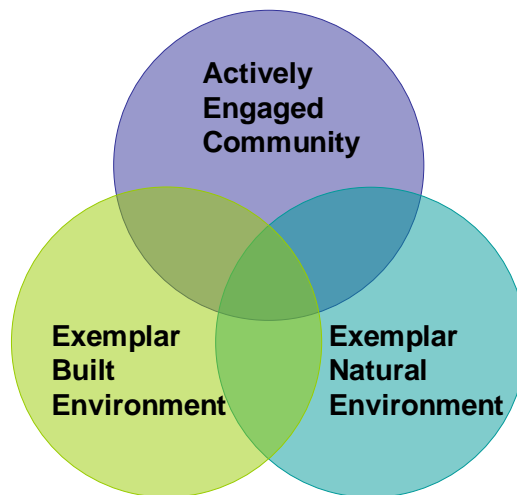


Report

Environmental/Utilities Strategies Subgroup

Neighborhood Plan Prioritization Team

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Roosevelt Neighborhood

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"Great thoughts speak only to the thoughtful mind. But great actions speak to all mankind." - Teddy Roosevelt

Introduction

The Environmental/Utilities Strategies (ES/US) subgroup of the Neighborhood Plan Prioritization Team (NPPT) for the Roosevelt neighborhood has developed an Environmental/Sustainability Initiative. The new initiative provides the framework for our contribution to prioritizing the strategies within the Roosevelt Neighborhood Plan. Our recommended actions correlate with the ES/US strategies which we determined to be of high and medium priority. In addition, we specify timeframes (taking into consideration the urgency, the feasibility, and the magnitude of the effort for the strategic actions). For the strategic actions we describe who is responsible, accountable, consulted or informed. We document our work according to the steps outlined for us in the guidelines for data collection from the NPPT leaders.

The strategic actions emphasize three synergistic environmental goals for the Roosevelt neighborhood:

- Preserving and enhancing our natural environment
- Becoming a neighborhood exemplar of a “green” built environment
- Activating broad engagement of our whole community.

We have depicted these goals on the front page of this report.

We chose this way to organize our report for three reasons. First, it honors the past work on the Plan by putting flesh on the bones of the Roosevelt neighborhood strategies which have already been approved by the city. Second, it provides an opportunity to capitalize on the considerable enthusiasm for sustainability within the Roosevelt neighborhood. Third, it aligns us with a major movement by the City of Seattle.

What better place than Roosevelt, whose namesake was known for conservation, to create a "sustainable eco-village?" In fact, the subgroup came up with a number of slogans (mainly based on quotes from Teddy Roosevelt) for this effort:

"You can't get Greener than Roosevelt."

"Speak softly and carry a small plant."

"What I am to be I am now becoming."

"Believe you can and you're halfway there."

"Do what you can with what you have, where you are."

"Keep your eyes on the stars and your feet on the ground."

Step 1: Prioritizing all Strategies

Step 1a: Initial Prioritization

The Environmental/Utilities subgroup of Roosevelt's NPPT based its prioritization of the fourteen assigned strategies upon the following assessments:

- Results of the community survey conducted in the spring of 2006.
- The relationship of each strategy to one or more of the key integrated strategies identified in the Neighborhood Plan (updated in July 2006) for the Roosevelt neighborhood. (*According to the plan, key integrated strategies have high priority for the neighborhood and represent broadly held themes for our long-term vision.*)
- Discussions with neighbors, attendees at RNA meetings and standing committees of the RNA.

The following boxes display the first two observations in the following manner:

1) We determined whether there was an association of important survey results and the strategies assigned to the E/U subgroup. (*The number in parentheses below is a weighted score of the survey results as determined by the survey tabulations. For context, the highest rated item in response to any survey question had a weighted score of 790; the lowest weighted score was 94.*)

and

2) We determined whether or not the assigned strategy is listed as part of the "key integrated strategies" in the plan. (*An asterisk indicates that the strategy was listed as part of a single key integrated strategy and two asterisks indicate a listing with two separate key integrating strategies.*)

Highest Priority (five in rank order)

R-ES 2 * Support the planting and maintenance of street trees and landscaping, and use of alternative storm drainage practices to improve the pedestrian environment, provide shade, slow arterial traffic, reduce runoff and help lower summer street temperatures. Support the use of native, drought tolerant plants to promote water conservation and the removal of invasive plants.

Associated with survey items

Housing/Residential Character	Maintenance and upkeep (658)
Public Safety	Pedestrian safety (526)
Vitality of Commercial District	Pedestrian/Streetscape Amenities (550)

R-ES 1 * Protect and enhance the natural environment through community education, incentives and development standards that promote sound environmental practices by private landowners.

Associated with survey items

Housing/Residential Character	Maintenance and upkeep (658)
Vitality of Commercial District	Pedestrian/Streetscape Amenities (550)

R-ES 5 * Work with city and regional agencies to ensure that capital development projects meet Roosevelt Urban Village Design Guidelines.

Associated with survey items

Warrants attention	Housing/Residential Character (730)
Vitality of Commercial District	Wide Variety of Shops & Services (590)
	Pedestrian/Streetscape Amenities (550)
	Lots of non-chain shops & services(536)

R-ES 7 ** Provide clean, well-lit, secure and inviting facilities for transit users and non-motorized travelers, to promote the use of environmentally friendly modes of transportation and the reduction of greenhouse gases.

Associated with survey items

Public Safety	Low Level of Crime (lighting, etc)(686)
	Pedestrian safety (526)
Transportation	Well-maintained Streets & Sidewalks(608)
	Multiple Transportation Alternatives (596)

R-US 3 * Participate in meetings of the Design Review Board to ensure that new developments are using sustainable building products and employing techniques to reduce energy use (such as site planning for use of solar panels, natural ventilation and natural light) and storm-water runoff (such as green roofs and collection and reuse of runoff for landscape irrigation).

Associated with survey items

Warrant attention	Housing/Residential Character (730)
Housing/Residential Character	Maintenance and upkeep (658)

Moderate Priority (three)

R-ES 4 Promote waste reduction, pollution prevention, recycling, storm water management and use of sustainable, low impact development through community education, design review, and incentive programs.

Not associated with specific survey items

R-ES 8* Participate in the Design Review process to ensure that new development is designed in a manner that enhances the use of natural lighting, natural ventilation and solar energy and does not create light pollution and glare. Support the extensive use of pervious surfaces, green roofs and indigenous drought-tolerant plant species and drainage systems that reduce/eliminate run-off from entering the sewer system.

Associated with survey items

Vitality of Commercial District Pedestrian/Streetscape Amenities (550)

R-US 7: Coordinate and communicate with the City of Seattle Department of Public Utilities to develop rainwater harvesting programs and alternative means of storm water management thus reducing the volume of rainwater that enters the sewer system.

Not associated with specific survey items

For sake of completeness, the lower priority strategies are listed below (These are lower not because they are unimportant, but because we believe they are redundant, and that they are covered already by the high and medium strategies. The exception is the technology strategy).

Lower Priority (seven)

R-ES3:* Promote storm water runoff management and mitigation at the source to address street runoff, sewage overflow and other harmful effects on fish habitat. To be done through community education, participation in citywide programs and support of green roofs during design review.

R-ES6: Protect trees of historical and cultural significance as recognized by the Seattle Heritage Tree program and in contemporary publications such as *Trees of Seattle* through education, incentives, and development guidelines. Communicate and coordinate with the City of Seattle to develop a program that will identify and protect significant or signature trees during design review for private development and capital facilities. Develop public information materials that will inform the community of the location of significant or signature trees, even though those locations may be outside the jurisdiction of design review.

R-US1: Support efforts by the City of Seattle and/or private utilities to provide state-of-the-art technology service to all residents, businesses and institutions in Roosevelt Neighborhood.

R-US2: Develop tools, including articles in the RNA newsletter and links on the RNA website, to inform residents and businesses within the Roosevelt community of programs aimed at energy conservation and reduction of waste.

R-US4: Participate in public meetings regarding major construction projects, including the Sound Transit North Link, to present a strong lobby for the inclusion of the under-grounding of overhead utilities as part of the improvement project.

R-US5: Communicate and coordinate with the City of Seattle Department of Planning & Development to include the under-grounding of side-service utilities in the Design Review process. R-US6: Review and submit comments on Master Use Permit applications for the installation of satellite dishes or other antennae equipment.

R-US6: Review and submit comments on Master Use Permit applications for the installation of satellite dishes or other antennae equipment.

Step 1b: Linking Strategies to Major Environmental Actions

Brainstorming about our initial ranking led to the identification of major actions which were explicitly or implicitly linked to the priority strategies. These major actions and tasks became the focus of subsequent development of more specific recommendations. The logic of the first step in this analysis is displayed in the matrix in Figure 2. This brainstorming confirmed the importance of the initial ranking and formed the basis for developing the draft action plan. Asterisked strategies indicate those that are related to many of the strategies in the updated plan.

Figure 2

MATRIX OF ENVIRONMENTAL / UTILITY STRATEGIES

Issue	ES-1	ES-2	ES-3	ES-4	ES-5	ES-6	ES-7	ES-8	US-3	US-4	US-7
* Storm Water Management	O	X	X	X	O			X	X		X
* Recycling/Waste Reduction	O	O	O	X	O		O	O	O		X
* Sustainable Development	X		O	X	O			X	X		
* X-eriscape/Planting	O	X		O	O			X	O		
* Community Education	X		X	X		X					
* Design Review/Guidelines			X	X	X			X	X	X	
Pedestrian Improvement		X									
Traffic Calming		X									
* Water Conservation	O	X		O	O				X		
Incentive Program			X	X							
Tree Protection		X				X					
Transportation Enhancement Options							X				
Removal of Invasives		X									
Underground Utilities										X	

Key:
 X = Explicitly Stated Strategy
 O = Implicitly Stated Strategy

Steps 2 & 3: Establish a timeframe and urgency for delivery and Identify some Strategic Next Actions

When we set out to identify actionable items associated with the strategies and rank them as near, medium, or long term priorities, we chose to combine steps 2 & 3 outlined in the data collection guidelines.

As noted in figure 2, the strategies addressed several issues, many of which called for actionable items requiring very different resources and timeframes. We also noted that in the years since the strategies were written, new technologies, methods, and city practices have produced new approaches implied but not mentioned specifically in the strategies. Yet these practices could reasonably be recommended as viable – and in some cases better – actionable items. When all of the actionable items were tallied, we determined that the final list was at once too limited to capture the variety of ways in which these important strategies could be pursued and, at the same time, too long and diverse for the RNA to attend to within its current structures. Therefore, we chose an integrated approach which we believe to be manageable, comprehensive and sustainable.

A Manageable, Comprehensive, and Sustainable Approach

The E/U subgroup recommends an innovative approach to pursuing the Environmental and Utilities strategies-one that we believe is more manageable, more comprehensive, and more sustainable. Specifically, we focus RNA's energy on creating new capacities and conditions within the community that will 1) establish a context which supports and sustains the vigorous pursuit of these critical environmental strategies, and 2) provide the structures, processes, and tools that the RNA needs to carry out multiple specific actionable items on a number of fronts simultaneously.

Immediate action

To jump start this initiative, we recommend that the RNA and its appropriate committees take **immediate action** on the following:

- 1. Declare the Roosevelt Neighborhood a Sustainable Neighborhood.** This might be accompanied by any number of additional action items, including making an explicit and formal link to Teddy Roosevelt’s interest in conservation; providing awards and incentives for people and businesses incorporating sustainable practices; declaring the Bull Moose festival a sustainable event; et cetera.
- 2. Form a new RNA Sustainability Committee.** This group would be charged with developing new ideas for producing a more sustainable neighborhood consistent with the strategies within the neighborhood plan, monitoring on-going projects designed to achieve more sustainable neighborhood outcomes, educating the RNA and neighbors about sustainable practices, and networking with other groups (such as the Ravena neighborhood sustainability group) focused on similar issues.
- 3. Undertake a Sustainability Audit of the neighborhood.** This would provide base-line information on current practices and conditions and help the neighborhood identify priority areas for immediate, mid, and long term attention. The audit(s) could be conducted by the Sustainability Subcommittee and would include all related areas covered by the Environment and Utilities strategies, as well as related areas from the other strategies within the RNA neighborhood plan.
- 4. Revise and Update the Roosevelt Neighborhood Design Guidelines.** *(The E/U subcommittee regards the revision of the design guidelines as a top priority).* The Design Guidelines are a vital tool for shaping the future of the Roosevelt neighborhood’s built environment. Though the current guidelines provide a strong foundation, they need updating to reflect not only the many new citywide practices regarding sustainability but also the latest practices and technologies used in sustainable building and landscaping. The new guidelines should cover building materials and practices, energy use, hydrological systems, and landscape cover, etc., and be applicable to municipal as well as private development.
- 5. Make Roosevelt a model environmental neighborhood for the city of Seattle.** The RNA should encourage the city and other agencies to consider Roosevelt a demonstration site for new sustainable practices, technological strategies, infrastructure and transportation improvements, and other actions that will advance our priority goals. Included in this concept is the idea that the Roosevelt business community develop efforts to attract small businesses engaged in “green” technology.

Examples for Roosevelt Neighborhood's Plan of Action

Natural & Built Environment. Once the capacity, structures and tools for substantive action described above are established, we recommend that the responsible groups adopt (or improve upon) the examples of action tasks listed below. We based these examples of action tasks on the analysis depicted in the matrix shown earlier in Figure 2.

We note that our recommended approach for success requires key groups of committed individuals within the RNA leadership, its Land Use & Transportation Committee and a newly established Sustainability Committee. The following examples of actions should be seen as a starting point with an expectation that the responsible parties will revise and refine them.

We emphasize that these are examples only and, as important as they are, their execution depends completely on establishing the capacity and structures which are described as "Immediate Action Items" above. Once that capacity is in place, we fully expect that the specific content and timetable for implementation will be refined

Examples of Actions

Near term (1-2 yrs):

- Enhance community education/awareness – newsletter, workshops, city programs of sustainable, low impact development in the built environment.
- Develop and pursue incentives (public or private) for wise use of resources.
- Develop and promote “best practice” models of sound environmental stewardship within the neighborhood.
- Adopt measurable standards for energy efficiency of new structures within the neighborhood – LEED silver – similar to City of Seattle.
- Establish attributes, patterns and aspects of the Roosevelt Neighborhood’s “character” – in addition to “preservation of well-maintained single family homes” – that focus on environmentally sustainable “growth, development and redevelopment” as referenced in Key Strategies I and V.
- Ensure all members of RNA Land Use/Transportation Committee are aware of Roosevelt Urban Village (RUV) design guidelines.
- Have RNA Land Use/Transportation Committee educate design review board about RUV design guidelines, plan regular “refresher” meetings.
- Review and update RNA website to reflect RUV design guidelines: work with RNA Land Use/Transportation Committee and property developers to design a user-friendly web-based design guideline page.
- Ensure Land Use/Transportation Committee regularly and consistently participate in design review hearings regarding new development in the Roosevelt neighborhood.
- Update design guidelines to encourage the following strategies:
 - Energy efficiency and waste reduction:
 - Recycle and reuse materials, heat, water
 - Renewable materials
 - Locally produced materials (500 mi)
 - Systems efficiency – structural, mechanical, electrical, building envelope
 - Renewable energy:
 - Solar
 - Geothermal
 - Wind
 - Food
 - Air Quality:
 - Natural ventilation
 - Non-toxic materials and finishes
 - Indoor Air Quality monitoring
 - Emissions
 - Water quality
 - Xeriscape planting
 - Permeability/hardscape
 - Rainwater harvesting
 - Storm water treatment

Medium term (3-10 yrs):

- Host a community-based “visioning” workshop to update or develop hypothetical application of RUV design guidelines for key areas of the neighborhood.
- Establish partnerships with RHS to teach, mentor and involve students in leadership efforts in environmental stewardship.
- Develop and promote a Neighborhood Conservation Corps (NCC) to mobilize the community into implementing long range strategies a step at a time.
- Adopt goals to revitalize our neighborhood toward an energy neutral (we generate as much as we use) coexistence with the planet.
- Enhance urban forest planting at Cowen/Ravenna Park and Froula/Reservoir Park.
- Development strategies that capitalize on the gradual South slope of the neighborhood regarding water and solar collection
- Have RNA Land Use/Transportation Committee contact Sound Transit and educate them about RUV design guidelines.

Long term (> 10 yrs):

- Develop long range strategies for the RNC focused on specific environmental practices, examples might include:
 - o Pollution prevention – within 20 years RNC will develop robust transportation options (including pedestrian, bicycle, bus, light rail, etc) for inter and intra neighborhood travel
 - o Waste reduction and energy efficiency- within 50 years RNC will produce more energy than it consumes within 20 years NCC to provide services for insulation and weatherproofing (through tax incentives) to all residential, commercial and institutional structures within 30 years NCC to provide services for renewable resource installations (photo voltaics, hot water preheat, passive solar, waste heat reclamation, geothermal, etc)
 - o Storm water management – within 50 years the RNC will have zero outflow. Storm water generated within the neighborhood will be minimized, detained, filtered, recycled and infiltrated into the aquifer through conservation, green streets, gray water harvesting, bio-swales, rain gardens, revitalizing natural drainage systems, and the like
 - o Edible neighborhood – within 30 years RNC will develop initiatives for food producing (fruit, nut and vegetable) planting plans coupled with composting centers for residential and park areas
 - o Within 50 years revitalize natural drainage of Green Lake to Lake Washington

Step 4: Identify the RACI

Following the guidelines, we used an expanded list of designations to suggest assignments for **R**esponsibility, **A**ccountability, **C**onsultation and **I**nforming of parties for the five immediate action items. The expanded list follows:

CCA - Calvary Christian Assembly
CCM - City Council/Mayor
DPD - Seattle Department of Planning and Development
DRB - Design Review Board
LUTC - Land Use/Transportation Committee
Metro - King County Transit Division
ON - Other Neighborhoods
RBA - Roosevelt Business Association
RBC - Roosevelt Bike Committee
RHS - Roosevelt High School
RNA - Roosevelt Neighborhood Association
RNC - Roosevelt Neighborhood / Community
RSC - Roosevelt Sustainability Committee
SDOT - Seattle Dept of Transportation
ST - Sound Transit

We used our best judgment to make these assignments as depicted in the following matrix:

Immediate Action	Responsible	Accountable	Consulted	Informed
#1-Declaration	RNA, CCM	RNA, CCM	RNC, RBA, RHS	DPD, SDOT, Metro, ST DRB, ON
#2-Sustainability Committee	RNA	RNA, RNC, RSC	RNC, RBA ON, RBC	ON
#3- Audit	RNA	RSC	RBA, RBC DPD, SDOT ST, Metro,	DRB, RNC RNA, RBA
#4- Design Guidelines	LUTC	LUTC, DPD	DPD, DRB, RSC	DRB, RNC, ST, Metro
#5- Model Neighborhood	RNA, CCM	CCM, RNA	RBA, RNC , LUTC, RBC, RSC	ST, Metro, SDOT, DRB, DPD, CCM

Step 5: Set a schedule

The schedule for our recommended actions is explicit in the presentation of our work above. We strongly recommend that the RNA and the supporting cast for this sustainability initiative focus on the immediate action items.

Closing summary

The ES/US subgroup of the NPPT believes that the Roosevelt neighborhood has real potential for becoming Seattle's stellar example of environmental stewardship and sustainability. The concurrence of major development around a new light rail station, a natural environment ripe for preservation and enhancement and an interested and organized community- all bode well for our fulfilling the legacy of our namesake, Teddy Roosevelt.