

Westnedge Hill Neighborhood Survey Overview

Introduction: Welcome to the Neighborhood!

Welcome to Westnedge Hill! We're so glad you're here, and on behalf of the Neighborhood Association, we want to help you feel right at home. To better understand our shared goals, a neighborhood-wide survey was conducted between April and July 2025, and we were thrilled to hear from 204 of our neighbors.

This document summarizes the key findings from that survey. Its goal is to share what residents love most about living here and to highlight the main areas where we can work together to make our community even stronger. The great news is that our neighbors are overwhelmingly happy—with a combined 158 residents rating the quality of life as "Satisfied" or "Very Satisfied"—but there's always room to make a great community even better.

1. What Makes Westnedge Hill a Great Place to Live?

Before diving into areas for improvement, the survey first asked what residents value most about our neighborhood. Four clear themes emerged, painting a picture of a vibrant and cherished community.

- **Walkability & Location:** Residents love the walkable streets and how easy it is to get to parks, downtown, and local businesses on foot or by bike.
- **Nature & Green Spaces:** The beautiful mature trees, frequent wildlife sightings, and the unique feeling of "country in the city" are highly valued.
- **Friendly Community:** Neighbors appreciate the friendly, helpful people who live here, contributing to a strong sense of safety and community.
- **Unique Homes:** Residents take great pride in the neighborhood's diverse, historic, and charming architecture, noting that it is not a "cookie-cutter" community.

Building on these strengths, residents identified several key areas where we can work together to make our neighborhood even better.

2. Top Priorities for Improvement

The feedback from the survey helped crystallize three main goals that residents want to focus on for the future. These priorities represent our community's collective vision for a safer, more connected, and more vibrant Westnedge Hill.

1. **Making Our Streets Safer and Smoother:** Residents want to address traffic speed and improve the condition of roads and sidewalks.
2. **Creating More Opportunities to Connect:** Neighbors are looking for more community events and better ways to stay informed.
3. **Enhancing Our Shared Spaces:** There is strong interest in upgrading local parks and attracting new walkable businesses.

Let's take a closer look at what these priorities mean in practice.

3. Priority #1: Infrastructure and Safety

The most frequently mentioned area for improvement was the physical infrastructure of our neighborhood, with a strong focus on making our streets safer for everyone.

3.1. Calming Traffic and Improving Roads

Residents identified two major infrastructure challenges that impact daily life:

- **Speeding Concerns:** Many neighbors are worried about cars driving too fast, especially on major thoroughfares like Westnedge, Bronson, and Edgemoor.
- **Unsafe Crossings:** There is a strong desire for safer ways for pedestrians to cross busy streets, particularly Westnedge.
- **Road and Sidewalk Repair:** Residents called for repaving streets, fixing potholes, and adding or repairing sidewalks on key streets like Rose and Bronson Blvd to create a continuous, safe network.

3.2. Why It Matters: The Impact on Families

These concerns have a real-world impact, especially on our youngest residents. Among families with school-aged children who responded to the survey, significantly more parents feel it is **unsafe** for their kids to walk or bike to school alone (42 "No" vs. 28 "Yes"). This feeling is directly linked to the traffic speeds and incomplete sidewalk network mentioned above.

3.3. Top 3 Solutions Residents Want

When asked what would make them feel safer, residents' suggestions pointed to three clear, quantifiable solutions.

Most-Requested Safety Improvements

Improvement	What it Means
Traffic Calming (42 mentions)	Adding speed bumps, lowering speed limits, and increasing traffic enforcement.
Better Sidewalks (26 mentions)	Creating continuous sidewalks and improving crosswalks for safer walking.
Increased Visibility (18 mentions)	Adding more streetlights for better lighting at night.

Just as important as our streets and sidewalks is the strength of our community connection.

4. Priority #2: Community Connection and Engagement

Beyond physical infrastructure, residents expressed a powerful desire for a stronger social fabric. The feedback shows a clear appetite for more opportunities to connect with one another and stay informed about neighborhood happenings.

4.1. More Ways to Get Together

Neighbors are eager for more organized social events that bring people of all ages together. The most popular suggestions included:

- Block parties and potlucks
- Concerts and movie nights at Crane Park
- Neighborhood-wide garage sales
- Holiday activities and parades

Furthermore, residents emphasized the importance of creating events that appeal to all demographics, from young families to singles and retired neighbors.

4.2. Better Communication

Many residents feel they are missing out on news and events. There is a strong request for the Westledge Hill Neighborhood Association (WHNA) to provide more inclusive and regular updates. Specifically, neighbors want politically neutral communication channels, such as regular newsletters and email updates, to ensure all residents feel informed and included, regardless of their social media use. These updates can keep everyone informed about events, city projects, and volunteer opportunities—especially since **73 residents indicated they need more information** before they can commit to helping out.

These events and communications often revolve around our shared public spaces, which residents are eager to improve.

5. Priority #3: Enhancing Our Parks and Local Businesses

The final major priority focuses on improving the shared amenities that define our neighborhood's character—our parks and our local commercial corridor.

5.1. Reimagining Crane Park

Crane Park is a beloved landmark, and residents have a clear vision for its future. The three most-requested improvements are:

1. **Add a Playground:** The single most frequent request is to install a playground or nature playscape to make the park more welcoming for children and families.
2. **Create More Gathering Spaces:** Residents would like to see more benches, shaded picnic tables, and a pavilion to support community events and casual gatherings.
3. **Improve Safety and Maintenance:** To address concerns about vandalism and ensure the park remains a welcoming space for everyone, residents requested more regular cleanup and an increased public safety presence.

5.2. What's Missing? The Call for New Businesses

When asked what they'd like to see nearby, the answer was clear: residents want more businesses within walking or biking distance. The most frequently requested new business is a **coffee shop or café**, a "third space"—a term residents used to describe a place outside of home and work where neighbors can gather and connect. Other popular suggestions included:

- A neighborhood bar or pub
- A sit-down restaurant
- A bakery

- An ice cream shop
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6. Looking to the Future

The survey results paint a comprehensive picture of a community that is proud of its home but eager to make it even better.

A Positive Outlook: The overwhelming sentiment is one of optimism. Most residents feel positive about the neighborhood's future, viewing it as a safe, desirable place to live. There is a strong collective desire to maintain its historic charm, protect its green spaces, enhance its walkability, and build an even stronger, more inclusive and diverse sense of community for generations to come.

Key Challenges Ahead: To achieve this vision, residents acknowledge key challenges. The primary concerns for the future include addressing crime, ensuring housing remains well-maintained and owner-occupied, and continuing to advocate for critical infrastructure improvements like continuous sidewalks and traffic-calming measures. Success will also depend on ensuring our neighborhood remains a welcoming place for all.

By focusing on these shared priorities, we can all contribute to making Westnedge Hill an even better place to call home.