

City of Edina, Minnesota

Wooddale/Valley View Small Area Plan

Kickoff Meeting Notes, June 18, 2014



Citizen participants were asked to break into small groups and brainstorm answers to the following questions:

1. What strengths and assets do we have? What do we love about the area that we want to keep?
2. What do we want to add or change to make Wooddale/Valley View the ideal neighborhood commercial area for residents and businesses?
3. What are our hopes for the small area planning process?

Below are the responses from each group to the break out discussion session questions.

Question 1: What strengths and assets do we have? What do we love about the area that we want to keep?

- Convenience/location
 - Road connection
 - Parking
 - Neighborhood
 - Park/school
 - Small business/limited commercial
 - Low density
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- "Small" retail shops
 - Family friendly
 - Easy access by bike/walking
 - Independently locally owned
 - No chain/franchise (ex. Starbucks)
 - No high-rise
 - Low density
 - Geographically defined- not spreading into residential area
 - Stop signs- not stoplights
 - Neighborhood- not a suburb
 - History/longevity of businesses
 - Available parking
 - Convenience
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- Central to neighborhood
 - Small essential businesses/walking distance
 - Excellent sidewalks/lighting
 - Bicycle designation

- Two close parks
- Bus service
- Ice cream
- Businesses are concentrated
- Relatively affordable housing close by
- Kid-friendly and accessible
- Stable businesses (hardware, Wally's, barber)
- Good, easy parking
- Not that many overhead power lines

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- Long-term residents
 - Low traffic- side streets
 - Quaint
 - Community sense
 - Convenient business area
 - Pamela Park and Cornelia Park close by
 - Florist Shop

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- Family neighborhood feel
 - Affordable
 - Low density
 - Quiet
 - Low crime area
 - Some commercial activity
 - Parking

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- Neighborhood feel
 - Locally owned businesses
 - Location
 - Parking
 - Neighborhood type activity with services
 - Multigenerational
 - Controlled traffic- not like France Ave

Question 2: What do we want to add or change to make Wooddale/Valley View the ideal neighborhood commercial area for residents and businesses?

- Coffee shop
- Pedestrian connections
- Outdoor gathering
- Small convenience store
- Small restaurant/outdoor eating
- Bike shop
- Keep gas station

- Flower shop

- City be more flexible/facilitate changes and updates to the properties
- Keep hardware store in area
- Small convenience store
- Manage traffic volumes
 - Keep safe for kids
 - Lose access to Oaklawn
- Outdoor eating

- Return of small medical clinic
- Drug store
- Better lighting
- Evening activities
- Two lanes

- Bring back 'superette'
- Bakery/coffee shop
- More trees
- Bus shelters
- Increase business vibrancy
- 'Healthy' food restaurant
- Cul-de-sac at Kellogg, north of Valley View
- Better marked crosswalks, four-ways at Wooddale and Valley View
- Bike route with new redo of bridge over Hwy 62
- Housing above retail (mixed use)

- Add bakery, coffee shop, convenience store, restaurant/s, petting zoo
- Town square gathering/socializing area
- Limit McMansions

- No traffic
- No high density, high cost, elevated (housing and commercial, Section 8)
- City follow law and policies

- Keep hardware store and Wally's
- Another restaurant/coffee shop/wine and beer?
- Light commercial in empty City owned lot (put Edina Art Center there)
- Keep properties clean and painted

Question 3: What are our hopes for the small area planning process?

- Continue upgrade of housing and commercial
- Design guidelines in the district
- Maintain low density
- Diversity

- No process, don't do it

- Citizens/residents be heard
 - No increase in rental properties
 - Transparency- documents aren't buried on the city website
 - Ongoing communication
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- Keep services in area (Wally's, Edina Hardware, Snuffy's, Artistic Floral, Burley's Beauty Shop, Barber Shop)
 - Bring back convenience store superette
 - Better landscaping
 - Bus shelter/cover at stop
 - Sidewalk on West side of Wooddale by bus stop
 - Keep Wooddale the same- keep center line for cars (traffic)
 - Add a business to the empty City of Edina lot
 - Put City advertising signs for businesses on nearby Hwy 62 and 100 ramps (Benton Ave and Valley View)
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- No fighting, make it positive and proactive
 - Multiple ways to contribute input- not just evening meetings
 - Creativity/think outside the box
 - Utilize strengths of neighborhood
 - Respect all opinions
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- Cooperation between businesses and residents
 - Look at other cities (ex. Seattle)
 - Maintain personal responsibility for upkeep
 - Ownership
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- Leave it all as is
 - Redevelop the mall for small businesses
 - Traffic lights
 - City has good intentions