



Kentucky  
League  
of Cities

# CITY OF WINDY HILLS

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## STRATEGIC PLAN 2025



Prepared by the Kentucky League of Cities  
Community and Economic Development Team

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# Acknowledgements



## City of Windy Hills City Council

- John Roberts, Mayor
- Helen Davis, Councilmember
- Kate Greer, Councilmember
- Paul Morris, Councilmember
- Suzanne Spencer, Councilmember
- Steve Teaford, Councilmember
- Julie Theiler, Councilmember

Photography from: Windy Hills & Bryan Carter, University of Louisville

# Executive Summary

The City of Windy Hills, with the Kentucky League of Cities Community and Economic Development team, has identified the need for a strategic plan for the city. With Louisville Metro continuing to grow around Windy Hills, the city council wanted to hear from residents on how best to position

the city for the future and continue to maintain the city's unique history. KLC staff facilitated a community town hall meeting and analyzed survey data from hundreds of residents to create this strategic plan with the intention of guiding Windy Hills over the next three to five years.



# What We Heard

## Key Concerns

- Traffic
- Greenspace
- Connected neighborhoods
- Noise pollution
- Quality of life
- Preservation of lifestyle

## Challenges

- New Veterans Affairs hospital may increase the already congested traffic in and around Windy Hills
- Noise and light pollution
- Overhanging transmission lines
- Outdated traffic studies
- Land locked
- New developments can prevent land for new housing
- Difficulty entering and exiting city neighborhoods on busy roads
  - Brownsboro Road
  - Ambridge Road
  - Foeburn Road
  - Westport Road
  - Some roads are city-owned, some are Louisville Metro, some are federal
- Speeding
- Lack of code enforcement



# What We Heard

## Opportunities

- Remaining a primarily residential community
- Creation of neighborhood planning for future changes
- There is some land in the city that can be used for new development
- New traffic study
- New sidewalk study
- Update city website
- Streamline information to be more accessible
- Let residents know what the city has control over
- New dog park

## What Citizens Value

- Sidewalks
- Trees and greenspace
- Community feel - neighbors know neighbors and work together
- Connectedness - easy to walk
- Location - close to medical facilities and downtown
- Multi-generational neighborhoods
- People come and they stay



# What We Heard

## Strengths of the Community

- Manages the city's money well
- Location
- Neighbors helping neighbors
- Discount on property taxes
- Provision of services
- The Windy Hills Green



# Survey Demographics

In total, there were 344 surveys submitted by Windy Hills residents. These surveys represented households in the city with a total population of

695. The majority of survey participants have lived in Windy Hills for 21 or more years and are over the age of 65.

Length of Residency	
0 - 5 yrs	69
6 - 10 yrs	57
11 -15 yrs	45
16 - 20 yrs	34
21+ yrs	139
Total	344

Age of Residents	
0 - 17 yrs	90
18 - 24 yrs	33
25 - 44 yrs	83
45 - 64 yrs	135
65+ yrs	354
Total	695

# Focus Areas

1. Public safety
2. Identity/beautification
3. Communication
4. Transportation
5. Gathering spaces
6. Community involvement





# Focus Areas

## 1. Public Safety

According to survey data gathered from residents, public safety was the highest priority for Windy Hills. When looking at public safety services provided by the city, street lighting was the lowest rated. However, the overall rating was still above “slightly satisfied.” The other services within public safety rated from lowest to highest were police service, pedestrian walkways, and fire service. As a whole, public safety ranked second overall in resident satisfaction.

- Street Lighting
  - It was widely commented that street lighting in Windy Hills is too dim and inconsistent throughout the city. Lighting is important for providing enhanced vision, deterring crime, and preventing car and pedestrian accidents.
  - Conduct a tour of the city at night to determine which streetlights need updating as well as identifying the lighting that best suits Windy Hills’ needs.
- Police Service
  - Many residents noted that there was little visible police presence in the city. Coordinate with the Lyndon Police Department and Louisville Metro Police Department to determine avenues to properly serve Windy Hills residents.
  - Include discussion on how to improve police response times as well.
- Pedestrian Walkways
  - Conduct a sidewalk survey to identify areas in Windy Hills that need repairs and work toward ensuring that all sidewalks within city limits are Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant.

- Work with Louisville Metro and the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC) to identify pedestrian crossings such as Brownsboro Road and Rudy Lane that could utilize flashing lights, updated roadway markings, and roadway islands as a means for slowing traffic and making these crossings more pedestrian friendly.
- Includes potential addition of a dedicated pedestrian walkway that connects Elmwood Avenue to Hubbards Lane for users of the Windy Hills walkway.



- Fire Protection
  - As the highest rated public safety service, fire protection received no comments from residents for improvements.
  - Continue to build on the relationship with St. Matthews Fire Department to ensure that fire protection for Windy Hills residents remains consistent.

# Focus Areas

## 1. Public Safety

### Public Safety Satisfaction

Public Safety Service	Satisfaction Rating
Police Service	5.49
Fire Protection	6.14
Street Lighting	5.31
Pedestrian Walkways	5.78
Average	5.68

# Focus Areas

## 2. Identity/Beautification



Identity/beautification was identified as the second highest priority for Windy Hills by residents. All categories under identity/beautification (signage, city entrances, street trees, Windy Hills Green, image/uniqueness) averaged between “slightly satisfied” and “somewhat satisfied.” This shows that while residents are content with Windy Hills’s current identity, ranking it first in overall satisfaction, there is room for improvement.

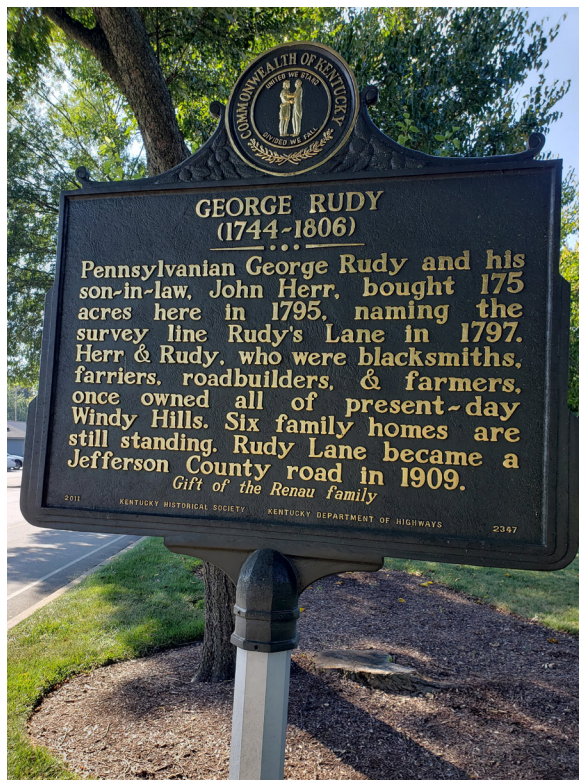
- Some signage for city property utilizes black lettering on red brick. Consider updating this signage to use white/gold lettering that will stand out more to residents and visitors.
- Maintenance of shrubbery and landscaping around city signage needs to be more consistent throughout the year to ensure proper visibility.
- Code enforcement needs to be updated to become more uniform and avoid confusion.
  - Clarify street parking; when and where can residents or visitors park on the street and how long
  - Explore the addition of a noise ordinance
  - Consider additional code enforcement staff to meet changing needs and new developments
- Other opportunities to improve identity/beautification include:
  - Curbside leaf removal service
  - Expanded tree programs; partnering with a local arborist to inspect resident trees and provide education
  - Emphasizing historic properties in Windy Hills through city correspondence
  - Review trash pick-up program. Many residents prefer Ecotech to the current system.
- Street signage throughout Windy Hills has been identified as being too small to read by many residents. Explore avenues with Louisville Metro and KYTC for larger or more distinct signage.

# Focus Areas

## 2. Identity/Beautification

### Identity/Beautification Satisfaction

Identity/Beautification Facets	Satisfaction Rating
Signage	5.90
City Entrances	5.93
Street Trees	5.80
Windy Hills Green	6.13
Image/Uniqueness	5.81
Average	5.91



# Focus Areas

## 3. Communication

Communication came in as the third highest priority for the City of Windy Hills with the overall satisfaction of current communication strategies sitting in fourth place. Residents were most satisfied with the city newsletter, ranking it as “somewhat satisfied” while the city Facebook page and city council meetings were ranked lowest as “neither satisfied nor dissatisfied.”

- The emphasis around all facets of city communication was to make it more accessible.
  - Consider an addition to the website that gives a brief tutorial on how to navigate to important information such as where to find ordinances, city council meeting minutes, a calendar of events, and where residents can sign up to receive email notifications.
  - Public meetings may be difficult for some residents to attend. Look to offer

meeting times in the morning and the afternoon to ensure all residents have a chance to attend. This could alternate from meeting to meeting on a regular basis.

- The city Facebook page needs to be moderated closely to ensure that only necessary information is being posted. Consider assigning the role of moderator to a councilmember or update the settings of the Facebook page to be more restrictive.
- No success for Windy Hills is too small. Be transparent and highlight the efforts of the city and its residents in ongoing projects, public events, and new offerings.

### Communication Satisfaction

Communication Services	Satisfaction Rating
Newsletter	6.35
Email	5.82
Council Meetings	4.81
City Website	5.24
Reach Alert	5.70
City Clerk Desk	5.31
Facebook	4.87
Average	5.44

# Focus Areas

## 4. Transportation



Transportation was the fourth-highest priority for Windy Hills according to the resident survey. However, in terms of overall satisfaction, it ranked last. Traffic flow in particular was the lowest rated facet of transportation, receiving an average rating of “neither satisfied nor dissatisfied.” Traffic noise closely followed while parking and sidewalks each received ratings within the “slightly satisfied” range. Sidewalks was the highest rated.

- Windy Hills’s main traffic issues stem from its placement in the greater Louisville Metro.
  - Brownsboro Road, Westport Road, and I-264 see large traffic volumes on the edges of Windy Hills while Ambridge Road and Rudy Lane serve as the primary cut-throughs.
- Continue to work with Louisville Metro and KYTC to find updated methods for ensuring safe and efficient flow of traffic on these major roadways.
  - Inform these entities of the difficulties Windy Hills residents face as a result of these traffic issues, particularly entering and exiting the city. This should include concerns over expected traffic from the new VA hospital.
- Push for an updated traffic study on the roadways encompassing Windy Hills to help identify areas of highest concern and those where remediation can be most impactful.
  - This may include future planning around installation of traffic lights and/or dedicated turn lanes when entering Brownsboro Road or Westport Road from within Windy Hills.
- Continue to push for the installation of noise barriers along I-264.
  - Work with Louisville Metro, KYTC, and federal offices to explore opportunities in other noise deafening practices such as landscaping and tree planting that may be used in the meantime.
- Provide clarity on city parking ordinances with signage and updated language on the city website - when and where can visitors and residents park on city streets.
- Completion of the sidewalk loop in Windy Hills along Hubbards Lane and Brownsboro Road is a top comment from residents.
  - Continue working with Louisville Metro for feasibility of completing the loop or provide signage within the Coach Gate community to guide pedestrians along the current pathway.
  - Work with the Coach Gate community on the potential for adding a sidewalk within the community along Coach Gate Wynde that could also serve as completing the loop.
- Explore the potential of connecting neighborhoods, such as the Windsong, Two Springs, and Indian Ridge, through new pedestrian walkways.
- Consider adding more curbing on city streets to prevent commercial vehicles from driving through private properties on sharp turns.
  - Foeburn Lane in particular

# Focus Areas

## 4. Transportation

### Transportation Satisfaction

Transportation Facets	Satisfaction Rating
Traffic Flow	4.56
Traffic Noise	4.96
Parking	5.11
Sidewalks	5.62
Average	5.06

# Focus Areas

## 5. Gathering Spaces



Gathering spaces were identified as the fifth-highest priority for Windy Hills. In terms of overall satisfaction, gathering spaces ranked third with the Windy Hills Green receiving an average satisfaction ranking of “somewhat satisfied” and the current city hall getting an average ranking of “slightly satisfied.”

- The Windy Hills Green is a key highlight of the community and residents had plenty of ideas on what the city should add next.
  - A farmers market
  - Christmas market during the holiday season
  - Gazebo
  - Water pad
  - Picnic tables and update playground tables
  - Community events such as yoga, tai chi, and cookouts
  - Additional water fountains along the green walkway
  - Keep the green secure through police monitoring of unhoused individuals
- Residents indicated that there is no desire for a permanent city hall location, but they did offer comments for improving the current location.
  - Add signage throughout Windy Hills that directs residents and visitors to the current location. Many residents were

entirely unaware of the current city hall location.

- Develop opportunities for residents to visit city hall on a regular basis to interact with their elected officials and create transparency between local government and constituents.
- Create virtual meeting options for public meetings so residents can join from anywhere.
- Expand or find a new meeting space at city hall that residents can use for club meetings and visitor events that highlight Windy Hills.
- Ideas for new community gathering spaces included a community pool, a rec center, a public library, or renting out space in the Brownsboro Center to be used for community events or even to serve as a new city hall location that is more easily accessible to residents.
- Promote the Brownsboro Center as an ideal location for coffee shops and local restaurant that can become premier gathering spaces in their own right.





# Focus Areas

## 5. Gathering Spaces

### Gathering Spaces Satisfaction

Gathering Spaces	Satisfaction Rating
Windy Hills Green	6.03
Current City Hall	5.01
Average	5.52

# Focus Areas

## 6. Community Involvement

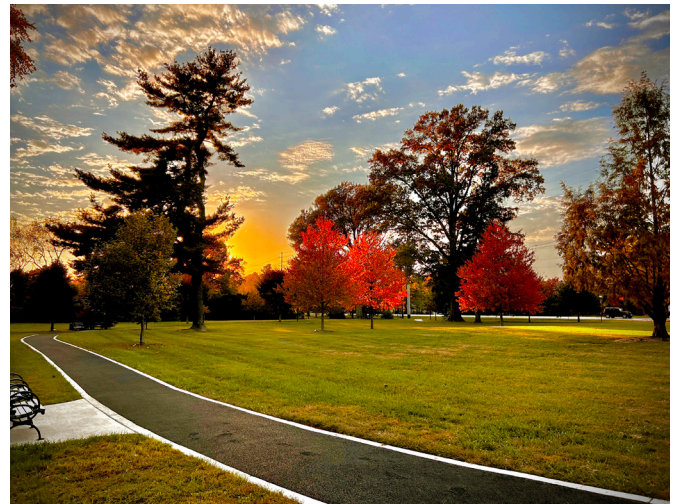
Community Involvement ranked last in priorities for the City of Windy Hills but nearly all respondents in the community survey showed interest in participating in one of the listed activities from Question 10 of the survey. Beautification was the leading activity with 91 respondents showing interest, closely followed by public events with 77. Block watch and neighborhood associations were nearly identical with 57 and 58 respondents, respectively. Leadership and communication rounded out the group with 34 respondents each.

It should be noted, however, that Windy Hills is already a community of highly involved residents. Question 3 of the survey regarding participation in city events saw 569 total responses. With only 344 surveys submitted, this means numerous residents participated in multiple events in Windy Hills. The leading event was Fourth of July celebrations with 145 participants followed by Glow on the Green with 117 and city council meetings with 111. Arbor Day had 77 participants, town halls had 49, city cleanups saw 44, and the tree board had 26.

The majority of comments surrounding community involvement included ideas around events that could help bring together residents and visitors to Windy Hills.

1. Arts & crafts fair
2. Plant swap
3. Pet adoption day
4. Pioneer day with dress, games, and food to match

5. Blood drive
6. Walking, biking, book, and tool share clubs
7. Food truck days to accompany other events such as a farmers market
8. Tree giveaways
  - Residents would also like to see these events promote community pride in Windy Hills with reminders of the city’s historic homes.
  - These events can be hosted on the Windy Hills Green or at Sojourn Church as the two major gathering places in the community.
  - New walkways between neighborhoods can help with interconnectedness as well.



### Gathering Spaces Satisfaction

Gathering Spaces	Satisfaction Rating
Windy Hills Green	6.03
Current City Hall	5.01
Average	5.52

# Summary

Windy Hills is a city full of history and highly engaged residents who want to see that history preserved for future generations. The vast majority, nearly 94%, believe the city is already on track toward its goals and providing favorable outcomes for those living in Windy Hills. While the Louisville

Metro around the city continues to change, Windy Hills has committed to setting its priorities with the help of the community and pursuing these priorities to the best of its abilities.





CITY OF WINDY HILLS  
STRATEGIC PLAN 2025

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