

Washington Neighborhood Revitalization Plan



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Planning, Building and Code Enforcement
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Implementation: Implementation of the *Revitalization Plan* will be a long-term process that depends upon a strong partnership between the City and Washington residents, property owners, and other community representatives. While the City, particularly the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Neighborhood Services, will have primary responsibility for implementation, participation of all members of the community is essential for the success of the *Plan*. The community and various City Departments each have responsibility for implementing specific improvements or activities discussed in the *Revitalization Plan*. The *Plan* contains a detailed Action Plan that describes each improvement and the individuals or agencies responsible for its implementation.

Community will guide the *Plan*: A group of Washington community members and representatives are actively working with the City to achieve the goals and objectives of the *Plan*. The group meets monthly to focus on specific issues and to guide the *Plan*'s implementation.

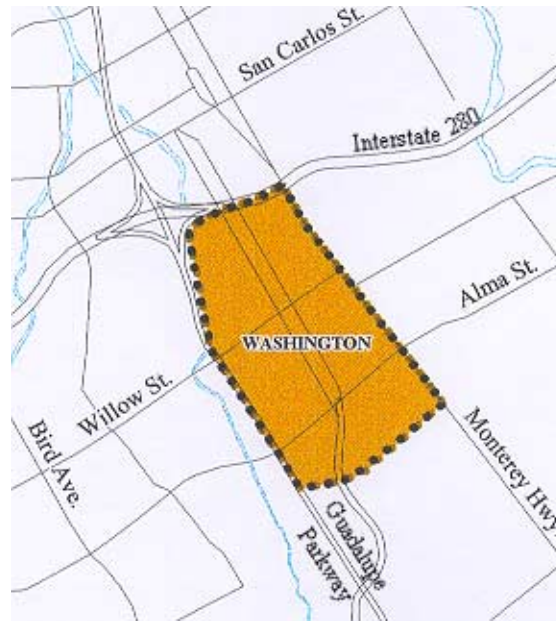
Copies of the WNRP are available for purchase at the Development Services Center.

Background: The *Washington Neighborhood Revitalization Plan* seeks to address the issues confronting a 550-acre area south of downtown San Jose through the implementation of realistic improvements. The *Plan* represents a comprehensive approach for improving the safety and appearance of the neighborhood by eliminating the negative elements that detract from the neighborhood while enhancing the strengths of the community.

The Washington revitalization area is bounded by Route 87, Interstate 280, South First Street/ Monterey Road, and the railroad tracks south of Bellevue Avenue. The area includes residential communities, commercial and industrial businesses, Washington Elementary School, various community facilities, and the newly constructed Biblioteca Latinoamericana and Washington Area Youth Center.

Approach: Extensive community input received at Advisory Group meetings - occurring monthly over a one-year period - and two community meetings formed the basis of the *Washington Neighborhood Revitalization Plan*. The Advisory Group, comprised of residents, property owners, educators, and representatives of community organizations, worked cooperatively with the City to identify issues confronting the neighborhood, thoroughly analyze existing conditions, and identify realistic solutions for long-term improvements. Through this process, a vision for Washington's future emerged that shaped the recommendations of the *Revitalization Plan*.

Major Recommendations: The City Council adopted the *Washington Neighborhood Revitalization Plan* in October 1998. The *Plan* addresses numerous issues of importance to the community, including housing conditions, crime and negative activities, parks and recreation, traffic and pedestrian safety, the physical and visual appearance of the neighborhood, and community organizations. Some of the highlights of the *Plan* are to:



- **Decrease crime and negative activities** by increasing Police presence and encouraging community participation in crime prevention programs.

- **Provide public open space areas** by acquiring sites for parks and recreation amenities.
- **Enhance the safety and appearance of public alleys in the area** by closing as many alleys in the area as possible and improving the alleys that must remain open (e.g., drainage, pavement, and lighting improvements, as well as improvements to private properties adjacent to the alley).
- **Improve the quality and appearance of the area** through increased code enforcement, community clean-up and improvement events, and improvements to private properties.
- **Improve the appearance and function of public streets** through increased street maintenance, streetscape beautification projects, improved street sweeping, and increased street lighting.
- **Increase pedestrian and traffic safety** by installing traffic signals at the intersections of First and Oak and Alma and Plum/Pomona and strengthening enforcement of traffic laws.
- **Ensure the long term success of the Plan** by strengthening existing community organizations and creating opportunities for on-going community involvement in Washington's revitalization.