of the neighborhood. After considering and reconciling comments from the residents, the Neighborhood Association according to their specific by-laws will endorse the plan. After neighborhood approval the Plan will be forwarded to City Council for consideration and acceptance by resolution.

It is intended that city agencies will utilize the action plans as input in developing more specific work programs and helping to establish citywide funding priorities. It is recognized that many of the recommendations contained in the action plans are conceptual only and may need to be analyzed in greater detail, both individually and in relationship to other recommendations. It should also be emphasized that financial resources may not exist for implementing all of the recommendations identified in the plan. All of the actions identified in the plan are intended to be initiated and supported by residents of the neighborhood in collaboration with the appropriate responsible party/agency.



## **Overview of the Plan**

This Plan contains four components. The NEIGHBORHOOD PROFILE contains a general description of the current conditions within the neighborhood. The VISION STATEMENT describes the neighborhood's sense of identity and vision for its future. The NEIGHBORHOOD OBJECTIVES identifies issues that are of concern to the residents of the neighborhood. The NEIGHBORHOOD ACTION STEPS includes specific potential strategies for accomplishing the identified objectives. Each Action Step is prioritized and identifies the responsible parties for implementing those strategies.



## **Funding and Financial Resources**

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

# Neighborhood History & Profile

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Wildwood Neighborhood is part of the Cascade Park Development, which started during the 1960 and 1970 time period.

The boundaries of the Wildwood Neighborhood are south of Riveridge Drive/ 19<sup>th</sup> St, north of Hwy 14, east of I-205 and west of Talton Avenue which includes houses on the west side of Talton Avenue. Several other Neighborhood Associations surround Wildwood, such as Riveridge to the north and Bella Vista to the east.

There are approximately 400 homes, 1300 people, with an average of 3.25 persons per household within the Wildwood Neighborhood Association. Wildwood is made up of single-family residences, Riverview Elementary School, and two neighborhood parks, Wildwood and Biddlewood. Adjacent to Wildwood Neighborhood are multi-family dwellings, from which children travel through Wildwood to attend school.



# Vision Statement

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*Wildwood residents will work together to preserve and improve the overall livability of our neighborhood. We will come together to unite the common interests and promote the welfare of the neighborhood and its residents. Partnering with the City of Vancouver, we will be enabled to enhance the neighborhood for the benefit of all.*

*We envision a safe neighborhood, where families and children feel secure while living within the City of Vancouver. We would like to promote neighborhood unity and a sense of community through welcoming committees, block parties and a neighborhood watch. We feel that in order to live so close together in harmony we must promote community and bring back the sense of neighborly caring that is so often forgotten in today's fast paced, technology-driven world.*

*We desire Wildwood to be a quiet neighborhood that is pedestrian and bicycle-friendly and a desirable place to raise a family. As a neighborhood we value and would like to preserve our mature trees and open space by developing and maintaining our neighborhood parks.*

# Objectives and Action Steps

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The following recommended action items identified as having a "high" priority are considered by the Neighborhood Association to be most important. "Medium" priority action steps are somewhat less important. "Low" priority action steps are considered least important.

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

Listed below are abbreviations for the various responsible parties used throughout the document:

## Abbreviations:

<b>AC</b>	<b>Animal Control</b>
<b>CDBG</b>	<b>Community Development Block Grant Program</b>
<b>CITY</b>	<b>All Responsible City Departments</b>
<b>CMS</b>	<b>Community Mediation Services</b>
<b>CS</b>	<b>Community Services</b>
<b>CTRAN</b>	<b>CTRAN</b>
<b>ESD</b>	<b>Evergreen School District</b>
<b>FOT</b>	<b>Friends of Trees</b>
<b>NTSC</b>	<b>Neighborhood Traffic Safety Committee</b>
<b>OTH</b>	<b>Other organizations</b>
<b>OWN</b>	<b>Neighborhood Property Owners</b>
<b>PF</b>	<b>Parks Foundation</b>
<b>PMG</b>	<b>Property Management Groups</b>
<b>V-CPRD</b>	<b>Vancouver-Clark Parks and Recreation Services</b>
<b>VCE</b>	<b>Vancouver Code Enforcement</b>
<b>VFD</b>	<b>Vancouver Fire Department</b>
<b>VON</b>	<b>Vancouver Office of Neighborhoods</b>
<b>VPD</b>	<b>Vancouver Police Department</b>
<b>VPW</b>	<b>Vancouver Public Works</b>
<b>VTD</b>	<b>Vancouver Transportation Department</b>
<b>VUF</b>	<b>Vancouver Urban Forestry Program</b>
<b>WNA</b>	<b>Wildwood Neighborhood Association</b>

# I. COMMUNITY APPEARANCE

## **Objective #1**

**Preserve and enhance overall neighborhood livability, appearance, and safety**

Through active neighborhood association participation, personal responsibility, code enforcement and stronger ordinances, we wish to promote regular maintenance and upkeep of properties in our neighborhood, including but not limited to yards, homes, accessory buildings, gardens, sidewalks and planting strips. This will enhance overall neighborhood livability, as well as the visual appearance of our neighborhood.

<b>Action Steps</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>Responsible Parties</b>
♦ Encourage residents to alert appropriate parties of any violations concerning the following:	High	VCE, OWN, WNA
▪ Violations of City Codes and Ordinances.	High	VCE, OWN, WNA, PMG
▪ Shrub and tree obstructions at intersections	High	VPW, CMS, OWN, WNA, VUF, PMG
▪ Excessive noise violations	High	VPD, AC, CMS, OWN, PMG
♦ Explore possible solutions for the removal of abandoned cars.	High	VCE, WNA, OWN, PMG
♦ Increase awareness and educate residents via the neighborhood association's monthly newsletter, neighborhood web site and information signs regarding:	High	WNA, VUF, FOT
▪ Property upkeep and maintenance tips	Low	
▪ Neighborhood Cleanup days	Medium	
▪ Chipper Program	Low	
▪ Property improvement programs	Low	
▪ Junk Abatement Ordinance	Low	
▪ Anti-graffiti Program	Low	
▪ Street tree planting and care	Low	
♦ Notify property owners if their properties are not well kept (vegetation maintenance or cluttered yard.)	Medium	OWN, WNA, CMS, PMG, VCE
♦ Work with City to remove graffiti on public property promptly thereby discouraging further incidents.	Medium	VPW, WNA, OWN
♦ Work with the City to ensure that the streets are well maintained, including pot hole repair, street lighting maintenance, storm drains cleaned, etc.	High	VPW, VTD, WNA
♦ Work with the City and public utilities to identify lighting deficiencies within the neighborhood.	High	WNA, VTD
♦ Encourage residents to report burnt out or broken streetlights for repair and maintenance.	Low	WNA

<b>I. COMMUNITY APPEARANCE (Cont.)</b>		
♦ Explore funding options to assist with additional lighting and maintenance.	Medium	WNA, VTD

## II. OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION

### **Objective #1**

**Full development of the Wildwood Neighborhood Parks to Level 3 plus additional amenities**

<b><u>Action Steps:</u></b>	<b><u>Priority</u></b>	<b><u>Responsible Parties</u></b>
♦ Work with Vancouver-Clark Parks and Recreation Department to improve parks development for city review which may include:	High	WNA, V-CPRD
▪ Performance of site grading	Low	WNA, V-CPRD
▪ Purchasing and installation of additional playground equipment	Low	WNA, V-CPRD
▪ Installation of walking trail	High	WNA, V-CPRD
▪ Purchasing and installation of picnic tables	Medium	WNA, V-CPRD
▪ Bike parking	Low	WNA, V-CPRD, VTD
▪ Support for establishment of bike facilities (bike boulevard or lanes) leading from nearest arterial(s) to park	Low	WNA, VTD
▪ Providing signage directing bicyclists and pedestrians to the parks from Talton Avenue	Low	WNA, VTD
▪ Sidewalks along street frontage(s) of parks	Low	WNA, VTD
▪ Locations for tree plantings	Low	WNA, V-CPRD, VUF
♦ Explore Funding for desired park amenities listed above.	High	WNA, CITY, OTH, PF

### III. MOBILITY MANAGEMENT

#### **Objective #1**

**Encourage pedestrian-friendly access throughout our neighborhood and discourage speeding in the neighborhood.**

While most speeding is associated with cut-through traffic, a large percentage can be attributed to vehicles driven by neighborhood residents themselves. To promote traffic safety, especially for walkers and bicyclists, a coordinated engineering, enforcement and education (the 3 E's) approach should be used to control speeding – with an emphasis on education.

<b>Action Steps</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>Responsible Parties</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Identify strategic locations for installing traffic-calming devices and work with the Transportation Department to install such devices where necessary, priority locations include:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Talton Avenue</li> <li>▪ Forest Avenue</li> <li>▪ Angus Avenue</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	High	WNA, VTD
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Work with Vancouver Police Department to enforce speed limit regulations in our neighborhood.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Talton Avenue, as an arterial street is a concern due to a history of collisions at the intersection with Cascade Park.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	High	WNA, VPD
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Establish a neighborhood-based program to educate residents about the importance of speed limits and the danger of uncontrollable intersections in our neighborhood.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Reserve VTD radar reader board for community monitoring of traffic speeds – free to neighborhoods on a weekly rotation.</li> <li>▪ Speed awareness yard signs.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Medium	WNA, VTD, VPD
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Explore additional funding resources to install traffic calming devices at the above locations.</li> </ul>	High	WNA, VTD
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Explore the addition of “knuckle islands” with sidewalks to better segregate through traffic from playing children along wide open court cul-de-sacs [defensible space] and to provide shorter crossing distances for pedestrians:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 129<sup>th</sup> Court</li> <li>▪ 134<sup>th</sup> Court</li> <li>▪ 26<sup>th</sup> / 27<sup>th</sup> Streets curve</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	High	WNA, VTD

### III. MOBILITY MANAGEMENT (Continued)

#### **Objective #2**

#### **Improve pedestrian and bicyclist safety and access**

Sidewalks do not exist within most of the neighborhood area, requiring residents to walk and/or ride bicycles in the streets. Ensuring the safety of residents, especially our children, is of utmost importance and/or upgrade existing informal foot paths between streets or to public facilities/parks.

<b><u>Action Steps:</u></b>	<b><u>Priority</u></b>	<b><u>Responsible Parties</u></b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Continue monitoring city standards and possible upgrading/updating of our current streets to add sidewalks and bike paths.</li> </ul>	High	WNA, VPW, VTD
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Lobby for sidewalk infill along existing or future ESD identified school walk routes.</li> </ul>	High	WNA, ESD, VPW, VTD
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Add signing and pavement striping for bike facilities to schools and parks.</li> </ul>	Medium	WNA, VPW, VTD
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Add bike lanes to Cascade Park Drive.</li> </ul>	Medium	WNA, VPW, VTD
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Consider establishing a Local Improvement District (LID) for sidewalk infill on Talton and other WNA identified streets [see SE NTM report page 6.4 for photo simulation of sidewalks along Talton Avenue].</li> </ul>	Low	WNA, VTD
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Explore the possibility of establishing new pedestrian connections and improving informal paths:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A pedestrian path to Wildwood Park from Talton Avenue.</li> <li>▪ A pedestrian path between 125<sup>th</sup> Court to Forest Street along informal existing foot path.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Low	WNA, VPW, VTD, V-CPRD

## IV. PUBLIC SAFETY

### **Objective #1**

**Increase the public safety of our residents**

Encourage neighbors to get to know one another. Neighbors of the Wildwood Neighborhood wish to work together to improve safety during crises and to prevent crimes in our neighborhood.

<b>Action Steps:</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>Responsible Parties</b>
♦ Establish a Block Home or similar program for the safety of children & neighbors within Wildwood NA	High	VPD, WNA
♦ Work with Vancouver- Clark Parks and Recreation Department to keep our parks a safe place for the children & neighbors to enjoy.	High	VPD, WNA V-CPRD
♦ Work with Vancouver Police to discourage speeding and traffic through our neighborhood by increased enforcement.	High	VPD, WNA, VTD
♦ Explore additional funding resources to improve lighting and visibility and promote peacekeeping and speed enforcement.	Medium	WNA, VTD, VPD
♦ Revise traffic calming on Riveridge Drive to make it more fire truck friendly [swap out speed humps for speed cushions where possible].	High	WNA, VPW, VTD, VFD
♦ Improve emergency response time to SE section of Wildwood and adjoining neighborhoods: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Proposal for a fire gate access from SR-14 to Cascade Park Drive</li> <li>▪ Proposal for a fire access connection through 131<sup>st</sup> – 132<sup>nd</sup> Avenues with accompanying conversion of speed humps to cushions along route from Station 83.</li> </ul>	High	WNA, VPW, VTD, VFD, NTSC, Bella Vista, Riveridge and other neighborhoods on route.