

Wedgwood Vision Plan

Community Meeting #2, April 10, 2010

Summary of Results

Commercial Areas

- C-1 In 20 years, the location of the Wedgwood commercial district will be centered at key 'nodes' on 35th Ave NE at NE 85th St and NE 75th St (or **NE 70th St**). The nodes will be well connected with a good pedestrian environment. If there is market demand, the area in between the nodes may develop with commercial, mixed-use, or live/work developments, but the priority is to focus the energy in the nodes.
- C-2 In 20 years, the commercial nodes along 35th Ave NE will be primarily 1-2 story buildings with a few new 3-4 story mixed-use buildings. New mixed-use buildings will have structured parking or parking behind the building, hidden from sight. In between the nodes will be primarily 1-2 story buildings.
- C-3 In 20 years, the Wedgwood commercial district will consist of small, primarily independent businesses to support the local residential community and some larger stores to also serve neighboring NE communities.

The types of businesses will include:

- hardware store
- restaurants
- coffee shops
- pharmacy
- small, independent grocery store or small organic grocer; like PCC
- clothing shops
- bike shop
- garden supplies
- copy shop
- book store
- community fitness (family gym)
- fitness club, walk-in massage therapy
- small inn and/or B&Bs
- green dry cleaner
- boutique
- art supply
- music store
- Small live/work businesses along 35th

Summary

Commercial and Mixed Use Design

CD-1 New development will respect adjacent residential properties through appropriate design, including:

- a. Ground and upper level setbacks; **especially critical against single-family zones.**
- b. Landscape screening between uses, **retaining large trees and vegetation where possible**
- c. Site planning requirements to ensure appropriate location of parking, vehicular access, and services
- d. **Provide transitional housing types; e.g., rowhouses, duplex, triplex, clusters, courtyard, etc., to properly transition commercial to conventional single-family zone**
- e. **Smaller blocks to provide neighborhood walkability (300-foot block lengths)**

CD-2 The pedestrian environment will be enhanced by providing:

- a. small scale retail spaces at ground level
- b. sidewalk widening (**set minimum requirement**) and enhancement
- c. landscaping, **seating included**
- d. overhead weather protection (**or stores with umbrellas**) (**not required**)
- e. street trees
- f. pedestrian-scaled lighting
- g. **crosswalks**
- h. **Public art and community definition**

Comments:

- 85th sidewalks improved.
- Think about: Residential (side street) areas surrounding nodes should have sidewalks to access business areas.

CD-3 Impacts of parking on surrounding neighborhood will be minimized by:

- a. **Consider** structured parking for mixed-use residential (**not a stand-alone parking garage**), **below grade parking is good**
- b. Screening structured parking
- c. Locating parking to minimize its visibility, (**like Starbucks building**), **No big parking lots in front of businesses**
- d. Providing generous parking lot landscaping
- e. **Reduce parking requirements to encourage walking/public transit** (Prefer more transit/shuttle buses, instead of adding parking)

Summary

Green/ Open Space/ Community Amenities

- G-1 In 20 years, Wedgwood will have a variety of neighborhood parks that can be easily and safely accessed by all residents of Wedgwood, including:
- a. Walkable pocket parks
 - b. Plazas/piazzas (**close to commercial**) (**related to café**)
 - c. Community gardens (**we have this already**)
 - d. Playgrounds/play areas **schools should partner with City Parks**
 - e. Natural areas
 - f. Trails **connecting the above. (Create Matthews Creek Nature Trail) (need restrooms)**
- G-2 In 20 years, Wedgwood will have the following community amenities:
- a. **More** evergreen trees that continue to characterize the neighborhood; **plant new ones in developments; long-range planning for replacement; and deciduous trees**
 - b. **More** community and private gardens that provide opportunities for local food production (**also food trees**)
 - c. Improved landscaping and street trees on 35th Ave NE —**emphasize native plantings**
 - d. Open air plaza/piazza/gazebo/amphitheater community gathering spot in middle of commercial district (**depends on design**)
 - e. **Community center**
- G-3 Wedgwood will have regular community events that bring neighbors together, such as:
- a. Block parties
 - b. Outdoor movies
 - c. Farmer's market (**already have nearby. Like strawberry stand – would like veggies too**)
 - d. **Art festival/fair**
 - e. **Easter egg hunt**
 - f. **Garage sale, Wedgwood fun min.**
 - g. **Outdoor performances in plaza**
 - h. **Music and plays**
- G-4 Wedgwood will continue to have a Post Office at its present location with these improvements:
- a. Driveway box to deposit mail
 - b. Drive through exit to 36th Ave NE
 - c. Traffic light at NE 80th St & 35th Ave
 - d. Crosswalk in front of building
 - e. **Speed indicator? Something for making this safer.**

Summary

- f. **Extend street grid to make block smaller**
- g. **Expand Post Office to serve areas north of 85th**

Comments:

- One person was concerned that this might not be the right location.
- If it becomes obsolete, opportunity for more green space
- Distribution Post Office

G-5 Wedgwood will have improved neighborhood identity with features such as:

- a. Welcome to Wedgwood Signs on 35th Ave NE
- b. Informational kiosks, **85th and 75th**
- c. Artwork, **local banners**

G-6 The visual image that best represents Wedgwood is:

- Conifers and evergreen trees. (Douglas fir)
- TREES, green, encourage private.
- Big trees
- Audubon Nature Shop
- Open space/Hunters
- Sustainability: LEED certification, Waterwise, rain gardens, natural drainage system, other
- Gardens
- Fine China

Transportation

T-1 In 20 years, transit options in Wedgwood will include:

- b. Improved express bus service to downtown and other key locations, **down 35th (no transfers needed) (more frequently, about 15 minutes)**
- c. Small shuttle bus/vans that take riders into express buses or light rail **and to downtown and Northgate (bus to light rail), (Children's Hospital transit system)**
- d. **Frequent bus connection to light rail and Northgate Transit Center**

Comments:

- First and third options are too expensive.
- Better to have a linking express bus system, like LRT.
- Want most direct access to downtown

T-2 In 20 years, the residential areas of Wedgwood will be safe and walkable with:

- *a. Improved sidewalks
- *b. Safe routes to school
- c. Traffic calming (such as traffic circles, **speed bumps**) **when issues develop, especially Post Office; green street with bioswales**

Summary

*d. Street trees

e. Bike lanes

Comments:

- Research other traffic-calming ways.
- Sidewalk needed to Wedgwood Elementary between NE 90th to 95th on 30th Avenue NE
- Crosswalks

T-3 In 20 years, the commercial district along 35th Ave NE will be safe and walkable with:

*a. Improved wider sidewalks

*b. Safe crosswalks

*c. Improved safety at key intersections, **especially Post Office and 75th and 35th**

d. Traffic calming (such as curb bulbs, **intersection art**)

T-4 In 20 years, designated bike routes will be expanded and improved throughout the neighborhood.

The best North/south routes are:

- 38th or 39th NE
- Definitely not 35th as an arterial
- 20th
- 30th
- *40th Ave NE (dedicated bike lane with no street parking)
- Side streets
- 39th
- 45th
- 38th

The best East/West Routes are:

- NE 80th with traffic light at 35th
- 70th
- 90th
- 95th, with significant improvements; connect to Burke Gilman (70th)

Comments:

- Survey/create a task force.
- Safe connections from 35th to Burke-Gilman
- YES!
- Biking routes already adequate – close to Burke-Gilman

Summary

Residential Areas

R-1 In 20 years, Wedgwood residential areas will remain **primarily single-family** with some new multifamily developments **to allow some density**, providing options for more affordable housing. Backyard cottages are seen as a positive option.

Comments:

- Will support a variety of ages, family sizes.
- Single-family, except nodes.
- Development similar to Wedgewood Estates.

R-2 In 20 years, the Wedgwood residential areas will include the following housing types:

- a. **primarily** single-family houses
- b. townhouses
- c. backyard cottages (ADUs)
- d. cottage housing
- e. apartments (**a few**) near 35th
- f. condominiums, **near commercial centers?**
- g. live-work studios **near 35th**

Comments:

- No row houses!
- Condo owners don't participate much in the community.
- Live-work between commercial nodes on 35th Avenue.
- Is there some way to limit the number of cars at each home?
- Consider all
- Mixture leads to diversity
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R-3 In 20 years, most new multifamily housing will be located north of NE 85th St between Ravenna Ave NE and Lake City Way NE and on 35th Ave NE, **especially at nodes as a part of mixed-use development**. Throughout the rest of the neighborhood, some multifamily may be acceptable, **but it must be compatible with the existing single-family neighborhood, considering bulk and scale**.

Comments:

- Boundary is really 70th Street, not 75th Street.
- Cottage housing; live-work bungalow courts.
- Not garage facing sidewalk.

Summary

- New back yard cottages, too.
- Cottage/compact housing
- Courtyard housing
- We would like to see zoning allowing smaller houses
- Less lot coverage for single-family houses

Community Sustainability

In 20 years, Wedgwood will be a place where:

- CS-1 Neighbors can work together to address and resolve issues and brainstorm solution.
- CS-2 Community gardens and a farmer's market will make local food available.
- CS-3 Improved transit system, bike and pedestrian routes, and a more vibrant and diverse commercial center have significantly reduced the need for automobiles and have helped to reduce the neighborhood's carbon footprint.
- CS-4 The use of innovative stormwater management techniques has improved drainage throughout the neighborhood.
- CS-5 Increased tree canopy and improved landscaping has contributed to a reduction in the urban heat island effect and has helped improve air quality.
- CS-6 Community programs exist to further sustainability objectives such as helping homeowners conserve energy and water, etc.

Comments:

- Community sustainability—yes, of course!
- Hunters tree farm should be a farmer's market in summer months.
- Existing buildings refitted to be as energy-efficient as possible; new buildings following the "Living Building" design (zero waste).
- New buildings built to high earthquake standards.
- Community input at all steps.
- Utility lines should be underground
- Community solar

Summary

Vision Statements

Group 1 Vision

A community founded in safety, single-family homes, back yard cottages, lively commercial centers, and sustainability; focusing on the growth of the two commercial nodes and mixed-use, live-work, buildings housing independent business owners.

Group 2 Vision

Promote safe, single-family neighborhoods with accessibility (new sidewalks), sustainable community business with a mixed-use, housing on _____, business nodes of commercial development lined by trees with parking off-street, and access to increased transit service to centers of activity and LRT service.

Comments:

- Intersection art
- Bioswales
- Traffic circle/other traffic calming
- Farmer's market
- P-patch
- Sidewalk cafes
- Community kiosk
- Public art by local artists

Group 3 Vision

A human-scale, walkable residential neighborhood with all the basic retail and good public transportation, trees, and green spaces, friendly to old and young and everyone between.

Comments:

- Neighborhood symbol: large evergreen tree

Group 4 Vision

- Cares
- Predominantly single-family, but
- Concentrated multifamily in nodes for affordability
- Walkable
- Diversity: racial, age, income, ability
- Human scale
- Respect for environment

Summary

- Growing diversity of needed businesses

Group 5 Vision

Wedgwood is a neighborhood that builds community. It provides a range of housing choices and community businesses, services, and amenities that are attractive to the entire age spectrum and diversity of populations. Wedgwood is walkable, sustainable, and appropriately scaled to increase density in a way that is compatible with Wedgwood's history of being a single-family neighborhood.

- We value diversity in the neighborhood population: age, ethnicity

Group 6 Vision

Wedgwood is a residential, pedestrian-friendly community with a community center featuring commercial/community space and accessible multifamily housing.

Group 7 Vision

A friendly urban small town in the trees which values diversity and sustainability.

Group 8 Vision

Wedgwood is a treed, quiet, walkable, friendly neighborhood with easy access to significant city attractions.

Group 9 Vision

Wedgwood is a small-scale community with a safe, diverse neighborhood feel, mixed housing types, and sustainable local businesses.