

Overview Westwood Workshop 1 (May 29th, 2025)

Priorities (Page 2-3)

- Strategically address blight and vacancy by supporting local ownership, preventing dumping, and promoting community-led development.
- Improve transit access and pedestrian infrastructure with a focus on safety, connectivity, and transit amenities like shelters.
- Address persistent flooding and stormwater issues with clear solutions and attention to environmental impacts.
- Strengthen commercial code enforcement through consistent monitoring, community engagement, and accountability.
- Advance environmental justice through pollution reduction, green infrastructure, and local job creation that improves health, equity, community resilience, and expanding parks and green space.

Highlighted Places:

Location	Recommended Future Land Use (FLU) Category	Page Number
Existing Anchors		
Third and Ford	Anchor-Neighborhood Mainstreet	3
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Meeting Themes: (Pages 7-8)

City Wide Actions

- Environmental Health and Pollution
- Governance and Accountability

Westwood Actions

- Local Economy and Community Wealth
- Housing Development
- Greenspace, Food Access and Recreation
- Public Programming and Inclusive Services

Westwood Priorities:

Original Priority	Community Feedback	New Priority
Strategically address blight and vacancy through land assembly with infill development, agricultural uses, and recreational uses	Residents continue to support addressing blight and vacancy as a priority but want the focus to reflect their lived experiences and concerns more directly. Dumping is a major and ongoing issue and there is a strong desire for more centralized locations to dispose of large items like mattresses and tree limbs. Residents emphasized the importance of ensuring land remains in the hands of people who live in the Westwood District, with protections against corporate buyouts and more accountability for landlords who allow their properties to become blighted. They also want to see protections for seniors, clarity around what infill development entails, and assurances that Black American contractors and current landowners will be prioritized. Despite frustration over a perceived lack of progress since 2019, residents still view this as a critical priority.	Strategically address blight and vacancy by supporting local ownership, preventing dumping, and promoting community-led development.
Improve pedestrian and cyclist infrastructure to increase accessibility and support multi-modal transportation options	Residents expressed mixed or neutral feelings about pedestrian and cyclist infrastructure. While safety concerns were acknowledged, many felt that sidewalk and bike lane improvements were not a high priority compared to issues like blight or litter. There was minimal support for cycling infrastructure. Instead, the community emphasized the need for improved public transportation, particularly better bus service to and from Westwood and Boxtown, as well as more connected and safe sidewalks, for all users, that link neighborhoods to key destinations. Residents also want transit amenities like bus shelters to be included.	Improve transit access and pedestrian infrastructure with a focus on safety, connectivity, and transit amenities like shelters.
Address flooding and stormwater issues throughout the district	Residents strongly agree that flooding and stormwater remain major issues in the district, especially in areas like 3rd & Tonto, McCain & Raines, and near Cypress Creek. They noted worsening conditions since 2019 and reported frequent flooding on streets like Tonto. In addition to wanting continued focus on this issue, residents are asking for more transparency about how stormwater solutions will be implemented and what impacts they may have on the aquifer.	Address persistent flooding and stormwater issues with clear solutions and attention to environmental impacts.

Encourage active code enforcement around commercial centers and civic assets	Residents continue to see code enforcement as a high priority, especially around commercial centers and civic spaces. However, they expressed frustration with lack of responsiveness, particularly when using 311, and noted that in-person visits yield better results, though they are inconvenient. Community members emphasized the importance of consistent monitoring, relationship-building, and ensuring enforcement efforts hold landlords accountable without unfairly targeting low-income families. They also want to see more proactive efforts to address longstanding trash and property maintenance issues.	Strengthen commercial code enforcement through consistent monitoring, community engagement, and accountability.
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New Priorities:

- **New Priority-** Address Environmental issues
 - **Community feedback-** Residents emphasized the need to address environmental concerns and pollution, particularly from large companies. There is strong support for improving health standards through better infrastructure, more public trashcans, and investment in green spaces like parks, gardens, and farmers markets. Community members also called for job creation tied to environmental stewardship, such as tree care and managing invasive species. The feedback points to a desire for universal basic infrastructure that supports both the environment and the local economy.
 - **Priority:** Advance environmental justice through pollution reduction, green infrastructure, and local job creation that improves health, equity, community resilience, and expanding parks and green space.

Existing Anchors:

Third and Ford

Summary of Community Feedback	Anchor Type: Neighborhood Mainstreet
Community members thought Third and Ford could be an excellent place for job training, mental health facilities and social programs such as parenting classes. Community members also said that with Third and Raines would be the potential “Downtown Westwood”.	Recommendation: Extend anchor to combine with Third and Raines (Southwest Twin) to create a more cohesive Mainstreet in the Westwood District

Ford and King

Summary of Community Feedback	Anchor Type: Neighborhood Crossing
Community members identified this area as a high foot traffic area where community members are often seen gathering.	Recommendation: Because this anchor serves as a walkable gathering place for community it should remain a Neighborhood Crossing.

Third and Mitchell (Crystal Palace)

Summary of Community Feedback	Anchor Type: Neighborhood Mainstreet
Third and Mitchell was highlighted as a place holding community significance, community members want to see the area reactivated.	Recommendation: This anchor has the potential to become internally walkable and is a place that community members want to see revitalized. The Anchor Neighborhood Mainstreet designation would encourage an internally walkable mixed use developments, including retail, housing, and community spaces.

Third and Fairway

Summary of Community Feedback	Anchor Type: Neighborhood Mainstreet
Although there was not a lot of conversation around this anchor in particular, community members did express wanting to see more diverse housing options on Third.	Recommendation: The designation of Neighborhood Mainstreet would allow for diverse housing types that support retail and community spaces.

Third and Weaver

Summary of Community Feedback	No Anchor: Low Intensity Commercial Services
Although there was not a lot of community conversation about this anchor, there was general conversation about the need for healthy development of commercial spaces, especially near Third and Clement.	Recommendation: Low intensity commercial services would promote commercial development that is aligned with both the scale of the neighborhood and Third Street.

Third and Raines (Southwest Twin)

Summary of Community Feedback	Anchor Type: Neighborhood Mainstreet
Residents identified Third and Raines as the most important and central anchor for the Westwood community, describing it as the primary gathering place and a potential catalyst for neighborhood revitalization. There was strong interest in seeing the area become more residential, particularly with expanded housing options for seniors, young adults, and young families. While large apartment complexes were discouraged, residents expressed cautious support for lower-intensity multi-family housing like duplexes, triplexes, and quadplexes, especially near amenities, police presence, and job training or educational opportunities. Commercially, the community desires more sit-down restaurants, coffee shops, grocery stores, and even a potential flea market to support local vendors. Key community-serving spaces such as a new bus station, free community workshop spaces, and facilities that protect vulnerable groups, including immigrants and the unhoused, were highlighted as priorities. Falcon Park, near the Southwest Twin development, was called out for improvements and activation, as many residents were unaware of its presence due to a lack of amenities. The shopping center across the street was also highlighted for need of investment. Overall, residents see Third and Raines as the heart of Westwood and believe that, with improved connectivity and multimodal access, it can become a vibrant, inclusive hub.	Recommendation: This anchor should serve as the development catalyst for the district, combining transit, retail, community spaces, and public retail. This area should be the both connected to the larger community and provide diverse housing options outside of single family developments.

Community Identified Priority Areas:

Third and Peebles

Community Feedback Summary	Analysis	Recommended FLU Designation: High intensity Commercial Services (Gateway)
Third and Peebles was introduced as the entrance into the community coming off f the interstate or into Westwood from South Memphis or Downtown. There is a new gas station under construction. There are also several bus stops between Peebles and the Bridge. Community members would like to see more investment into the entrance “first stop” of their district.	Natural Boundaries: A lot of the area is in a floodplain Cultural and Economic Significance: It is the first stop into Westwood and there are diverse commercial uses that are happening in the area Lack of Mixed-Use Development: The surrounding uses are not very compatible with mixed use development Limited Walkability: While the road is not overbuilt, the lack of a quality pedestrian infrastructure limits walkability overall.	High intensity commercial services would be appropriate for the existing activities that are happening in the area for example, auto sales, hotels, and the new large gas station. However, the gateway designation should highlight that this place serves as the entry way into the community.

TO Fuller State Park

Community Feedback Summary	Analysis	Recommended FLU Designation: Parks and Recreation Facility
Community Members identified TO Fuller State Park as a “Green Anchor” The hope that there would be protections for T.O Fuller and recognition and protection for the Chucalissa Museum. Community Members recognized the potential connection the park has with state funds.	Cultural and Economic Significance: T.O. Fuller is a beautiful state park with wonderful amenities and education opportunities Walkability: By it is nature as a park, it is a walkable community hub. Lack of Mixed-Use Development: Because of its nature as a park mixed use development would be inappropriate No Central Hub: While vital to community character it does not center the neighborhood rather standing as a jewel on its own	Parks and Recreation designation would protect T.O. Fuller from commercial and residential development that would be inappropriate for a park.

Westwood Community Center

Community Feedback Summary	Analysis	Recommended FLU Designation: Parks and Recreation Facility
Community members would like to see more investment into the Westwood Community Center. Including more programming, updated facilities, specifically a repaired and covered swimming pool, and general improvement in the neighborhood surrounding the community center. There was a lot of conversation about “dead man’s curve” on Western Drive. Creating unsafe driving conditions and blind spots for people illegally dumping waste.	Cultural Significance: The Charles E. Powell Community Center serves as a central hub for community gatherings Walkability: As a community center, it naturally supports walkability Lack of Mixed-Use Development: Because of its nature as a park mixed use development would be inappropriate	Parks and Recreation designation would protect Westwood Community Center from commercial development that would be inappropriate for such a densely residential community while elevating it as an important greenspace in the neighborhood.

Themes and Actions:

City Wide Goals and Actions-

- **Environmental Health and Pollution**
 - **Key Feedback:** Residents are deeply concerned about the health impacts of pollution and want proactive steps taken to protect air, water, and soil quality.
 - **Action Item:** Actions should include stricter air quality management, targeted pollution monitoring, and the creation of a Universal Basic Income or relief fund for residents affected by environmental hazards. Public jobs focused on tree care and managing invasive species can also support infrastructure while promoting environmental stewardship.
- **Governance and Accountability**
 - **Key Feedback:** There is frustration with elected officials who do not show up or communicate with the community, as well as with a lack of transparency.
 - **Action Item:** Residents want more accountability, including requiring Council members to attend community meetings. They also support privacy protections like opting out of third-party surveillance, and would like to see proof that data collected from the community is being used for community benefit.

Westwood Themes and Actions

- **Local Economy and Community Wealth**

- **Key Feedback:** The community wants to see more investment stay in Westwood and build wealth from within.
- **Action Item:** Develop a vacancy registry to help identify properties for local ownership or reinvestment, while providing interest-free loans and support for locally owned businesses, including grocery stores, to help address blight and boost economic resilience.
- **Action Item:** Riverport businesses should also be encouraged to engage with and invest in the surrounding neighborhoods.

- **Housing Development**

- **Key Feedback:** Residents are interested in more diverse housing options and the revitalization of underutilized or blighted properties.
- **Action Item:** Support more multifamily housing along Third, without displacing low income residents throughout the community.

- **Greenspace, Food Access, and Recreation**

- **Key Feedback:** There is strong support for more green spaces and local food access as a means of improving health and community connection.
- **Action Item:** Encourage health by investing in new parks, community gardens, fruit-bearing trees, and farmers markets. Support the development of amenities like fishing ponds and a therapeutic community pool to promote both physical and mental wellness.

- **Public Programming and Inclusive Services**

- **Key Feedback:** Residents want more inclusive, secular programming in public spaces to support youth and the broader community.
- **Action Item:** Establishing youth enrichment centers without religious affiliation can ensure services are accessible to everyone. Public programs can also include job creation opportunities tied to environmental maintenance and care.