

Town's Comprehensive Plan is blueprint for new Westwood

What do you do with a golf course when it goes out of business?

As the owners of Westwood Country Club, we are dealing with this question. Once it became apparent that we would not be able to exchange Westwood for the Audubon Golf Course, we turned to the Town's Bicentennial Comprehensive Plan, and that is where we found the answer.

Town leaders and residents together envisioned this scenario when they enacted the Plan.

The Plan has several goals: quality new development, open space, sensitivity to environmental resources, promoting a healthy tax base, preventing adverse commercial development and addressing traffic and flooding issues.

The new Westwood addresses all those goals. In a sense, the Town's Plan is the Westwood plan.

Our plan for Westwood includes 64 acres of parks, lakes, ponds, and pedestrian and bike trails (38 percent of the site). It follows the Town vision for livable neighborhoods and pedestrian-friendly, mixed-use developments. Westwood respects quality of life, expands the Town's tax base and values community character.

The new Westwood focuses on the Town's objective to create housing diversity through a variety of residential types and styles, pedestrian friendly design, and the strategic placement of new mixed-use centers.

As we continue to refine our plans, we are meeting with Town officials and neighbors, briefing them on the project and listening to their thoughts and suggestions. We are interested in hearing from all residents of the Town, and we remain dedicated to being open, honest and available as the review process for the new Westwood moves forward.

The new Westwood takes a site that is exclusively reserved for 350 members and opens it to the public. The new Westwood is smart growth, expands the tax base and creates an exciting, new, traditional neighborhood in the heart of Amherst.

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