

# Planning Commission

## Staff Report

February 2, 2023



<b>Case No:</b>	22-ZONE-0121
<b>Project Name:</b>	Vista Hills Subdivision
<b>Location:</b>	10001 Vista Hills Blvd
<b>Owner(s):</b>	TRI Smyrna LLC
<b>Applicant:</b>	Jane Renn
<b>Jurisdiction:</b>	Louisville Metro
<b>Council District:</b>	22-Robin Engel
<b>Case Manager:</b>	Julia Williams, AICP, Planning Manager

### **REQUEST(S)**

- Change in zoning from RR to R-5
- Waiver from Chapter 10.3.5 to permit encroachments into the 50' parkway buffer and 75' parkway setback (22-WAIVER-0185)
- Floyds Fork Overlay
- Detailed District Development plan/Preliminary Subdivision Plan

### **CASE SUMMARY/BACKGROUND**

The proposal is for the change in zoning from RR to R-5 in the neighborhood form district. 4 lots are being proposed along Vista Hills Boulevard. The site also has frontage along Bardstown Road. The proposal is located at the boundary of the Floyds Fork Review Overlay area. Access to the lots will be from a local road, Vista Hills Boulevard.

### **STAFF FINDING**

Staff finds that the proposal meets the guidelines of the Comprehensive Plan and requirements of the Land Development Code.

### **TECHNICAL REVIEW**

The proposal has received preliminary approval from both MSD and Transportation Planning.

### **INTERESTED PARTY COMMENTS**

Please record my opposition to the rezoning on case 22-ZONE-0121. Bardstown Road was already a traffic nightmare before the latest batches of apartments were built. Now, with the new shopping centers and at least two new large apartment complexes the traffic is even worse. It takes at least 20 minutes during rush hour to go 3 miles. That is absurd. A change from RR to R-5 is too much

additional traffic that cannot be handled. Traffic studies need to be conducted (not just scheduled) and roadway/signal improvements made BEFORE any more developments are approved.

Laura Lukenbill Tallent, CPA

### **STANDARD OF REVIEW FOR REZONING**

Criteria for granting the proposed form district change/rezoning: KRS Chapter 100.213

1. The proposed form district/rezoning change complies with the applicable guidelines and policies Plan 2040; OR
2. The existing form district/zoning classification is inappropriate and the proposed classification is appropriate; OR
3. There have been major changes of an economic, physical, or social nature within the area involved which were not anticipated in Plan 2040 which have substantially altered the basic character of the area.

### **STAFF ANALYSIS FOR CHANGE IN ZONING**

Following is staff's analysis of the proposed rezoning against the Guidelines and Policies of Plan 2040.

#### The site is located in the Neighborhood Form District

Neighborhood Form is characterized by predominantly residential uses that vary from low to high density and that blend compatibly into the existing landscape and neighborhood areas. High-density uses will be limited in scope to minor or major arterials and to areas that have limited impact on the low to moderate density residential areas.

The Neighborhood Form will contain diverse housing types in order to provide housing choice for differing ages, incomes and abilities. New neighborhoods are encouraged to incorporate these different housing types within a neighborhood as long as the different types are designed to be compatible with nearby land uses. These types may include, but not be limited to, large lot single family developments with cul-de-sacs, traditional neighborhoods with short blocks or walkways in the middle of long blocks to connect with other streets, villages and zero-lot line neighborhoods with open space, and high density multi-family housing.

The Neighborhood Form may contain open space and, at appropriate locations, civic uses and neighborhood centers with a mixture of uses such as offices, retail shops, restaurants and services. These neighborhood centers should be at a scale that is appropriate for nearby neighborhoods. The Neighborhood Form should provide for accessibility and connectivity between adjacent uses and neighborhoods by automobile, pedestrian, bicycle and transit.

Neighborhood streets may be either curvilinear, rectilinear or in a grid pattern and should be designed to support physical activity for all users and invite human interaction. Streets are connected and easily accessible to each other, using design elements such as short blocks or bike/walkways in the middle of long blocks to connect with other streets. Examples of design elements that encourage this interaction include narrow street widths, street trees, sidewalks, shaded seating/gathering areas and bus stops. Placement of utilities should permit the planting of shade trees along both sides of the streets.

All other agency comments should be addressed to demonstrate compliance with the remaining Guidelines and Policies of Plan 2040.

A checklist is attached to the end of this staff report with a more detailed analysis. The Louisville Metro Planning Commission is charged with making a recommendation to the Louisville Metro Council regarding the appropriateness of this zoning map amendment. The Louisville Metro Council has zoning authority over the property in question.

### **STANDARD OF REVIEW AND STAFF ANALYSIS FOR WAIVER**

- (a) The waiver will not adversely affect adjacent property owners; and

STAFF: The waiver will not adversely affect adjacent property owners since the planting requirements will still be met and the adjacent property is a highway that sits lower than the development site.

- (b) The waiver will not violate specific guidelines of Plan 2040; and

STAFF: Community Form Goal 1, Policy 10 calls to mitigate the impacts caused when incompatible developments unavoidably occur adjacent to one another. Buffers should be used between uses that are substantially different in intensity or density. Buffers should be variable in design and may include landscaping, vegetative berms and/or walls and should address issues such as outdoor lighting, lights from automobiles, illuminated signs, loud noise, odors, smoke, automobile exhaust or other noxious smells, dust and dirt, litter, junk, outdoor storage, and visual nuisances. Residential uses that develop adjacent to agricultural land uses may be required to provide screening and buffering to protect both the farmer and homeowners. Community Form Goal 1, Policy 12 calls for the proposal to Design parking, loading and delivery areas located adjacent to residential areas to minimize adverse impacts from noise, lights, and other potential impacts. Ensure that parking, loading and delivery is adequate and convenient for motorists and does not negatively impact nearby residents or pedestrians. Parking and circulation areas adjacent to the street shall be screened or buffered. Use landscaping, trees, walls, colonnades or other design features to fill gaps along the street and sidewalk created by surface parking lots. Encourage the placement of parking lots and garage doors behind or beside the building rather than facing the street. The use of alleys for access to parking lots is encouraged, especially in Downtown Louisville, Urban Center Neighborhoods, Traditional Neighborhoods and Traditional Marketplace Corridors. Encourage elimination or reduction of parking minimums in areas readily accessible to transit routes. Community Form Goal 1, Policy 20 calls to mitigate adverse visual intrusions when there are impacts to residential areas, roadway corridors, and public spaces. Economic Development goal 2 policy 3 calls to Encourage design elements that address the urban heat island effect and energy efficiency, such as the planting and preservation of trees, cool roofs and green infrastructure, for new development. Plan 2040 is being met because the planting requirements will still be met and the adjacent property is a highway that sits lower than the development site.

- (c) The extent of the waiver of the regulation is the minimum necessary to afford relief to the applicant; and

STAFF: The extent of the waiver of the regulation is the minimum necessary to afford relief to the applicant since the planting requirements will still be met and the adjacent property is a highway that sits lower than the development site.

- (d) Either:

(i) The applicant has incorporated other design measures that exceed the minimums of the district and compensate for non-compliance with the requirements to be waived (net beneficial effect); OR

(ii) The strict application of the provisions of the regulation would deprive the applicant of the reasonable use of the land or would create an unnecessary hardship on the applicant.

STAFF: The strict application of the provisions of the regulation would deprive the applicant of the reasonable use of the land or would create an unnecessary hardship on the applicant the planting requirements will still be met and the adjacent property is a highway that sits lower than the development site.

## **STANDARD OF REVIEW AND STAFF ANALYSIS FOR RDDDP**

- a. The conservation of natural resources on the property proposed for development, including: trees and other living vegetation, steep slopes, water courses, flood plains, soils, air quality, scenic views, and historic sites;

STAFF: There do not appear to be any environmental constraints or historic resources on the subject site. Tree canopy requirements of the Land Development Code will be provided on the subject site.

- b. The provisions for safe and efficient vehicular and pedestrian transportation both within the development and the community;

STAFF: Provisions for safe and efficient vehicular and pedestrian transportation within and around the development and the community has been provided, and Metro Public Works has approved the preliminary development plan.

- c. The provision of sufficient open space (scenic and recreational) to meet the needs of the proposed development;

STAFF: There are no open space requirements pertinent to the current proposal.

- d. The provision of adequate drainage facilities on the subject site in order to prevent drainage problems from occurring on the subject site or within the community;

STAFF: The Metropolitan Sewer District has approved the preliminary development plan and will ensure the provision of adequate drainage facilities on the subject site in order to prevent drainage problems from occurring on the subject site or within the community.

- e. The compatibility of the overall site design (location of buildings, parking lots, screening, landscaping) and land use or uses with the existing and projected future development of the area;

STAFF: The overall site design and land uses are compatible with the existing and future development of the area. Appropriate landscape buffering and screening will be provided to screen roadways. Buildings will meet all required setbacks.

- f. Conformance of the development plan with the Comprehensive Plan and Land Development Code.

STAFF: The development plan conforms to applicable guidelines and policies of the Comprehensive Plan and to requirements of the Land Development Code.

**REQUIRED ACTIONS:**

- **RECOMMEND** that the Louisville Metro Council **APPROVE** or **DENY** the **Change-in-Zoning** from RR to R-5
- **APPROVE** or **DENY** the **Waiver**
- **APPROVE** or **DENY** the **Floyds Fork Review Overlay**
- **APPROVE** or **DENY** the **Detailed District Development Plan/Major Subdivision Plan**

Based upon the information in the staff report, the testimony and evidence provided at the public hearing, the Planning Commission must determine if the proposal is in conformance with the Comprehensive Plan; OR the existing form district/zoning classification is inappropriate and the proposed classification is appropriate; OR if there have been major changes of an economic, physical, or social nature within the area involved which were not anticipated in Plan 2040 which have substantially altered the basic character of the area.

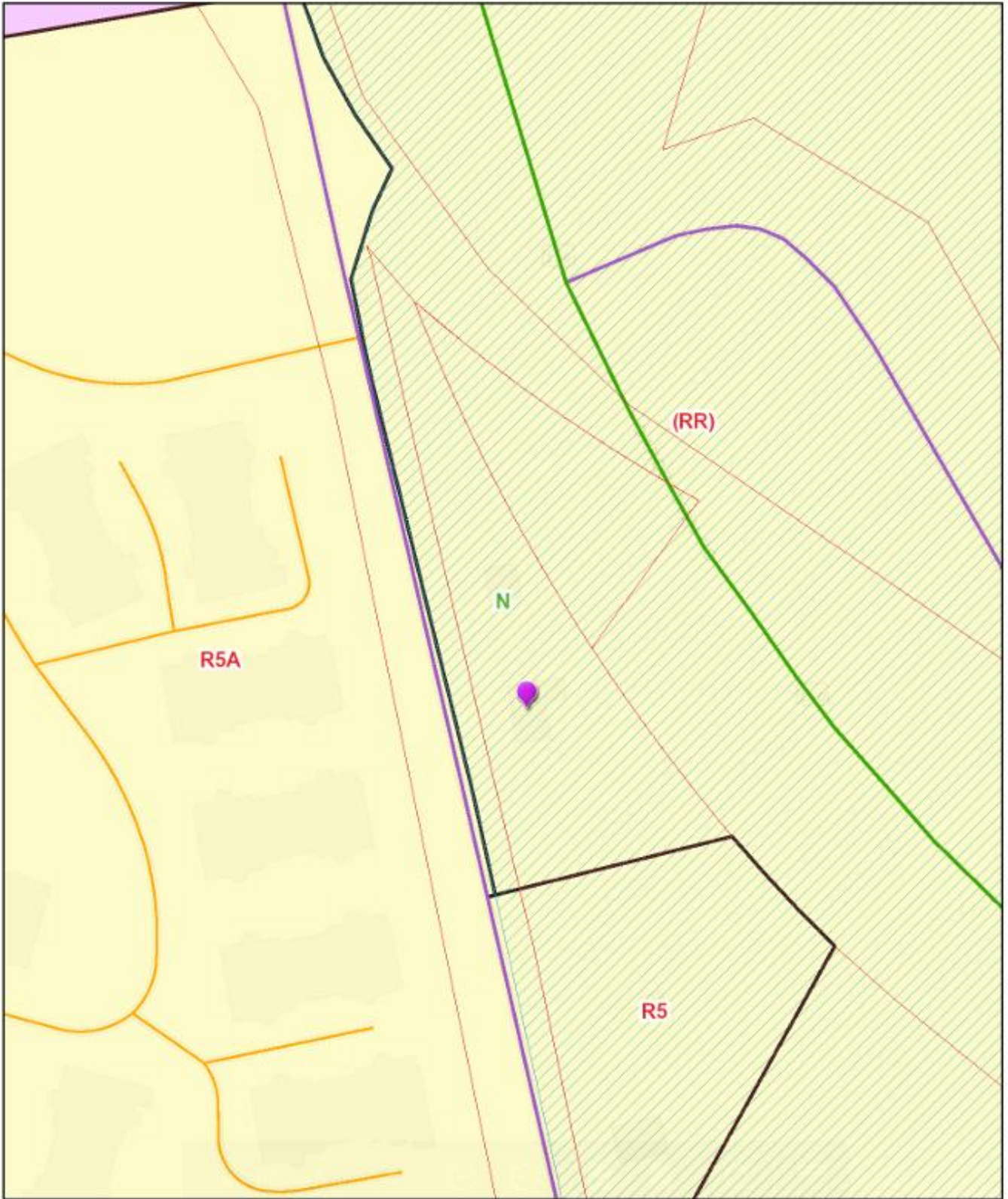
**NOTIFICATION**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Purpose of Notice</b>	<b>Recipients</b>
<b>12/22/22</b>	Hearing before LD&T on 01/12/23	1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> tier adjoining property owners Registered Neighborhood Groups in Council District 22
<b>1/19/23</b>	Hearing before PC on 2/2/23	1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> tier adjoining property owners Registered Neighborhood Groups in Council District 22
<b>1/17/23</b>	Hearing before PC	Sign Posting on property
	Hearing before PC	Legal Advertisement in the Courier-Journal

**ATTACHMENTS**

1. Zoning Map
2. Aerial Photograph
3. Staff Plan 2040 Checklist
4. Proposed Binding Elements

1. Zoning Map



2. Aerial Photograph



**3. Staff Plan 2040 Checklist**

- + Exceeds Guideline
- ✓ Meets Guideline
- Does Not Meet Guideline
- +/- More Information Needed
- NA Not Applicable

Neighborhood: Residential

#	Plan 2040 Plan Element	Land Use & Development Policy	Staff Finding	Staff Analysis
1	Community Form: Goal 1	7. Locate higher density and intensity uses near major transportation facilities and transit corridors, employment centers, in or near activity centers and other areas where demand and adequate infrastructure exists or is planned.	✓	The proposed district is for low-density residential. It is not a high density use necessitating location near major transportation facilities.
2	Community Form: Goal 1	9. Ensure an appropriate transition between uses that are substantially different in scale and intensity or density of development. The transition may be achieved through methods such as landscaped buffer yards, vegetative berms, compatible building design and materials, height restrictions and setback requirements.	✓	Buffer yards and setbacks will be in compliance with the LDC.
3	Community Form: Goal 2	9. Encourage new developments and rehabilitation of buildings that provide commercial, office and/or residential uses.	✓	An existing residential lot is being developed for residential purposes.
4	Community Form: Goal 3	10. Encourage development to avoid wet or highly permeable soils, severe, steep or unstable slopes where the potential for severe erosion problems exists in order to prevent property damage and public costs associated with soil slippage and foundation failure and to minimize environmental degradation.	✓	The site is not located in 100-yr floodplain and no wetlands have been indicated. MSD has no issues with the proposal.
5	Community Form: Goal 4	2. Encourage preservation of distinctive cultural features including landscapes, natural elements and built features.	✓	The site does not appear to contain distinctive cultural or natural features that will not be retained.



#	Plan 2040 Plan Element	Land Use & Development Policy	Staff Finding	Staff Analysis
6	Community Form: Goal 4	3. Encourage preservation and/or adaptive reuse of historic sites listed on or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places and/or recognized by the Louisville Metro Landmarks Commission or other national, state or local government historic preservation agencies.	✓	The site does not appear to contain distinctive historic resources.
7	Mobility: Goal 1	4. Encourage higher densities and intensities within or near existing marketplace corridors, existing and future activity centers, and employment centers to support transit-oriented development and an efficient public transportation system.	✓	The proposed district is for low-density residential. It is not a high density use necessitating location near major transportation or commercial facilities.
8	Mobility: Goal 2	4. Avoid access to development through areas of significantly lower intensity or density development if such access would create significant nuisances.	✓	Access to the site is obtained through areas of similar density.
9	Mobility: Goal 3	2. To improve mobility, and reduce vehicle miles traveled and congestion, encourage a mixture of compatible land uses that are easily accessible by bicycle, car, transit, pedestrians and people with disabilities. Housing should be encouraged near employment centers.	✓	The proposed district is for low-density residential on a vacant lot within an existing development. All multi-modal options are available or are being accommodated on the site or within the area. .
10	Mobility: Goal 3	5. Evaluate developments for their impact on the transportation network (including the street, pedestrian, transit, freight movement and bike facilities and services) and air quality.	✓	Existing roadway infrastructure is adequate to support the proposed density.
11	Mobility: Goal 3	6. Ensure that those who propose new developments bear or share in rough proportionality the costs of transportation facilities and services made necessary by development.	✓	No roadway improvements have been requested.

#	Plan 2040 Plan Element	Land Use & Development Policy	Staff Finding	Staff Analysis
12	Mobility: Goal 3	9. When existing transportation facilities and services are inadequate and public funds are not available to rectify the situation, the developer may be asked to make improvements, roughly proportional to the projected impact of the proposed development, to eliminate present inadequacies if such improvements would be the only means by which the development would be considered appropriate at the proposed location.	✓	No roadway improvements have been requested.
13	Mobility: Goal 3	10. Ensure that necessary improvements occur in accordance with long-range transportation plans and level of mobility criteria for all modes of travel.	✓	Public roadways and sidewalks are proposed.
14	Mobility: Goal 3	21. Prevent safety hazards caused by direct residential access to high speed roadways.	✓	No access to high speed roadways is provided.
15	Community Facilities: Goal 2	1. Locate development in areas served by existing utilities or capable of being served by public or private utility extensions.	✓	The proposal is located in an area served by existing utilities or planned for utilities as evidenced by adjacent development.
16	Community Facilities: Goal 2	2. Ensure that all development has an adequate supply of potable water and water for fire-fighting purposes. Locate only very low-density land uses on sites that use on-lot sewage disposal systems or on a private supply of potable water.	✓	The proposal would appear to have access to an adequate supply of potable water and water for fire-fighting purposes as evidenced by adjacent development.
17	Community Facilities: Goal 2	3. Ensure that all development has adequate means of sewage treatment and disposal to protect public health and to protect water quality in lakes and streams as determined by the Metropolitan Sewer District (MSD).	✓	MSD has no issues with the proposal.
18	Livability: Goal 1	5. Encourage development that recognizes and incorporates the unique characteristics of identified general landscape types and native plant communities (e.g., upland hardwood forest) throughout Louisville Metro.	✓	Tree canopy requirements will be met on the site.

#	Plan 2040 Plan Element	Land Use & Development Policy	Staff Finding	Staff Analysis
19	Livability: Goal 1	17. Determine site susceptibility to erosion; identify the presence of on-site carbonate conditions and features that are vulnerable to site disturbance; identify the extent of existing groundwater use and the impacts of the project on groundwater resources, flow patterns, and existing and proposed surface drainage. Then mitigate potential hazards to such systems resulting from the project.	✓	Natural features are not evident on the site.
20	Livability: Goal 1	21. Mitigate negative development impacts to the integrity of the regulatory floodplain by encouraging development patterns that minimize disturbance and consider the increased risk of more frequent flooding events.	✓	MSD has no issues with the proposal.
21	Housing: Goal 1	1. Encourage a variety of housing types including, but not limited to, detached and attached single family, multi-family, mixed use, zero lot line, average lot, cluster, and co-housing. Allow for accessory residential structures and apartments. Housing types should reflect the Form District pattern.	✓	The proposal incorporates a variety of housing styles into the area by providing an alternative housing type for single-family residential occupancy.
22	Housing: Goal 1	2. Promote housing options and environments that support aging in place. Encourage housing for older adults and people with disabilities to be located close to shopping and transit routes and, when possible, medical and other supportive facilities.	✓	The proposal promotes housing options and environments that support aging in place as an alternative housing type for single-family residential occupancy and common maintenance is typical of the type of style proposed.
23	Housing: Goal 2	1. Encourage inter-generational, mixed-income and mixed-use development that is connected to the neighborhood and surrounding area.	✓	The proposal provides inter-generational, mixed-income and mixed-use development that is connected to the neighborhood and surrounding area as an additional housing type is being added to the areas current mixture.
24	Housing: Goal 2	2. Locate housing within proximity to multi-modal transportation corridors providing safe and convenient access to employment opportunities, as well as within proximity to amenities providing neighborhood goods and services. Higher density, accessible residential uses should be located along transit corridors and in or near activity centers.	✓	The proposal is for single family lots within a single family area. There are no commercial activity centers or employment centers in the vicinity. The proposal extends the existing sidewalks in the area along the sites frontage. The site is located in a residential activity area.

#	Plan 2040 Plan Element	Land Use & Development Policy	Staff Finding	Staff Analysis
25	Housing: Goal 3	1. Encourage provision of fair and affordable housing by providing a variety of ownership options and unit costs throughout Louisville Metro. Expand opportunities for people to live in quality, variably priced housing in locations of their choice by encouraging affordable and accessible housing in dispersed locations throughout Louisville Metro.	✓	The proposal incorporates another housing options into the area that encourages the provision of fair and affordable housing by providing a variety of ownership options and unit costs throughout Louisville Metro
26	Housing: Goal 3	2. As neighborhoods evolve, discourage displacement of existing residents from their community.	✓	The proposed district is located adjacent to an existing residential area.
27	Housing: Goal 3	3. Encourage the use of innovative methods such as clustering, mixed-use developments, co-housing, and accessory apartments to increase the production of fair and affordable housing.	✓	The incorporation of this district in the area encourages a variety of housing types and occupancy types within the area which increases the ability to provision clustering, mixed-use developments, co-housing, and accessory apartments to increase the production of fair and affordable housing.

#### 4. Proposed Binding Elements

1. The development shall be in accordance with the approved district development plan, all applicable sections of the Land Development Code (LDC) and agreed upon binding elements unless amended pursuant to the Land Development Code. Any changes/additions/alterations of any binding element(s) shall be submitted to the Planning Commission or the Planning Commission's designee for review and approval; any changes/additions/alterations not so referred shall not be valid.
2. The development shall be in accordance with the approved Preliminary Subdivision Plan. No further subdivision of the land into a greater number of lots than originally approved shall occur without approval of the Planning Commission.
3. Construction fencing shall be erected when off-site trees or tree canopy exists within 3' of a common property line. Fencing shall be in place prior to any grading or construction to protect the existing root systems from compaction. The fencing shall enclose the entire area beneath the tree canopy and shall remain in place until all construction is completed. No parking, material storage or construction activities are permitted within the protected area.
4. Before any permit (including but not limited to building, parking lot, change of use, site disturbance) is requested:
  - a. The development plan must receive full construction approval from Construction Review, Louisville Metro Public Works and the Metropolitan Sewer District.
  - b. The property owner/developer must obtain approval of a detailed plan for screening (buffering/landscaping) as described in Chapter 10 prior to requesting a building permit. Such plan shall be implemented prior to occupancy of the site and shall be maintained thereafter.
  - c. A major subdivision plat creating the lots as shown on the approved district development plan shall be recorded prior to issuance of any building permits.
  - d. A Tree Preservation Plan in accordance with Chapter 10 of the LDC shall be reviewed and approved prior to obtaining approval for site disturbance.

5. A certificate of occupancy must be received from the appropriate code enforcement department prior to occupancy of the structure or land for the proposed use. All binding elements requiring action and approval must be implemented prior to requesting issuance of the certificate of occupancy, unless specifically waived by the Planning Commission.
6. The applicant, developer, or property owner shall provide copies of these binding elements to tenants, purchasers, contractors, subcontractors and other parties engaged in development of this site and shall advise them of the content of these binding elements. These binding elements shall run with the land and the owner of the property and occupant of the property shall at all times be responsible for compliance with these binding elements. At all times during development of the site, the applicant and developer, their heirs, successors; and assignees, contractors, subcontractors, and other parties engaged in development of the site, shall be responsible for compliance with these binding elements.
7. A note shall be placed on the preliminary plan, construction plan and the record plat that states, "Construction fencing shall be erected prior to any grading or construction activities - preventing compaction of root systems of trees to be preserved. The fencing shall enclose the area beneath the dripline of the tree canopy and shall remain in place until all construction is completed. No parking, material storage, or construction activities shall be permitted within the fenced area."