

Rainier Beach

Neighborhood Plan

Land Use

RB-G1 A diverse and vibrant neighborhood composed of pedestrian-friendly, transit-connected business districts and affordable and attractive residential areas.

RB-G2 For Rainier Beach, the “town center” is an interconnected and vibrant set of places where the community comes together. These places reflect the diverse cultures, histories, and traditions that collectively give Rainier Beach its identity.

RB-P1 Encourage the revitalization of the S. Henderson Street corridor as a safe and attractive conduit between the ~~((future))~~ light rail station at Martin Luther King, Jr. Way S. and the commercial center along Rainier Avenue South.

RB-P2 Seek to promote transit-oriented development around Rainier Beach’s ~~((proposed))~~ light rail station at Martin Luther King, Jr. Way S. and South Henderson Street.

RB-P3 Encourage mixed-use housing and commercial development in the “Beach Square” area bounded by S. Henderson Street to the north, Rainier Avenue South to the south and west, and Seward Park Avenue South to the east.

RB-P4 Seek to preserve the character of Rainier Beach’s ~~((all))~~ single family zoned areas ~~((‘-character))~~. Encourage residential small lot opportunities within single-family areas within the designated residential urban village ~~((;))~~ ~~((and i))~~ In the area within the residential urban village west of Martin Luther King Way ~~((Boulevard))~~ S., permit consideration of rezones of single-family zoned land to ~~((the Lowrise Duplex Triplex (LDT), Lowrise 1 (L1), or Lowrise 2 (L2)))~~ mixed-use designations.

RB-P5 Encourage the City to support rezones within the Rainier Beach Residential Urban Village for projects that:

- A. meet the overall community vision,
- B. promote redevelopment of underutilized and derelict sites, and
- C. result in pedestrian-friendly, well designed new buildings.

Transportation and Transit Facilities

RB-G3 ~~((5))~~ A community with safe streets, pedestrian- and bicycle-friendly facilities, and an efficient, multi-modal transit system that supports access to shops, schools, services, places of worship, etc. that are necessary to lead a healthy lifestyle, and connects

Rainier Beach residents and employees to other parts of the Rainier Valley and the region. A safe walking environment should be free from crime, and protected from motorists. It should also include amenities such as landscaping, street trees and public art that contribute to an enjoyable environment.

RB-G4 Integrated transportation improvements that serve the community.

RB-P~~6~~₁₈) Improve residential streets to best serve residential neighborhoods.

RB-P~~7~~₁₉) Seek to promote non-motorized travel throughout Rainier Beach by providing facilities for pedestrians and bicyclists (as outlined in the Southeast Transportation Study, and Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plans), particularly at the business node, along the S Henderson Street corridor, near the ((future))light rail station, and around the “Beach Square” commercial core.

RB-P~~8~~₂₀) Explore a range of alternative transportation modes and solutions that would support the concepts of sustainability and environmental responsibility.

RB-P~~9~~₂₁) Seek to strengthen provisions for code enforcement of transportation related violations such as speeding, and parking violations.

RB-P9 Coordinate transportation improvements with other infrastructure and programmatic actions (such as public art, parks, or economic development) so that those improvements contribute positively to the neighborhood’s identity.

Housing

RB-G~~5~~₂) A community that meets the housing needs of its economically diverse and multicultural population and provides opportunities at all economic levels.

RB-G6 Retain and develop affordable (low and moderate income) housing, especially where such housing is accessible to transit.

RB-P~~10~~₆) Encourage ~~((affordable and))~~attractive multifamily development, affordable to the neighborhood’s economically diverse population, particularly along Rainier Avenue South from South Holly Street to South Cloverdale Street, and as part of South Henderson Street revitalization efforts.

RB-P~~11~~₇) Seek to preserve ~~((Rainier Beach’s))~~the economic, racial/ethnic, and cultural diversity ((and multicultural))of Rainier Beach’s population by providing affordable housing, including home-ownership opportunities, through capital funding and incentive programs (e.g. Multifamily Tax Exemption), and land use((and))zoning tools, including, where appropriate, rezones((ing)).

RB-P12~~((8))~~ Seek to promote townhomes and mixed-use buildings as the preferred development pattern for meeting the housing ~~((projected))~~ growth target for the Rainier Beach ~~((within the))~~ residential urban village.

RB-P13~~((9 Seek to a))~~ Address the causes of the perception of crime, the lack of personal safety, and the detraction from Rainier Beach's community character ~~((+))~~ such as by cleaning up ~~((addressing))~~ derelict residential properties ~~((and minimizing non-conforming and criminal uses))~~.

RB-P14 Increase opportunities for home-occupation, and live-work development that allows ground floor business including small-scale retail and services in the station area and along S. Henderson St.

RB-P15 Encourage affordable family sized units through incentives, direct City funding, and reuse of publicly owned property.

Capital Facilities

RB-G7~~((6))~~ A community with a variety of parks and open spaces, civic facilities, waterfront access, and a trail system that promotes the existing open space sites, and the enjoyment of new public spaces.

RB-P16 Support the Rainier Beach Urban Farm and Wetland Project to convert the Parks Department's Atlantic Street Nursery into an urban farm and wetlands restoration project.

RB-P17~~((22))~~ Seek to retain existing parks and recreation facilities, and strive to improve maintenance of these facilities.

RB-P18~~((23))~~ Recognize the importance of ~~((improving))~~ actively programming, strengthening connections to the community and maintaining the Rainier Beach Community Center and South Shore Middle School to help foster a civic core.

RB-P19~~((24))~~ Seek to promote the development of pedestrian trails that connect residential areas to the commercial core, and bring pedestrians from the Rainier View neighborhood down to the lower Rainier Beach valley.

RB-G8 Connected parks and open space that serve the community.

RB-P20 Improve connections to, and circulation within, public spaces (South Shore k-8, Rainier Beach Playfield, Rainier Beach High School and between Beer Sheva and Pritchard Beach).

RB-G9 Use the arts and public art, in particular, to engage and express Rainier Beach's cultural diversity.

RB-P21((5)) Seek to include art created by local artists, and that includes the input of ethnic and minority communities in exploring themes and locations, in public works construction projects in Rainier Beach.

RB-P22((6)) Seek to ensure coordination between City departments, private service providers and volunteers for the maintenance, cleaning, and general landscape upkeep of Rainier Beach's public streets and civic areas.

Economic Development

RB-G10((4)) A revitalized commercial business core that attracts the patronage of local and citywide residents and employees through an attractive, safe, and clean built environment.

RB-P23((15)) Seek to promote "Beach Square" as Rainier Beach's hub of commercial retail activity.

RB-P24 Support and expand the existing character and diverse mix of small-scale, minority and immigrant-owned businesses nodes around Rainier Ave S and S Rose Street; Rainier Ave South and 56th/57th Ave. South; and the rail station.

RB-P25((16)) Encourage partnerships among local housing providers, community development corporations, neighborhood and business organizations, and the City to assist with economic revitalization in Rainier Beach.

RB-G11 A strong local economy for Rainier Beach.

RB-G12 Strong entrepreneurship that creates jobs and grows the local economy

RB-P26 As part of community development, seek to provide programs that equip individuals and families with the tools for achieving sustainable wealth creation; managing their money; making sound financial decisions; and building wealth.

RB-P27 Consider strategies for employing youth when funding and implementing economic development programs.

RB-P28 Encourage Sound Transit to develop its properties south of the rail station in ways that create permanent, well-paying jobs.

RB-P29 Build on the asset of community diversity and consider the specific needs of minority and immigrant-owned businesses when undertaking economic development.

RB-P30 Use streetscape improvements to enhance the character of the town center and support small, locally-owned businesses located there.

Human Development

RB-G13 Strong schools with excellent programs and strong enrollment, that encourage and support the educational development of exceptional students.

RB-G14((3)) Education is integrated as an innovative and connected learning system into all levels of community life for all residents, resulting in the empowerment of the community and the promotion of lifelong learning.

RB-P3((10)) Create strong partnerships between Seattle School District and the City of Seattle to support capital and programmatic improvements for schools in the Rainier Beach area.

RB-P32((11)) Integrate the concept of life-long learning including education and job-related activities into the programs provided by the schools and by the neighborhood's entire educational system.

RB-P33 Seek to attract a community college facility that serves the Rainier Beach community in order to offer local college level studies and to establish connections to four-year colleges.

RB-P34((12)) Encourage parents and adults in the community to work with school administrators to improve schools in the Rainier Beach area.

RB-P35((13)) Seek to facilitate and improve the participation of parents and adults in the neighborhood schools by encouraging formation of active PTAs and by outreach to the non and limited English-speaking population of Rainier Beach.

RB-P36((14)) Encourage a community grass-roots approach to involve religious organizations and other influential organizations in community education issues.

RB-G15 Strong institutions and activities that engage and support Rainier Beach youth.

RB-G16 Ready access to healthy food.

RB-G17 Community-based implementation of neighborhood plan recommendations and other community projects.

RB-G18 Neighborhood spaces that support Rainier Beach's many cultures.

RB-G19 Arts and public art, in particular, are used to engage and express Rainier Beach's cultural diversity.

RB-P37 Work with existing community organizations and/or create new community organizations to implement plan update recommendations.

RB-G20 A positive identity for Rainier Beach based on its unique strengths.

RB-P38 Use public relations strategies to highlight Rainier Beach's community identity as a thriving and interconnected community with diverse households and supported by strong social and cultural institutions and services.

RB-G21 A safe Rainier Beach neighborhood.

RB-P39 Improve public safety when implementing any project or program within the community.

RB-P40 Build and sustain a positive relationship between Seattle Police and the diverse cultures in Rainier Beach.