

CITY OF SEATTLE • PLANNING DEPARTMENT

**CENSUS  
90**



***SUB-AREA PROFILES, 1990***

**NORTHWEST**

February 1993



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## NORTHWEST AREA PROFILE

As the name implies the Northwest area encompasses most of the Northwest section of Seattle. It is generally bounded by 145th street on the North and goes as far south as Greenlake and the Woodland Park Zoo. The eastern border is roughly Interstate 5 and the west border is generally a line from Woodland Park to Carkeek Park. It consists of 5,822 gross acres and is home to over 59,000 people. The area is primarily residential with some commercial development along Aurora Avenue and Greenwood Avenue. The following highlights present a summary of the Northwest area. The subsequent tables and maps provide a more detailed picture of the area.

### Demographics

- The population of the Northwest area is distributed across age groups similar to the population of the city as a whole:
  - 14 percent of the population is under the age of 16 compared to 15.9 percent citywide.
  - 17 percent of the population is age 65 and over compared to 15.2 percent citywide
- The Northwest area has a lower percentage of people of color than the city as a whole -- 12.7 percent of the population are people of color compared to 25 percent citywide.
- Educational attainment levels are comparable to those found citywide -- 12.1 percent of the population aged 25 and over have less than a high school education compared to 13.6 percent citywide.
- The household composition and size in the Northwest area is also similar to that citywide -- there are on average 2.09 people per household which is identical to that average citywide.

In addition:

- 37.2 percent of the households are single person households compared to 39.8 percent citywide.
- 13.6 percent of the households are married persons with children compared to 13.4 percent citywide.
- 5.5 percent of the households are single parent households compared to 6.6 percent citywide.

### Housing

- The Northwest area has a slightly higher share of owner occupied housing units than are found citywide -- 51.4 percent of the housing units were owner occupied compared to 46.5 percent citywide.
- The median value of owner occupied housing units was \$132,752 compared to \$137,884 citywide.
- The median rents were slightly higher at \$476 compared to \$425.
- As a result of a substantial amount of building in the 1980's the housing stock in the Northwest area tends to be newer -- 16.8 percent of the housing units were built during the 1980's compared to 11.9 percent citywide.
- The area has a relatively high percentage of single family units -- 60.6 percent of the units are single family compared to 53.1 percent citywide.

## **Employment**

- The Northwest area had a lower rate of unemployment than the city as a whole -- 3.7 percent of the labor force was unemployed compared to 4.9 percent citywide.
- Workers in the area were slightly more likely to drive alone to work -- 64.3 percent of the workers drove alone to work compared to 58.7 percent citywide.

## **Income**

- Generally incomes in the Northwest area are comparable to the city as a whole:
  - Median household income was \$29,932 compared to \$29,353 citywide.
  - Median family income was \$37,317 compared to \$39,860 citywide.
  - Per Capita Income was \$17,658 compared to \$18,308 citywide.
- People in the Northwest area are less likely to live in poverty:
  - Nine percent of the population lived in poverty compared to 12.4 percent citywide.
  - 9.4 percent of the population under the age of 18 lived in poverty compared to 15.7 percent citywide.

## **Jobs**

- The Northwest area has a higher proportion of jobs in the retail, government and finance, insurance, and real estate industries:
  - 26.1 percent of the jobs are in the retail sector compared to 14.1 percent citywide.
  - 65 percent of the jobs are in the government, finance, insurance, and real estate sectors compared to 60.8 percent citywide.

## **Land Use**

- The area is predominately residential:
  - 87 percent of the land is zoned for residential uses compared to 75.6 percent citywide.
  - 69.3 percent of the land is residential uses compared to 56.6 percent citywide.

## **Density**

- Residential densities are similar to those found citywide but job density is substantially lower:
  - There are 5 households per gross acre compared to 4 citywide.
  - There are just 3 jobs per gross acre compared to 9 citywide.

## CHANGE 1980 - 1990

The Northwest area experienced a substantial amount of growth over the decade between 1980 and 1990. The number of people, households, and housing units each increased at a substantially higher rate than the city as a whole. The youngest age groups and the numbers of people of color increased most dramatically. There was a substantially higher rate of growth in renter occupied and multi-family housing units than in single family and owner occupied housing units.

### Population

- Population increased by 8.3 percent compared to 4.5 percent citywide.
  - The population under the age of 5 increased by almost 28 percent between 1980 and 1990.
  - The population aged 65 and over increased by 4.5 percent.
  - The white population remained virtually unchanged with less than a one percent increase.
  - The number of people of color doubled from 3,500 to over 7,500 (115 percent) between 1980 and 1990.

### Households

- The number of households increased by 14.4 percent compared to 7.9 percent citywide.
  - The average number of persons per household decreased slightly from 2.19 in 1980 to 2.09 in 1990 while the average decreased citywide from 2.15 to 2.09.
  - There was a 3.6 percent decrease in the number of married couple families between 1980 and 1990 compared to a 2 percent increase citywide.
  - The number of people living alone increased by almost 29 percent during the 1980's compared to a 13 percent increase citywide.

### Housing Units

- The number of Housing Units increased by 15.2 percent compared to 8.3 percent citywide.
  - There was a 33.7 percent increase in renter occupied housing units and just a 1.6 percent increase in owner occupied housing units between 1980 and 1990.
  - There was a 35.8 percent increase in housing units in multi-family structures and just a 1.8 percent increase in single family units during the decade.

**PROJECTED CHANGE 1990 - 2010**

Forecasts of population, household, and housing unit growth for the next twenty years indicates that the Northwest area is expected to experience growth at slightly higher rates than the city as a whole.

- Population in the Northwest area is expected to increase by 5.6 percent compared to five percent citywide.
- The number of households and housing units are both expected to increase by 19 percent in the Northwest Area and by 15 percent citywide over the next 20 years.

SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS OF THE POPULATION, HOUSEHOLDS, AND FAMILIES  
 1990 Census of Population and Housing  
 Compiled by City of Seattle Planning Department

District = NORTHWEST

P1/4. PERSONS	59,412		H4. HOUSEHOLDS	27,987	FAMILIES	13,773
TOTAL	59,412	11.5%	TOTAL	11.8%	Share of Total City	12.2%
Share of Total City			PERSONS IN HOUSEHOLDS		PERSONS IN FAMILIES	
			PERSONS PER HOUSEHOLD		PERSONS PER FAMILY	
P11/12. PERSONS BY AGE (UNIVERSE: PERSONS)			P16. HOUSEHOLD SIZE AND TYPE (UNIVERSE: HOUSEHOLDS)		P23. Family Type and Age of Children (Universe: Own children under 18 years)	
TOTAL	59,412	100.0%				
		11.5%				
UNDER 5	3,415	5.7	11.7	27,987	In married-couple family:	
5 - 15	4,908	8.3	TOTAL		Under 3 years	1,752
16 - 24	6,684	11.3	1 PERSON:		3 and 4 years	865
25 - 34	13,946	23.5	MALE HOUSEHOLDER		5 years	442
35 - 44	11,002	18.5	FEMALE HOUSEHOLDER		6 to 11 years	2,010
45 - 64	9,317	15.7	2 OR MORE PERSONS:		12 and 13 years	554
65 - 84	8,633	14.5	MARIED COUPLE FAMILY:		14 years	217
85 +	1,507	2.5	WITH RELATED CHILDREN		15 to 17 years	582
			NO RELATED CHILDREN			
P5. SEX (UNIVERSE: PERSONS)			6,910	24.7		
TOTAL	59,412	100.0%	CITY TOTAL		In other family:	
		11.5%			Male householder, no spouse:	
MALE	27,939	47.0			Under 3 years	101
FEMALE	31,473	53.0			3 and 4 years	62
P6/8/10. RACE AND HISPANIC ORIGIN (UNIVERSE: PERSONS)					5 years	21
TOTAL	59,412	100.0%	Share of		6 to 11 years	95
WHITE	51,875	87.3	CITY TOTAL		12 and 13 years	53
BLACK	1,363	2.3			14 years	49
AMERICAN INDIAN, ESKIMO OR ALEUT	813	1.4			15 to 17 years	62
ASIAN OR PACIFIC I	4,632	7.8				
OTHER RACE	729	1.2				
HISPANIC ORIGIN (OF ANY RACE)	1,910	3.2				
EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT: Highest Grade Completed (Universe: Persons 25 years and over)		10.4				
Total	44,469	Pct.				
Less than 9th grade	1,781	4.0%				
9th to 12th grade, no diploma	3,610	8.1				
High school graduate/equivalency	9,556	21.5				
Some college, no degree	10,177	22.9	P27. HOUSEHOLD SIZE (UNIVERSE: HOUSEHOLDS)		CHANGE 1980 - 1990 (UNIVERSE: PERSONS, HOUSEHOLDS, AND FAMILIES)	
Associate degree	3,190	7.2				
Bachelor's degree	11,204	25.2				
Graduate or professional degree	4,951	11.1	1 PERSON	10,402	Pct.	
			2 PERSONS	10,352	37.2%	
RESIDENCE IN 1985 (Universe: Persons 5 years and over)			3 PERSONS	3,708	13.2	
Total	55,949		4 PERSONS	2,237	8.0	
Lived in same house	24,704	44.2%	5 PERSONS	794		
Lived Diff. House --- Same Count	18,582	33.2	6 PERSONS	318	1.1	
Same State	4,085	7.3	7+ PERSONS	176	0.6	
Different State	6,739	12.0				
Lived abroad	1,839	3.3				

**Seattle Characteristics of Housing Units  
1990 Census of Population and Housing  
Compiled by City of Seattle Planning Department**

District = NORTHWEST

**Sub-area Profiles 1990**

**NORTHWEST**

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H4. HOUSING UNITS			AVERAGE PERSONS PER OCCUPIED HOUSING UNIT			CHANGE 1980 - 1990 (UNIVERSE: HOUSING UNITS)			
TOTAL	29,052	11.7%	POPULATION IN HOUSING UNITS	58,410	2.09	PCT	1980	1990	Change Pct
<b>H1/H2/H3/H5. HOUSING UNITS-TENURE AND VACANCY (UNIVERSE: OCCUPIED AND VACANT HOUSING UNITS)</b>									
UNITS	UNITS	PCT	Total	Total	%	Units	25,217	29,052	3,835 15.2%
TOTAL	29,052	100.0%	Year Built						
OCCUPIED	27,987	96.3	1989 to March 1990	870	3.0				
OWNER OCCUPIED	14,925	51.4	1985 to 1988	2,535	8.7				
RENTER OCCUPIED	13,062	45.0	1980 to 1984	1,492	5.1				
VACANT	1,065	3.7	1970 to 1979	2,820	9.7				
			1960 to 1969	3,917	13.5				
			1950 to 1959	4,586	15.8				
			1940 to 1949	4,071	14.0				
			Before 1940	8,734	30.1				
<b>H17A-H20. PERSONS IN OCCUPIED HOUSING UNITS</b>									
Persons	Per Unit	PCT	H31/32/33. Bedrooms (UNIVERSE: Housing units)			Aggregate Persons Persons			
OCCUPIED	58,410	2.1	100.0%	Total	%	SINGLE FAMILY	41,059	2.40	
OWNER OCCUPIED	33,906	2.3	58.0	Units	%	1, DETACHED	40,145	2.40	
RENTER OCCUPIED	24,504	1.9	42.0			1, ATTACHED	914	2.30	
						MULTI FAMILY	16,295	1.59	
						2	2,238	2.04	
						3 OR 4	2,192	1.87	
						5 TO 9	2,705	1.65	
						10 TO 19	4,033	1.52	
						20 TO 49	3,394	1.51	
						50 OR MORE	1,733	1.22	
						MOBILE HOME OR	662	1.63	
						OTHER	394	1.94	
						TOTAL	58,410	2.09	
<b>H23A/23B/23C. VALUE (UNIVERSE: SPECIFIED OWNER-OCCUPIED HOUSING UNITS)</b>									
MEDIAN VALUE	\$132,752								
<b>H32B. CONTRACT RENT (UNIVERSE: SPECIFIED RENTER-OCCUPIED HOUSING UNITS)</b>									
MEDIAN VALUE	\$476								
<b>H41/42/43 UNITS IN STRUCTURE (UNIVERSE: HOUSING UNITS)</b>									
	TOTAL UNITS	PCT	VACANT UNITS	PCT	UNITS	OCCUPIED UNITS	PCT	OWNER OCCUPIED UNITS	PCT
SINGLE FAMILY	17,594	60.6%	452	42.4%	17,142	61.2%	13,474	90.3%	3,668 28.1%
1, DETACHED	17,177	59.1	432	40.6	16,745	59.8	13,304	89.1	3,441 26.3
1, ATTACHED	417	1.4	20	1.9	3,97	1.4	1,170	1.1	227 1.7
MULTI FAMILY	10,779	37.1	544	51.1	10,235	36.6	1,024	6.9	9,211 70.5
2	1,449	4.0	50	4.7	1,099	3.9	1,175	1.2	1,924 7.1
3 OR 4	1,231	4.2	56	5.3	1,175	4.2	115	0.8	1,060 8.1
5 TO 9	1,727	5.9	90	8.5	1,637	5.8	91	0.6	1,546 11.8
10 TO 19	2,796	9.6	145	13.6	2,651	9.5	320	2.1	2,331 17.8
20 TO 49	2,382	8.2	133	12.5	2,249	8.0	231	1.5	2,018 15.4
50 OR MORE	1,494	5.1	70	6.6	1,424	5.1	92	0.6	1,332 10.2
MOBILE HOME OR TRAILER	442	1.5	35	3.3	407	1.5	354	2.4	53 0.4
OTHER	237	0.8	34	3.2	203	0.7	73	0.5	130 1.0
TOTAL	29,052	100.0%	1,065	100.0%	27,987	100.0%	14,925	100.0%	13,062 100.0%

P70/71/72. Employment Status (Universe: Persons 16 years and over)						MEDIAN INCOME, 1989						POVERTY STATUS IN 1989					
In Armed Forces	Civilian Labor Force Employed	Unempl.	Rate	Not In Labor Force		Median Household Income	Median Family Income	\$29,932	\$37,317	All persons for whom poverty status is determined*	58,292						
Total	63	33,709	1,281	3.7%	15,958	Median Nonfamily Household Income	\$22,420	49,463	Below poverty level	5,225							
Male	34	17,397	668	3.7%	5,676	P112/113. Workers in Family and Mean Income in 1989 (Universe: Families)		4,360	Persons 18 years and over	49,463							
Female	29	16,312	613	3.6%	10,282			9,442	Below poverty level	820							
Share of Employed City Residents				11.9%		Workers	Families	8,4	Related children under 18 years	8,788							
Share of Unemployed City Residents			8.7%			None		824	Below poverty level	824							
P45/46/47/48. Place of Work (Universe: Workers 16 years and over)						1		3,369	Related children under 5 years	3,369							
Worked in Washington State:						2		5,419	Related children 5 to 17 years	5,419							
Worked in King County		30,712	7,694	23.2		3 or more		492	Below poverty level	492							
Worked outside of Seattle		25,515	5,197	15.6					Unrelated individuals								
Out of Seattle - In County			2,277	6.9					Below poverty level								
Worked outside of King			220	0.7					20,008								
Worked outside of WA.									3,106								
P49. Means of Transportation to Work (Universe: Workers 16 years and over)																	
Car, truck, or van:																	
Drove alone	21,355	4,529	64.3%	13.6													
Carpooled																	
Public transportation:																	
Bus or trolley bus	4,586		13.8														
Subway or elevated	0		0.0														
Railroad	5		0.0														
Ferryboat	32		0.1														
Taxicab	20		0.1														
Motorcycle	119		0.4														
Bicycle	435		1.3														
Walked	784		2.4														
Other means	200		0.6														
Worked at home	1,144		3.4														
Total workers	33,209		100.0%														
P50/51. Travel Time to Work (Universe: Workers 16 years and over)																	
Did not work at home:																	
0 - 19 minutes	13,385		Pct.														
20 - 39 minutes	14,082		40.3%														
40 - 59 minutes	2,777		44.2														
60 - 89 minutes	889		8.4														
90 or more minutes	332		2.7														
Worked at home	1,144		1.0														
Mean travel time to work	23 minutes																

\* Poverty status is only determined for noninstitutionalized persons, etc.

**SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS OF JOBS AND LAND USE, 1990**  
 Puget Sound Regional Council and King County Assessor Data  
 Compiled by City of Seattle Planning Department

JOBS			TOTAL ASSESSED VALUATION (Universe: Millions of Dollars)			SELECTED DENSITY MEASURES		
TOTAL Share of Total City 17,692 3.6%			TOTAL Share of Total City \$3,639 9.1%			Average Persons per gross acre 10 Average Persons per net acre 14		
JOBS IN SEATTLE (UNIVERSE: JOBS)			Land Assessed Valuation Share of Total City			Average Households per gross acre 5 Average Households per net acre 6		
TOTAL	17,692	100.0%	City Total	\$1,792	9.9%	Average Housing Units per gross acre 5	Average Housing Units per net acre 7	
Retail	4,613	26.1	6.7	Improvements Assessed Valuation	\$1,846	Average Housing Units per gross acre 5	Average Housing Units per net acre 7	
Education	255	0.0	9.4	Share of Total City	8.5%	Average Number of Jobs per gross acre 3	Average Number of Jobs per net acre 4	
Government, Finance, Ins., Real Estate	11,474	64.9	3.9	Average Land Assessed Valuation per Parcel Square Foot	\$9.65	Average Number of Jobs per gross acre 3	Average Number of Jobs per net acre 4	
Manufacturing, Wholesale								
Trade, Comm., Tr.	1,350	7.6	1.1					
University Enrollment		0.0	0.0					

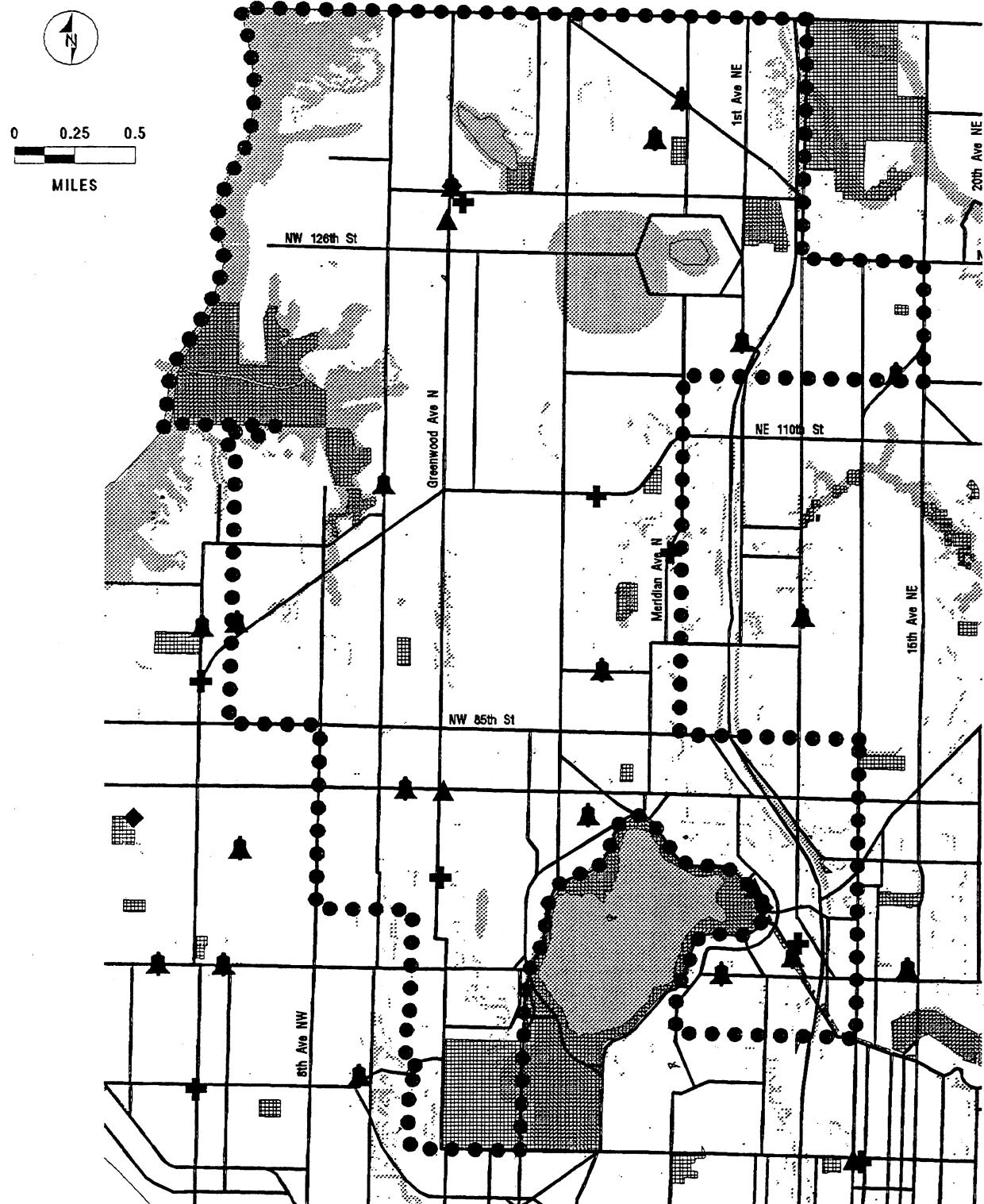
GROSS LAND AREA IN ACRES (Includes streets, fresh water, etc)			NET LAND AREA IN ACRES (Excludes streets, fresh water, etc)		
TOTAL Share of Total City 5,822 10.8%			TOTAL Share of Total City 4,313 11.3%		
TOTAL	5,822	10.8%	TOTAL	4,313	11.3%
Share of Total City			Share of Total City		

LAND AREA BY ZONING (Universe: Gross Acres)			ESTIMATED LAND AREA BY USE (Universe: Net Acres)		
TOTAL Share of City Total 5,822 10.8%			TOTAL Share of City Total 4,313 100.0%		
TOTAL	5,822	10.8%	TOTAL	4,313	100.0%
Commercial	666	11.4	Commercial	25.9	6.0
Downtown	0.0	0.0	Community Fac.	23.3	5.4
Industrial	8	0.1	Industrial	6.4	1.5
Multi Family	587	10.1	Residential	2,991	69.3
Single Family	4,483	77.0	Single Family	2,602	60.3
Major Institution	51	0.9	Trans/Comm/Ut	53	1.2
			Vacant	229	5.3
			Open Space	434	10.1
			Other	3	0.1
					2.5

Source: Puget Sound Regional Council

Source: King County Assessor Extract, 1991



## *Northwest District*



Environmentally  
Sensitive Areas



Parks



Public School



Police and Fire



Library



Community Center

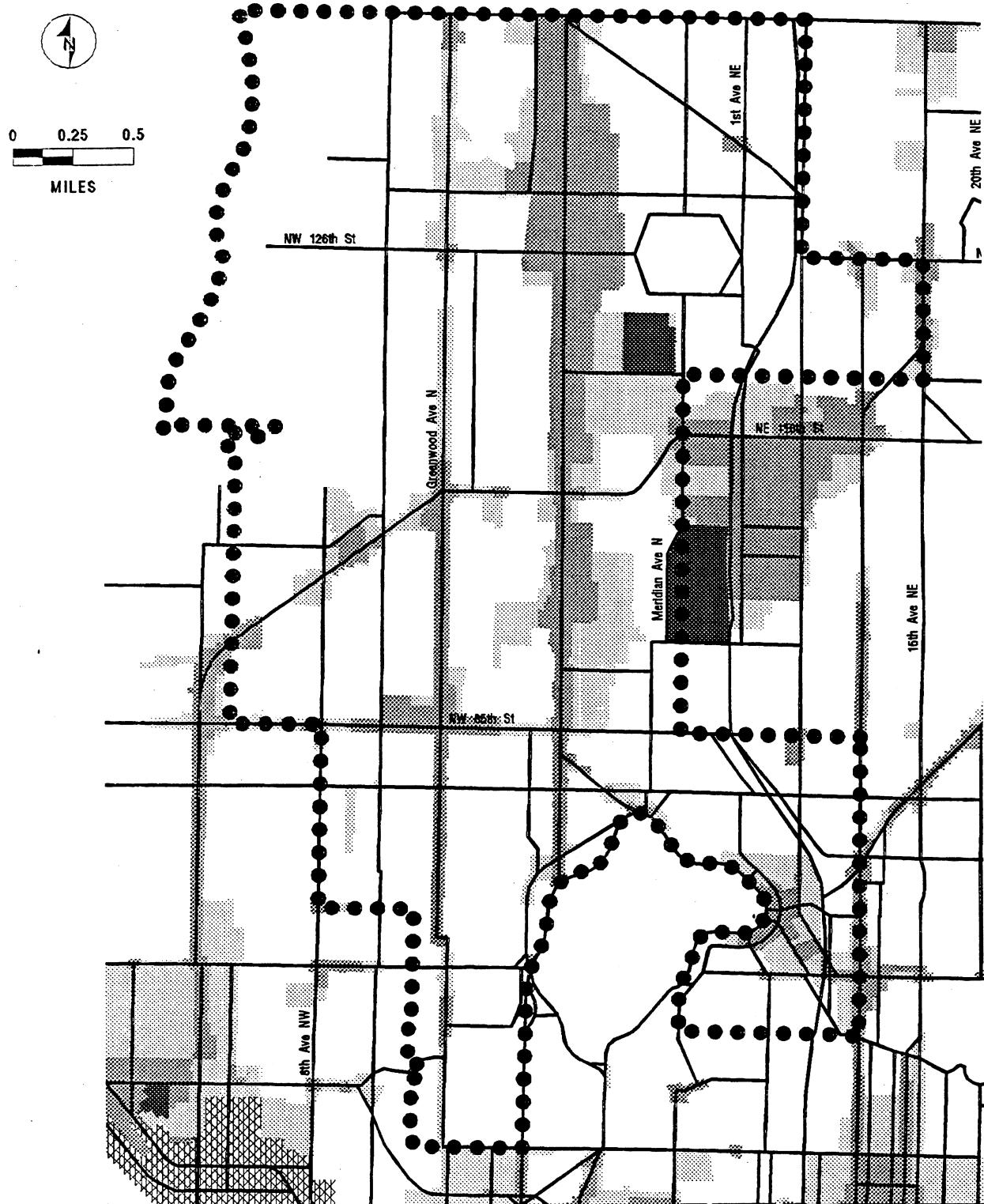


Arterials



District Statistical  
Area





## *Northwest District -- Zoning*



Single-Family



Major Institution



Arterials



Multi-Family



Industrial



District Statistical Area

Commercial and  
Downtown