

Valerie Anne Sivinski Inspired North Slope Residents in the 1990's

**Valerie Anne
Sivinski
May 3, 1951 -
October 17, 2000**



By Roger Johnson

The North Slope Historic District Park is 10 years old and it is dedicated to Valerie Sivinski because of her foresight and guidance in establishing the NSHD. It is time we remember Valerie again. The entire North Slope was in jeopardy and we citizens seemed at a loss as to how to protect and improve our neighborhood.

Valerie suggested and guided us in establishing an Historic District to protect the homes and to instill a neighborhood pride; not as individuals but as a neighborhood. It has been successful and a model for other neighborhoods to emulate.

In the middle of our NSHD was an under-utilized Tacoma Power substation that contributed nothing to the spirit of the historic district. Tacoma Power abandoned the substation and the corner lot was a target for apartment building developers. After a long procedure it was deeded to Metro Parks and dedicated to Valerie. The park has turned out to be a bright cheerful place for families with small children but also a gathering place for the entire neighborhood. The park is a reminder of the spirit of our predecessors desire for a safe, friendly neighborhood. It is a symbol of a neighborhood pulling together to create something for everyone, it is a reminder of a less complicated past but also a beacon for a bright future. Everyone should visit the park and experience the spirit and glad tidings of the outdoors, the interesting plants and happy playful children. The best of the past is present in the park.