

Adopted by Metro Planning Commission April 8, 2021

40

Napier

WEDGEWOOD-HOUSTO CHESTNUT HILL

Urban Design Overlay

An implementation tool of the 2019 Wedgewood-Houston Chestnut Hill Planning Study



table of contents

part 1: introduction	4-6
part 2: application & compliance	6-9
part 3: UDO standards	10-16
part 4: character area standards	18-22

Napier

15

R.

Browns Cree

part 1: introduction



The 2019 Wedgewood-Houston Chestnut Hill Planning Study recommended the development of a contextual infill UDO for character areas 2 and 3a of its plan. The character areas have been slightly rearranged into three neighborhoods, one neigborhod center, and one corridor for the purpose of the UDO.

The Wedgewood Houston Chestnut Hill Planning Study (2019)

In 2019, the <u>Wedgewood Houston Chestnut Hill</u> (<u>WHCH</u>) <u>Planning Study</u> was adopted by the Planning Commission. The study was developed through a participatory process that involved the collaboration of planning staff with community stakeholders to establish a clear vision and provide detailed information and solutions to guide the future physical and regulatory characteristics of these two neighborhoods.

The study established six character areas - geographic sectors with common attributes and identities - to guide redevelopment. During the planning process, it became clear that more detailed guidelines for redevelopment in Character Areas 2 and 3 (the primarily residential portions of the study area) were necessary. Therefore, a key recommendation from the study was to establish a contextual residential infill Urban Design Overlay (UDO). The need for a UDO is rooted in two core concerns within the community:

1) affordability and displacement: The rising cost of housing in these neighborhoods is displacing lower and moderate-income residents, negatively affecting diversity, and uprooting long-time neighbors.

2) community character: New development is out of character with the existing built environment. Recent residential infill has often been of a greater height and density than that of the surrounding neighborhood and in a different built form to that of the existing homes. This trend is erasing the unique character and sense of place of the neighborhoods.

Intent

The purpose of the Wedgewood-Houston Chestnut Hill UDO is to preserve the essential, defining qualities of the Wedgewood-Houston and Chestnut Hill neighborhoods while addressing increasing demand for residential capacity in the area.

The UDO outlines a carefully calibrated approach to neighborhood development, focused on contextual growth over time. In addition, it prioritizes flexibility and diversity in housing by incentivizing small multi-unit developments in specific places compatible with the existing urban fabric.



Recent residential development trends focus on maximizing entitlements, resulting in a built form incompatible with the characteristic scale of the Chestnut Hill and Fall Hamilton neighborhoods.

These large, single-family homes can exacerbate the systemic housing issues - such as lack of diverse and affordable housing options - that plague Nashville's urban neighborhoods.

Goals

- » Provide a framework for a contextual urban neighborhood change in Nashville that prioritizes housing affordability & diversity & sustainable growth.
- » Guide flexibility in housing in Merritt-Southgate to address housing demand and affordability.
- » Preserve the character of the Chestnut Hill and Fall-Hamilton neighborhoods (Southgate to Wedgewood Ave) while allowing for some compatible infill.
- » Encourage 2nd Ave South to continue to develop as a vital corridor.
- » Support the development of mixed-use neighborhood centers at the intersections of 2nd Ave South with Hart St and Chestnut St.

part 2: application & compliance

HOW TO USE THIS DOCUMENT



- 1. Find relevant zoning by address, parcel #, or owner on Metro's Parcel Viewer: <u>https://maps.nashville.</u> <u>gov/ParcelViewer/</u>
- 2. Refer to the UDO standards in this document (p.10-16). All parcels within the UDO boundary are subject to these general standards.
- **3. Find the applicable character area standards** (p.18-22). Utilize the UDO framework map on p. 8 to determine the appropriate character area. Every parcel within the UDO will fit into one of the five character areas.
- 4. Ensure the proposed design & use fit the site.-

COMPLIANCE PROVISIONS

- 1. Full compliance with the standards of the UDO shall be required when any property within the UDO boundary is redeveloped or vacant property is developed.
- 2. When a building's occupiable square footage is being expanded, the expansion shall be in compliance with all applicable UDO development standards.
- 3. When a new structure is built on a lot with multiple structures, the new structure shall be in compliance with all applicable UDO development standards.

RESIDENTIAL ENTITLEMENTS

All residential properties within the UDO boundary and the RM20-A-NS zoning district are entitled to two dwelling units that comply with UDO standards. Properties 5445 sq. ft. and larger shall be entitled to more than two units that comply with UDO standards at a rate of twenty dwelling units per acres.* (2.5 units x 20 units/43560 sq. ft.=5445 sq. ft.)

MPC staff may consider a modification to allow four dwelling units on properties 7,500 sf or larger for a project that complies with the intent of the UDO to provide diversity in housing options and retain neighborhood character and meets all other standards of the UDO.

Projects proposed on lots less than 30 ft wide or 100 ft deep shall be considered through MPC staff review and will be considered based on their ability to meet the intent of the UDO and its standards.

Property size	Units	Conditions
less than 5445 sq. ft.	2 (entitled)	meet UDO standards
5445 -7,499 sq. ft.	3 (entitled)	meet UDO standards
7,500 - 8,711 sq. ft.	4 (allowable)	comply with the intent of the UDO & meets UDO standards
8,712-9,800 sq. ft.	4 (entitled)	meets UDO standards
9801 sq. ft. or greater	5 or more (entitled)	dependent upon RM20 factor; meet UDO standards

UDO RESIDENTIAL ENTITLEMENTS

OVERLAPPING CODE & PLANS

Base zoning district standards, including those within the Urban Zoning Overlay (UZO), that are not varied by the provisions set forth in the Wedgewood-Houston Chestnut Hill Urban Design Overlay shall apply as appropriate to all property within the UDO boundary.

If a property is zoned Specific Plan (SP) or Planned Unit Development (PUD) then all standards contained within the SP or PUD shall apply. The UDO standards shall apply for any standards not addressed in the SP or PUD.

PROCESS

Prior to applying for a building permit, applicants shall apply for a <u>UDO Final Site Plan Application</u> with the Planning Department. The Final Site Plan shall be reviewed and approved by all departments prior to the issuance of the building permit.

Applicants are encouraged to contact Metro planning staff early in the design process for a pre-application meeting. Where physical constraints exist on a site within the UDO, the planning staff may review alternate design solutions that achieve the intent of the UDO.

Existing nonconforming structures can be modified or remodeled as long as the new construction does not allow the structure to become more noncompliant with the UDO standards contained herein.

Following the approval of the Final Site Plan, a Final Plat may be required to establish lots, rights-of-way and easements.

* 2.5 units x (20 units/43560 sq. ft) = 5445 sq. ft, where 20 units/acre is the density for RM20-A-NS, and there are 43,560 sq. ft. in 1 acre. 2.5 units is the minimum number that rounds up to 3 units.

MPC ADOPTED DRAFT

UDO framework map



MODIFICATIONS

Based on site-specific issues, modifications to the standards of the UDO may be necessary. Any standard within the UDO may be modified, insofar as the intent of the standard is being met; the modification results in better urban design for the neighborhood as a whole; and the modification does not impede or burden existing or future development of adjacent properties.

Planning Commission or Planning Department staff may approve modifications as follows:

- » The Planning Department staff may approve minor modifications, those containing deviations of 25 percent or less of a numerical standard.
- » Major modifications, deviations of more than 25 percent, will be considered by the Planning Commission.

Modifications for the Purpose of Retaining Existing Structures

The UDO encourages the retention of existing structures. Proposed modifications that respect existing conditions of a site that might not otherwise comply with the UDO (such as existing driveway widths or setbacks) may be considered administratively if the project is retaining or enhancing an existing structure and the modification is necessary to that retention.

The UDO framework map establishes the geographic boundaries of the five unique character areas comprising the WHCH UDO - The neighborhoods of Fall-Hamilton, Merritt-Southgate, & Chestnut Hill; the Chestnut St & Hart St centers; & the 2nd Ave South corridor. Each property within the UDO fits into one of these character areas.

part 3: UDO standards

UDO standards are applicable to all properties within the WHCH UDO boundary, regardless of character area or building type. They shall be used in conjunction with the guidelines outlined in *part 4: character area standards*.

	SITE CONFIGURATION
lot frontage	 A lot, once aggregated, shall have a frontage of no more than 120 ft in width. No subdivision shall results in lot(s) with a frontage less than 40 ft in width. For infill lots with a street frontage of less than 50 feet in width and where no improved alley exists, these lots shall be accessed via a shared drive. Where the subdivision results in an odd number of lots, one lot may have its own access.(Refer to Metro regulations for infill subdivisions)
building orientation	 Primary structures shall front onto a public street or common green space in the case of a cottage or bungalow court configuration. When a property fronts more than one street, such as corner lots, primary structures should prioritize fronting MCSP designated streets over local streets. Primary entrances to units shall only face side property lines where the established side setback is 10 ft or greater. Primary entrances shall not face rear property lines, except for carriage houses that face an alley.
garage orientation	 For lots with alley access, garage doors, whether attached or detached, shall face the side or rear property line. For lots without alley access and where a primary structure directly blocks the view of a rear garage from the street, the doors of that rear garage may face the front.
building spacing	 » 20 ft spacing is required between front-to-back detached structures. » 6 ft clearance spacing (10 ft wall-to-wall or 6 ft eave-to-eave) is required between side- by-side structures that do not share a common wall.



Cottage or bungalow courts may face a common green space or courtyard. Image credit: <u>Missing Middle Housing</u>

	ACCESS AND PARKING			
pedestrian access	Pedestrian access shall be provided from any primary entrance to the primary street frontage. This may be included within the driveway.			
visitability	Properties with four or more units must have at least one unit that is visitable. A unit is visitable when it meets the following requirements: » one zero step (ADA accessible) entrance » one door with 32" minimum clear passage space » one wheelchair accessible bathroom on the main floor			
vehicular access for properties with alley access	 » Vehicular access is relegated to alleys for all multi-family properties with 4 or more units. » In cases where a multi-family project is being pursued, internal drives may 			
vehicular access for properties without alley access	 » For properties without alley access, driveways are limited to one per lot per public street frontage. » For properties without alley access, all reasonable efforts shall be made to consolidate circulation and minimize curb cuts. This may include shared access or alley improvements, if the project is proximate to an improved alley. 			



Parking pads directly in front of homes create unfriendly and unsafe environments for pedestrians. Further, they prioritize the automobile over the human experience of the streetscape. Within the UDO, parking shall be contained to the side or rear to minimize this effect.

	ACCESS AND PARKING (CONT.)		
driveways & parking	» Parking pads shall be contained to the side or rear of the primary structure and may be located between structures in a front-to-back lot configuration. For single family properties, driveways loading from the primary street shall be no more than 12 ft wide.		
	» No driveways or parking pads, pervious or impervious, are permitted in front of the primary facade, facing the street.		
	» For duplex and triplex properties, driveways shall be no more than 18 ft in width for the first 20-40 ft in depth (refer to <u>Metro Code 13.12.110</u>).		
	» Driveways shall be setback a minimum of 2 feet from the side property line.		
	» Shared access drives shall be allowed to build to the lot line.		
bicycle parking	» Multi-family residential development shall provide covered bicycle parking per <u>17.20.135 of the Metro Code</u> .		
	» Non-residential development shall provide publicy visible and accessible bicycle parking per <u>17.20.135 of the Metro code</u> .		



Townhouses, like these on 2nd Ave South provide diversity in housing and support the character of the residential neighborhood.

		LANDSCAPE
design standards	»	Foundation plantings shall be used to soften the transition from the foundation to the wall along all street-facing facades.
	»	Tree and shrub species shall be chosen from the <u>Urban Forestry Recommended and</u> <u>Prohibited Tree and Shrub List</u> .
	»	No invasive plant species shall be used.
	»	Low Impact Development strategies shall be used for hardscaped areas, to maximize on-site infiltration of stormwater per <u>Metro Low Impact Development Manual</u> .
street trees	»	When sidewalks are required as part of right-of-way improvements, street trees shall be planted within the furnishing zone of the sidewalk. These trees will count towards a project's TDU requirements.
	»	When overhead utilities are present, understory trees shall be planted, spaced every 20 ft.
	»	When overhead utilities are not present, canopy trees shall be planted, spaced every 30 ft.
screening	»»	Service and utility elements including, but not limited to, waste, recycling, loading, and maintenance facilities, as well as HVAC, meters, trasnformers, panels, and other mechanical equipment, shall be located out of view and/or screened from public streets. Screening plants shall be low-branching, evergreen shrubs or trees of a height equal to or taller than the element to be screened at the time of planting.
bioretention	»	Planted bioretention facilities (raingardens, bioswales, etc) shall not be located in the frontage zone or front yard, unless Metro Stormwater or MPC staff deem it necessary due to forward sloping topography that prohibit placement to the side or rear.
	»	Planting plans for bioretention facilities must address 100% of the surface area and result in 90% surface coverage in the first two-years.
	»	Planted bioretention facilities may be planted in the furnishing zone within the right-of- way at the discretion of Public Works and the Urban Forester.



	ALL STRUCTURES
height	Height shall be measured from the average natural grade at the front property line to the roof ridge or parapet.
	Basements are not considered stories for the purpose of determining building height in stories.
massing	A building shall avoid long, monotonous, uninterrupted walls or roof planes facing streets.
	Wall planes for primary (front) facades shall not exceed 25 ft in length without a change in plane by means such as a porch, stoop, vertical recess or projection, or side-wing recess.
	Changes in plane shall be related to the structure of the building (vs. merely for cosmetic effect)—such as to designate entrances, organization of interior spaces or differentiation of units.
	False fronts, insubstantial parapets, or other changes in plane merely for visual effect are prohibited.
	Multi-family structures with facades 40 ft wide or greater must have porches or stoops that differentiate ground floor units. (This does not apply to mixed-use buildings with ground-floor commercial or office space)
mezzanines	A mezzanine, regardless of the percentage of floor area it encompasses, shall be considered a full story.

	MATERIALS AND FINISHES			
materials	» On all public streets, structures must be built or clad with a durable and high finish material - such as brick, stone, and hardie board - that does not terminate at the building corner.			
	» Other materials may be considered by MPC staff.			
	» Design for buildings on corner lots shall incorporate continuity of design in architectural details and materials that address both streets and shall avoid long, monotonous, uninterrupted walls or roof planes.			
	» EIFS cladding systems are not permitted within the UDO.			
	» For residential projects, glazing (window openings) shall be a minimum of 15% along the street facing facade.			
glazing	» For mixed use projects, glazing shall be a minimum of 40% on the ground floor, along the street facing facade and a minimum of 20% on upper floors.			
	» For purposes of measuring glazing, minimum glazing shall be measured from the top of foundation to the roof line.			
porches &	» Front porches shall have a minimum clearance depth of 6ft.			
stoops	» Front stoops shall be a minimum 36" in depth.			
shutters	Shutters shall be sized appropriately to fit the corresponding window opening.			
fences & walls	 » Fences and walls shall be constructed of durable, high quality materials such as wood, stone, masonry, or metal. » Fences shall be installed so that the finished side faces outward and all bracing shall be on the inside of the fence. » Chain link fences shall not enclose a front yard. » Chain link fences shall be permitted 20 ft behind the primary facade of the street facing structure. » Razor wire is prohibited. » Fences and walls within the front setback shall not exceed 4 ft in height. » Fences and walls along rear lot lines and along side property lines not fronting a public street shall not exceed 6 ft. 			

		CARRIAGE HOUSE STANDARDS
carriage houses		Metro Zoning Code has a use called <u>Detached Accessory Dwelling Units (DADUs)</u> . The building type commonly associated with this use is referred to as "Carriage House" within the UDO.
	»	The standards of this UDO supercede the requirements of <u>17.16.030.G</u> .
	»	A carriage house can be an independent structure or it can be a dwelling unit above a garage, or it can be attached to a workshop or other accessory structure on the same lot as the principal structure.
carriage house height	»	The top elevation of the carriage house shall not exceed the top elevation of the principal dwelling.
carriage house massing	»	A carriage house shall maintain a proportional mass, size, and height to ensure it is not larger than or extends into the side setback of the principal structure on the lot.
design guidelines material as used for the principal structure and shall use similar or comple		The carriage house shall be of similar or complementary style, design and material as used for the principal structure and shall use similar or complementary architectural characteristics, including roof form and pitch, to the existing principal structure.
	»	Carriage houses with a second story dwelling unit shall enclose the stairs interior to the structure and properly fire rate them per the applicable life safety standards found in the code editions adopted by the Metropolitan Government of Nashville.

REAR STRUCTURE STANDARDS			
rear structure height	»	The top elevation of rear structure in a front-to-back lot configuration shall not exceed the top elevation of the principal dwelling.	
rear structure massing	»	A rear structure shall maintain a proportional mass, size, and height to ensure it is not larger than the principal structure on the lot.	
rear structure design guidelines	»	Rear structures shall be of similar or complementary style, design and material as used for the principal structure and shall use similar or complementary architectural characteristics, including roof form and pitch, to the existing principal structure.	

MPC ADOPTED DRAFT

part 4: character area standards

Character area standards are applicable to all properties within a specific neighborhood, neighborhood center, or corridor, as defined in the UDO. They shall be used in conjunction with the guidelines outlined in *part 3: general area standards*.



	single family	single family duplex		3+ unit multi-family		
Fall Hamilton neig	Fall Hamilton neighborhood					
max. ISR	0.50	0.55		0.7		
max. height	The average height of adjacent residential structures plus 6 ft* to a maximum of 2 stories in 30 ft.			The average height of adjacent residential structures plus 8 ft* to a maximum of 2.5 stories in 35 ft.		
foundation height⁵	18-36" above finished grade at the front façade			1-36" above finished grade at the front façade		
min. required front setback ^{1 3}	average setback of adjacent single family average homes		erage setback of adjacent properties			
min. required side setback	5 ft	5 ft		5 ft min.		
min. required rear setback	5 ft 5 ft		5 ft			
parking requirements ²	1 per unit	1 per unit		1 per unit for 5 or fewer units; 1 per unit + 1 for more than 5 units		

	single family	duplex	3+ unit multi-family			
Merritt-Southgate neighborhood						
max. ISR	0.60	0.65	0.75			
max. height	3 stories and 45 ft.		3 stories and 45 ft. A 4th story may be granted for flats or other multi-family projects through the modification process.			
foundation height⁵		ed grade at the front ade	1-36" above finished grade at the front façade			
min. required front setback ^{1 3}	average setback of adjacent single family homes		average setback of adjacent properties			
min. required side setback	5 ft		5 ft min.			
min. required rear setback	5 ft 5 ft		5 ft			
parking requirements ²	1 per unit 1 per unit		1 per unit for less than 5 units; 1 per unit + 1 for more than 5 units			

	single family	duplex	3+ unit multi-family				
Chestnut Hill neighborhood							
max. ISR	0.50	0.55	0.7				
max. height	The average height of adjacent residential structures plus 6 ft* to a maximum of 3 stories in 35 ft.		The average height of adjacent residential structures plus 8 ft to a maximum of 3 stories in 35 ft.				
foundation height⁵	18-36" above finished grade at the front façade		1-36" above finished grade at the front façade				
min. required front setback ^{1 3}	average setback of adjacent single family homes		average setback of adjacent properties				
min. required side setback	5 ft	5 ft	5 ft min.				
min. required rear setback	5 ft	5 ft	5 ft				
parking requirements²	1 per unit	1 per unit	1 per unit for 5 or fewer units; 1 per unit + 1 for more than 5 units				

	single family	duplex	multi-family	mixed-use		
Chestnut Street neighborhood center						
max ISR	0.60	0.65	0.8	0.8		
max height	The average height of adjacent structures plus 6 ft to a maximum of 2.5 stories in 35 ft.		3 stories in 45 feet. A 4th story may be granted for multi-family projects through the modification process.			
foundation height⁵	18-36" above finished grade at the front façade		1-36" above finished grade at the front façade			
min. first floor height		none		14 ft		
min. required front setback ^{1 3}	average setback of adjacent properties					
min. required side setback	5 ft		None, except for end units adjacent to a residential property, in which case a 5 ft. setback shall be required.			
min. required rear setback	5 ft	5 ft	5 ft for detached; 20 ft if attached	20 ft		
parking requirements ²	1 per unit	1 per unit	1 per unit for 5 o 1 per unit + 1 for mc			

Hart Street neighborhood center					
max ISR	0.60	0.65	0.8	0.8	
max height	The average height of adjacent structures plus 6 ft to a maximum of 2.5 stories in 35 ft.		3 stories in 45 feet. A 4th story may be granted for multi-family projects through the modification process.		
foundation height⁵	18-36" above finished grade at the front façade		1-36" above finished grade at the front façade		
min. first floor height	none			14 ft. min.	
min. required front setback ^{1 3}	average setback of adjacent properties				
min. required side setback	5 ft		None, except for end units adjacent to a residential property, in which case a 5 ft. setback shall be required.		
min. required rear setback	5 ft	5 ft	5 ft. for detached; 20 ft if attached	20 ft	
parking requirements²	1 per unit	1 per unit	1 per unit for 5 o 1 per unit + 1 for mo		

WEDGEWOOD-HOUSTON CHESTNUT HILL UDO



This mixed-use development project at 12th and Paris in South Nashville creates an inviting neighborhood center at an appropriate scale.

Image credit: <u>dryden.studio</u>

	single family	duplex	3+ unit multi-family				
2nd Ave South corridor							
max ISR	0.60	0.65	0.8				
max height	The average height c plus 6 ft to a maximur	,	3 stories. A 4th story may be granted for multi-family projects through the modification process.				
foundation height⁵	18-36" above finished grade at the front façade		1-36" above finished grade at the front façade				
min. required front setback ^{1:3}	average setback of adjacent properties						
min. side setback	5 ft min.		5 ft min.				
min. rear setback	5 ft	5 ft	5 ft				
parking requirements ²	1 per unit	1 per unit	1 per unit for 5 or fewer units; 1 per unit + 1 for more than 5 units				

¹ For corner properties, a reduction in front setback may be pursued through the modification process.

² Reductions in parking requirements may be pursued through the modification process.

³ For sites where the front setback of the adjacent properties is greater than the average setback of the block, staff may consider a modification to the min. required setback that results in a more uniform setback for the whole block.

⁴ Parking requirements for commercial properties revert to the UZO (Urban Zoning Overlay).

⁵ Deviations to foundation height standards may be considered administratively by MPC staff and will consider the proposed structure's relationship to the street.

Notes on Character Area Standards

- 1. Any terminology specific to this UDO should be interpreted by planning staff or planning commission.
- 2. Adjacent residential structures are the most immediate residences on either side of a property.
- **3. Height** shall be measured from the average natural grade of the front property line to the roof ridge or parapet. The average natural grade of the front property line shall be determined by calculating the mean elevation of the two front corners of a property boundary prior to grading.
- 4. Natural grade is the base ground elevation prior to grading.
- 5. A mezzanine, no matter the percentage of floor area it encompasses, shall be counted as an individual story.
- 6. ISR or impervious surface ratio is calculated by taking the total square footage of all impervious surfaces. (roof area & pavement) and dividing that by the total area of the property.

Notes on Mixed-Use Districts and Neighborhood Centers

- 1. In mixed-use zoning districts, multi-family residential square footage within mixed-use buildings shall not count toward FAR limitations.
- 2. In mixed-use zoning districts, there shall be no step-back requirements.
- 3. The UDO does not preclude the future development of neighborhood centers in Merritt-Southgate (Character Area 2a of the 2019 Planning Study). However, a rezoning would be required for the implementation of neighborhood retail on property in a residential zoning district.
- Any proposed neighborhood center shall be subject to the criteria outlined in the <u>2019 Planning Study</u>: "While neighborhood centers may be appropriate at certain intersections within subdistrict 2a, they should be sensitive to characteristics found in the immediate surroundings such as scale, setback, roof form, proximity, and height" (p.35).
- Mixed-use zoning districts and Neighborhood Centers in Wedgewood-Houston shall comply with the Character Area Standards for the Hart Street and Chestnut Street Neighborhood Centers outlined in the UDO document (p.20).

MPC ADOPTED DRAFT