Skyway Solutions

A community agenda for revitalization

June 2009
After months of hard work we are pleased to present this Skyway Solutions report! We, the members of the Skyway Solutions Steering Group, in cooperation with King County’s Community Enhancement Initiative, Equity and Social Justice Initiative, and Pomegranate Center, enthusiastically support this plan for community-driven revitalization.

The Skyway Solutions project reflects the ideas and recommendations of the community members that participated in our seven month planning process.

Over 100 Skyway residents were involved in developing this plan. And as thrilled as we are about that level of involvement, we realize this still represents a small percentage of Skyway’s overall population. As Steering Group members and residents, we worked hard to ensure the process considered what is best for the entire community as we helped distill many ideas into the final six goals.

The six goals outlined in this plan represent, in our judgment, the best ways Skyway can become a vibrant, just, and sustainable community.

But this plan is only the beginning.

We know that the real meaning of these goals is how they are realized in the years to come and how well they are adapted to meet the future needs and opportunities of our growing, changing community.

We can all play a role in bringing this plan to life. Some of these recommendations need large amounts of funding and additional planning; others simply need good will and energy from community members. As you read this document, think about how you personally can get involved. Check out page 18 and the Appendix (page 19) to learn how you can participate or learn more about a specific project.

It is with great pleasure and enthusiasm that we, the Skyway Solutions Steering Committee, endorse the community’s ideas and recommendations represented in this report. We believe they are representative of the wishes of the Skyway community.

Sincerely,

[Signatures]
Participants

Skyway Solutions participants working together at the May 9th, 2009 “Action Circles” meeting.

Community members

Andre Benjamin*
Andriel Moore
Angela Kraft
Barbara Reich
Barbara Santos-Johnson
Bill Bowden*
Bobby Tucker
Brenda Pope
Brooke Vail
Carol Lynn Cole
Carolyn Velez*
Carolyn Sopher
Cece Jones*
Chris Patin
Christopher Hunt*
CJ Dancer*
Cynthia Green*
Dale Christie
Dandre Glas…
Danicka Kinzy
Dennis Cole*
Diane Gaylord
Don Patin
Don Wieckowicz
Dr. Israel Barsh
Dr. R. Blair
Elaine Ishihara
Ellie Savidge
Ericka Cowan
Eunyque Patu*
Fertis Howze
Fredrick Coats
Gamani Hayden*
Gene Lux
Gerald Kennedy
Gerri Barsh
Ginny Rabago
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Ira Sacharoff
James Johnson
Jan Kumasaka
Janae Hutchinson*
Janet Blum
Jay-Lon Weathington*
Jeannie McComb
Jen Moore
Jerry Sidwell
Jim Marcyes
Jo Simone
John Hall
John Schmitz
Joy Bryngelson*
Julius Jones*
KL Shannon
Kayla Grayson*
Kathleen Sidwell
Kevin Piepel
Kirsten Wilhelm*
Klaus Liebetanz
Kolin Frantz*
Larry Lafrance
LeMarco Vassar
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Marquita Shoecraft*
Maxwell Blanchard
Meg Pitman*
Michael Keller
Michael Majeed*
Michael Williams
Michael Tedin
Michele Savelle*
Michele Thomas
Nancy Berry
Nicholas Laurits Sidwell
Pari West
Paul Patu*
Paul Berry
Rev. Jesse Townsel*
Rev. Steve Baber
Richard Rivers
Richelle Frantz*
Rob Detzner*
Robert Delgado
Roberta Sutton
Rodney Wing
Ruby Patin
Ruth Frickle
Sam Simone*
Sherry Dionne*
Shyla Butler*
Sonja Bowden*
Stefanie Fox
Stephanie Lafrance
Syretta Whitehurst*
Theresa McLean*
Tim Goebel
Zoe Elizabeth vonBeck

King County Officials and Staff

Anthony Shoecraft
Butch Lovelace
Caren Adams
Diedre Andrus
Frana Milan
Jeremy Valenta
Councilmember Julia Patterson
Deputy Martin Hodge
Stefanie Fox

Pomegranate Center Staff

Milenko Matanovic
Bree Delgadillo

UW Student “Learning Observers”

Amada Wysocki
Kiley Thornton
Fazel Rabi Haqbeen
Jean de Heau
Rakocondrdndnina

“We have an opportunity to build what we want the community to be. It starts with the kids.”

- Gil Goins, Skyway resident

* = Steering committee member
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Renton Boeing plant ~ 1960s

Skyway Community Council meeting notice

Skyway Solutions meeting
Background

Skyway is a collection of neighborhoods at the top of West Hill, an unincorporated area of King County bordered by the cities of Seattle, Tukwila, and Renton in Washington State. Perched on a hill, it is blessed with stunning views of Mt. Rainier and the Olympic Mountains. Historically, Skyway was a community of sparsely settled farms and pastures. Beginning with an influx of servicemen coming home after World War II, it is now home to nearly 15,000 residents. These residents have come to cherish the following community assets:

► **Parks:** Skyway Park, Dead Horse Canyon, Earlington Park, and nearby Kubota Gardens
► **People:** the spirit of neighborliness, youth programs, long term residents, caring families, and rich diversity (ethnic, cultural and economic)
► **Nature:** views of the water and mountains, maple trees, wooded areas, and Taylor Creek
► **Institutions:** post office, library, churches, schools, Boys and Girls Club, regular neighborhood clean-ups, Fire District #20, and Renton Area Youth and Family Services (RAYS)

At the same time, Skyway faces a number of challenges. Among other things, there are grave concerns about high turnover in the business district, lack of jobs, concerns of crime, lack of pride, too few gathering places, not enough positive activities for youth, low morale, and racial polarization.

Today, Skyway is poised for transformation.

In October 2008, King County’s Community Enhancement Initiative (CEI) enlisted Pomegranate Center to facilitate and work with the Skyway community to develop the Skyway Solutions plan through a seven-month community-based planning process. CEI is a program grounded in the principles of equitable development, social justice and a fundamental respect for community-driven change. CEI helps create communities where everyone has an equal opportunity to reach their full potential.
Location of Skyway within King County

West Hill area

Skyway area
**Key Demographic Information**

### Median Household Income in 1999

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Income Level</th>
<th>Washington State</th>
<th>King County</th>
<th>Skyway: All households</th>
<th>Skyway: White households</th>
<th>Skyway: African-American households</th>
<th>Skyway: Asian households</th>
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Data from 2000 US Census

### Skyway Age Distribution

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Number of People</th>
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<td>85 and older</td>
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Data from 2000 US Census

### Skyway Ethnicity

#### ALL PEOPLE

- **African American**: 25%
- **White**: 43%
- **Asian / Pacific Islander**: 22%
- **Other**: 10%

Data from 2000 US Census

#### KIDS IN SCHOOL

- **African American**: 40%
- **White**: 14%
- **Asian / Pacific Islander**: 14%
- **Other**: 30%

Data from 2008 Office of Public Instruction
Planning process

“It’s up to us. We can’t expect our government officials to do something if we aren’t willing to get out there ourselves.”

- Skyway Solutions participant

Outcomes:

- Community Conversations and Community Meeting #1
  Identification of Skyway’s assets and areas for improvement and articulation of a vision

- Community Meeting #1 and Feb 21 Action Circles
  Identification of potential goals that support the vision and actions that support those goals

- Community Meeting #2 and May 9 Action Circles
  Refined goals and development of Action Plans

- Community Celebration, June 6
  Implementation of key actions and celebration of the community’s work
Skyway community members, King County, and Pomegranate Center collectively designed a unique planning process in an effort to engage meaningful community participation. This planning process, Skyway Solutions, began in November 2008 with over 50 Skyway residents who participated in a series of informal “living room” discussions. During these Community Conversations residents identified assets, weaknesses, and opportunities in their neighborhood.

In December 2009, a group of 25 Skyway community members formed a “Steering Committee.” This group met six times during the planning process to provide leadership, outreach and ongoing coordination with Pomegranate Center and King County staff.

The first of three Community Meetings was held in January 2009. Residents developed over 40 ideas for how to improve their community.

Over the following months, in Action Circles and another Community Meeting, community members:

- organized their ideas based on overarching themes, goals and values;
- prioritized their ideas using the Project Criteria – if an idea satisfied all or many of the criteria it became a priority;
- identified which actions can build upon already existing momentum and analyzed opportunities to renew or initiate partnerships;
- committed to get personally involved in leading their ideas into reality; and
- developed initial Action Plans

The outcome of this work is a vision for a positive, equitable Skyway – 6 key goals and menu of actions that support those goals, all of which were carefully filtered through the Project Criteria. These criteria which were developed by the Skyway community members, King County and Pomegranate Center to promote safety, sustainable development, environmental stewardship, health, equity and community capacity building.

To celebrate their hard work the community gathered in June of 2009. This Community Celebration marked the transition from planning to implementation. A completed Skyway Solutions report was broadly distributed, long-standing participants were thanked and honored, newcomers were welcomed and “action” was taken through a series of community-wide service projects.

“What I’m excited about is that some of us get to engage with adults and create a relationship because of this project.”
- CeCe Jones, teenage member of the Skyway Solutions Steering Group
Vision

In the future, Skyway will be a community:

- Rich in pride and with strong ethics of participation.
- Where all people feel safe.
- With a positive identity, filled with distinction and local character.
- With a vibrant business district with strong local representation.
- Known for its commitment to young people and creativity.
- Where people have access to safe parks, walking trails and connections to healthy foods.
Supporting the ongoing realization of this vision is an underlying participatory ethic of community service, democratic self-determination, inclusive leadership and involved, caring people who have learned to turn their differences into assets.

The purpose of this document is to move this vision forward. The planning participants identified six key goals to realize this broad vision, with each goal consisting of specific actions to support their implementation. The Action Plans, found in the Appendix (page 19), are initial recommendations for how each action can be realized.
Goals and Actions

(See the Appendix, page 19-21, for details of this action plan.)

Goal # 1

Create a participatory community, rich in pride

Skyway will encourage citizen groups and individuals to collaborate in their work to change our community for the better. We will promote initiative, promote ownership and empower the next generation of community stewards.

Actions

1.1 Form a welcoming committee

If people know one another they feel safer, more able to support each other in times of crisis and know how to navigate local resources.

1.2 Develop community logo and slogan

Help create a new, positive and future-oriented identity for Skyway.

1.3 Improve community-wide communication

Develop effective ways to communicate as broadly as possible while preventing duplication (see also action 4.6).

1.4 Organize events that engage a broad range of community members

Help connect neighbors, project a positive image and have fun.

1.5 Connect existing associations, efforts and activities with each other

Ensure that leaders and participants know of each others’ work to increase collaboration and efficiency.
**Goal # 2** *(See the Appendix, page 22-24, for details of this action plan.)*

**Improve safety for everyone**

Skyway will be a community where people feel safe. We will build on the momentum of the Public Safety Initiative to focus on connection, visibility and preparedness.

**Actions**

2.1 **Form a group to coordinate all efforts related to pedestrian and traffic safety**

Public safety is important for everyone and all efforts should be synchronized.

2.2 **Increase the number of block watches**

Grassroots effort to increase safety for all

2.3 **Ensure reliable funding for community policing**

2.4 **Increase pedestrian safety throughout community (see also action 6.5)**

2.5 **Advocating for traffic control projects where needed in the community**

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**Bill and Sonja want you to join in:**

It has been an incredible experience being involved in Skyway Solutions. We have met some of the nicest, most talented friends and neighbors we wouldn’t have met otherwise, and the fact that we are working together to improve our community makes it doubly rewarding.

We have also deeply appreciated the support of Pomegranate Center and King County in this endeavor, and we look forward to seeing the results.

- Sonja and Bill Bowden, Skyway residents and goal group leaders

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Family outing near the Post Office

Skyway Fire Station team
Goals and Actions, continued

See the Appendix, page 23-27, for details of this action plan.

Goal # 3

Develop a community filled with creativity, art and character

Skyway will be a vibrant, beautiful community that attracts sustainable development.

Actions

3.1 Form an art committee

Instigate coordinated activities to increase pride through events, celebrations and beautification.

3.2 Place artistic gateways at major points of entry

Create a new image for Skyway and foster creativity.

3.3 Host a competition to design the Skyway logo and slogan

3.4 Coordinate with business district leaders to beautify Renton Avenue

Make storefronts more welcoming.

3.5 Promote the installation of neighborhood art lofts

Artists bring creative energy and naturally encourage participation among different groups, fostering renewal.

Syretta and Dennis want you to join in:

“Skyway Solutions gives us parents an opportunity to set a healthy example for our children and youth at large by demonstrating our involvement in the community - it has been an incredible experience for my son Julius and me to build a future together.”

- Syretta Jones Whitehurst, Skyway resident and goal group leader

“Pride of place is the seed of renewal!”

- Dennis Cole, Skyway resident and goal group leader

“Pride of place is the seed of renewal!”

- Dennis Cole, Skyway resident and goal group leader
**Goal # 4** *(See the Appendix, page 28-30, for details.)*

**Stimulate a vibrant business district**

Skyway will have a thriving, locally supported business district realized through creative investments and partnerships.

**Actions**

4.1 **Conduct a study to learn what is needed for viable businesses to thrive in Skyway**

Successful businesses will support a vibrant local economy.

4.2 **Develop a process for attracting businesses to the neighborhood**

People of Skyway need to meet their shopping needs locally.

4.3 **Beautify Renton Avenue**

Collaborate with property owners and code enforcement agencies to upgrade and beautify Renton Avenue.

4.4 **Establish a business cooperative / incubator**

Turn an empty building into a “business greenhouse” where new entrepreneurs share expenses and support each other.

4.5 **Initiate a “shop local” campaign**

Help local businesses stay afloat and personalize otherwise impersonal transactions.

4.6 **Build kiosks that promote community awareness and local businesses**

Inform about community events, organizations and businesses.

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**Linda wants you to join in:**

“We already have a great location on top of the hill which is just waiting for more business! Now, let us bring in that business and support it. I say: let’s go shop at the top!”

- Linda Cassée, Skyway resident and goal group leader

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**West Hill Business Association**

**Taste of Louisiana Restaurant team; Iran Alexander, Jr (center) is the owner and main chef.**
Goal # 5

Foster youth development and engage young people in community life

Skyway will be a community that recognizes, nurtures and respects its youth.

Actions

5.1 Leverage and strengthen existing programs

Make the best use of existing resources and support programs that target at risk youth.

5.2 Organize events specific to youth

Instigate events that offer young people something to do and an outlet to connect with each other in a positive way.

5.3 Involve youth in community arts projects

Make Skyway more beautiful and give all people something to be proud of.

5.4 Promote multigenerational activities
   (see also action 6.6)

5.5 Form a Skyway Youth Council

5.6 Lay foundation for future Community Center

Create momentum to build a Community Center to serve as a glue to hold the community together and become a home away from home for many young people.

Paul wants you to join in:

“Be the change you want to see in the world!”

- Paul Patu, Skyway resident and goal group leader (shown with Julius Jones, right, and Kayla Grayson, left)
Goal # 6 (See the Appendix, page 34-36, for details.)

Strengthen recreational opportunities and improve health for all

Skyway will have lots of opportunities for community members to exercise, meet new people, stay healthy, and have fun.

Actions

6.1 Implement Skyway Park Community Vision

Skyway Park, once revitalized, will provide a safe place for many activities for all generations: games, walks, celebrations, art, gardening, etc.

6.2 Implement Healthy Lifestyle Initiatives

Increase walking opportunities and access to healthy foods

6.3 Create a Farmer’s Market

Provide a gathering place that also stimulates health and local economy.

6.4 Test plots for P-Patch gardens

Enhance healthy living and stewardship from community members of all ages.

6.5 Identify walking trails / routes

Promote a network of trails to enhance health and fellowship.

6.6 Form a Gardening Club with Youth

It will build stronger bond between youth and adults, enhance healthy lifestyles, and beautify the community.

Ginny wants you to join in:

“I think Skyway Solutions provides a way for the community to come together, not only to identify problems but also to explore ways to resolve them. It’s easier to see that we can make a difference when I meet others who are also involved.”

- Ginny Rabago, Skyway resident and goal group leader
Neighborhood information

For more information about Skyway Solutions: http://skysolutions.wikidot.com/

To find out more about groups helping to make this a great neighborhood:

- West Hill Community Council: http://www.westhillcommunity.com/
- West Hill Business Association: http://www.westhillbusiness.com/
- Friends of Skyway Park: http://groups.google.com/group/friends-of-skyway-park
- West Hill Connects: http://groups.google.com/group/west-hill-connects
- West Hill Public Safety Initiative: http://groups.google.com/group/west-hill-public-safety
- Renton Area Youth and Family Services: http://www.rays.org/
- Skyway Boys and Girls Club: http://www.positiveplace.org/
- BuRSST (Resources for Burien, Renton, SeaTac, Skyway, and Tukwila): http://www.bursst.org/

Goal / Action leaders contact information

#1 - Create a community rich in pride: Dennis Cole  206-772-0515  windwood@eskimo.com
#2 - Improve safety for everyone: Bill & Sonja Bowden  206-446-5644  persimmon1859@gmail.com
#3 - Develop a community full of creativity, art and character: Michèle Savelle  206-817-1328  michelesavelle@earthlink.net
#4 - Stimulate a vibrant business district: Linda Cassée  206 860 2973 (home) or 206 550 9077 (cell)  linda.cassee@gmail.com
#5 - Foster youth development and engage young people in community life: Paul Patu  PPatu@WorldVision.org  Syretta Jones Whitehurst  206-913-2370  cheffjones7@hotmail.com
#6 - Strengthen recreational opportunities and improve health for all: Ginny Rabago  206-713-7056  r.ginny@gmail.com
### Goal # 1
Create a participatory community rich in pride

#### 1.1 Form a welcoming commitee

"Help us define what it means to feel welcome!"

**Objectives:**
Create opportunities for people to know each other, promoting a sense of safety
Build community support and access to information
  - Tools to navigate local resources effectively
  - When faced with crisis, a network is in place

**Existing momentum and potential partnerships:**
- Outdoor Movie Nights
- Neighborhood Walkers
- Friends of the Library
- West Hill Website
- Fire Department
- Local Real Estate Agents

**Leading the ACTION:**
Nancy Berry

**Timeline:**
BEGINS immediately
an ONGOING, community-driven process

**To join this ACTION, contact:**
Nancy Berry
pnberry1@earthlink.net

#### 1.2 Develop a Skyway logo

**Objectives:**
Create a new, positive, future-oriented identity for Skyway
  - Support business development & urban renewal
  - Build community cohesion
  - Engage Youth

**Existing momentum and potential partnerships:**
- Skyway Solutions Committee working to build kiosks (see Action 4.6)
- Outdoor Movie Nights
- Neighborhood Walkers
- Friends of the Library

**Leading the ACTION:**
Dennis Cole, Klaus Liebetanz, Carolyn Sopher, Michèle Savelle

**Timeline:**
BEGINS immediately
Implemented by June 2010
  - Competition & selection process to be completed within one year

**To join this ACTION, contact:**
www.skywaysolutions.wikidot.com
Appendix - Action Plans

Goal # 1
Create a participatory community rich in pride

1.3 Improve community-wide communication

**Objectives:**
Provide user-friendly communication to inform interested community members about events, projects and initiatives

Use a variety of methods to reach as many people as possible
- On the street, on paper, kiosks, online, networks are in place, flyers, newsletter, at events

**Existing momentum and potential partnerships:**
- http://www.westhillcommunity.com/
- Google groups (see page )
  West Hill Connects:
  http://groups.google.com/group/west-hill-connects
- Skyway Solutions wiki:
  www.skysolutions.wikidot.com

**Leading the ACTION:**
No leader has stepped up to this task at this time

**Timeline:**
BEGINs immediately
an ONGOING, community-driven process

**To join this ACTION, contact:**
www.skysolutions.wikidot.com

1.4 Organize events that engage a broad range of community members

“Help us mark new beginnings, honor long-term traditions, and celebrate the seasons”

**Objectives:**
Connect neighbors from all walks of life to one another

Engage many hands, of many sizes, in the event planning

**Existing momentum and potential partnerships:**
- Annual Car Show
- Skyway Methodist Church Community Fair

**Leading the ACTION:**
Paul Patu, Nancy Berry, Anthony Shoecraft

**Timeline:**
BEGINs immediately
an ONGOING, community-driven process

**To join this ACTION, contact:**
www.skysolutions.wikidot.com
Goal # 1
Create a participatory community rich in pride

1.5 Connect existing associations, efforts & activities with each other

“One group’s struggle helps build another’s strategy”

Objectives:

Build upon existing momentum

Help people understand how different projects are connected

Prevent unnecessary duplication

Support community leaders

- Open communication invites fresh ideas from all sources
- Wise plans honor available energy, talent, and funding
- We learn as we go as we grow

Existing momentum and potential partnerships:

- Affiliated Skyway Solutions communication teams (see Action 1.3, 1.4)
- West Hill Website

Leading the ACTION:

No current leader

Timeline:

BEINGS immediately
an ONGOING, community-driven process

To join this ACTION, contact:

www.skysolutions.wikidot.com

Outdoor bulletin stands will be an effective way of informing the Skyway community of all kinds of events.
Goal # 2
Improve safety for everyone

2.1 Form a group to coordinate all efforts related to pedestrian and traffic safety

“Safety is inclusive. We can actively take ownership of our peace of mind!”

**Objectives:**
Promote safety for walkers, bikers and drivers throughout the community:
- Improve amenities: crosswalks, street lights, intersections
- Increase awareness of safety-related issues
- Activate people in taking more responsibility for safety
- Synchronize efforts of different groups

**Existing momentum and potential partnerships:**
- West Hill Public Safety Initiative & Survey
- Neighborhood Walkers
- Block Watches
- Fire Department
- Affiliated Skyway Solutions communication teams (see Action 1.1, 1.3, 1.4)
- Renton Ave Corridor Study

**Leading the ACTION:**
Sonja and Bill Bowden

**Timeline:**
BEGINS immediately an ONGOING, community-driven process

**To join this ACTION, contact:**
www.skysolutions.wikidot.com

2.2 Increase the number of Block Watches

“Help this grassroots action team get ready for National Night Out – Tuesday, August 4th!”

**Objectives:**
Create a coordinated network
Learn from each other
Take action to combat fear

**Existing momentum and potential partnerships:**
- WHCC website link
- Existing Blockwatch Captains
- Police & Fire Departments
- Apartment Managers
- Affiliated Skyway Solutions communication teams (see Action 1.1, 1.3, 1.4)
- Renton Ave Corridor Study

**Leading the ACTION:**
Bill & Sonja Bowden, Ginny Rabago, Nancy Berry, Anthony Shoecraft

**Timeline:**
BEGINS immediately an ONGOING, community-driven process

**To join this ACTION, contact:**
www.skysolutions.wikidot.com
Goal # 2
Improve safety for everyone

2.3 Ensure reliable funding for Community Policing

**Objectives:**
Ensure community policing storefront to address safety issues at the local level

Secure a reliable funding source for a police storefront with special district status
  * similar to Fire Department funding
  * not subject to yearly budgetary fluctuations

**Existing momentum and potential partnerships:**

- West Hill Public Safety Initiative & Survey
- West Hill Public Safety Google Group http://groups.google.com/group/west-hill-public-safety
- Letters and petitions to preserve storefront for 2009
- Relationship with Sheriff Rahr
- Affiliated Skyway Solutions communication teams (see Action 1.1, 1.3, 1.4)

**Leading the ACTION:**
Public Safety Initiative Coordinators

**Timeline:**
BEGINS immediately an ONGOING, community-driven process

**To join this ACTION, contact:**
Sonja Bowden
persimmon1859@gmail.com
206-446-5644

2.4 Increase pedestrian safety throughout community

“We need you to be our Pedestrian Safety Coordinator!”

**Objectives:**
Make Skyway a walkable community

Create and maintain well-lit, well-maintained sidewalks & crossings
  * Organize community-wide hearings to identify and address concerns
  * Pursue creative funding options

Pedestrian Safety Coordinator to lead volunteer efforts

**Existing momentum and potential partnerships:**

- West Hill Public Safety Google Group http://groups.google.com/group/west-hill-public-safety
- Neighborhood Walkers

**Leading the ACTION:**
Bill & Sonja Bowden

**Timeline:**
BEGINS immediately an ONGOING, community-driven process

**To join this ACTION, contact:**
Bill Bowden
persimmon1859@gmail.com
206-446-5644
Goal # 2
Improve safety for everyone

2.5 Advocate for traffic control projects

“Individuals can write directly to King County Roads to let them know there’s a broad base of grassroots interest and concern.”

**Objectives:**

- Secure a Traffic Safety Coordinator to lead volunteer efforts
- Prioritize areas of most need with a community-wide survey
  - Make sure that it is translated for all languages

**Existing momentum and potential partnerships:**

- West Hill Public Safety Google Group
  [http://groups.google.com/group/west-hill-public-safety](http://groups.google.com/group/west-hill-public-safety)
- Block Watch Captains
- Public Safety Initiative work with DOT re: Creston Point
- Speed trailers
- Existing speed bumps

**Leading the ACTION:**

Public Safety Initiative Coordinators

**Timeline:**

BEGINS immediately
an ONGOING, community-driven process

**To join this ACTION, contact:**

Sonja Bowden
persimmon1859@gmail.com
206-446-5644

A planted traffic circle can make a big difference in neighborhood safety.
### Goal # 3
**Develop a community filled with creativity, art and character**

#### 3.1 Form an art committee

*Pride of place is the seed of renewal.*

**Objectives:**

- Initiate art events and projects that celebrate Skyway
  - Instigate community actions to beautify, honor culture, and build pride of place
- Ensure membership represents broad specializations, a variety of ages, and a diversity of cultures
- Attract regional artists to Skyway

**Existing momentum and potential partnerships:**

- Outdoor cinema & mural project
- Skyway Park Gateway Project
- Skyway Solutions wiki: [www.skysolutions.wikidot.com](http://www.skysolutions.wikidot.com)
- Drumline PNW
- Existing art classes
- Skyway Youth Council
- Affiliated Skyway Solutions communication teams (see Action 1.1, 1.3, 1.4)

**Leading the ACTION:**

Klaus Liebetanz, Michele Savelle, Dennis Cole, Carolyn Sopher

**Timeline:**

BEGINS immediately

an ONGOING, community-driven process

**To join this ACTION, contact:**

[www.skysolutions.wikidot.com](http://www.skysolutions.wikidot.com)

#### 3.2 Place artistic gateways at major points of entry

*We need a couple good researchers – for permitting & grants – and people who like to plan!*

**Objectives:**

- Create unique and identifiable markers celebrating entry into Skyway
- Beautify Renton Ave

**Existing momentum and potential partnerships:**

- Skyway Solutions wiki: [www.skysolutions.wikidot.com](http://www.skysolutions.wikidot.com)
- Affiliated Skyway Solutions teams (see Action 1.2, 1.5, 3.1, 4.6, 5.3)

**Leading the ACTION:**

Klaus Liebetanz, Michele Savelle, Dennis Cole, Carolyn Velez, Kimberly Stelly

**Timeline:**

BEGINS within 6-months... the establishment of an Art Committee is the first step.

To be COMPLETED by 2013

**To join this ACTION, contact:**

[www.skysolutions.wikidot.com](http://www.skysolutions.wikidot.com)
Goal # 3
Develop a community filled with creativity, art and character

### 3.3 Host a competition to design the Skyway logo & slogan

**Objectives:**

Create a design and slogan that is broadly recognized as Skyway’s brand

Organize a design competition that involves many community members

**Existing momentum and potential partnerships:**

- Skyway Solutions wiki: www.skysolutions.wikidot.com
- Affiliated Skyway Solutions communication teams (see Action 1.5, 3.1, 4.2, 4.5, 4.6)

**Leading the ACTION:**

Dennis Cole, Nancy Berry, Linda Cassée, Mark Velez, Carolyn Velez, Michèle Savelle, Klaus Liebetanz

**Timeline:**

BEGINS at the end of 2009
an ONGOING, community-driven process

**To join this ACTION, contact:**

www.skysolutions.wikidot.com

---

### 3.4 Coordinate with business district leaders to beautify Renton Avenue

**Objectives:**

Partner with local businesses to work on beautification projects
- build planters in business district
- develop a detailed improvement plan

Collaborate with Metro to enhance bus shelters

Develop a stewardship plan in which ongoing beautification efforts are monitored and maintained

**Existing momentum and potential partnerships:**

- Skyway Solutions wiki: www.skysolutions.wikidot.com
- Affiliated Skyway Solutions teams (see Action 1.5, 3.1, 4.2, 4.5, 4.6)
- West Hill Business Association
- West Hill Community Council

**Leading the ACTION:**

Dennis Cole, Nancy Berry, Linda Cassée, Mark Velez, Carolyn Velez, Michèle Savelle, Klaus Liebetanz, Jeremy Valenta

**Timeline:**

BEGINS at the end of 2009
an ONGOING, community-driven process

**To join this ACTION, contact:**

Carolyn Velez:
www.skysolutions.wikidot.com
Goal # 3
Develop a community filled with creativity, art and character

3.5 Promote the installation of neighborhood art lofts

Objectives:
Partner with property owner(s) to create an Art Loft plan
- encourage artists to express Skyway culture and character
- support Skyway’s artists and attract regional artists to Skyway

Existing momentum and potential partnerships:
- Skyway Solutions wiki: www.skysolutions.wikidot.com
- Empty existing buildings
- Existing art community

Leading the ACTION:
Klaus Liebetanz, Michèle Savelle, Dennis Cole, Carolyn Velez

Timeline:
BEGINS at the end of 2010
an ONGOING, community-driven process

To join this ACTION, contact:
www.skysolutions.wikidot.com

Detail of the decorated bus shelter on Renton Ave in front of the 7-11. There are several more shelters that could be addressed.
## Goal # 4
Stimulate a vibrant business district

### 4.1 Viability study

**Objectives:**
- Learn what is needed for local businesses to thrive
  - Boost Skyway economy through local businesses

**Existing momentum and potential partnerships:**
- West Hill Business Association
- Chambers of Commerce
- Local Real Estate Agents

**Leading the ACTION:**
Mark Velez, Sam Simone

**Timeline:**
BEGINS immediately an ONGOING, community-driven process

**To join this ACTION, contact:**
Sam Simone
junk4sam@comcast.net

### 4.2 Develop a process for attracting businesses to the neighborhood

**Objectives:**
- Provide Skyway residents the opportunity to meet their shopping needs locally
- Identify local consumer priorities through a community-wide survey
  - Ensure that the survey is translated for languages used in the community
- Improve the existing business district and make it attractive to new businesses

**Existing momentum and potential partnerships:**
- West Hill Business Association
- Affiliated Skyway Solutions teams (see Action 1.3, 1.5, 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 3.4)

**Leading the ACTION:**
Linda Cassée, Mark Velez, Sam Simone, Michael Majeed

**Timeline:**
BEGINS within 6-months... the establishment of a Viability Study is the first step. an ONGOING, community-driven process

**To join this ACTION, contact:**
Mark Velez
mrseal1@comcast.net
Goal # 4
Stimulate a vibrant business district

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>4.3 Beautify Renton Avenue</th>
<th>4.4 Establish a business cooperative / incubator</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Objectives:</strong></td>
<td>“Might we partner with an intern to research sustainable development opportunities for our community?”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Create incentives for owners along Renton Ave to improve their property</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Coordinate a Stewardship Plan to protect investments</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Partner with representatives of appropriate government agencies to enforce code violations</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Existing momentum and potential partnerships:</strong></td>
<td><strong>Objectives:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Code enforcement officer Jen Brazeal, King County 206-296-7264</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Web referral form</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Local Real Estate Agents</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Affiliated Skyway Solutions teams (see Action 3.4)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Leading the ACTION:</strong></td>
<td><strong>Leading the ACTION:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theresa McLean</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Timeline:</strong></td>
<td><strong>Timeline:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BEGINS immediately… Stewardship Plan will be necessary to sustain beautification efforts an ONGOING, community-driven process</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>To join this ACTION, contact:</strong></td>
<td><strong>To join this ACTION, contact:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theresa McLean <a href="mailto:dmclean@blarg.net">dmclean@blarg.net</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nancy Berry <a href="mailto:pnberry1@earthlink.net">pnberry1@earthlink.net</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Theresa McLean**

dmclean@blarg.net

**Nancy Berry**

pnberry1@earthlink.net

**West Hill Business Association**

**Incubator examples online:** R.S.V.P. / S.B.A.

**Affiliated Skyway Solutions teams**

(see Action 1.5, 3.4)
### Goal # 4

Stimulate a vibrant business district

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>4.5 Initiate a “Shop Local” campaign</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Objectives:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support Skyway businesses to build a vibrant local economy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Local businesses refer one another to partners and consumers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Develop tools to help Skyway residents know and support locally owned businesses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Community members take ownership by &quot;investing&quot; in Skyway's future</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Contributing to local economy is something everyone can do</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Existing momentum and potential partnerships:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- West Hill Business Association</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Renton Chamber of Commerce</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Local translators</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Affiliated Skyway Solutions teams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(see Action 1.1, 1.3, 1.5, 3.3, 3.4, 4.1, 4.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Leading the ACTION:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nancy Berry, Mark Velez, Linda Cassée, Sam Simone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Timeline:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BEGINS immediately an ONGOING, community-driven process</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>4.6 Build kiosks that promote community awareness and local business</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Objectives:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Make it easy for Skyway people to know what is going on</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Shop Local” incentives are presented in an accessible format</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Community members view business leaders as partners</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Existing momentum and potential partnerships:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- West Hill Business Association</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Affiliated Skyway Solutions communication teams (see Action 1.3, 1.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Leading the ACTION:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No leader yet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Timeline:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BEGINS immediately an ONGOING, community-driven process</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**To join this ACTION, contact:**

www.skysolutions.wikidot.com
Goal # 5
Foster youth development and engage young people in community life

5.1 Leverage and strengthen existing programs

“Help us kick off a Youth Connects Resource Fair, September 2009!”

**Objectives:**

Develop a Youth Resources Guide

- engage youth in developing an asset map to identify existing programs

**Existing momentum and potential partnerships:**

- Boys & Girls Club
- Schools
- Parks
- West Hill Community Council
- Urban Family Center
- King County
- Affiliated Skyway Solutions teams (see Action 1.3, 1.5, 2.2, 4.6)

**Leading the ACTION:**

Carolyn Sopher, Andriel Moore, Paul Patu, Rob Detzner, Julius Jones, Kayla Grayson, Michael Majeed

**Timeline:**

BEGINS immediately an ONGOING, community-driven process

**To join this ACTION, contact:**

www.skysolutions.wikidot.com

5.2 Organize events specific to youth

“Carnival, picnic, or block party- we could use your ideas this summer!”

**Objectives:**

Provide Youth with activities and support specific to their needs and interests

- Increase opportunities for youth to feel invested in something positive and connected to their community

**Existing momentum and potential partnerships:**

- Holiday events at VFW & Urban Family Center
- Sports teams at schools
- Boys & Girls Club
- National Night Out (Blockwatch)
- Affiliated Skyway Solutions communication teams (see Action 1.3, 1.4, 1.5, 2.2, 3.1)

**Leading the ACTION:**

Julius Jones, Rob Detzner, Kayla Grayson, Carol Lynn Cole, Andriel Moore

**Timeline:**

BEGINS immediately an ONGOING, community-driven process

**To join this ACTION, contact:**

www.skysolutions.wikidot.com
### Goal # 5
Foster youth development and engage young people in community life

#### 5.3 Involve youth in community art projects

“As we complete one mural, we’ll be planning the next! Help us spread the color around!”

**Objectives:**

Provide public expressions of creativity that youth can take pride in

Initiate community building activities that leave a positive legacy

Use the creation of art as a youth mentoring / apprenticeship opportunity

**Existing momentum and potential partnerships:**

- 129th St. Mural Project
- Urban Family Center
- RAYS Family
- Affiliated Skyway Solutions teams (see Action 1.2, 1.4, 1.5, 3.1, 5.2)

**Leading the ACTION:**

Carolyn Sopher, Andriel Moore, Rob Detzner, Julius Jones, Kayla Grayson

**Timeline:**

BEGINS immediately an ONGOING, community-driven process

**To join this ACTION, contact:**

Paul & Shantel Patu
ppatu@worldvision.org

---

#### 5.4 Promote multi-generational activities

**Objectives:**

Organize community actions that intentionally invite young people to work with adults

Increase mentoring programs

**Existing momentum and potential partnerships:**

- Urban Family Center
- Boys & Girls Club
- National Night Out (Blockwatch)
- Skyway Outdoor Cinema
- Affiliated Skyway Solutions teams (see Action 1.1, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5, 2.2, 3.1, 5.1, 6.1)

**Leading the ACTION:**

No leader yet

**Timeline:**

BEGINS immediately an ONGOING, community-driven process

**To join this ACTION, contact:**

www.skysolutions.wikidot.com
Goal # 5
Foster youth development and engage young people in community life

5.5 Form a Skyway Youth Council

“Give me a job, and you instantly get me involved!”

Objectives:

- Enhance opportunities that nurture tomorrow’s Skyway leaders
- Integrate youth voices into community plans
- Create opportunities for dialogue between youth and adults

Existing momentum and potential partnerships:

- Urban Family Center
- Boys & Girls Club
- World Vision
- Affiliated Skyway Solutions teams (see Action 1.2, 1.4, 1.5, 3.1, 5.2)

Leading the ACTION:

Syretta Whitehurst, Julius Jones, Paul Patu, Shantel Patu

Timeline:

BEGINS immediately an ONGOING, community-driven process

To join this ACTION, contact:

Paul & Shantel Patu
PPatu@WorldVision.org

5.6 Lay foundation for future community center

“Let’s have grant writing underway by the end of 2009! Writers, researchers…we need your skills!”

Objectives:

- Develop a realistic vision and identify the needs that a community center could accommodate
  - provide a safe, creative, healthy home-away-from-home for youth
  - create a place that serves many generations and functions

Existing momentum and potential partnerships:

- Solutions community-planning model (community conversations, steering group, action circles)
- Foodbank Move
- Affiliated Skyway Solutions teams (see Action 1.4, 1.5, 2.1, 2.2, 2.2, 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 5.1)

Leading the ACTION:

Carolyn Sopher, Paul Patu, Rob Detzner, Michael Majeed, Julius Jones, Kayla Grayson, Andriel Moore

Timeline:

BEGINS immediately an ONGOING, community-driven process

To join this ACTION, contact:

Paul Patu
ppatu@worldvision.org
## Goal # 6
Strengthen recreational opportunities and improve health for all

### 6.1 Implement Skyway Park Community Vision

“Pulling out weeds, or pulling in funds – there’s a place for you in the making!”

**Objectives:**

Ensure that Skyway Park is a well-used community asset and use the Skyway Park Community Vision as a guide for improvements

- Skyway Park provides healthy opportunities for the people of Skyway – walks, sports, nature, learning & celebration

**Existing momentum and potential partnerships:**

- Friends of Skyway Park
- Neighborhood Walkers
- Urban Family Center
- Affiliated Skyway Solutions teams (see Action 1.4, 1.5, 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 3.2, 4.6, 5.1, 5.2, 5.4, 5.5)

**Leading the ACTION:**

Ginny Rabago, Nancy Berry

**Timeline:**

BEGINS immediately an ONGOING, community-driven process

**To join this ACTION, contact:**

Ginny Rabago
rginny@gmail.com

### 6.2 Implement healthy lifestyles initiatives

**Objectives:**

Promote safe trails that lead to a variety of recreational opportunities

Connect gardening, nutrition, stewardship and community

Ensure that all generations and cultures have access to healthy food

**Existing momentum and potential partnerships:**

- Friends of Skyway Park
- Neighborhood Walkers
- Local restaurants
- Earlington Greenhouse
- Urban Family Center
- Affiliated Skyway Solutions teams (see Action 1.1, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5, 2.4, 4.6, 5.1, 5.4, 5.5)

**Leading the ACTION:**

Ginny Rabago

**Timeline:**

BEGINS immediately an ONGOING, community-driven process

**To join this ACTION, contact:**

Ginny Rabago
rginny@gmail.com
Goal # 6
Strengthen recreational opportunities and improve health for all

6.3 Create a farmers’ market

“Help us create a weekly tradition, and celebrate local bounty!”

Objectives:

Create access to the healthy foods from local farms

Provide a place for community gathering, around food, music and art

Encourage networking with artists, master gardeners and local entrepreneurs

Contribute to the local economy and the vitality of the business district

Existing momentum and potential partnerships:

- West Hill’s Farmer’s Market Association
- Affiliated Skyway Solutions teams (see Action 1.4, 1.5, 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 3.1, 3.4, 4.3, 4.5, 5.4, 6.2)

Leading the ACTION:

Ginny Rabago, Bill Bowden, Sonja Bowden, Sam Simone

Timeline:

BEGINS immediately
an ONGOING, community-driven process

To join this ACTION, contact:

Sam Simone
junk4simone@comcast.net

6.4 Test plots for P-Patch gardens

“Raised beds by June 6th, but that’s just the beginning! If dirt’s not your interest, gardeners need homemade cookies!”

Objectives:

Provide access to space for cultivating food collectively, locally and sustainably

Learn from the successes of Department of Neighborhoods program

Yet another opportunity for community members to work together and enjoy each others’ company

Existing momentum and potential partnerships:

- Friends of Skyway Park
- Local Hardware
- King County
- Earlington Greenhouse
- Urban Family Center
- Affiliated Skyway Solutions teams (see Action 1.2, 1.4, 1.5, 2.4, 4.5, 5.1, 5.4, 6.1)

Leading the ACTION:

Ginny Rabago, Theresa McLean, Sonja Bowden, Sam Simone

Timeline:

BEGINS immediately
an ONGOING, community-driven process

To join this ACTION, contact:

Ginny Rabago
rginny@gmail.com
206-713-7056
## Appendix - Action Plans

### Goal # 6

Strengthen recreational opportunities and improve health for all

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>6.5 Identify walking trails / routes</th>
<th>6.6 Form a Gardening Club with youth</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Objectives:</strong></td>
<td><strong>Objectives:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provide safe, pedestrian-friendly opportunities to travel through the neighborhood</td>
<td>Provide opportunities for skilled and motivated youth to lead beautification efforts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase public safety by creating a beat, and walking it together</td>
<td>Promote inter-generational community building, mentoring and stewardship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Build fellowship through restoration and recreation</td>
<td>Contribute to access of healthy, locally grown food</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Existing momentum and potential partnerships:**

- Neighborhood Walkers
- West Hill Public Safety Initiative & google group: [http://groups.google.com/group/west-hill-public-safety](http://groups.google.com/group/west-hill-public-safety)
- Skyway Park Initiative
- Feet First
- Blockwatch
- Affiliated Skyway Solutions teams (see Action 1.4, 1.5, 2.1, 2.2, 5.2, 6.1, 6.2)

**Leading the ACTION:**

Ginny Rabago, Bill Bowden, Sonja Bowden, Theresa McLean, Rob Detzner

**Timeline:**

BEGINs immediately an ONGOING, community-driven process

**To join this ACTION, contact:**

Sonja Bowden
persimmon1859@gmail.com
206-446-5644

**Existing momentum and potential partnerships:**

- Friends of Skyway Park
- Earlington Greenhouse
- Urban Family Center
- Traffic Safety Coordinator
- Greentree Apartments
- Campbell Hill Garden Project
- Blackberry restoration work
- Schools
- Boys & Girls Club
- Affiliated Skyway Solutions teams (see Action 1.1, 1.4, 1.5, 2.5, 4.6, 5.1, 5.2, 5.4, 5.5, 6.2, 6.3, 6.4)

**Leading the ACTION:**

Ginny Rabago, Theresa McLean, Sonja Bowden, Rob Detzner, Bill Bowden

**Timeline:**

BEGINs immediately an ONGOING, community-driven process

**To join this ACTION, contact:**

Ginny Rabago
rginny@gmail.com
206-713-7056
Special thanks

Support for Skyway Solutions includes collaborative funding from several King County agencies, including:

- Office of Strategic Planning and Performance Management
- Office of Management and Budget
- Parks and Recreation Division
- King County Sheriff
- Public Health-Seattle & King County
- Community Services Division
- Mental Health, Chemical Abuse and Dependency Services Division
- Roads Services
- Water and Land Resources Division

Additional support for this project comes from the West Hill Community Council, West Hill Business Association, and the Neighbor to Neighbor Fund.

We are also very grateful to the Skyway Boys and Girls Club for generously donating staff time and meeting space to this process.

Many thanks to everyone at Pomegranate Center (www.pomegranate.org), including Milenko Matanovic and Bree Delgadillo, for their strong commitment to this community, and for providing a portion of their services pro bono. Thank you also to Pomegranate volunteers, including Lisa Reynolds and Brooke Vail.

Skyway Solutions is made possible only through the dedicated work of volunteers in the community who served on the steering committee and participated in this process. Special thanks to Skyway resident Michèle Savelle (www.michelesavelle.com) for lending her graphic design talents and map skills to the creation of this report.
Skyway Solutions invites YOU!