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## IMPLEMENTATION

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**PROJECT PROCESS**

The Lincoln Heights Neighborhood Improvement Program represents Phase II of a three phase Neighborhood Planning Process designed to help guide future development in Spokane's neighborhoods. **Phase I** of the process is the development of the Neighborhood Specific Plan which provides detailed policy guidance on the elements of Land Use, Circulation, Community Facilities, Housing, and Design for all development proposals considered within the neighborhood planning boundaries. The neighborhood plans are formed with substantial public input and provide an opportunity for grass-roots involvement of citizens in decisions effecting the area in which they live.

Upon adoption by the City Council, the Specific Plan becomes part of the City Comprehensive Plan and provides greater detail to the more general elements contained in that document. The Specific Plan for Lincoln Heights was approved by the City Plan Commission on May 23, 1990 and subsequently adopted by the City Council on September 24, 1990.

The Specific Plan also serves as a policy guide for the development of the **Phase II** document — the Neighborhood Improvement Program. This document will guide the expenditure of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds and is also intended to serve as a 20 year, long range capital improvement program for the allocation of neighborhood funds. The program outlines future physical improvements and construction of public projects within the Lincoln Heights Community Development Neighborhood and is for use by city departments and the Neighborhood Steering Committee whenever these are considered. Another function of the program is to provide guidance on the use of other source funds if and when they become available.

When completed by the Neighborhood Task Force, the Neighborhood Improvement Program document is submitted for city departmental review and then presented to the City Plan Commission for review and final approval. Upon Commission approval, the implementation and construction of projects utilizing Concentrated Construction funds begins. This is the third and final phase (**Phase III**) of the neighborhood planning process.

The development of the Lincoln Heights Neighborhood Improvement Program was driven by a Plan Commission appointed, citizen Task Force made up of neighborhood residents and property owners. The approximately yearlong process required strong neighborhood citizen involvement, Task Force dedication, and many evening work-hours. The chart on the following page illustrates the overall process.

**PROJECT PROGRAM**

The Neighborhood Improvement Program (N.I.P.) is a compilation of projects recommended by neighborhood residents during workshop and Task Force meetings. With technical assistance from the City Neighborhood Planning and Urban Design staff, the Task Force further develops those concepts and ideas into the project programs presented here. The neighborhood residents and Task Force also designate those projects that are of highest priority and are to be implemented with Community Development Block Grant concen-
trated construction funds. Lower priority projects, or those not eligible for Block Grant funding, are also identified and will be implemented as funds become available from other sources such as the City General Fund, various grant programs, Neighborhood Fall Allocation funds, or private sources.

The map on pages 8-9 shows the proposed location for most projects. The map is preceded by a chart listing each of the projects, including the priority for implementation, funds allocated, potential funding sources, and desired neighborhood benefit. Following the N.I.P. chart and map is a brief description which provides information on the project's design development and program as well as its relationship to other plans or documents and related cost factors.
NEIGHBORHOOD BACKGROUND

When the Lincoln Heights Addition was first platted in 1909, developers were touting the area as Spokane's next, great residential neighborhood. The citizens of the city, however, were not as enthusiastic about Lincoln Heights as the developers were. Long considered "out in the country", Lincoln Heights was simply located "too far" from the city to attract a large number of home buyers.

For several years this area remained primarily agricultural. But during the 1920's and 30's people slowly started to move into the area. The Lincoln Heights Shopping Mall was constructed in 1954 and expanded in 1973. Throughout the 70's and 80's large scale in-fill development occurred and has increased thus far into this decade.

Lincoln Heights is now experiencing the kind of changes long felt by many of Spokane's older, urban neighborhoods. An aging housing stock, incomplete or inefficient infrastructure, increasing growth and traffic volumes, the often insensitive or inappropriate mix of land uses, and environmental impacts have begun to significantly change this neighborhood as well.

Located in the southeast portion of the city, the Lincoln Heights Community Development Neighborhood is primarily residential in use. Approximately 646 acres in area (just over 1 square mile), it is bounded by 25th Avenue and 27th Avenue to the north, Havana Street to the east, 33rd Avenue and 29th Avenue to the south, and Regal Street, Southeast Boulevard, and Ray Street to the west. A strong commercial district is located in the center of the neighborhood along 29th Avenue between Southwest Boulevard and Ray Street. Significantly smaller in area than the Lincoln Heights Planning Area covered in the Specific Plan (Phase I), this neighborhood is one of the most compact and diverse, of Spokane's Community Development Neighborhoods.

Approximately 2,203 persons live in the Lincoln Heights C.D. Neighborhood with 43% under the age of 18 or over the age of 65. There are approximately 1,140 households with 537 considered family households with an average of 2.74 persons per family. Of the approximately 1,081 occupied housing units in Lincoln Heights, the majority are renter occupied. Among renter occupied households, 53% were occupied by individuals 18 to 24 years of age or over the age of 65.
Considering the volume of recent growth, the neighborhood still retains a sizable inventory of undeveloped and unimproved land. Still relatively rural in character, Lincoln Heights is noted among the residents for its diversity of housing areas as well as its many varied environmental features. These include such ecologically significant elements as sensitive wetlands and habitat areas, rock outcroppings, large stands of mature trees, and a diverse topography, making the Lincoln Heights neighborhood unlike most any other of Spokane's urban areas.

A sample of the comments from workshop participants on why they like the neighborhood best describes this unique place to live. "I like the wildlife and outdoors in the neighborhood." — "I like the country atmosphere and the dirt roads." — "Lots of trees." One resident offered a more down-to-earth analysis: "It's got good soil."
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROJECT IMPROVEMENT</th>
<th>NG H E R</th>
<th>ALLOCATED</th>
<th>POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES</th>
<th>KEY NEIGHBORHOOD BENEFIT</th>
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<tr>
<td>A. Community Facilities Projects</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1. Pocket Park/Conservation Area</td>
<td>p.11</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>$58,000</td>
<td>CDBG, GF, PF, IAC, AGF</td>
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<td>2. Neighborhood Based Police Substation</td>
<td>p.18</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>PF, GF AGF</td>
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<td>3. Septic Tank Elimination</td>
<td>p.20</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>CDBG, LID, PF, APF</td>
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<td>4. Thornton-Murphy Park Improvements</td>
<td>p.21</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>$19,600</td>
<td>CDBG, GF, IAC</td>
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<td>B. Pedestrian / Bicycle Circulation Projects</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1. Pedestrian Access to Thornton - Murphy Park</td>
<td>p.27</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>$1,200</td>
<td>CDBG, GF, ISTEA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Pedestrian Crosswalks at 29th and Mt. Vernon</td>
<td>p.28</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>$1,200</td>
<td>CDBG, GF, ISTEA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Pedestrian Improvements in L.H. Shopping District</td>
<td>p.28</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>GF, LID, SASF, ISTEA</td>
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<td>4. Bikeway Plan/Bike Lanes (Class II &amp; III)</td>
<td>p.30</td>
<td>X</td>
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<td>5. Sidewalk Construction and Repair</td>
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<td>C. Vehicular Circulation Projects</td>
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<td>1. Improvements to Neighborhood Traffic &amp; Safety Elements</td>
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<td>X</td>
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### C. Vehicular Circulation Projects (cont.)

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<tr>
<th>PROJECT IMPROVEMENT</th>
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<th>ALLOCATED CC FUNDS</th>
<th>POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES</th>
<th>KEY BENEFIT</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2. Street Improvements and Paving</td>
<td>p.34</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>CDBG, GF, PF, LID, ISTEA Reduce dust &amp; air pollution, improve neighborhood air quality, comply with state &amp; federal regulations</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### D. Housing Projects

| 1. Owner Occupied Home Rehabilitation    | p.35                   | X                  | $7,000                     | CDBG, GF, PF, CHAS Maintain quality housing and improve character of established residential areas |
| 2. Targeted Home Exterior Rehabilitation | p.36                   | X                  | $0                         | CDBG, GF, CHAS, AGF Enhance and improve the character of high visible areas of neighborhood |
| 3. Senior Citizen & Low / Mod Housing    | p.37                   | X                  | $0                         | CDBG, GF, CHAS, AGF Provide housing for elderly & low/mod individuals or families. |

### E. Neighborhood Design Projects

| 1. Neighborhood Improvement Standards   | p.39                   | X                  | $0                         | GF, PF, AGF Address sensitive site areas/environmental issues, provide cohesiveness to neighborhood |
| 2. Street Tree Planting Program         | p.40                   | X                  | $0                         | CDBG, GF, PF, AGF Neighborhood beautification and address environmental issues |
| 3. Neighborhood Improvement Grant Acquisition | p.41               | X                  | $5,000                     | CDBG, GF, PF Provide additional benefits & improvements to low/mod individuals, realize greater improvements throughout neighborhood |

### F. Public Transit Projects

| 1. Transit Shelters                    | p.43                   | X                  | $0                         | CDBG, STA Provide rider safety & convenience, facilitate public transportation |

### Funding Source Codes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CDBG</th>
<th>Community Development Block Grant</th>
<th>LID</th>
<th>Local Improvement District</th>
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<tr>
<td>GF</td>
<td>City General Fund</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>Transportation Benefit District</td>
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<tr>
<td>PF</td>
<td>Private Funds</td>
<td>CHAS</td>
<td>Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy</td>
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<tr>
<td>AGF</td>
<td>Alternative Grant Funds</td>
<td>STA</td>
<td>Spokane Transit Authority</td>
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<tr>
<td>SASF</td>
<td>State Arterial Street Funds</td>
<td>IAC</td>
<td>Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation</td>
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<tr>
<td>PTR</td>
<td>Paths and Trails Reserve</td>
<td>ISTEA</td>
<td>Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act</td>
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Lincoln Heights
Neighborhood Improvement Program
Project Location Map
Spokane, WA

Project Location Key:

A. Community Facilities Projects
   A.1 Neighborhood Pocket Park/Conservation Area
   A.2 Neighborhood Center & Youth Facility
   A.3 Septic Tank Elimination (throughout neighborhood)
   A.4 Thornton-Murphy Park Improvements

B. Pedestrian/Bicycle Circulation Projects
   B.1 Pedestrian Access to Thornton-Murphy Park
   B.2 Pedestrian Crosswalks at 36th & Ml. Venice
   B.3 Pedestrian Improvements in Lincoln Heights Shopping District
   B.4 Bicycles Plan & Bike Lanes
   B.5 Neighborhood Sidewalks

C. Vehicle Circulation Projects
   C.1 Neighborhood Traffic & Safety Improvements
   C.2 Street Paving & Improvements
POCKET PARK/CONSERVATION AREA

OUTLINE AND CONCEPT

DETERMINATION OF NEED: The need for a neighborhood park and open space facility was identified by the Task Force early on in the N.I.P. process and has consistently been considered as a high priority project by the neighborhood residents. This project presents a unique opportunity to provide numerous benefits to the low and moderate income residents of the Lincoln Heights Community Development Neighborhood, both in addressing their recreational and open space needs, as well as enhancing their environmental health, safety, and welfare.

Currently there is no park or open space facility in the Lincoln Heights Community Development Neighborhood. The City of Spokane Parks and Open Space Plan identifies the need for an additional park facility (8 to 10 acres) in the area of 21st Street and Rebecca Avenue as well as locating one further south near 37th Street and Myrtle Avenue (10 acres), based on the city standard of 1 to 2.5 acres of park or school per 1000 population. However, both of these locations are outside of the Lincoln Heights Community Development Neighborhood (pop. 2,203).

The Parks and Open Space Plan also indicates a future need for a neighborhood park (2-5 acres) with a potential location east of Havana Street near 29th Avenue, depending upon future city annexation and boundary adjustments in that area. The plan further recommends the acquisition of areas in this neighborhood that are subject to high ground water tables and seasonal flooding as shown on the City's Flood Insurance Rate Map and to be set aside as conservation areas.

This project would also implement Policy #2 and #3 from the Design section of the Lincoln Heights Specific Plan as well as the newly adopted City Wetlands Ordinance.

By evaluating the demographic information and neighborhood characteristics previously presented in the Neighborhood Background section, the need for this project can quickly be determined. Among the 2,203 persons in the Lincoln Heights Community Development Neighborhood, 25% are between 18 and 29 years of age and 30% are over age 60. In general, the households in this area are composed of young families with children and older families no longer of the child bearing age group. The major recreational needs for these residents incorporate passive activities associated with young children's play structures, picnic facilities, walking, and open green space.

While a large number of families in Lincoln Heights are home owners and may have access to a yard for some form of outdoor activity, 53% are renters that typically must depend upon public facilities for their outdoor recreation needs. Of those individuals that live in rental housing in this neighborhood, the majority are children under the age of 13 or senior citizens over the age of 65. The primary recreational activities of these residents are also passive and associated with small totlots, walking, picnicking and nature study and

"civilizations have risen and fallen without apparently perceiving the full import of their relations with the earth"

- Lewis Mumford
observation such as bird watching. This project would address the passive neighborhood recreational needs of low and moderate income individuals that reside in Lincoln Heights.

**Existing Conditions:** A site consisting of several adjacent lots exists in the east central area of the neighborhood that would accommodate this project as well as address critical environmental issues found in the area.

The proposed site is currently in multiple private ownership and is primarily vacant land. The site is located at the eastern edge of the city limits, on the north and south sides of East 30th Avenue, west of Havana Street (see map on pages 8-9) and totals approximately 3-5 acres.

Several of the properties are known to experience seasonal flooding and high ground water tables and have been inventoried by the Department of Ecology as Class III wetlands. As such, this area is considered extremely important for several functions including stormwater/flood control, maintaining water (aquifer) quality, and providing essential wildlife habitat for cover, breeding areas, and wintering/transit. The wetlands in the Lincoln Heights area are typically referred to as "vernal" pool systems, however some year-round water does occur in several places on this site.

Much of the area is covered with large stands of native plant species including ponderosa pine, cottonwood, willows, wild rose, red osier dogwood, cattail, and a variety of other small herbs, perennials, and wildflowers. Some areas of rock outcroppings also occur on the site. Several animal species have been observed including squirrels, mallards, redwing black birds, red finch, pheasant, quail, sparrows, robins, and bluebirds.

Included in this are three lots north of 30th Avenue. These lots have been graded and filled for future development and are currently for sale. The property across 30th Avenue to the south is currently single family, with a large pasture area for horses (see photos). As a result of these activities, both areas of wetlands have been significantly impacted.
**PROJECT CONCEPT**

This site is considered for this project because of its central location within the neighborhood, the critical need to protect its function as a stormwater/flood retention area, and its ecological sensitivity and importance. The design of this project would respond to the natural topography, hydrology, and vegetation that are currently characteristic of the site.

The design concept for the neighborhood park and conservation area incorporates the needed elements of passive recreation, naturalism and attention to sensitive areas, as well as retaining the site’s critical role as a stormwater control utility.

Because of the existing conditions of much of the site, there is an opportunity to easily and cost effectively provide separation between the two main activity levels and functions considered for this park: passive play and recreation from environmental function, conservation and ecological observation.

The smaller area to the north of 30th Avenue, which was previously graded and filled, can be rehabilitated to provide for the recreational needs of the residents. Elements here could include a sandlot play area, a wooden climbing structure, a community garden co-op, and a picnic and viewing area.

Adjacent to this area, the drainage ditch that was previously cut across the site and the pond it flows into, can be cleaned out, re-contoured, lined with boulders, and replanted with reeds, cattails, willows, etc. This creates a semi-natural activity area while retaining the necessary practical function of water retention and drainage for the site.

The area to the south across 30th Avenue is the largest of the sites with wetland resources and, if acquired, provides the location for conservation based, ecologically benign activities as well as the project’s primary role as a stormwater control utility. This area can remain in its current condition with only minor improvements and rehabilitation efforts. The pasture activity would need to be evaluated and perhaps relocated to allow the main pond area to recover and regenerate.

A meandering nature trail with benches and observation points or blinds for bird and wildlife watching can be incorporated around the perimeter of the site. An environmental, educational element such as interpretive signs and information, etc., can be implemented. Wildlife habitat can be provided through both plantings and man-made elements such as bird houses and feeding perches which could be built and donated by local organizations.

**GENERAL PRELIMINARY WORK OUTLINE**

- Verify site acquisition potential, alternatives, and process
- Develop and present detailed project proposal for approval by Parks Board
  - Develop grant funding and assistance proposal information (if necessary)
  - Develop and refine design and improvement plans, project program funding options and participants
**Project Benefits**

The implementation of this project would provide numerous benefits to the neighborhood including:

- Provide local recreation and open space to low and moderate income residents of this neighborhood not currently served by existing facilities
- Provide stormwater and flood control protection to neighborhood residents
- Provide water (aquifer) recharge, protect water quality
- Increase property value, level of investment in low and moderate income neighborhood, raise standard of living
- Increase neighborhood cohesion and identity
- Preserve and create natural habitat areas
- Preserve unique, sensitive ecologic and geologic resource
- Provide educational opportunity (an outdoor "environmental classroom")

**Supporting City Documents**

- City of Spokane Parks and Open Space Plan
- Lincoln Heights Specific Plan
- Department of Public Works Stormwater Plan
- City of Spokane Municipal Code Wetlands Protection Ordinance (adopted 11/1/93)

**Cost Factors**

The cost of the project is dependent upon land acquisition opportunities, methods and costs, extent of rehabilitation measures, and the actual design of improvements. Site acquisition may include a variety of methods within donation, purchase, or transfer with conditions arrangements.

**Potential Funding Sources**

- CDBG Concentrated Construction Funds
- CDBG Fall Allocation Funds
- City General Fund
- Interagency Committee (for Outdoor Recreation)
- Private Funds

In addition, several other public and private programs and organizations at the national, state, and local level could be available for assistance including funding, conservancy, and stewardship.

**Implementing Department and Participants**

- City Parks and Recreation Department
- City Public Works Department
- City Real Estate Department
NEIGHBORHOOD BASED POLICE SUBSTATION

OUTLINE AND CONCEPT

This project addresses the need for a facility which would provide a central focus for neighborhood law enforcement and education activity. A visible presence and greater emphasis on crime prevention through pro-active efforts such as this is considered by the neighborhood as a critical action towards reducing crime in any given area. One course of action that has been successful in other areas of the city has been the establishment of a volunteer staffed extension of the City Police Department, commonly referred to as a neighborhood "Cop Shop".

According to the police department, Lincoln Heights is experiencing a marked increase in the rate of crime against property (i.e. burglaries, vandalism, theft, etc.) as well as drug and gang related activity in Thornton-Murphy Park. As a recently identified need, the neighborhood has decided it to be appropriate to take action to change this trend by the establishment of this project.

The "Cop Shop" concept is supported by the Spokane City Police Department, in a large part because it forges a cooperative relationship between the residents of the area and law enforcement personnel. As has been done in other neighborhoods, the substation would be staffed with neighborhood volunteers trained in police protocol and would be routinely visited by officers on patrol. Eventually, the department would assign a Neighborhood Resource Officer to the facility. The "Cop Shop" would serve as a focal point for positive police and citizen interaction and mobilization as well as a general base of operation for community crime prevention through education.
PROJECT BENEFITS

The implementation of this project would provide numerous benefits including:

- Prevent and reduce crime
- Provide additional safety and security
- Enhance quality of life for neighborhood residents

SUPPORTING CITY DOCUMENTS

- Lincoln Heights Neighborhood Specific Plan

COST FACTORS

The cost of the project is dependent upon facility, materials and equipment costs and donations.

POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES

Crime prevention is an eligible activity for CDBG funding under the public service category with the condition that it is not a "general government expense" (i.e. not an expense required for the normal provision of government services). In as much as the neighborhood "Cop Shop" is not a normal provision of the police department in their effort to prevent crime, it appears that the acquisition and rehabilitation of a facility for this type of project would be an eligible expense. However, maintenance and ongoing operating costs would not be eligible expenditures.

- Community Development Block Grant
- Concentrated Construction funds
- Private Source funds
- City General Fund

IMPLEMENTING DEPARTMENT AND PARTICIPANTS

- City of Spokane Police Department
SEPTIC TANK ELIMINATION

OUTLINE AND CONCEPT

For health and ecologic reasons the elimination of septic tanks is a priority of the Lincoln Heights Community Development Neighborhood and the City of Spokane. There are approximately 30 homes with septic tanks in the neighborhood with sewer trunk lines available to them. Each of these locations have been sent notification of the availability of sanitary sewer to their property. Once sewer service becomes available, the owner starts paying the monthly sewer assessment, and by law, must hookup to the line within one year.

The neighborhood recommends that the city actively encourage the owners of these homes to abandon their septic tanks in favor of the sanitary sewer.

The neighborhood also recognizes the burden this may pose to the low and moderate income households and places a high priority on providing financial assistance to those in need. However, at this time the Task Force has received a commitment of funding for this assistance from the Public Works Department and as such has not allocated a portion of its CDBG funds for the project. Should this commitment become unavailable, the Task Force would reallocate funds to this program from another project.

Assistance shall be requested from Public Works by the property owner in the form of an affidavit attesting to financial need, as is generally required by the City. This program and funding is considered part of the ongoing Septic Tank Elimination Program administered by the Public Works Department.

PROJECT BENEFITS

This project would assist the implementation of City policy as well as provide numerous environmental benefits and improvements to low and moderate income individuals in the neighborhood.

SUPPORTING CITY DOCUMENTS

- City Septic Tank Elimination Program
- City Six-Year Comprehensive Sewer Program
- Lincoln Heights Specific Plan

COST FACTORS

- Approximately $2000 per hookup, at 100% funding

IMPLEMENTING DEPARTMENT AND PARTICIPANTS

- City Public Works Department
THORNTON-MURPHY PARK IMPROVEMENTS

OUTLINE AND CONCEPT

Thornton-Murphy Park is currently the only park facility serving the Lincoln Heights Neighborhood and is the primary recreation opportunity for its low and moderate income residents, especially the elderly and children. Because the park shares a common border with the neighborhood at Ray Street to the east, this project would enable the adjustment of the Parks and Open Space Plan neighborhood/park boundary line.

It is apparent that residents south of 29th Avenue and east of Ray Street are the most frequent users of the park. This is the basis for enabling the Task Force to consider the use of CDBG funds for park improvements as a benefit to these same low and moderate income residents of the neighborhood.

PROJECT ELEMENTS AND DESCRIPTION: Improvements that are considered necessary to meet the recreational and safety requirements and needs of neighborhood residents as well as enhance the aesthetic qualities of the park include:

- Picnic shelter and barbecue area
- Security lights throughout park
- Jogging and walking trail/circuit path
- Additional tree planting/landscaping
- Additional park area developed
PROJECT BENEFITS

- Meet minimum recreation and safety needs of the neighborhood park users
- Provide local recreation and open space opportunity for low and moderate income neighborhood residents
- Promote and extend park usability

SUPPORTING CITY DOCUMENTS

- City Parks and Open Space Plan
- Lincoln Heights Neighborhood Specific Plan

COST FACTORS

Cost is dependent on the design of park improvements and the individual costs of selected elements. Some improvements and elements may be funded in part by the specific user group.

IMPLEMENTING DEPARTMENT AND PARTICIPANTS

- City Parks and Recreation Department