

PARKROSE PLAN

MAKE OUR FUTURE BRIGHTER



Parkrose Community Plan Summary

June 2022

What's the Parkrose Community Plan?

We're working together on a plan for the future of Parkrose!

The Parkrose neighborhood is a diverse part of Portland with many community strengths, including a thriving school district, a diversity of people and cultures, and local organizations and businesses. However, there are also long-standing issues impacting the Parkrose community, including:



Rising rents



Need for living-wage jobs for students and their parents



Unsafe conditions on Sandy Blvd



Need for community gathering places



Need for a disaster preparedness plan

Founded in 2012, Historic Parkrose is a Neighborhood Prosperity Initiative (NPI) that is committed to increasing social equity, economic opportunity, and safety in Portland's Parkrose neighborhood. Historic Parkrose offers storefront improvement grants, technical assistance and support to businesses located in our target area of 99th to 121st on Sandy Blvd, and fosters collaboration between our diverse neighbors, local businesses, and property owners.

Communities of color and historically marginalized groups have often been most impacted by these issues, but were least involved in past plans. With the support of the Portland Bureau of Planning and Sustainability (BPS) and the Oregon Department of Transportation, Historic Parkrose created the Parkrose Community Plan together with underserved groups to learn about the community's concerns and ideas for solutions. Community engagement activities included:

- Youth workshops held from March through May of 2021
- Community workshops held from May through June of 2021
- Parkrose Film Screening highlighting the art and aspirations of homeless youth
- Parkrose Community Plan Public Open Houses
- Parkrose Community Plan Online Surveys

Plan Purpose

The purpose of the Parkrose Community Plan is to call for actions to help solve issues confronting the Parkrose community. It is also about building on community strengths, such as celebrating our diverse cultures, supporting local businesses, and helping our youth thrive. It will be up to the Parkrose community to push to make these actions a reality. This plan is by and for Parkrose. All of us.

This is the Parkrose community's plan. Ultimately, it will be up to the Parkrose community to advocate and organize to make these actions a reality.

In the next pages, you will find a summary of issues and solutions for specific topics that community members came up with during engagement activities. If you are interested in more details for each of the solutions, visit the [Parkrose Community Plan](#) or reach out to the Historic Parkrose staff.

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Affordable Housing AND Anti-Displacement

Affordable Housing and Displacement* Prevention

Issues

- » Housing in Parkrose is becoming more expensive as higher-income households move into the neighborhood
- » Renters are having an increasingly hard time affording family-sized housing, causing lower-income families and communities of color to be displaced from the neighborhood
- » Nearly 9 percent of Parkrose High School students were houseless during the 2021-22 school year, typically staying with relatives or friends
- » Families want to be stable and not keep moving. They want a place where they can stay longer and is adaptable to their changing needs

Solutions

Work with government, affordable housing groups, and private property owners to keep rentals affordable, build new affordable housing, create homeownership opportunities for families, protect renters of color and houseless families, and prevent displacement. Actions to achieve this include:

- » Building affordable housing on vacant lots and near the Parkrose Transit Center
- » Working with partners to keep existing apartment buildings affordable
- » Including affordable family housing in new development, such as the Rossi Farms redevelopment
- » Providing safe shelters for houseless people
- » Hiring staff to implement these solutions

**Displacement is when people or businesses are forced to move from a neighborhood because they can no longer afford it. This could be due to barriers to economic opportunity, increasing housing costs, or changes in the affordability of neighborhood goods and services.*



Access to Jobs

Issues

- » The median household income in Parkrose is \$15,000 less than Portland as a whole, and median household incomes for Black and Hispanic households are more than \$30,000 less
- » Parkrose youth often don't know how to get started on pathways to jobs and careers
- » There are many middle-wage jobs in the nearby Columbia Corridor employment district, but few Parkrose residents have jobs in this area

Solutions

- Connect youth, especially those from disadvantaged backgrounds, to training, jobs and careers that serve as pathways to prosperity. Create a central place where connections to living wage jobs for adults and training opportunities for youth can happen. Work with community partners on connecting youth to job opportunities, such as through:
- » Internships, mentorship, career counseling, and job opportunities for youth
 - » Programs for youth interested in manufacturing, trades, and climate related jobs
 - » School support to connect students' families to job training and assistance

Home-Based Businesses & Small Businesses

Issues

- » Parkrose residents want the Historic Parkrose Main Street to be a place where local businesses grow and thrive and reflect the neighborhood's diversity
- » Parkrose residents need assistance starting home-based businesses, and many operating home-based businesses need help reaching more customers.

Solutions

- Support small businesses and home-based businesses, especially those run by immigrants, refugees, and other people of color, who often face barriers to starting and growing businesses. Some ideas to achieve this include:
- » Provide services and resources for home-based business owners. Make sure services are in a diversity of languages and culturally sensitive
 - » Create shared, affordable rental spaces for multiple small business owners
 - » Create spaces to sustain local small business owners, especially people of color, such as farmers markets, pop up marketplaces, etc.
 - » Support Historic Parkrose Main Street businesses



Sandy Boulevard Safety

Issues

- » Sandy Boulevard has many businesses and other destinations within walking distance of residential areas, but has large amounts of traffic and few safe pedestrian crossings, discouraging people from walking
- » Sandy Boulevard in Parkrose is one of Portland's high-crash streets, with over 300 crashes reported over a recent five-year period – many of the serious injuries involved people walking

Solutions

Advocate for improvements to make Sandy Boulevard a safe place to walk, travel, and do business. Recommended improvements include:

- » Adding more signalized pedestrian crossings to make it easier to cross the street, such as near NE 106th (at Parkrose Hardware) and at NE 115th
- » Improving dangerous intersections
- » Upgrading street lighting
- » Making it easier to get around by bus by improving transit service and bus stop locations and amenities



*Make Your Mark
(even if it's just putting your hands in wet cement)*

Neighborhood Transportation Needs

Issues

- » Parkrose lacks sidewalks on most streets, has several high-traffic streets (such as 102nd, Prescott, and Fremont) and few bike facilities, limiting people's ability to feel safe walking or bicycling to local destinations
- » There are often few trees along streets providing shade on hot summer days. The Parkrose community would like more street trees and other green features to limit urban heat impacts and provide a more livable environment

Solutions

Improve streets to make it safer and easier for people to walk and bicycle to local destinations. Recommended improvements include:

- » Construct sidewalks and pedestrian crossings and improve lighting on busier streets, especially connections to schools, such as NE Shaver
- » Add or improve bicycle routes on low-traffic streets to make it easier and safer to access places
- » Include street trees and other green features as part of sidewalk improvements
- » Improve transit, bicycle, and pedestrian connections to nearby employment areas north of Sandy Boulevard



Community Spaces and Access to Nature

Issues

- » Half of Parkrose residents live more than a half mile from a public park
- » The closest natural area is the Columbia Slough, but there are no public access points within the neighborhood
- » Youth would like to have a community center or other safe community space where they can go after school, do homework, participate in activities, and get connected to jobs and community opportunities

Solutions

Create community places where people can recreate, gather, and access nature close to where they live.

Actions to make this happen include:

- » Advocate for the creation of a new park and a community center for the Parkrose community
- » Improve the Columbia Slough so that people can get to and use it
- » Create community gathering spaces in the Sandy Boulevard business district or as part of the Rossi Farms development
- » Plant more trees and green elements in streets, and organize community cleanups in public spaces to maintain green spaces





Emergency kit

Ace Bandage

Antibiotic Ointment

Emergency Preparedness

Issues

- » Parkrose community members want to be ready for whatever emergency events may come, whether extreme heat or cold events, storms that knock out power, or a major earthquake
- » Many community members don't know what emergency resources are available or how to access them, where they can go to recharge cell phones in the event of a power outage, or who in the community they can turn to in a crisis

Solutions

Create an emergency preparedness strategy for the Parkrose community based on shared community resources and actions that improve community readiness, including:

- » Creation of infrastructure for emergencies, including urgent care centers, fire station improvements, emergency information signs, cooling/warming shelters, and public power sources during outages
- » Creation of urban greenery to reduce carbon emissions
- » Develop emergency communication resources, such as an emergency preparedness plan, and support existing emergency services, such as the Argay-Parkrose NET team
- » Create a network that provides ongoing emotional support services for neighbors who have experienced trauma
- » Seek funding for improvements to older commercial and residential buildings so that they can survive earthquakes

Emergency Power Here!



What Are Solar Power Benches?

Solar power benches are a source of power when emergencies, that are available to everyone. Other things these benches have include:



1. Two USB ports
2. Wireless charging within acrylic glass
3. 4G Internet
4. Low environmental impact

And so much more!

Credits

Illustrations:

Say'Yonce Tate

My name is Say'Yonce Tate (Seance Tate), I'm a 17-year-old female in 12th grade, and I'm graduating early this year (2022). I've been creating mixed media art for as long as I can remember, and continue to create in hopes of providing a sense of community through my art. I take pride in giving visual representations of solutions within my communities and making progressive ideas a reality. A big part of my art process is using past experiences to a creative advantage and source of motivation in order to provide clear and detailed graphics. With so much happening around us as of late, we need to use our voices and resources to fix the current state of the world, starting in our own communities. I believe in making a safe world, full of precautions and backup plans, and it helps others to see people working towards that.

CASHAPP: \$plutopop | VENMO: @plutopop

Ben Torres

I'm Ben Torres, a 15-year-old and I'm in my sophomore year. I'm trying to make a change in my environment. I've lived in Parkrose all my life and I've seen all the changes; the dangers and I just want to put a bit of me into this community. I want to impact our community in any way I can. I've been painting since I was 10 and drawing since way before that, so I'm glad these pieces can be shared. I take big interest in the arts in general, and it's tough because of its pricey barrier but I feel like with art I make, I can share important messages. I want everyone here to get the same opportunities as I do and feel safe knowing there's people in Parkrose making those efforts for change.

Student coordination

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Contact Information

Visit the [Parkrose Community Plan website](#) for more details about the plan (only in English)

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THE BUREAU OF
**PLANNING &
SUSTAINABILITY**

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