



NEIGHBOURHOOD DESCRIPTION

The area that includes Westwood was annexed by Edmonton in 1910. However, Westwood remained largely rural for several decades afterwards. Shortly after World War II, Westwood experienced large scale residential development. Many of these original structures were single-detached homes. Typical of its period of development, Westwood has a central school site and a street network based on the grid pattern. During the 1960s, the area attracted redevelopment and many houses south of 120 Avenue were replaced with low-rise apartments. This trend coincided with the opening of the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT), situated immediately south of Westwood.

Until the late 1970s, the neighbourhood was fairly isolated. The Beechmount Cemetery and a relatively quiet corner of the Municipal Airport bounded Westwood on the north and west respectively. Prior to the construction of the Yellowhead Trail and the expansion of 107 Street, there existed a lightly traveled and unpaved road. The widening of 97 Street resulted in the removal of all the original residences on the west side of that thoroughfare. The conversion of a portion of Park Plaza Shopping Centre for use by NAIT resulted in the loss of some commercial space, but a regional shopping centre is located in nearby Kingsway Garden Mall. The neighbourhood also includes one school, the H. A. Grey Public School, the Westwood Sports Arena, neighbourhood commercial sites, several religious facilities and a cemetery.

The origin of the Westwood name is not known, but the northern portion of the neighbourhood was once called Northcote.