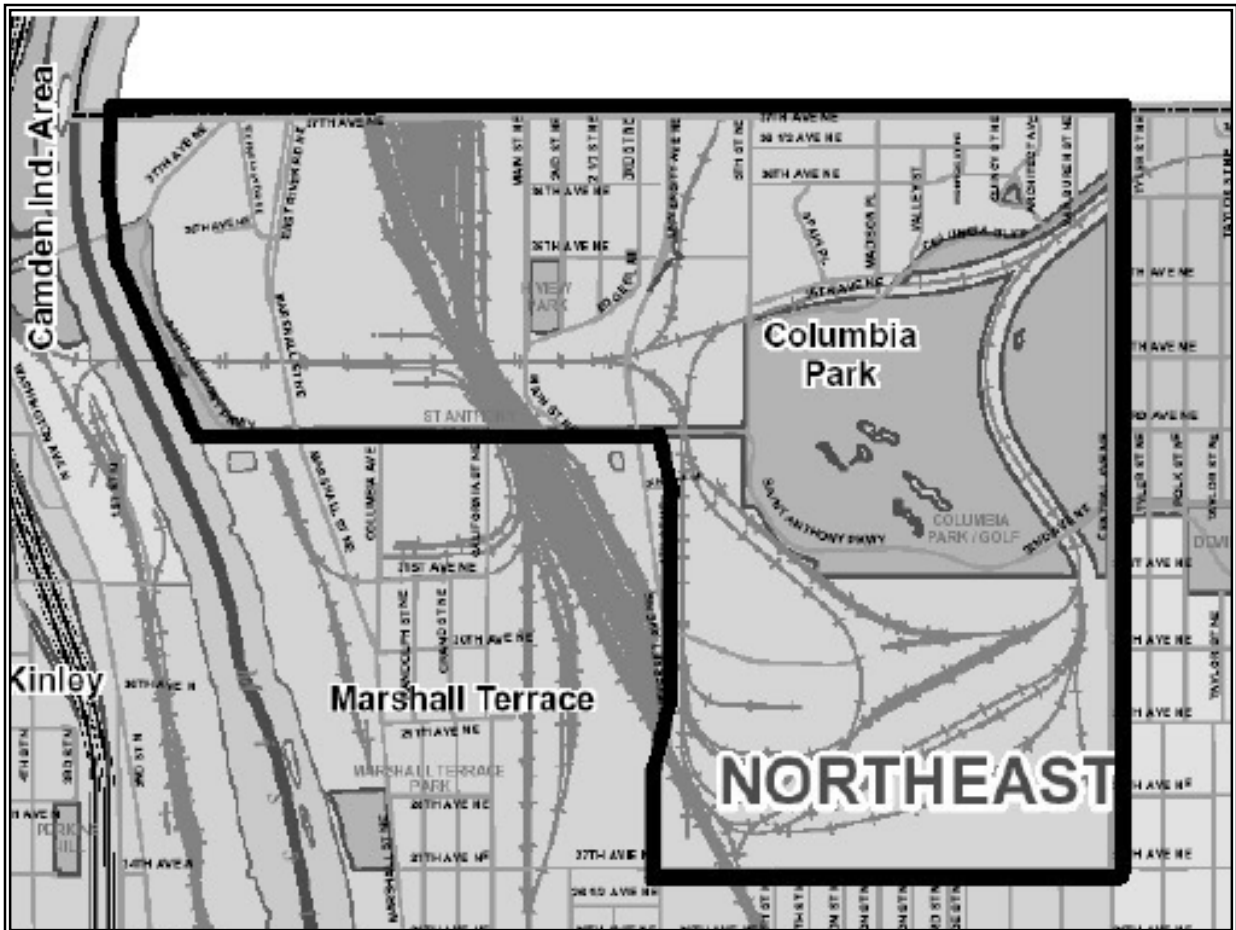


COLUMBIA PARK

NEIGHBORHOOD ACTION PLAN (PHASE II)



Submitted By:

Columbia Park Neighborhood Association

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Columbia Park Neighborhood Association

NRP Phase II Action Plan

This plan was developed by the Columbia Park Neighborhood Association (CPNA) and its Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP) Phase II Task Force. Over a two year period, surveys, large group meetings and door knocking solicitations were used to gather community input and approval for this plan.

Neighborhood Description

Located in Northeast Minneapolis, Columbia Park has a population of roughly 1,834 people. It is bounded by 37th Avenue NE on the north, Central Avenue on the east, 27th Avenue NE on the south and St. Anthony Parkway/Mississippi River on the west.

The neighborhood includes major tracts of land owned by the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, including Columbia Park, Hi View Park and the Columbia Park Golf Course. The residential area north of Columbia Park also includes a very small triangle shaped neighborhood park on Architect Avenue.

According to 2000 Census figures, the neighborhood is comprised of primarily single family homes, many of which are owned by senior citizens. Of 731 total households, 91 are households with residents 65 years and older only, and 191 others contain residents 65 years and older. There are 417 family households; and 587 of the households are owner occupants. The average household consists of 2.37 people. As the older population begins to sell their homes, young and ethnically diverse families and residents are replacing them and finding the neighborhood an inviting place to live. The number of African American residents increased by 500% since 1990, American Indian residents by 42%, Asian residents by 260%, and Hispanic or Latino residents by 323%.

Neighborhood Vision

Columbia Park will be actively involved in maintaining and enhancing the quality of the neighborhood and the safety and vitality of its residents.

Housing

Phase I Achievements:

The Phase I CPNA housing program provided improvements to 86 homes covering a wide range of projects including new and repaired roofs, siding and windows. These improvements were funded by providing matching grants (outright grants were provided to low income qualifiers) to residents for eligible exterior improvements. The improvements to the neighborhood sent the message that this is a neighborhood worth fixing-up and that the City was committed to Columbia Park. This program, more than any other, brought a sense of community to Columbia Park and made neighbors aware of the CPNA Board and its function.

Phase II, Goal I:

Encourage consistent upkeep and maintenance of homes within the Columbia Park Neighborhood.

Relates to the following City Goals:

- *Maintain the physical infrastructure to ensure a healthy, vital, and safe City.*
- *Create an environment that maximizes economic development opportunities within Minneapolis by focusing on the City's physical and human assets.*
- *Foster the development and preservation of a mix of quality housing types that is available, affordable, meets current needs, and promotes future growth.*
- *Promote public, community, and private partnerships to address disparities and to support strong, healthy families and communities.*

Objective A:

Implement a revolving loan home exterior improvement program for owner occupied family homes and multiple dwellings (not to exceed four units).

Strategy 1:

The Columbia Park Neighborhood Association will work with NRP/DFD staff to implement a home improvement revolving loan program through either NRP housing Fund or by establishing the program directly with a program administrator.

- Home Improvement Program For 1-4 Unit Owner Occupied Structures, a low interest loan program for exterior residential property improvements

If applications exceed the available dollars, a neighborhood-wide lottery will be held to determine the order in which applications will be processed. To the extent possible, the program will seek other sources of home improvement assistance to maximize the use of NRP funds.

Partners:

- NRP
- DFD
- Property Owners
- Other Home improvement Resources

Resources:

NRP: \$132,525 for loans and administration.

Objective B:

Provide an emergency loan fund for owner occupied homes and multiple dwellings (not to exceed four units) for qualified emergencies.

Strategy 1:

The Columbia Park Neighborhood Association will work with NRP/DFD staff to implement an emergency loan program through either NRP housing Fund or by establishing the program directly with a program administrator.

- Emergency Loan with low interest loan program to address qualified residential property emergencies. This program will provide financial assistance to homeowners that are in difficult financial circumstances and have either a hazardous or serious home repair situation that will cause further damage to the home or adversely affect the health and safety of the residents if not immediately addressed.

Applications will be processed on a first come first served basis for qualified emergencies. To the extent possible, the program will seek other sources of home improvement assistance to maximize the use of NRP funds. The program will offer zero interest loans from \$500 minimum up to a maximum of \$2,500 for residents having qualified emergencies who earn less than 80% of the Metro Median Income (MMI).

Partners:

- DFD
- NRP
- Property Owners
- Other Home improvement Resources

Resources: NRP: \$15,000 for loans and administration.

Parks and Open Space

Phase I Achievements:

A new playground area and extensive playground equipment were developed in Columbia Park. A basketball court, junior softball field, rugby/soccer field were located near the parking lot and visitor's shelter. The Columbia Park Manor was updated and rehabbed in order to provide space for the CPNA to hold meetings and conduct business.

The Cargill site on the southeast corner of University and 37th Avenues NE was improved into a welcoming place for residents and visitors with NRP funding and a hard won Minneapolis Arts Commission Grant. CPNA constructed an artistic water tower; a small train shed picnic area, community garden plots and gateway sign welcoming southbound travelers along University Avenue to the Columbia Park Neighborhood and the City of Minneapolis, with NRP funds. Many trees, flowers and plants were planted to enhance the beauty of this open space.

Phase II, Goal 1:

Work cooperatively with the Park Board to improve the parks and open spaces of the neighborhood.

Relates to the following City Goals:

- *Deliver consistently high quality City services at a good value to our taxpayers.*
- *Preserve and enhance our natural and historic environment and promote a clean, sustainable Minneapolis.*

After reviewing the results from its surveys, neighborhood wide meetings and informal discussions the NRP Phase II Task Force has concluded that park and open space improvements are not a preferred use of limited NRP funds at this time. Therefore, only a small amount of resources will be dedicated to this goal at this time for open space improvements. The CPNA will continue to work with the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board and the City of Minneapolis to accomplish continued upkeep of the Hi-View Park pool and fountain, a resurfacing of the Columbia Park tennis courts, a replacement of the Columbia Park playground slide, improved and resurfaced bike and pedestrian trails and pathways, improved sidewalk access and appropriate lighting in all park and open space areas.

Resources:

NRP funds: \$2,000 for open-space improvements.

Partners:

- Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board
- NRP

Phase II, Goal 2: *Work cooperatively with the Park Board to increase tree plantings and preserve existing trees.*

Relates to the following City Goal:

- *Preserve and enhance our natural and historic environment and promote a clean, sustainable Minneapolis.*

The CPNA is committed to the health and ecology of its natural spaces and would like to increase the number of new trees planted within its borders as funds become available.

Pedestrian, Traffic, and Public Safety

Phase I Achievements:

Many sidewalks were added to the neighborhood where there were none, giving children and families a safe place to walk and play and providing for a comprehensive neighborhood grid uniting the two portions of the neighborhood on either side of University Avenue NE. “No Turn on Red” signs were installed at the intersection of 37th and Central Avenues NE providing pedestrians and automobiles increased safety at this busy and congested intersection. Stop signs were also added to neighborhood intersections to improve safety.

Phase II, Goal 1: *Improve traffic flow in neighborhood areas regarded by residents as problematic or unsafe.*

Relates to the following City Goal:

- *Build communities where all people feel safe and trust the City’s public safety professionals and systems.*

The Columbia Park Neighborhood Association will work with the Minneapolis Public Works department and neighborhood residents to address traffic problem spots within the neighborhood. These areas have been identified as, but are not limited to, Van Buren Street, Architect Avenue, Main Street, 5th Street and St. Anthony Parkway.

Resources:

NRP: \$14,000 in NRP for traffic safety improvements.

Partners:

- Minneapolis Public Works
- NRP

Note: Whenever possible funds will be leveraged to maximize resolution of neighborhood traffic issues.

Neighborhood Action Plan Oversight

Phase II, Goal 1: *Assure adequate neighborhood-level administrative support to implement all components of the Columbia Park NRP Neighborhood Action Plan.*

Relates to the following City Goal:

- *Strengthen City government management and enhance community engagement.*

Objective A:

Provide Columbia Park Neighborhood Association with the resources needed to assist with and monitor implementation of the Columbia Park NRP Neighborhood Action Plan.

Strategy 1:

Columbia Park Neighborhood Association (CPNA) will provide staff, office supplies, equipment, and storage needed to support implementation of the Columbia Park NRP Neighborhood Action Plan. Support activities will include but are not limited to the following:

- Establishing an NRP subcommittee within CPNA to coordinate the neighborhood's ongoing role in NRP plan implementation
- Helping neighborhood committee chairs work with appropriate governmental agencies to implement NRP funded projects--including the development of any required scopes of services, budgets, RFP's, etc.
- Engaging contracted staff, when needed, to assist committee chairs in the implementation and monitoring of NRP funded projects
- Communicating with neighborhood residents about all aspects of plan implementation--including notice of NRP subcommittee meetings, plan modification proposals, planned or completed NRP projects, etc.
- Coordinating with adjoining neighborhoods, as needed, to implement NRP

- funded projects--especially projects related to Central Avenue
- Work with CPED on the development of the home improvement program

Resources:

NRP: \$12,000 for staff and operating expenses

(NRP: \$12,000 of Participation Agreement funding is included in this funding.)

Partners:

- Columbia Park Neighborhood Association (CPNA)
- NRP

Budget

NRP Activity	Total NRP Funds
Exterior Home Improvement Program	\$132,525
Homeowners Emergency Loan Fund	\$15,000
Traffic Safety	\$14,000
Open Space Improvements	\$2,000
Neighborhood Administration	\$12,000 (Participation Agreement funds)
TOTAL NRP PHASE II PLAN	\$175,525*

*Note: A maximum of \$122,868 (70%) is available to contract out in the first three years of Phase II implementation.