

As we continue to evolve our plans, we want to learn your preferences on the characteristics and features of the campus that will complement the neighborhood and West Hartford.

Our website ([www.oakwoodparkwh.com](http://www.oakwoodparkwh.com)) will be updated with our drawings and plans as we submit them to the town. The site also allows you to send us your thoughts, comments, suggestions and questions, which are most welcome.

**Neighborhood meeting September 26<sup>th</sup>: We would like to invite you to join us and your neighbors at the University of Saint Joseph on Tuesday evening, September 26<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 p.m.** We will be in the Crystal Room, which is on the first floor of Mercy Hall to say hello and talk with you and hear your thoughts about bringing Oakwood Park to life. Please RSVP to [oakwoodparkwh@gmail.com](mailto:oakwoodparkwh@gmail.com) if you can join us so we can be sure to make accommodations for the meeting.

Thank you very much.



This is the latest proposed site plan, shared with West Hartford officials this month.



## OAKWOOD PARK

September 15, 2023

### UPDATE AND INVITATION TO NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26TH

Dear Neighbor:

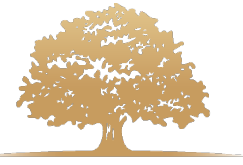
Last spring, we reached out to you and your fellow neighbors about our ideas to transform the former UConn West Hartford campus into an inviting neighborhood village of recreational, residential and retail uses we call Oakwood Park.

Our goal has been to match the size and scale of this project with the property, bring a balance of activities that will provide open space and recreational uses and offer features that will continue to make West Hartford such a vibrant place to live.

Since knocking on doors and mailing out our May survey, we have reshaped our initial design concepts to reflect input received from neighboring residents. Our discussions with West Hartford’s land use, planning, zoning and economic development authorities have also helped refine and improve our plans.

As a result, we have made improvements to our proposal that we’d like to share with you now. They create a village character derived from the campus’ landscape and weave a nature-focused experience into the residences, shops and features so they harmonize with the character of the neighborhood.

- **Woodlands, green corridors and enhanced wetlands:** The strongest support in our survey was expressed for open, accessible public spaces that make the most of the campus’ natural features—including the champion white oak tree and a connection to the Trout Brook Trail— and transform sterile wetlands to beautiful, natural wetland gardens accessed by public walkways.
- **Single-family townhomes:** Many people we spoke with asked us to mix single-family townhouses with the multi-family apartments to provide more living options for those downsizing from larger homes. So we made the project more residential by adding townhouses along Asylum Ave. and Lawler Rd. to blend with nearby homes and buffer the streetscapes west of Trout Brook Drive.
- **Assisted living:** The medical office building drew tepid support, yet there was favorable interest in health-related offerings that meet West Hartford’s needs. In response, we replaced the medical office building with 158 units of assisted living. Our plans also feature a destination spa.
- **Neighborhood-focused shops:** We plan to bring a signature steakhouse and organic market to the retail portion of this mixed-use neighborhood, along with small, boutique retailers.
- **Traffic and parking buffers:** We also enhanced the design features to help calm traffic speed along Trout Brook Drive and control the flow of automobiles through the main road on the western portion of campus. The parking will also be designed with landscapes and plantings that provide stormwater capture and infiltration and carbon sequestering.
- **Preserving the ballfields:** We have committed to continue the uninterrupted community use of the ballfields on the property.



## REVISED DESIGN HIGHLIGHTS

### OAKWOOD PARK

This is an aerial view of Asylum Avenue, including the new townhouses and the entrance to the west side of campus. The assisted living building is the first white-roofed building on the right side of the internal drive.



This is a street view of the townhouses envisioned for Asylum Avenue, looking westward.

This is a street view of the apartment buildings on the east side of campus, looking north on Trout Brook Drive.



The view above is on the west side of campus, looking from the woodland trail that begins on Trout Brook Drive, looking westward toward the central plaza with its mixed-use retail and residential buildings.



This is the wetland meadow walk on the west side of campus, looking southwest toward the assisted living building. The townhouses on Asylum Avenue are just beyond the trees to the left.