

# Weed & Seed

**SEATTLE**

REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY



Cal Anderson Park | Central Site



Rainier Ave Bus Stop | Southeast Site



T.T. Minor Park | Central Site





Produced in 2006 by:



Seattle Neighborhood Group



Seattle Police Department



Seattle Police Foundation

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(Top) Southwest Site CPT

- Seattle Police Department

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Steering Committee  
Seattle Weed and Seed

Dear Committee Members:

It is my great pleasure to partner with Seattle Police Department, Seattle's Human Services Department, the Seattle Neighborhood Group and all the dedicated organizations working together on the Seattle Weed and Seed Initiative. I especially want to commend the residents in our Central, Southeast and West Seattle neighborhoods for their commitment to enhancing public safety as partners in Weed and Seed. The achievements of the residents in these neighborhoods have surpassed our expectations and serve as models throughout the country.

As the Central site "graduates" to alumnus status, it is impressive to see the sustainability efforts underway. Equally impressive is the growth of the programs in Southeast Seattle and West Seattle.

Weed and Seed has been a great success in our city and the partnerships developed through the program will help sustain its success for many years to come. The U. S. Department of Justice is proud to play a part in this important program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John McKay".

JOHN McKAY  
United States Attorney



# What is Weed & Seed?

Weed & Seed is a federal initiative managed through the Department of Justice Community Capacity Development Office (CCDO). The mission of Weed & Seed is to prevent, control, and reduce violent crime, drug abuse, and gang activity in high-crime neighborhoods across the country by “weeding” out the most violent crimes while “seeding” the area through social and economic revitalization. Weed & Seed helps communities help themselves, enabling them to develop solutions to public safety problems and to strengthen leadership to implement and sustain those solutions. Weed & Seed sites across the country range in size from several neighborhood blocks to 15 square miles.



The U.S. Attorney’s office is the co-applicant for all Weed & Seed sites, and in order to be considered for Weed & Seed funding, communities work closely with the U.S. Attorney’s Office to identify and define a strategy for addressing crime and community needs. Communities that are “Officially Recognized” as Weed & Seed sites by the CCDO are eligible for up to \$225,000 per year in federal funding to implement strategies for deterring crime, promoting economic growth, and enhancing quality of life. Official Recognition designation lasts for five years only. After the five-year period, it is expected that communities will sustain the efforts of Weed & Seed through other means.

The Seattle Police Department is the grantee and fiscal agent for Seattle’s three Weed & Seed sites, which are located in the Central, Southeast, and Southwest neighborhoods of the City. As with all Weed & Seed sites across the country, Seattle’s sites focus on the four elements of the National Weed & Seed Strategy, which are:

- Law Enforcement
- Community Policing
- Prevention, Intervention, and Treatment
- Neighborhood Restoration

An evaluation completed several years ago of Weed & Seed sites around the country indicated that while crime was going down nationally, those areas with Weed & Seed had a greater drop in crime than the surrounding communities.

Additional information can be found on the CCDO website, at [www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ccdo](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ccdo).



# Program Organization



The Seattle Weed & Seed Steering Committee is unique in that one steering committee oversees all of Seattle's Weed & Seed sites. This reduces duplication of effort and allows for ideas and best practices to be shared among sites.

## Getting Involved

The Seattle Weed & Seed Steering Committee encourages participation from business, schools, social services, neighborhood residents, representatives from grassroots organizations, and government who bring a combination of skills, commitment, and vision to our Steering Committee. The Steering Committee especially seeks individuals who are in a position to deliver the leadership and resources necessary to affect real and lasting change in our Weed & Seed neighborhoods. Please feel free to call Barb Biondo, the Seattle Weed and Seed Program Coordinator at 206-323-9671 or email ([barb@sngi.org](mailto:barb@sngi.org)) if you would like more information about Steering Committee roles and responsibilities, or the application process.

## Program Coordinators

Weed & Seed Program Coordinators provide management and support for the Seattle Weed & Seed Steering Committee and workgroups. They plan and implement day-to-day site activities as well as long-term initiatives and oversee weeding and seeding strategies for the sites.

## The Steering Committee

The most powerful component of Seattle's Weed & Seed program is its Steering Committee. This committee includes a variety of law enforcement organizations (federal, state, county and city), service provider organizations, and residential community members. All programs that are funded by Weed and Seed are reviewed, approved, and held accountable by the Steering Committee. Site residents have taken on leadership roles on the Steering Committee, and take real ownership in Weed & Seed programs and initiatives.



# Grant Management

“Working in the communities of Central, Southeast, and Southwest has been a very rewarding experience. We have developed a process in Seattle where residents have a clear role in selecting and monitoring the Seed agencies providing services in their neighborhoods. As a result, residents have developed a true sense of ownership and investment in the programs receiving Weed & Seed funds.”

- Suni Tolton, Seattle Seed Coordinator



## Financial Data

Of the \$225,000 received in Federal Weed & Seed funding annually for each of Seattle’s Weed & Seed Sites, at least 80 percent is dedicated to providing direct services in the communities. This is made possible by the considerable contributions made by the City of Seattle in dedicated staff time and equipment, as well as considerable contributions made by community organizations and volunteers. The total in kind services and funding leveraged in 2005 for Seattle’s Weed & Seed sites was \$1,698,380, including funds and services leveraged from federal, state, and local organizations, and non-profit agencies.

Federal Weed & Seed Funds Spent in 2005 for Southwest Seattle	
Law Enforcement & Community Policing Overtime	\$86,500
Prevention, Intervention & Treatment Services	\$95,000
Training, Supplies & Staff Costs	\$43,500
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$225,000</b>
Federal Weed & Seed Funds Spent in 2005 for Central Seattle	
Law Enforcement & Community Policing Overtime	\$83,000
Prevention, Intervention & Treatment Services	\$98,000
Training, Supplies & Staff Costs	\$44,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$225,000</b>
Federal Weed & Seed Funds Spent in 2005 for Southeast Seattle	
Law Enforcement & Community Policing Overtime	\$88,500
Prevention, Intervention & Treatment Services	\$95,000
Training, Supplies & Staff Costs	\$41,500
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$225,000</b>



# Program Results

“What I appreciate most about Weed & Seed is that it is all about collaboration. Community residents, law enforcement & other stakeholders really have to work together and sometimes try creative approaches to tackle neighborhood crime and nuisance problems. Change does not happen overnight, but over time we are seeing that working together is the most effective way to get the job done.”

-**Barb Biondo**, Seattle Neighborhood Group  
Weed & Seed Program Coordinator



## **Economic Development in the Central Site**

Prior to the inception of Weed & Seed in 1992, the Central Area was virtually the only part of Seattle that had large tracts of undeveloped commercial property. Economic development has been made possible by the intervention of Weed and Seed, as evidenced by the recent completion in April of 2004, of Welch Plaza, a three building, mixed-use project located in the Central Weed and Seed site. While Central Seattle has seen significant reductions in crime under Weed & Seed, further economic development in the area is dependent upon continued crime reduction and community involvement when funding for the Central Site ends in 2006.

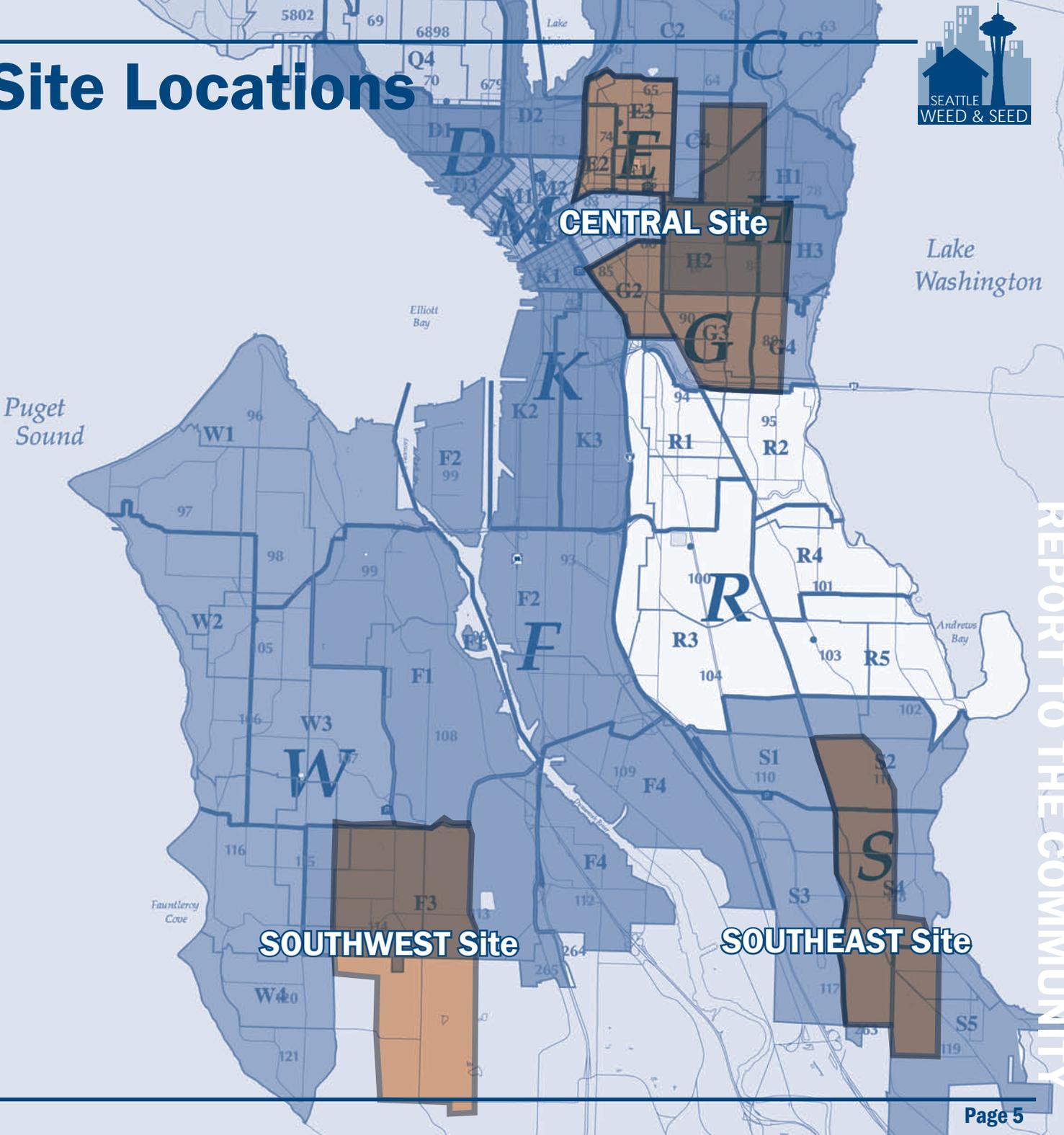
## **Community Outreach in the Southeast Site**

Focus during the past two years of Weed and Seed operations in Southeast Seattle has been on increasing partnerships and community involvement in crime prevention activities, reducing youth truancy at targeted schools and youth substance abuse and illegal gang activity. Another priority strategy has been focusing police resources and community mobilization activities in known hotspot areas. Reductions in major crime categories, including assault, narcotics, arson and vice offenses have been realized.

## **Emphasis Patrols and Crime Reduction in the Southwest Site**

Prior to Weed and Seed intervention, serious crime in the White Center neighborhood had risen at an alarming rate, between 2001 and 2002. Through a series of joint operations with SPD and KCSO, state and federal agencies, as well as single agency efforts, many arrests were made in 2005, which are directly attributable to Weed & Seed efforts. Ongoing emphasis patrols have kept the violent crime rates low, creating an environment where residents of this diverse community feel safe to participate in neighborhood safety activities.

# Site Locations



REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

# Law Enforcement



The “weeding” portion of the Weed & Seed strategy concentrates **law enforcement** resources and efforts on reducing crime and suppressing violent activity in areas designated as Weed & Seed sites. Successful law enforcement strategies emphasize collaboration with numerous partners, as well as encourage resident involvement in identifying “hot spot” crime areas and developing the strategies to reduce crime. Putting as much effort as possible on reducing crime levels in a neighborhood early on in the Weed & Seed effort sets the stage for community revitalization.

## Weed & Seed

# Community Policing

**Community Policing** is the bridge between the “weeding” and “seeding” components of the strategy, and establishes trust between law enforcement and residents. Activities focus on increasing police visibility and developing cooperative relationships between police and residents in the designated areas.



# Prevention, Intervention & Treatment

The **Prevention, Intervention, & Treatment** component focuses on neighborhood efforts to enhance protective factors while reducing risks in order to create an environment where crime and violence cannot thrive. Links among law enforcement and social service agencies, the private sector and community are strengthened to improve overall quality of services to residents.



**STRATEGY**

## Neighborhood Restoration



**Neighborhood Restoration** is also an important “seeding” component of the Weed & Seed strategy that focuses on economic development and revitalization, and on improving the physical environment of the neighborhood.

# CENTRAL

*“Weed & Seed is a great organization and it helps a lot of deprived people through work and education. I got involved to ensure accountability.”*

**- Thurston Muskelly,**  
Steering Committee Member  
and Central Site Resident



## Law Enforcement

In order to maximize crime prevention efforts in Central, Seattle Police Department has forged successful partnerships with the Department of Corrections. The two agencies work together and conduct joint operations (narcotic buy-busts, reverse narcotic buy-busts, narcotic search warrants, knock-and-talks, and ride-a-longs) within the site in order to facilitate higher standards of offender compliance and accountability.



## Community Policing

Police, service agencies and community members are using innovative outreach efforts in the Central Weed & Seed site. The GOTS Program (Get Off the Streets) links services with the needs of the people in one of the precinct's most difficult hot spots. The goal of GOTS is to break the cycle of arrest and re-arrest of low level offenders. At the same time, residents have initiated clean-ups that have sparked neighborhood involvement.

## Prevention, Intervention & Treatment



The major goals of Weed & Seed in Central Seattle are to reduce the availability of drugs, increase neighborhood attachment for community residents, reduce the effects of extreme economic and social deprivation, and improve academic performance. To accomplish this, the Seattle Weed & Seed Steering Committee supports youth services, school-based programs, community-based programs, and Safe Havens, to provide services that develop a positive community attitude towards combating crime and drug use.

Central/Broadway Weed & Seed has funded the following programs as effective Seeding components:

- **Street Outreach Services**
- **Seattle Goodwill's STRIVE Program**
- **Catholic Community Services Youth Tutoring Program**
- **Peace for the Streets by Kids from the Streets Donut Dialogues**



## Neighborhood Restoration

The reopening of the **Cal Anderson Park** on September 24, 2005 brought Broadway and Capitol Hill partners together to celebrate the community reclaiming an area that had been a longstanding hotspot for crime. Approximately 2000 people came to celebrate this community success!

Weed & Seed provided opportunities for several community groups to enhance their community. Weed & Seed funds provided seed money for a garden project, a large neighborhood meeting, a major holiday event - with 750 children and adults, and interviews with homeless youth to identify Capitol Hill services.

# SOUTHEAST

“I became involved with Weed & Seed because I have a strong commitment to reducing crime in my neighborhood and creating a safer more livable community through organized neighborhood action and strategic collaboration with neighbors, police, government and social service agencies.”

- Sarah Valenta, *Steering Committee Member and Southeast Site Resident*



## Law Enforcement

The Neighborhood Correction Initiative (NCI) Team has been a very effective use of Weed and Seed funds in the Southeast Precinct. With the NCI Team, SPD officers work alongside Department of Corrections (DOC) Officers. The mission of this team is to contact convicted felons who are currently under DOC supervision and hold them accountable for violations. In a seven-month period this team contacted 371 individuals—155 of these individuals were under active DOC supervision and were arrested.



## Community Policing

One of the community policing strategies for combating street level crime and nuisance activity is supporting active resident involvement in crime prevention activities. The Rainier & Othello Safety Association (ROSA) has been “taking back their neighborhood” from drug dealers and prostitutes by holding neighborhood safety walks accompanied by the Seattle Police. ROSA has been the catalyst for change, receiving outreach and neighborhood improvement grants to displace crime with positive activities.

## Prevention, Intervention & Treatment



The major goals of Weed & Seed in Southeast Seattle are to reduce youth and adult involvement in substance drug related crimes and gang activity, and increase the employability of residents in the site. To accomplish this, the Seattle Weed & Seed Steering Committee works to coordinate and financially support youth services, school-based programs, community-based programs, and Safe Havens to provide services that develop a positive community attitude towards combating crime and drug use. Site residents and additional partners choose agencies that will provide services within each neighborhood.

Southeast prevention, intervention and treatment programs are currently provided by the following agencies as effective Seeding components:

- **Atlantic Street Center**
- **Center for Career Alternatives**
- **SafeFutures Youth Center**
- **South Lake High School**
- **Southeast Youth and Family Services**

## Neighborhood Restoration



Neighborhood clean-up projects help support community building, crime prevention activities, and improve the image of this fragile neighborhood as well as directly address Weed & Seed neighborhood revitalization goals. During the second quarter of 2005, a community enhancement project was completed in Southeast to begin building a “tool bank” to be used for the April 30th and November 5th Weed and Seed neighborhood clean-up events. Residents provided “sweat equity” and focused on the **Mapes Creek Walkway Improvement Project**, which opened up a safe, clean path between Rainier Beach High School and local businesses.

# SOUTHWEST

“When I heard that Weed & Seed was considering adding a site in my area, I jumped at the chance to participate at the ground level, to assist in providing information about what had already been done, what had worked, what had not.”

-**Betsy Harris**, *Steering Committee Co-Chair and Southwest Site Resident*



## Law Enforcement

The development of the working relationships between the SPD Southwest Precinct and the KCSO Southwest Precinct are one of the Southwest site’s greatest successes. The multi-agency and multi-jurisdictional task force implements joint community policing and law enforcement operations in South Delridge/White Center. Although multi agency task force operations are fairly commonplace today, this effort to form a joint jurisdictional Task Force that focuses on community policing and problem solving is perhaps the first of its kind anywhere in the nation.



## Community Policing

On December 10, 2005 Weed and Seed funds were leveraged with funding from Allstate Insurance and the Seattle Police Foundation to bring the “**Life Choices and the Law**” youth conference to the Denny Middle school in West Seattle. Students ranging from 6th to 9th grade from Chief Sealth High School, Evergreen High School, Denny Middle School, Madison Middle School, and Cascade Middle School attended this eight-hour conference. The students attended four workshops designed to assist them in making good choices, finding good role models, and where to turn in times of crisis. Local news cameras were on hand to capture the “Role Reversal” workshop that gave youth and law enforcement a chance to see how it feels to walk in the other person’s shoes.

## Prevention, Intervention & Treatment



A major goal of the Southwest Weed & Seed is to reduce youth participation and involvement in violent crime, illegal gang and drug activity. To accomplish this, the Weed & Seed Steering Committee supports school and community-based programs and Safe Havens to provide services that develop a positive community attitude towards combating crime and drug use. In 2004 Seattle Weed & Seed leveraged additional resources through **Drug Free Communities** to focus on environmental factors including reducing the actual and perceived availability of drugs and alcohol, reducing community laws and norms favorable to drug use, and increasing neighborhood attachment and community participation.

Southwest prevention, intervention and treatment programs are currently provided by the following agencies as effective Seeding components:

- **King County Parks and Recreation Division**
- **Khmer Community of Seattle-King County**
- **SafeFutures Youth Center**
- **White Center Community Development Association**
- **SW Anti Gang efforts include a Gang Education/Outreach Specialist**



## Neighborhood Restoration

In 2004, the **White Center Community Development Association (WCCDA)** secured funds through Weed & Seed and the Seattle Office of Economic Development to improve storefront facades with the goal of improving appearance, safety and marketability of businesses with Weed & Seed boundaries. Current WCCDA projects include the installation of banners to create a more unified, inviting business district. A Weed & Seed supported marketing campaign will promote White Center's unique diversity, emphasize increased public safety and publicize positive community activities.

Because improving the physical image of their neighborhood is a community priority, **Spring Clean** has become an annual event in the Southwest Site. Since 2004, WCCDA has spearheaded an early spring event that draws 200+ volunteers to tackle projects like painting out graffiti and cleaning up neighborhood parks in areas that were once havens for illegal drug and prostitution activity.

# Community Partners



## Southwest Weed & Seed Community Partners

White Center South Delridge Community Safety Coalition  
 White Center Community Development Association  
 “Clean & Safe” Committee (sponsored by the White Center CDA)  
 Annie E. Casey Making Connections  
 Friends of North Shorewood Park  
 Drug Free Communities

## Central Weed & Seed Community Partners

Weed & Seed/East Precinct Crime Prevention Coalition (W&S/EPCPC)  
 Broadway Human Services Roundtable  
 Yesler Business Group  
 Central Area Development Association  
 23rd & Union Task Force  
 Cherry Street Association

## Southeast Weed & Seed Community Partners

South Seattle Crime Prevention Council (SSCPC)  
 Rainier Beach Merchants (RBM) Association  
 Rainier & Othello Safety Association (ROSA) block watch group  
 The Rainier Beach Coalition for Community Empowerment  
 Othello Neighborhood Association

## The Northwest Insurance Council (Formerly the Washington Insurance Council)

The Northwest Insurance Council, through its innovative Strong Neighborhood Action Plan (SNAP) Grant, has provided over \$700,000 in grant funding to Weed & Seed communities in Seattle and Tacoma, Washington. SNAP grants fund community revitalization projects that directly increase safety and security, and improve the quality of life for Weed & Seed community residents. A large proportion of grant recipients pair SNAP Grant funding with matching funds from the City of Seattle Department of Neighborhoods. The Northwest Insurance Council has been a valuable partner for Seattle’s Weed & Seed communities.

## The Seattle Neighborhood Group

The Seattle Neighborhood Group (SNG) has been a long time partner to Weed & Seed initiatives in Seattle, and annually leverages over \$355,500 for community projects. SNG also receives \$311,000 from the City of Seattle for the Safe Communities Project that supports crime prevention work in Central, Southeast and Southwest Seattle. Seattle Neighborhood Group initiates a Seattle Weed & Seed Business Revitalization Incentive Program through which businesses located within Weed & Seed sites can apply for small grants to renovate, maintain, or make repairs to their storefronts. The Seattle Neighborhood Group has a proven track record for being innovative in their approach to neighborhood revitalization efforts.



Brewsky's Bar | Southwest Site



Columbia City | Southeast Site



Mapes Creek | Southeast Site



“Violent crime has gone way down in the Central district. In the early days of Weed & Seed, it was the “wild west”. You could buy drugs on every street corner at any time of day, and more homicides happened there than anywhere else in the City. Now new businesses are continuing to move in, and crime continues to be down. The effects of Weed & Seed will be felt for many years to come.”

- **Harry Bailey**, *Seattle Police Assistant Chief*

“Weed & Seed has a strategy that is community-based and connects to not only law enforcement but also human services. It’s the big picture, and as overwhelming as it seemed at first, we have all worked hard and our community is being revitalized, one block at a time! Crime is down, violent crime is almost non-existent and programs are working.”

- **Betsy Harris**, *Steering Committee Co-Chair and Southwest Site Resident*

“One of the best parts of my involvement with Weed & Seed has been working with residents on community projects. I feel a great deal of satisfaction in having residents work together with police and community agencies to make neighborhood improvements.”

- **Denise Harnly**, *Associate Director, Seattle Neighborhood Group*



*A community volunteer takes the rain in stride during the 2005 Rainier Beach Fall Cleanup.*