

What We've Accomplished Together



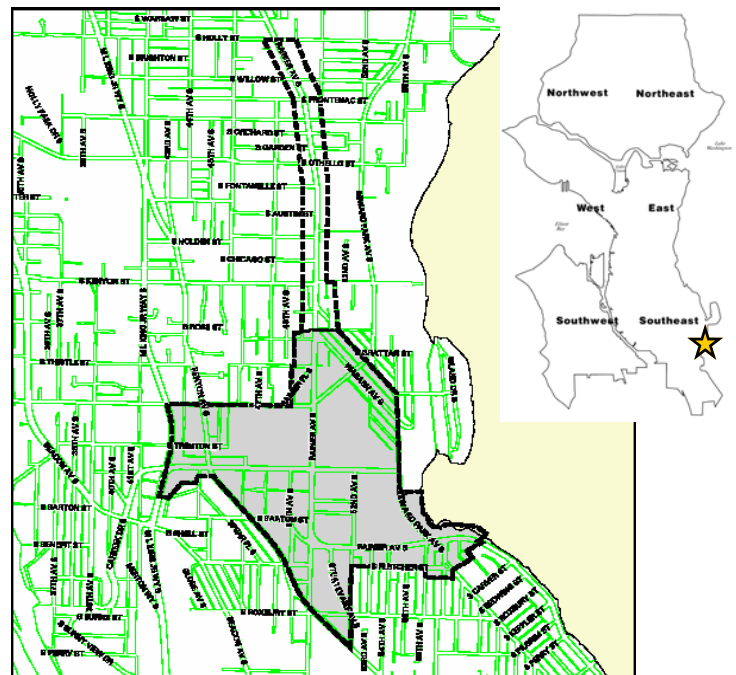
Gregory J. Nickels, Mayor
Yvonne Sanchez, Dir., Dept. of Neighborhoods

Neighborhood: Rainier Beach

Plan Adopted: 1999

Key Elements:

1. Build a Better Boulevard on S Henderson St
2. Revitalize "Beach Square" Commercial Core
3. Community Education: The Building Block of the Future
4. Improve the Mapes Creek/52nd Avenue South Walkway



Rainier Beach Residential Urban Village
Southeast Sector

What happened in 2002

- **South Shore School building renovation began planning** - A Site Design Team including City staff, as well as representatives from parents of students, the surrounding neighborhood, Seattle Public Schools, and volunteer design professionals, began planning the renovation of the school. The project includes \$14M from the Building Excellence II Levy, and Pro Parks Levy funding for a public plaza at the corner of Rainier Ave. S. and S. Henderson St. Construction of the school improvements is slated for 2004. For more information on progress, visit: <http://www.seattleschools.org/area/facilities/SchoolProjects/SouthShoreLink.xml>
- **Roundabout study of 51st/Renton/Roxbury** - Roundabout consultant Michael Wallwork visited Seattle to review locations where drivers experience problems ranging from long lines to injury accidents - including the "5 corners" intersection of S. Roxbury St., Renton Ave. S. and 51st Ave. S. Wallwork studied this tricky two-stage intersection and proposed installation of a double-circle roundabout. This study was the first step in finding a long-term solution for this intersection.
- **Kenyon Street curbs and landscaping** - In spring and fall of 2002, S. Kenyon St. residents and staff from Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT), Department of Neighborhoods, and the Seattle Conservation Corps completed the first two phases of a multi-phase curb and landscape project. The improvements narrow and define the roadway, leading to slower traffic speeds and better pedestrian safety. SDOT also installed speed humps to further slow traffic. About 40% of the street from its intersection with Rainier Ave S to Renton Ave S is now finished. Work will continue in phases through 2003 and 2004 until this stretch of Kenyon is fully curbed with planting strips.
- **Mapes Creek Walkway** - In October more than 40 volunteers converged on Henderson Plaza at the north end of the Mapes Creek Walkway to put the crowning touches on the community's new gathering space. Now, 30 trees surround the seating area and plaza art constructed in the summer and fall of 2002, and new ground cover was planted at a November work party.
- **Technology training for youth**—The Rainier Beach Community Center Advisory Council moved forward on implementing the Rainier Beach Learning Triad projects to bring technology training to area youth. This project was funded by Neighborhood Planning Early Implementation Funds.

What's Underway In 2003

- **Business District Rezone** - In June 2003 the Department of Design Construction and Land Use will send a package of recommended zoning changes to the City Council that encourage more pedestrian friendly commercial development. The proposal was developed based on neighborhood plan recommendations and community review. It is scheduled to be adopted by fall 2003.
- **Library Expansion** - Construction of a 6,000 square foot addition to the Rainier Beach Branch Library began in March 2003. The \$3 million project will significantly expand the existing branch, and will add a new meeting room and children's area. The project also will include more computers, an updated collection of 66,700 books and materials, and new furniture. The project, originally slated to be finished in 2007, is now scheduled for substantial completion in late 2003. For more information, go to <http://www.spl.org/Neighborhoodlibs/rainierbeach/expandrainier.html>.
- **Pedestrian Safety Lights, Phase 2** - Twenty pole mounted pedestrian lighting fixtures will be installed this summer in the Rainier Beach business district, completing the work begun in 2001 when 30 fixtures were installed. The lights have been funded with a total of \$100,000 from Seattle City Light's Pedestrian Lights for Safety Program.
- **Coalition for Youth** - With the support of city staff, community members are meeting to explore development of a coordinated effort on behalf of underserved neighborhood youth.
- **Mapes Creek Walkway** - Phase I of work on the walkway is nearly complete. This year, installation of a community kiosk, banners on the pedestrian light poles, and 2 bronze plaques explaining the history of the walkway will complete the Henderson Street Plaza at the north end of the walkway.
- **South Henderson Street**— Seattle Department of Transportation staff is developing plans and a funding strategy for S. Henderson St. improvements, to be constructed in 2005.

Who to Contact

At the City

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Department of Neighborhoods Plan website:

www.cityofseattle.net/neighborhoods/npi/

In the Neighborhood

James Luster, Rainier Beach Community Center Advisory Council, 713-0892

Mariana Quarnstrom, 322-6134, or Mark Capestany, 358-2134, Rainier Beach Merchants Association

Lynn Miner, Mapes Creek Walkway, 723-6723

Neighborhood Plan Partners

Diana Vinh, SE District Council, 290-8921

City Neighborhood Council Neighborhood Planning Committee

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Mapes Creek Walkway

Neighborhood plan implementation is a program of the City of Seattle Department of Neighborhoods in partnership with other City departments. DON works with 38 communities across Seattle to help meet the challenge of urban growth.