

Cully-Concordia Community Action Plan Annual Report



City of Portland Bureau of
Planning and Sustainability
Sam Adams, Mayor | Susan Anderson, Director

INTRODUCTION

In late 2007, City planning staff and Portland Public Schools (PPS) joined together with diverse community stakeholders to study the existing conditions for families with children in the Cully-Concordia area. Three public school areas were included: Faubion, Rigler, and Harvey Scott. An assessment report was produced that looked at physical, social, and economic conditions of the area. Individuals and partner organizations came together to review report findings and develop a community action plan. The action plan covers four goal areas: 1) schools as multi-purpose centers of community; 2) expansion of local business and economic opportunities; 3) improvements to neighborhood amenities and infrastructure; and 4) community building, connectedness and stability. The *Cully-Concordia Community Assessment* report (September 2008) and the *Cully-Concordia Community Action Plan* (November 2008) were approved by City Council on November 20, 2008. Since that time, City staff, PPS and community partners have been updating the action plan to include specific steps and measures of success, and have begun implementing selected actions. Below is a list of accomplishments from this past year and activities for the coming year.



1. ACCOMPLISHMENTS (NOVEMBER 2008–NOVEMBER 2009)

- SUN Community School Program initiated at Harvey Scott School 2009/10 school year (*Action Item 1.B., as revised*)
- Portland Community College's Volunteer Literacy Tutoring Program has established two new Adult English as Second Language classes at Salon Comunal (Hacienda) and at Harvey Scott School, using \$15,000 of City funds (*Action Item 1.G*)
- Portland Public Schools has sited new portable buildings at Rigler and Harvey Scott schools to allow 8th graders to stay at their local school for the 2009/10 school year. Last school year 8th graders from these schools went to an academy at Madison High School. (*see Actions accomplished under Goal 1*)
- Safer Routes to Schools Program — Activities to encourage students to walk and bike to school were initiated at Rigler School (*Action Item 1.A*)
- Portland State University Masters of Urban and Regional Planning students completed a successful workshop project with community involvement on the Cully Blvd. Main Street: A Plan for Community-Serving Improvements (*supports Action Item 2.D*)
- Central NE Neighbors hosted a cross-cultural workshop in June; over 50 people attended and discussed ways to come together around three topics of interest from the action plan (*Action Item 4.B*)
- Portland Parks and Recreation (PPR) acquired a one acre park site on NE Alberta Street and 51st Avenue (*supports Action 3.D*)
- PPR has commenced interim improvements to the undeveloped Sacajawea Park (*supports Action 3.D*)
- Portland Bureau of Transportation (PBOT) has completed planning for the Cully Blvd. Green Street improvement and is in the engineering phase with construction anticipated over the next year (*supports Action 3.B*)

1. ACCOMPLISHMENTS (NOVEMBER 2008–NOVEMBER 2009)

- PBOT has completed two pedestrian crossing improvements along NE Killingsworth Street in Cully and is completing a third improvement in Concordia. (*Action 3.L*)
- Concordia University opened its new LEED-certified library with access to Multnomah County Library services. This library is open to Faubion School and all community members. (*supports Action 3.K*)
- Portland Bureau of Planning and Sustainability (BPS) staff made a presentation on the Cully-Concordia Community Assessment and Action Plan project, entitled *Portland's School-Based Community Planning Approach* to the National American Planning Association Conference in April. Included in the presentation was a Community Partners video produced by Portland Development Commission staff.

2. ACTIVITIES FOR 2009–2010 (Not in priority order)

- PBOT and school communities will pursue funds to implement engineering recommendations in *Faubion and Scott Safer Routes to Schools* reports and will seek opportunities to fund an engineering study for Rigler School
- A community partner will convene community organizations to develop a pilot transportation project to provide transportation services for students and families to SUN Community School programming
- An Early Childhood Development working group has formed and will work to address early childhood development in preparation for school. The Child Care Resource and Referral of Multnomah County will take the lead in completing an early childhood development assessment, including data gathering, focus groups and development of a strategic action plan
- Portland Community College will continue the new Adult English as Second Language classes and evaluate demand for more classes
- Multnomah County will promote the Employment Related Day Care (ERDC) program of child care assistance
- The Office of Neighborhood Involvement and Cully Association of Neighbors (CAN) will organize at least one community workshop at a local school on crime prevention and livability
- PDC/BPS and will continue to work with an Economic Development working group of partners to complete economic development activities related to market analyses, business retention and expansion, worker education and training, and prepare for a future Cully Main Street Rezoning project
- CAN/BPS/PBOT will study transit service needs and meet with Trimet to advocate for additional transit service in central Cully (along Cully Blvd) and to downtown where most Cully residents work; timely action due to Cully Blvd. Green Street project
- PBOT will continue to work with Cully communities to set local street improvement priorities and pursue funding to begin improvements
- BPS/PPR staff will continue to work with potential partners to explore the feasibility of a new community center for Cully-Concordia
- Central NE Neighbors will lead follow-up activities on cross-cultural education
- A community partner and BPS will research and hold discussions with Multnomah County about library needs in the Cully-Concordia area
- Community partners will hold Steering Committee meetings and work on a community-led implementation structure and Action Plan implementation
- BPS and community partners will hold quarterly meetings of the Community Discussion Group to continue the diverse partnership on Action Plan implementation