

WESTWOOD HIGHLAND PARK



Who did we hear from?

There were 168 people who responded online versus 15 who participated in the neighborhood discussion. There was a general optimism about the direction the neighborhoods were headed, with notable appreciation for new parks, trails, and businesses. Additional improvements to the pedestrian and bicycle system would support an already increasing number of people who want to get around the neighborhood without a car. Respondents recognized that some growth and change in the neighborhoods is good, but the downside is that some of the infill development – especially townhouses – is of poor design, creates on-street parking shortages, and removes a lot of nice trees.

What did we hear?

- “Yuppification” is setting in, but the area is still relatively affordable and new households are moving in and fixing up older houses.
- More pedestrian and bicycle facilities are going in and many people are walking and biking, but traffic safety is a concern.
- Longfellow Creek improvements and trail access – plus other park enhancements - are appreciated.
- Zippy’s!
- New development has its plusses and minuses – loss of trees and open space is a concern, but the vitality of new businesses adds value to the neighborhood.
- The Sealth/Denny Recreation Complex Master plan is not functioning well.
- Public transportation could be improved.

For more information about the Neighborhood Status Check, including the complete summary of the neighborhood discussion and the transcript of the online responses, please see the Planning Commission’s [report](#).

What are the similarities between the in-person and online responses?

- Demographic shift - more families with children are moving in, as are domestic partner households.
- New businesses of higher quality and variety are welcome in the neighborhood.
- Westwood Village upgrades are appreciated.
- Longfellow Creek restoration and access – together with other pedestrian improvements – have been great for the neighborhood.
- Traffic is increasing, and related concerns about pedestrian safety.
- While there is a lot more walking and bicycling going on, there is an ongoing and increasing need for better pedestrian and bicycle facilities and connections.



What are the differences between the responses?

- Comments about townhouses – the design, quality and parking impacts were common online comments, not so much at the open house.
- There was much concern voiced at the open house about the relationship between the School District and the City and the issues related to the redevelopment of the Sealth/Denny site for community uses.
- Several online respondents mentioned that crime was an ongoing concern, but both online and at round-table discussions, people commented on an overall perception of decreased crime in the neighborhood.
- The updated library scored high online but wasn't mentioned significantly in the round-table discussions.

In their own words...

How has your neighborhood changed?

Seems to be improving -- more young families with children moving here. Seems safer. I don't mind telling people where I live quite as much. I'm proud.

HP & Westwood are both becoming more unique, so connection the 2 (in NP) is becoming more difficult. HP more young families & couples — need for more walkable destinations.

...my concerns are: 1. Crime. 2. Traffic, especially on Holden.