

Ramsey Town Center

Development Guidelines

Final Draft 6/8/04



The Future is Ramsey.

Ramsey Town Center Development Guidelines

Introduction

This is the third in the series of documents created to help direct design solutions and define project character for the Town Center. With increasing levels of detail and specificity, the Master Plan, the Zoning Code and these Development Guidelines clarify and promote the desired outcomes expressed in the illustrative Concept Plan. Each of these documents serves a specific purpose as part of the Town Center reference library, but also work in concert with other city codes and criteria to provide the information needed for review, critique and approval of development projects within the Town Center district.

Purpose

The primary purpose of Development Guidelines is to set basic parameters, describe preferences and illustrate design intent. These guidelines serve as a framework within which creative design can and should occur – there is no one solution, but many options that meet the basic requirements of this document.

Application

The format and content of these guidelines are specifically tailored for use as a reference workbook and are organized into two sections. The first section outlines issues and recommendations that apply to the entire Town Center district. The second section highlights specific guidelines that apply to each sub-district within the Town Center.

Implied Responsibility

All participants in the development of the Town Center recognize the local and regional impacts of this project and the various systems that play an important role. Each parcel and each building must fit within the context of the entire plan. Individual projects must complement, not compete with, adjacent development in terms of public green space, walk and trail connections, stormwater management solutions, street layout, parking strategies, land use mix and building design.

Part One: Overall Guidelines

There are a number of guidelines that apply to the entire Town Center including recommendations for stormwater management, parks, streets, land use, parking, transit and other development components. Many of these overall Town Center guidelines overlap, or are integrated with one another. For ease of discussion they are categorized according to the same list of 'layers' that formed the basic structure for the Master Plan:

- Context – local, city, regional
- Blue System – surface water features, stormwater management
- Green Structure – parks, trails and open space
- Land Use Mix – preferred uses, horizontal/vertical mixed use
- Architecture – built form, character of development
- Streets and Blocks – access, circulation, arrangement
- Parking Strategies – quantity, location, type
- Transit – rail, bus, other options
- Utilities and Infrastructure – sewer, water, electric, gas

It is essential that proposed design solutions for development projects and other improvements within the Town Center demonstrate an understanding of the interplay between these layers.

Overall Guidelines - Context

Overview

Although unique to Ramsey, the Town Center is not intended to be a stand alone district within the the City; instead it will be a part of, and connect with, a variety of local, city-wide and regional systems. Each development project, whether a single building, one lot, or a series of blocks, must provide reasonable links to these systems as a primary design objective.

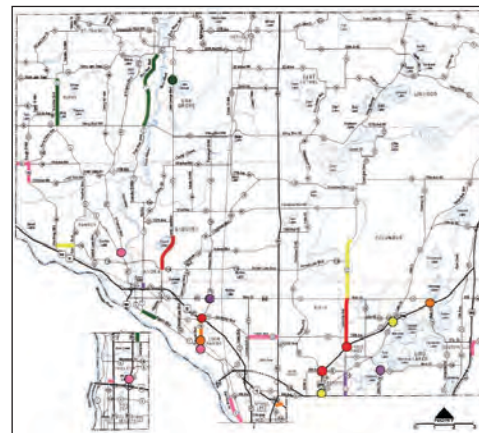
Guideline Recommendations

To ensure that the Town Center takes full advantage of local and regional systems, development should:

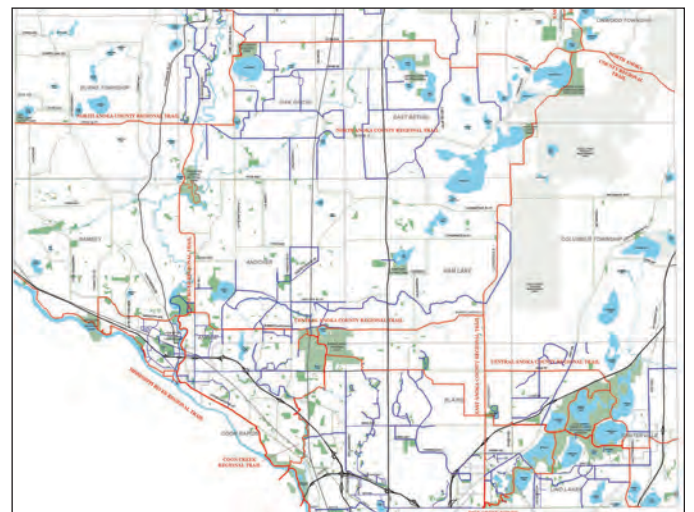
- Provide safe, easily recognized connections to city, county and state trail corridors
- Make provisions for city and regional transit service and amenities (including the future Northstar Line) and encourage their use
- Tie into, and improve, the Ramsey utility network
- Integrate with and complement the existing (and future) street framework
- Become an integral part of the city and county drainage/ stormwater management plan

Objectives

- Overall Town Center design (and all new private development within the Center) will accommodate stormwater from new projects and from off-site, and highlight stormwater features as an amenity
- Bikeways and pedestrian routes into the Town Center from adjacent neighborhoods must be designed for safety and ease of access, suggesting that a child on a bicycle has an equally accessible route to downtown.
- Parks and open space will be easily accessible to all Town Center residents, visitors, people who work here and also for the citizens of Ramsey and the surrounding area. This connected green system is reminiscent of the world renowned 'Grand Rounds' of Minneapolis



Regional Transit Map



Anoka Parks, Trails Map

Overall Guidelines - Blue System

Overview

Water features and drainage systems are essential components of the Town Center Master Plan. The potential mix of ponds, streams, fountains and other water elements will provide focal amenities and year round activities within the framework of an environmentally responsible, visually pleasing strategy to manage stormwater. Because the Mississippi River is a restricted discharge water of the state, and because we are creating a new discharge from this development, each sub-district and each site has a responsibility to utilize 'best management practices' (BMP) to pretreat run-off, reduce erosion and encourage infiltration. Water elements are not intended to be separate stand alone features, but instead should be integrated with the variety of parks, trails and public open space proposed for the Town Center. Water and landscape should be designed and utilized within multipurpose areas that accommodate both active and passive recreational use.



Objectives

Integration of water and landscape, design creativity, use of high quality materials and safety concerns are the critical objectives to be met – the following examples illustrate only a few of many possibilities:

- Innovative new products, such as special soil systems (Netlon, structural soils), pervious pavements for parking areas, storm ceptors, underground storage and other creative techniques should be used to BMP standards
- 'Green architecture', expressed through green roofs, gray water recycling and other techniques should be included to reduce the impact of new development on stormwater systems
- Water feature design should include both formal elements (such as reflecting pools or fountains) and natural/informal forms (such as ponds, streams, waterfalls) and should explore creative ways to integrate wetland/rain garden landscapes with active, urban spaces.



Guideline Recommendations

Blue System guidelines not only define the overall role and character of public space, but also encourage each development parcel to address the following:

- **Create** signature water features (ponds, pools, fountains, waterfalls, etc.) as major visual amenities throughout the Town Center
- **Promote** high quality, creative and appealing aesthetics for all blue system elements
- **Integrate** stormwater management components (meeting both water quality and quantity requirements)

A great deal of time and effort has gone into the calculation and design of a 'watershed-based' stormwater management plan to support Town Center development. While this overall strategy addresses the water quantity issue for the entire Town Center by providing storage and conveyance facilities for storm events, individual development projects (block-by-block) have an equal responsibility to meet water quality standards as a primary goal. Each project should integrate a variety of techniques, materials and methods (listed in the examples below) to promote multiple use, maximum flexibility, improved aesthetics for parking areas, park spaces, drainage swales and other site features.



Overall Guidelines - Green Structure

Overview

The overall design framework of the Town Center is based on a system of linked parks, trails and open space. The City of Ramsey, Anoka County, and to some extent, the State of Minnesota all play a role in local and regional parks programming, design review, construction sequencing, implementation and ultimately maintenance and operation of key public spaces within this framework. The goal is to link existing and proposed parks and trails defined in regional park plans with proposed new parks and trails within the Town Center. Of equal importance is the contribution from each block and each development project to this network of green, adding a variety of private, semi-private, and perhaps some additional public space throughout the Town Center. Private development will share the responsibility to provide inviting, innovative and useable green space as integral parts of individual parcel site design.

Guideline Recommendations

Ramsey Town Center will set a new standard for the design of parks and open space in suburban Twin Cities communities. Toward that end, Green Structure guidelines encourage the following:

- Work with the City to create an integrated, comprehensive open space system that links with existing city and county trails and open space networks
- Encourage private development (block-by-block) to share in the responsibility to provide inviting, innovative and useable green space as integral parts of each development project
- Integrate stormwater management components (meeting water quality and quantity requirements) within both public / private park and open space improvements

Together, the system of public and semi-public green space will result in a welcoming public realm throughout the new community.



Objectives

Based on the Parks, Trails and Open Space Concept Plan for the Town Center, a variety of public and private green space is proposed including:

- Each block and each project will provide intentional, creative, innovative, useable green areas as integral components of site development and building design.
- At the individual block scale, small squares and greens will provide places for gathering and relaxation, especially targeted to meet the demands of adjacent, or nearby buildings. Elements such as gardens, gazebos and fountains should characterize these more intimate public spaces.
- At the neighborhood scale, parks will provide space for more active recreation, and should be flexible enough to accommodate a variety of recreational activities. Playgrounds, game fields and park buildings are suggested park amenities and will target a wider user demand from the surrounding community.
- At the Town Center scale, the central linear park will connect with all other parks and open space elements, providing a focal point for activity and a sense of place similar to Minnehaha Creek in Minneapolis. Gardens, public pavilions and shelters, playlots and open play fields are suggested amenities that will provide built-in flexibility to meet the demands of both the local population and regional visitors to the Town Center.

Overall Guidelines - Land Use Mix

Overview

The Town Center Master Plan identifies the preferred mix and approximate location of a variety of land use types. Together with the Zoning Code, these guidelines focus on the following overall objectives:

- Promote vertical and horizontal mixed use (within a building, within a block, within a district)
- Provide a variety of housing types, styles, pricing
- Encourage increased density in and around the central core area
- Promote an interesting mix of building styles, scales and massing for each sub-district
- Support creative, innovative, high quality design solutions as the benchmark for success
- Integrate mix of uses with public green space within each district
- Provide a variety of commercial types
- Mix residential and commercial uses to promote street-level activity throughout the day

Guideline Recommendations

The mix of land uses in the Town Center will encourage activity during the day and into the evening and nighttime hours. As a focus of commerce, employment, recreation and housing, the Center closely resembles a small to medium size Midwestern downtown in scale and character. Land uses are intentionally mixed, to bring shoppers and workers into the area during the day and attract new residents and visitors to entertainment venues in the evening.

The civic component of the Town Center, exemplified by the new City Hall, Police Station and variety of public spaces and squares, adds an important element to the land use mix and brings a level of authenticity to the district.



Objectives

- Encourage vertical mixed-use in the core with housing and office space over retail uses along the street.
- In residential districts, particularly closer to the core, a limited amount of retail uses will be encouraged to service residents and provide nearby places to gather.
- Promote innovative models for housing that include a mix of townhomes, flats and lofts within single buildings or on the same block.
- Accommodate larger, 'big box' retailing within the Town Center; only if innovative design approaches are used including two story buildings, use of liner stores facing the street, minimal blank walls, creative parking strategies, etc.
- Where similar uses create a 'family' or campus of buildings (e.g. medical campus), buildings should reinforce the street edge and parking should be set within the core of the block.
- Uses shall promote pedestrian friendly streets, contributing to street level activities and overall visual character of each district
- All uses should reinforce the street edge



Overall Guidelines - Architecture

Overview

High quality architecture is an essential component in fulfilling the objectives of the Master Plan. Rather than prescribing a particular style, these architectural guidelines are intended to encourage an integration of both traditional and contemporary design. Architectural designs should provide a consistent quality, measured, to a great degree, by the pedestrian experience along the street and by an architectural expression that provides character without being thematic, obtrusive, or artificial. Architectural character should strive to be authentic and varied, but not 'thematic'.

Guideline Recommendations

Of all the layers that combine to form the Ramsey Town Center Master Plan, architecture will typically be the most prominent development component. Both visually and physically, architecture will play a major role in defining the overall design character and mix of uses for the Town Center. It is crucial that the design and location of buildings address these architectural guidelines, with specific emphasis on the following:

- Promote an animated street presence with a mix of street-level uses, interesting building façades, many doors and windows on the street, careful design of lighting, awnings, signage and other elements that animate the pedestrian experience
- Promote variety in building design, character and expression; not one theme or building style, but a thoughtful integration of many design solutions
- Promote a variety of building types including a range of height, scale and proportion, that support an integrated mix of housing options, shopping destinations, entertainment venues, civic structures and other Town Center uses
- Encourage the use of high quality materials, suggesting a preference toward native materials and masonry elements, with respect for local building techniques
- Building location is as important as building style; special architectural elements, character, transparency and a higher level of materials and detailing should be used to highlight key streets (corridors) and important crossroads (nodes) throughout the Town Center
- Buildings should always be located at all four corners of intersections



Examples

Providing a creative mix of building types, scales and expressions are critical objectives to be met – photographs on this page (and throughout these guidelines) suggest some of the many possibilities.

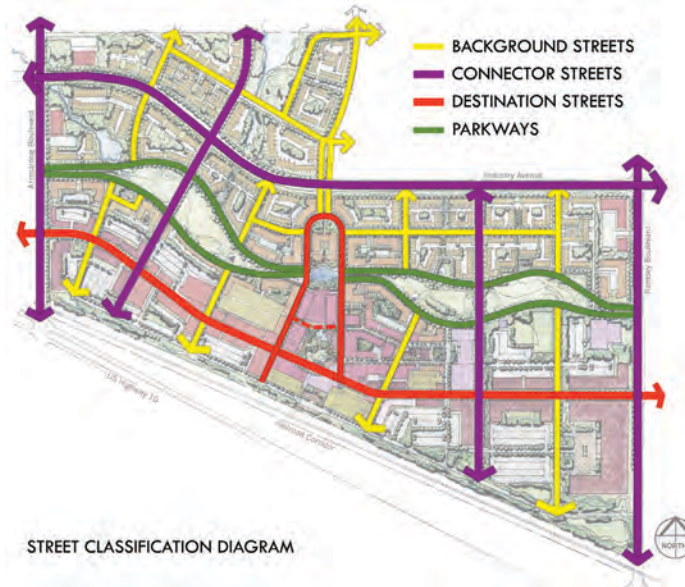


Overall Guidelines - Streets and Blocks

Overview

The Master Plan defines a specific strategy for the layout of streets and blocks within, and around the Town Center. The size, type and configuration of this street hierarchy is based on a combination of projected traffic volume, level of service at intersections, proposed adjacent land use (destination commercial, residential, civic, recreation, etc.) and desired aesthetic character.

Great streets are essential components of an attractive and inviting public realm. These guidelines promote a street system that balances pedestrian and vehicular use. Providing streets that support traffic flow is important, but also creating ample



STREET CLASSIFICATION DIAGRAM



Background Street – quiet residential neighborhood, parking one side



Destination Street – active shopping district with streetscape amenities



Connector Street – equally inviting for both pedestrians and cars

space for street-side activities, gracious strolling promenades, pockets of green and other amenities is critical to the success of the Town Center. Streets will promote convenient access by car – to storefronts, to parking lots and ramps, to entertainment attractions – but will also encourage foot traffic as the primary way to move about and conduct business in the core area.

Guideline Recommendations

The proposed street and block pattern reflects a compact urban character, not allowing dead end streets or cul-de-sacs, in favor of a traditional grid pattern and connected streets including the following:

- Provide a street network that distributes pedestrian and vehicular traffic throughout the various districts in the Town Center and encourages a more dispersed and less congested traffic flow (many choices or travel paths)
- Provide a clear hierarchy of streets resulting in a simple and understandable system for movement – easy access and convenient circulation throughout the Town Center
- Convert primary perimeter streets (arterials such as Ramsey, Armstrong and Bunker Lake Boulevards) to urban street sections, providing sidewalks and street trees to replace roadside ditches
- Promote improvements that invite pedestrian and bicycle use including wide sidewalks, streetscape amenities and designated bicycle trails (both on and off-street)

Objectives

Creative design solutions for public realm improvements should reflect these basic street classifications (street hierarchy) including:

- Destination street – signature addresses for shopping, entertainment, services, work place and other primary amenities (Sunwood Drive is an example)
- Connector street – primary routes that link various districts within the Town Center, usually providing the most direct means of getting from point A to point B (Rhinstone Street is an example)
- Background street – neither destination nor primary connector routes, these streets provide much of the rest of the street grid throughout the Town Center (residential streets are an example)
- Parkway – premier ‘green streets’ adjacent to primary public park / green space (Town Center Parkway is an example)
- Service – still considered public streets, service corridors provide important access to delivery areas, parking lots/ramps and maintenance functions (Civic Center Drive is an example)

Overall Guidelines - Parking

Overview

Balancing the realities of car-related necessities (streets, parking and so on) with future transit service and the desired character of the Town Center is a significant challenge. The goal is to provide adequate parking, both quantity and location, while promoting new strategies that support the overall needs of the Town Center. Parking will be provided through a combination of on-street spaces, off-street surface lots, underground lots and structured ramps to support the mix of uses at the core.

Parking structures should contribute to the overall character and image of the Town Center. Ramp design should include elements, colors and materials that reflect, or complement surrounding buildings. Liner stores or other street-level uses should be integrated into ramp design along important street frontages.

Guideline Recommendations

Parking guidelines encourage the following:

- Locate off-street surface parking lots away from the major streets, either behind or to the side of primary buildings
- Provide a combination of fencing, landscaping and landform to screen parking areas from major streets and important views
- Create strategies for shared parking between adjacent uses, taking advantage of peak and off-peak cycles, business hours, nighttime activities, special events and other needs
- Provide alternative surfaces for secondary (less frequently used) parking areas including porous pavements, green pavements and so on
- Provide facilities or services that respond to and connect with future transit to reduce required parking, including shuttle/circulator bus, bicycle lockers
- Work with the City to review existing standards to provide flexibility including hours for on-street parking, security and enforcement practices, permit or metering



Parking ramp design (building on the right) includes awnings, arched openings and similar materials to reflect character of adjacent building.

- Provide parallel parking on both public and private streets throughout the Town Center, to add parking and create a traffic calming, pedestrian buffer
- Explore options to integrate stormwater management requirements into parking area design
- Explore various landscape approaches to soften parking area edges, provide shade, integrate native plantings, offset islands and other ideas to reduce to 'sea of parking' image

Objectives

The primary objective is to provide a balance of surface lots, on-street and structured parking, with ample quantities and close proximity to serve the mix of uses in the Town Center. In addition to providing adequate space, excellent design is a major factor as well. Guidelines for the Town Center encourage creativity, innovation, quality and attention to detail in every aspect of project development, including parking solutions. Photographs on this page (and throughout these guidelines) suggest some of the many possibilities.



Surface parking lot located to the side and behind grocery store, also illustrates walkway edge improvements including ornamental fence and plantings.



Structured parking (see entrance sign mid-block) imbedded within mixed-use development that includes ground level commercial and residential above.



This photo shows both on-street parking and parking lot edge improvements that together provide a safe and inviting pedestrian walkway.

Overall Guidelines - Transit

Overview

The Town Center is designed to be 'transit ready' in a variety of ways that go beyond providing a walkable public realm and connected street grid. The Master Plan also includes a multi-modal transit station, with dedicated commuter parking, integrated with other uses at the heart of the retail, restaurant and entertainment district. This station functions as a hub where local circulator transit comes together with regional transit service and the Northstar Corridor. This station is designed to meet the short term needs of the Northstar Commuter Coach service, and also the long term objectives for proposed commuter rail service in the future. Transit components include the following:

- North Star Commuter Coach service provides peak period, peak direction bus service between downtown Minneapolis and Elk River
- North Star Commuter Rail will provide train service between St. Cloud and downtown Minneapolis
- 400 park and ride parking spaces are provided for commuters adjacent to the transit station
- Pedestrian and bicycle connections are emphasized in the Master Plan as major links between the transit station, various districts within the Town Center and into the surrounding neighborhoods
- The Town Center can accommodate Metro Mobility, citywide circulator bus or town trolley connections as part of local and regional service to the transit station

The Town Center also uses a Travel Demand Management (TDM) program to both assist and encourage residents and visitors to take advantage of the various modes available for their commuting and travel needs. This TDM program draws from incentives and services available through Anoka County and Metro Commuter Services that match riders with carpools and vanpools, provide discounted transit passes and manage work hours among other functions. The Town Center will use a coordinator to manage the delivery of these services and to promote and market the TDM program.

Guideline Recommendations

Transit is an important component of the overall plan, with expectations for more ridership, using a greater range of transit options as they become available. More people, together with the mix of activities and amenities in the Town Center, encourages better designed, better connected transit service. It is a shared responsibility between city, county and developer to promote transit use, with both policy and bricks-and-mortar attention to the following guidelines:

- Understand and take advantage of opportunities to use existing and proposed transit components
- Provide transit related facilities specifically linked to uses and character within each Town Center district, including signage and lighting for way-finding and bicycle amenities

Objectives

The primary objective is to provide a balance of transit service, bicycle and pedestrian connections and lanes to move traffic. Guidelines for the Town Center promote public transportation as part of the solution and suggest a variety of street improvements and other amenities to invite increased use. Photographs on this page (and throughout these guidelines) suggest some of the many possibilities.



Overall Guidelines - Utilities

Overview

The Master Plan, together with detailed engineering drawings for site improvements, defines a network of utilities that will serve the Town Center. While understanding the location, size and characteristics of sanitary sewer, storm sewer and water system components is important, development proposals must also acknowledge awareness of the Town Center's relationship to the city water supply – specifically, its relationship to the regional aquifer. New development projects have a responsibility to use best practices for proper connection to utilities, monitor flow of materials into storm sewer and provide recommendations for landscape and pavement maintenance in an effort to reduce, or eliminate, potential pollution sources.

The Town Center will also be served by a full complement of utility connections including cable, fiber optic, electric, telephone and so on. As always call for location of all site utilities prior to construction.

Guideline Recommendations

An important part of the Master Plan, utility guidelines promote the idea of balancing quality service, adequate capacity and the physical needs of site development with the more qualitative issues of aesthetics, proper maintenance and environmental health. These guidelines encourage the following:

- Subscribe to, and implement best management practices as the benchmark for utility design and maintenance

- Electrical service, and other utilities as appropriate, should be buried underground or located along service corridors and other 'back of house' locations

Objectives

Not easily photographed (mostly underground), the intent is to suggest that even site utilities have a role in the overall success of the Town Center.



Part Two: Subdistrict Guidelines

Overview

The Master Plan and Zoning Code identify five distinct, but overlapping sub-districts within the Town Center. Each of these sub-districts (outlined on the plan below) is defined by a unique mix of uses, specific site development patterns and perhaps a distinctive character or image. The sub-districts complement one another as part of the overall plan. They include:

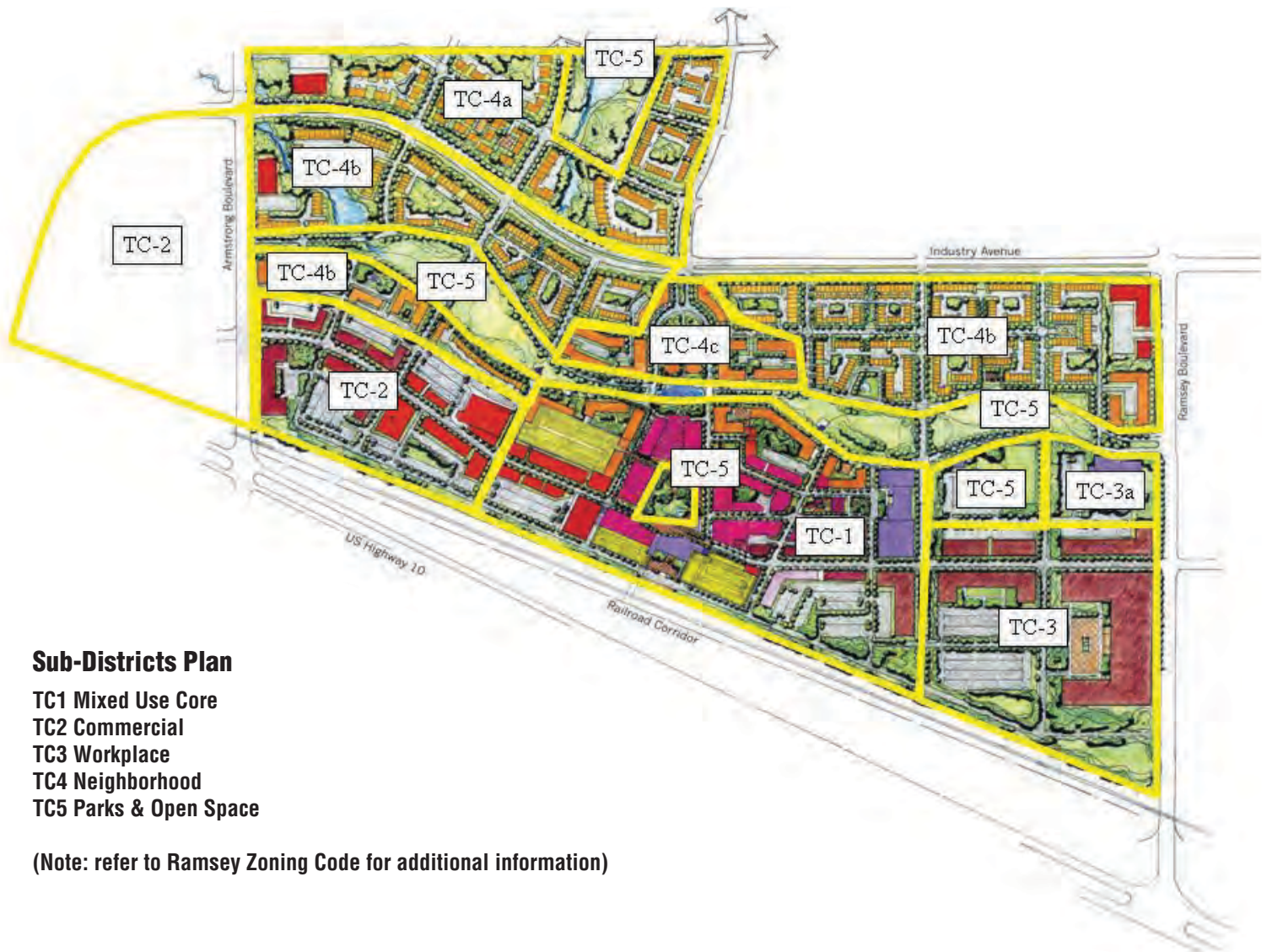
- **TC1 Mixed Use Core** – provides the broadest variety, highest density and greatest intensity of development, encouraging both vertical and horizontal mixed use
- **TC2 Commercial** – provides a location for larger scale retail and other auto-orientated commercial uses

- **TC3 Workplace** – provides a location for uses with high concentrations of employees, such as medical/technology related office, and other corporate or institutional uses
- **TC4 Neighborhood** – provides opportunities for a range of housing types from small lot single family to townhouse, to high density senior or rental apartment
- **TC5 Parks and Open Space** – preserves environmental features and provides neighborhood/community amenities throughout the Town Center

Development plans must respond to the overall Town Center guidelines described in Part One of this document, but also must address the following detailed guidelines for each sub-district. To further clarify and illustrate proposed features in the Master Plan, these sub-district guidelines are organized under the following categories:

- Public Realm / Streetscape Guidelines
- Site Development Guidelines
- Architectural Guidelines

In all cases, the sub-district guidelines must be applied in harmony with the overall Town Center guidelines and with other existing city, county, state codes, design criteria, plans and studies that support broader goals for regional growth and development.



Sub-Districts Plan

- TC1 Mixed Use Core
- TC2 Commercial
- TC3 Workplace
- TC4 Neighborhood
- TC5 Parks & Open Space

(Note: refer to Ramsey Zoning Code for additional information)

Public Realm/Streetscape Guidelines



Public realm/streetscape guidelines define the visual character and physical improvements for all public spaces within the Town Center. These guidelines also provide the general framework and examples for design of proposed quasi-public and private space located within each development parcel. Public realm/streetscape guidelines focus on the following elements:

- Parks, plazas and other public gathering spaces
- Street/sidewalk character and streetscape elements
- Bicycle/pedestrian connections (on-street and off-street)
- Residential courts, pocket parks and other private green space

The goal is to foster a safe and interesting public realm that will invite pedestrian activity, promote traffic calming, increase transit use and encourage community gathering. Street trees, lighting and decorative fencing provide the backbone for streetscape improvements. Added detail, such as special pavements, street furniture, public art and layered plantings will highlight specific nodes or uses. Materials, colors and intensity of improvements can vary for each sub-district, but should also reflect the desired character and identity of the entire Town Center.

Site Development Guidelines



Site development guidelines describe the relationship between building edge and public space. These guidelines imply a strong link between architecture and site - how buildings define, or are defined by the spaces around them, and the visual and physical connections between the private and public realm. Site development guidelines focus on the following elements:

- Land Use – proposed mix of uses defined in the Zoning Code
 - Building Placement – street frontage, set back and orientation all contribute to a continuous edge, while providing some flexibility to add interest with recessed or projected elements
 - Parking Strategies – district parking solutions to support a mix of uses
- Issues related to density, land use, safety and security, access, public space and views inform decisions about building placement, scale and massing. Various combinations of these pieces come together to define the unique character and identity of each sub-district within the Town Center.

Architectural Guidelines

Architectural guidelines describe the character, quality and design direction for proposed buildings within each sub-district. Architectural guidelines focus on the following elements:

- Building design, character and expression – buildings should not imitate historic examples, but rather promote the integration of both traditional and contemporary styles

- Scale – provide emphasis and detailing to create interest and promote ‘human scale’ experience for the pedestrian
- Proportion – provide a harmonious relation of one part to another (or parts to the whole)
- Massing – include a variety of building forms, building types and building heights
- Materials – maintain regional traditions and local building techniques with a preference toward masonry and other natural materials
- Windows and doors – emphasize transparency of streetside façade
- Street presence – buildings should be placed parallel to the street, should contribute to the vitality of the street scene, should minimize blank walls along the public right of way and should consider all street frontage (including buildings at corners) as primary elevations

These architectural guidelines suggest an important balance between design continuity, desirable variety and the notion that buildings should complement, and perhaps contrast, but not compete with one another. The lasting appeal of the final outcome must be grounded in the authenticity of the design and the acceptable level of ‘messiness’ that comes with creating a real downtown over time; ‘faux’ second floors, stage set or themed solutions, and large faceless buildings are not acceptable.



Sub-District Guidelines - TCi Mixed Use Core

Public Realm / Streetscape

Overview

Public realm and streetscape improvements define the character of the Town Center and create a memorable signature for the Mixed Use Core sub-district. Great parks and great streets, encourage intensified levels of activity, support the proposed mix of uses, invite community gathering and accommodate special events throughout the year. Public realm and streetscape guidelines include the following:

TC1 Parks, plazas and other public gathering spaces

Public spaces in the Mixed Use Core should:

- Blend both contemporary and traditional motifs with a focus on pedestrian use
- Encourage a balance of hardscape with landscape; a mix of pavements with plantings.
- Promote an overall landscape character that tends toward a more urban park or plaza feel, with structured spaces and highly maintained gardens
- Provide a variety of opportunities to capture different microclimates with many choices for seating- including movable chairs- and access to both sun and shade
- Provide a variety of levels or elevations to add interest to the ground plane and to provide informal steps for sitting
- Promote safety and security in all design solutions, including landscape lighting, open views into the site, and accessibility
- Provide seasonal interest and color; promote high quality materials and finishes
- Provide opportunities and specific sites for public art, performances and markets

TC1 Street/sidewalk dimensions and streetscape elements

Destination streets (like Sunwood) and connector streets (like Rhinestone) must balance a high level of service for the automobile with attractive and inviting amenities for the pedestrian (see street/sidewalk diagram) including:

- Provide gracious sidewalk width to support intensity of pedestrian traffic in the core
- Install street trees to frame the street and provide shade
- Provide street lighting that meets all safety standards and design criteria, while creating a signature character for this district
- Explore street light spacing, height and a mix of fixture types to support the increased intensity of uses and activities in the core, (note however, that too much light is as bad as too little)
- Explore a range of options for streetscape improvements including special pavements, interesting concrete tinting or scoring patterns, additional plantings, ornamental fencing and other features (note, however, that simpler is better and too much clutter is a negative)

TC1 Bicycle/pedestrian connections (on-street and off-street)

The Town Center Master Plan describes a network of bicycle/pedestrian trails and walkways (both on and off-street) that connect adjacent sub-districts to the

Mixed Use Core. As you approach the core, these connections tend to become part of the shared right of way along the major streets, or become part of the urban park spaces (specifically Civic Square and Downtown Commons). Bicycle riders may choose to share the street with vehicular traffic, or dismount and walk their bicycles along with the other pedestrians using the sidewalks. Providing and maintaining these bicycle and pedestrian connections should be a key component for all development projects in the core.

TC1 Residential courts, pocket parks and other private green space

Along with proposed public parks and great streets, there are many opportunities to integrate private courtyards and pocket parks within this sub-district. These small-scale greens provide important 'breathing space', contribute to stormwater management and offer additional recreational amenities (tot lot, sitting areas) to serve specific building tenants or residents. Back gardens, auto-courts and other options should be considered as part of residential and commercial development plans in the core.



Overview

Guidelines that address building location, organization of space and parking options tend to focus on what can be measured – dimensions, setbacks, number of spaces and so on. But in addition to these issues, site development guidelines must also describe the aesthetic qualities and design character of a preferred ‘urban form’ for the Mixed Use Core. The compact and higher density blocks that define this sub-district encourage a mix of uses, with a continuous built edge along street frontage. Innovative parking strategies support this mix, providing easy access to destination shopping, restaurant and entertainment venues. Together these elements will promote the core area as the center of activity – the place to see and be seen within the Town Center. Site development guidelines include the following:

TC1 Land Use

- Encourage both vertical mixed use (within each building) and horizontal mixed use (within each block) throughout this district
- Promote housing density at the core, specifically targeting locations along Sunwood Drive, Town Center Drive, along park edges and above street-level uses around the Civic Square and Downtown Commons
- Include a mix of housing, civic, retail, restaurant, entertainment, performance and other uses that encourage a variety of activities throughout the day.

TC1 Building Placement

- Generally, buildings should be located at the street right-of-way line (zero setback), but also allow recessed space for outdoor dining and other street level activities providing some minor deviation for variety
- Greater emphasis should be given to architectural elements, materials and other design features for buildings located at primary intersections, for example, at Sunwood and Town Center Drives, or where streets intersect with parks, such as the streets that front on or end near the Civic Square. These locations can often be seen from



several directions, perhaps terminate a view from a distance down the street or sit at a prominent node; They will likely become future landmarks or helpful orientation/wayfinding icons as the Town Center develops

- Minimize openings between buildings, although limited driveway access and some provision for pedestrian connections through blocks are encouraged – gaps between buildings to accommodate surface parking lots, greater building setbacks or other purposes are discouraged
- Encourage recessed entries and windows to create street-level interest, variety and enhance pedestrian scale along street frontage

TC1 Parking Strategies

- Provide parking spaces for typical daily use, satisfying both quantity and location needs through a mix of on-street, small surface lot, underground and ramped parking solutions

- Provide options for additional/overflow parking to support holiday traffic and special events including porous pavements, turf parking areas (Netlon and other soil amendments) or shuttle service from nearby parking areas
- Encourage shared parking solutions that target around the clock shifts in destination, audience or take advantage of peak/off-peak hours of operation for various uses within the core area
- Promote municipal parking ramps as the primary facility to meet public parking needs within the core area
- Minimize surface parking lots in favor of other solutions including underground parking to serve residential buildings, on-street parking to serve retail shops and parking ramps
- Locate surface parking lots away from the major streets, either behind or to the side of primary buildings; surface parking lots along major street frontage are not allowed in the core area
- Discourage driveway access to parking facilities along Sunwood Drive in favor of side streets or Civic Center Drive

Overview

Buildings in the Mixed Use Core will play a major role in defining the overall character of the Town Center. The proposed mix of uses for this signature destination suggests the potential for a variety of building types, demanding creativity and innovation to highlight unique architecture, while knitting the entire sub-district together as a coherent whole. Overall building design is an important consideration, but emphasis on first floor façade treatments is essential to encourage street-level activity and enhance the pedestrian experience. Architecture to be '4-sided' at all locations visible to public areas. Emphasis to be on great design along public street frontage. Architecture guidelines include the following:

TC1 Building Design, Character and Expression

- Provide a variety of building types and styles, expressed both in large scale (overall building) and small scale (design details)
- Emphasize transparency at street level to encourage two way viewing – both window shopping and 'eyes on the street'
- Promote interesting, animated architectural features without being thematic or artificial – faux decorative elements are discouraged
- Avoid large, unarticulated façades



- Emphasize important intersections and other nodes by placing distinctive architectural elements or interesting façades at these prominent locations
- Provide a variety of front elevations for rows of buildings along any given block

TC1 Scale, Proportion and Building Height

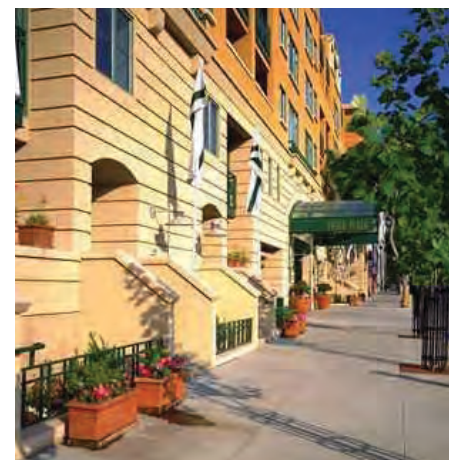
- Provide a variety of building heights along any given block, perhaps related to changes in use or at demising walls
- Articulate front façades with projections and recesses
- Encourage increased building height, higher density and larger scale buildings adjacent to the Civic Square and Downtown Commons



- Promote multiple stories as the norm in this sub-district, but occasional single story buildings are acceptable; single story buildings should not dominate any street frontage and should be a minimum of 20 feet to the roofline

TC1 Street Presence

- Emphasize pedestrian experience with architectural features at street level – canopies, decorative light fixtures and material detail
- Encourage variety of color, texture and materials to complement other streetscape elements
- Conceal service entries, loading facilities and mechanical services from view along public streets
- Create a continuous building edge along street frontage, visually connecting adjacent buildings with complementary façade treatments



TC1 Windows and Doors

- Maximize glass openings for all ground level, street front façades – especially for retail, restaurant and other commercial uses – recommend 50% minimum of total ground level façade, or demonstrate great design through other means
- Provide real window openings for all street facing façades above ground level – recommend 40% minimum of total façade
- Provide recessed entries wherever possible
- Use clear or lightly tinted glass for all windows and doors – mirrored, reflective or highly tinted glazing is not acceptable
- Provide primary access doors facing public streets



TC1 Materials

- Provide a diverse mix of materials, applied in a variety of proportions, exposures and detailing within a block, or along a street
- Encourage durable, high quality materials - local sources if available
- Siding is not allowed (vinyl, metal, wood) except as a complimentary use
- Encourage the use of mostly brick or comparable alternative; minimum requirement of 50% of non-glazed wall area
- Metal and wood components are acceptable as a complimentary use
- Encourage overhead projections, either as a specific building component or as permanent/temporary canopies
- Select materials that relate to the building use, not artificially contrived or themed
- Avoid overly complex or arbitrary use of materials
- Include smaller scale elements, variety of materials and careful detailing to support street level activities and enhance the pedestrian experience



Sub-District Guidelines - TC2 Commercial

Public Realm / Streetscape

Overview

While the Commercial Sub-district encourages a mix of large and small floor plates, accommodating auto-oriented uses, this suggests even greater attention be paid to public realm and streetscape improvements that not only accommodate vehicles, but also invite bicycle and pedestrian traffic. Surface parking lots provide convenient access to storefronts, but present an additional challenge to the overall visual character and aesthetic appeal of this area. While no large public parks are identified for this sub-district, small pocket parks, squares or other gathering spaces are encouraged. A consistent, attractive streetscape is also essential. Public realm and streetscape guidelines include the following:

TC2 Parks, plazas and other public gathering spaces

Public spaces in the Mixed Use Core should:

- Blend both contemporary and traditional motifs with a focus on pedestrian connections and small group sitting areas
- Encourage a balance of hardscape with landscape; a mix of pavements with plantings.
- Provide small urban parks or plazas integrated with building entries or taking advantage of shared space between buildings
- Promote safety and security in all design solutions, including landscape lighting, views into the site, and accessibility
- Provide seasonal interest and color; promote high quality materials and finishes
- Provide opportunities and specific sites for public art

TC2 Street/sidewalk dimensions and streetscape elements

Destination streets (like Sunwood) and connector streets (like Zeolite) must balance a high level of service for the automobile with attractive and inviting amenities for the pedestrian including:

- Provide gracious sidewalk width to invite pedestrian traffic
- Install street trees to frame the street and provide shade
- Provide street lighting that meets all safety standards and design criteria, while creating a unique character for this district
- Explore street light spacing, height and a variety of fixture type that would support proposed mix of uses and activities (note, however, that too much light is as bad as too little)
- Explore a range of options for streetscape improvements including special pavements, interesting concrete tinting or scoring patterns, additional plantings, ornamental fencing and other features (note, however, that simpler is better and too much clutter is a negative)

TC2 Bicycle/pedestrian connections (on-street and off-street)

The Town Center Master Plan describes a network of bicycle/pedestrian trails and walkways (both on and off-street) that connect adjacent sub-districts to one another. These connections tend to become part of the shared right of way along the major streets. Bicycle riders may choose to share the street with vehicular traffic, or dismount and walk their bicycles along with the other pedestrians using the sidewalks. However, providing and maintaining these bicycle and pedestrian connections should be a key component for all development projects.

TC2 Residential courts, pocket parks and other private green space

As previously mentioned, there are many opportunities to integrate privately owned and maintained courtyards and pocket parks within this sub-district. These small-scale greens provide important 'breathing space', contribute to stormwater management and offer additional amenities (sitting areas) to serve specific building tenants and adjacent uses. Back gardens, auto-courts and other options should also be considered as part of residential and commercial development plans in this sub-district.



Overview

Site development guidelines for this sub-district focus on a unique opportunity to recast typical commercial development patterns into a contemporary and innovative strategy that responds to overall objectives for the Town Center. Specifically this suggests that the majority of buildings front on the primary through streets, with parking and service areas on the side or in the back, away from view. A mix of uses within individual blocks, including retail, restaurant and residential, further enhances this model, addresses design character/aesthetics and promotes activity throughout much of the day and evening hours. Site development guidelines include the following:

TC2 Land Use

- Encourage mixed use (within specific blocks) throughout this district
- Promote housing in close proximity to retail uses, specifically targeting locations along the edge of Town Center Park
- Include a mix of large floor plate variety stores, service and convenience uses (grocery, drug and hardware stores), specialty shops and other destination retailers
- Emphasize Sunwood Drive as the commercial 'Main Street'

TC2 Building Placement

- Generally, buildings should be located at the street right-of-way line (zero setback), allowing recessed space for outdoor dining and other sidewalk activities; no more than 40% of building beyond maximum setback
- Generally, buildings should be located parallel to the street they face
- Buildings should be placed at all four corners of key intersections
- Reduce the scale and mass (street side visual impacts) of large floor plate buildings by including liner stores or break up building façades into smaller sections
- Large, blank walls along any public street are unacceptable
- Greater emphasis should be given to architectural elements, materials and other design features for buildings located at primary intersections, for example, at Sunwood and Zeolite, or at key development entries, for example, at Sunwood and Armstrong – frequently these locations can be seen from several directions, from a distance, or sit at prominent crossroads and will likely become future landmarks as the Town Center develops
- Minimize openings between buildings where storefronts line the street, although limited driveway access (one per block along destination streets) and some provision for pedestrian connections through blocks are encouraged – large gaps in the building wall along street frontage to accommodate surface parking lots, greater building setbacks or other purposes are discouraged



- No more than 25% of street frontage can be utilized for surface parking lots

TC2 Parking Strategies

- Provide parking spaces for typical daily use satisfying both quantity and location needs through a combination of on-street and surface lot parking solutions
- Provide options for additional/overflow parking to support holiday traffic and special events including porous pavements, turf parking areas (Netlon and other soil amendments) or shuttle service from nearby parking areas
- Encourage shared parking solutions that target around the clock shifts in destination, audience or take advantage of peak/off-peak hours of operation for various uses within the sub-district
- Minimize surface parking lots fronting on primary streets, locate surface parking lots away from the major streets, either behind or to the side of buildings



Overview

Buildings in the Commercial Sub-district make a significant contribution to first impressions of the Town Center. Buildings form gateways at the major entries into the site, architectural elements and choice of materials convey a certain character and the scale or massing of structures begins to define the feel or experience of this place. These are not just 'commodity' buildings, but instead should raise the bar in terms of overall design and specific details that make the Town Center unique, inviting and memorable. Architecture to be '4-sided' at all locations visible to public areas. Emphasis to be on great design along public street frontage. Architecture guidelines include the following:



TC2 Building Design, Character and Expression

- Provide a variety of building types and styles, expressed both in large scale (overall building) and small scale (design details)
- Emphasize transparency at street level to encourage two way viewing – both window shopping and eyes on the street
- Promote interesting, animated architectural features without being thematic or artificial – faux decorative elements are discouraged
- Avoid large, unarticulated façades
- Emphasize important intersections and other nodes by placing distinctive architectural elements or interesting façades at these prominent locations
- Provide a variety of front elevations for rows of buildings along any given block



TC2 Scale, Proportion and Building Height

- Provide a variety of building heights along any given block, perhaps related to changes in use or at demising walls – commercial buildings should express 12 foot first floor height
- Articulate front façades with projections and recesses
- Encourage increased building height and larger scale buildings adjacent to the railroad corridor, Armstrong Boulevard and as you approach the core sub-district
- Promote multiple stories in this sub-district, but single story buildings are acceptable; continuous height rooflines should not dominate any street frontage and should be a minimum of 18 feet to the roofline

TC2 Street Presence

- Emphasize pedestrian experience with architectural features at street level – canopies, decorative light fixtures and material details
- Encourage variety of color, texture and materials to complement other streetscape elements
- Conceal service entries, loading facilities and mechanical services from view along public streets as much as possible
- Create a continuous building edge for the majority of street frontage, visually connecting adjacent buildings with complimentary façade treatments – in limited areas where gaps occur, architectural treatments, windows and detailing of side façades should match front façade



TC2 Windows and Doors

- Maximize glass openings for all ground level, street front façades - especially for retail, restaurant and other commercial uses – recommend 535% minimum of total ground level façade, or demonstrate great design through other means
- Provide real window openings for all street facing façades
- Provide recessed entries wherever possible
- Use clear or lightly tinted glass for all windows and doors – mirrored, reflective or highly tinted glazing is unacceptable; faux windows are not allowed
- Provide primary access doors facing public streets



TC2 Materials

- Provide a diverse mix of materials, applied in a variety of proportions, exposures and detailing within a block, or along a street
- Encourage durable, high quality materials - local sources if available
- Siding is not allowed (vinyl, metal, wood) except as a complimentary use
- Encourage the use of mostly brick or comparable alternative; minimum requirement of 50% of non-glazed wall area
- Metal and wood components are acceptable as a complimentary use
- Accommodate changes in material as follows – return 8 foot minimum at side walls and avoid terminating in the same plane
- Encourage overhead projections, either as a specific building component or as permanent/temporary canopies
- Avoid overly complex or arbitrary use of materials
- Include smaller scale elements, variety of materials and careful detailing to support street level activities and enhance the pedestrian experience

Overview

The Workplace Sub-district also encourages a mix of large and small floor plate buildings, but instead of commercial or entertainment, this area of the Town Center is dominated by office and institutional uses. With opportunities for corporate or medical campus development comes the attendant auto-related infrastructure – easy access, bigger streets and large surface parking lots. Once again, this suggests that equal attention be paid to public realm and streetscape improvements that not only accommodate vehicles, but also invite bicycle and pedestrian traffic. South Park, an active, neighborhood scale, recreational play space has been proposed for this sub-district, but small pocket parks, squares or other gathering places are also encouraged. In addition, streetscape improvements provide an important public amenity and inviting pedestrian connection to adjacent sub-districts. Public realm and streetscape guidelines include the following:

TC₃ Parks, plazas and other public gathering spaces

Public spaces in the Mixed Use Core should:

- Blend both contemporary and traditional motifs with a focus on pedestrian use
- Encourage a balance of hardscape with landscape; a mix of pavements with plantings.
- Promote an overall landscape character that tends toward a more urban park or campus feel, with structured spaces, open lawns and layered garden plantings
- Provide a variety of opportunities to capture different microclimates with many choices for seating and access to both sun and shade
- Promote safety and security in all design solutions, including landscape lighting, open views into the site, and accessibility
- Provide seasonal interest and color; promote high quality materials and finishes
- Provide opportunities and specific sites for public art

TC₃ Street/sidewalk dimensions and streetscape elements

Destination streets (like Sunwood) and connector streets (like Rhinestone) must balance a high level of service for the automobile with attractive and inviting amenities for the pedestrian (see street/sidewalk diagram) including:

- Provide gracious sidewalk width to support intensity of pedestrian traffic
- Install street trees to frame the street and provide shade
- Provide street lighting that meets all safety standards and design criteria, while creating a signature character for this district
- Explore street light spacing, height and type of fixtures to support the uses and activities in this sub-district (note however that too much light is as bad as too little)
- Explore a range of options for streetscape improvements including special pavements, interesting concrete tinting or scoring patterns, additional plantings, ornamental fencing and other features (note however that simpler is better and too much clutter is a negative)



TC₃ Bicycle/pedestrian connections (on-street and off-street)

The Town Center Master Plan describes a network of bicycle/pedestrian trails and walkways (both on and off-street) that connect adjacent sub-districts to one another. These connections tend to become part of the shared right of way along the major streets. Bicycle riders may choose to share the street with vehicular traffic, or dismount and walk their bicycles along with the other pedestrians using the sidewalks. There is no provision for dedicated bike lanes on any of the Workplace Sub-district streets at this time. However, providing and maintaining these bicycle and pedestrian connections should be a key component for all development projects.

TC₃ Residential courts, pocket parks and other private green space

Along with proposed public parks and great streets, there are many opportunities to integrate private courtyards and pocket parks within this sub-district. These small-scale greens provide important 'breathing space', contribute to stormwater management and offer additional recreational amenities (tot lot, sitting areas) to serve specific building tenants or residents. Back gardens, auto-courts and other options should be considered as part of residential and commercial development plans in this sub-district.



Overview

The mix of medical, office, institutional and other uses in this sub-district suggest the potential for a campus-like arrangement of buildings on some blocks. These blocks would tend to be more internally oriented than in other districts, with driveways, parking lots, courtyards and walkway connections in the center, ringed by buildings around the outside. Buildings would still face adjacent streets, with both primary and secondary entries provided to animate these important façades, particularly along Ramsey Boulevard, Sunwood Drive and Rhinestone Street. While the Workplace sub-district also encourages mixed use, this desired development objective will likely occur mostly within blocks, not within individual buildings as seen in other districts. Site development guidelines include the following:

TC3 Land Use

- Encourage horizontal mixed use (within each block) throughout this district, and explore potential for vertical mixed use (within each building) where possible
- Encourage residential development, perhaps targeting senior housing near the core sub-district and rental units above storefronts along Sunwood Drive or adjacent to the park
- Include a mix of office, medical, institutional, housing, food venues and other uses that encourage a variety of activities throughout the day.

TC3 Building Placement

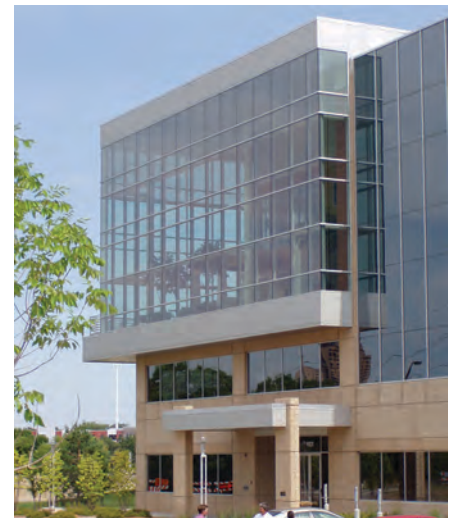
- Generally, buildings should be located at the street right-of-way line (zero setback), allowing recessed areas for building entries; no more than 60% of building beyond maximum setback
- Buildings should be placed at all four corners of key intersections
- Greater emphasis should be given to architectural elements, materials and other design features for buildings located at primary intersections, for example, at Sunwood and Rhinestone, or where streets intersect with parks, for example the streets that front on

South Park – frequently these locations can be seen from several directions, perhaps terminate a view from a distance down the street or sit at a prominent activity node and will likely become future landmarks or helpful orientation/wayfinding icons as the Town Center develops

- Minimize openings between buildings, although limited driveway access (one per block along destination streets) and some provision for pedestrian connections through blocks are encouraged – gaps in the building wall along street frontage to accommodate large surface parking lots, greater building setbacks or other purposes are discouraged
- Encourage recessed entries and windows to create street-level interest, variety and pedestrian scale along street frontage
- No more than 25% of street frontage can be utilized for surface parking lots

TC3 Parking Strategies

- Provide parking spaces to support typical daily use, satisfying both quantity and location needs through a mix of on-street, surface lots internal to the block, underground and ramped parking solutions
- Encourage shared parking solutions that support special events or around the clock shifts in destination, audience – take advantage of peak/off-peak hours of operation for various uses within this, and adjacent sub-districts
- Locate surface parking lots away from the major streets, either behind or to the side of primary buildings; large surface parking lots along major street frontage are not allowed
- Discourage driveway access to parking facilities along Sunwood Drive in favor of side streets or along Civic Center Drive



Overview

Buildings in the Workplace Sub-district also make a significant contribution to first impressions as people enter the Town Center via Highway 10, Ramsey Boulevard and Sunwood Drive. Buildings form gateways at the major entries into the site, architectural elements and choice of materials convey quality and permanence, and the scale or massing of structures begins to define the feel and character of this place. The proposed mix of uses within this subdistrict suggest a variety of potential building types – blending medical campus with small office, storefront and some housing demands design creativity and innovation to highlight unique architecture, and knit the entire sub-district together as a coherent whole. Architecture to be ‘4-sided’ at all locations visible to public areas. Emphasis to be on great design along public street frontage. Architecture guidelines include the following:

TC₃ Building Design, Character and Expression

- Provide a variety of building types and styles, expressed both in large scale (overall building) and small scale (design details)
- Emphasize transparency at street level to encourage two way viewing – both window shopping and eyes on the street
- Promote interesting, animated architectural features without being thematic or artificial – faux decorative elements are discouraged
- Avoid large, unbroken façades
- Emphasize important intersections and other nodes by placing distinctive architectural elements or interesting façades at these prominent locations
- Provide a variety of front elevations for rows of buildings along any given block



TC₃ Scale, Proportion and Building Height

- Provide a variety of building heights along any given block, perhaps related to changes in use or at demising walls
- Articulate front façades with projections and recesses
- Encourage increased building height, higher density and larger scale buildings adjacent to the Civic Square and Downtown Commons
- Promote multiple stories in this sub-district, but occasional single story buildings are acceptable; continuous height rooflines and single story buildings should not dominate any street frontage and should be a minimum of 18 feet to the roofline

TC₃ Street Presence

- Emphasize pedestrian experience with architectural features at street level – canopies, decorative light fixtures and material detail
- Encourage variety of color, texture and materials to complement other streetscape elements
- Conceal service entries, loading facilities and mechanical services from view along public streets
- Create a continuous building edge along street frontage, visually connecting adjacent buildings with complimentary façade treatments

TC3 Windows and Doors

- Maximize glass openings for all ground level, street front façades – especially for retail, restaurant and other commercial uses – recommend 35% minimum of total ground level façade, or demonstrate great design through other means
- Provide real window openings for all street facing façades above ground level – recommend 40% minimum of total façade
- Provide recessed entries wherever possible
- Use clear glass for all windows and doors – mirrored, reflective or highly tinted glazing is discouraged
- Provide primary access doors facing public streets

TC3 Materials

- Provide a diverse mix of materials, applied in a variety of proportions, exposures and detailing within a block, or along a street
- Encourage durable, high quality materials - local sources if available
- Siding is not allowed (vinyl, metal, wood) except as a complimentary use
- Encourage the use of mostly brick or comparable alternative; minimum requirement of 35% of non-glazed wall area
- Encourage overhead projections, either as a specific building component or as permanent/temporary canopies
- Avoid overly complex or arbitrary use of materials
- Include smaller scale elements, variety of materials and careful detailing to support street level activities and enhance the pedestrian experience



Overview

Two prominent public parks supply much of the informal green space for the Town Center, and more specifically, provide the valuable park frontage and mix of amenities needed to support housing development within the Neighborhood Sub-district. North Park surrounds an existing wetland and provides open space for year-round activities including a proposed sledding hill. Town Center Park cuts through the heart of the property and is characterized by wetlands, ponds and a meandering stream channel surrounded by gently sloping hills. Other park features include active and passive recreation areas, natural and manicured landscapes, education and interpretation opportunities, pedestrian and bicycle trails and many other amenities. Tree-lined streets connect these parks to surrounding residential neighborhoods and to nearby parks and amenities throughout the Town Center. Public realm and streetscape guidelines include the following:

TC₄ Parks, plazas and other public gathering spaces

Public spaces in the Neighborhood Sub-district should:

- Blend both contemporary and traditional motifs with a focus on pedestrian and bicycle use, large and small group gatherings
- Emphasize informal green space, but also include a balance of hardscape with landscape; some paved areas integrated with plantings.
- Promote an informal or natural landscape appearance – this does not mean it isn't mown and maintained, but instead reflects the idea of soft landforms, groves of trees, meandering walks and other less structured elements
- Integrate stormwater management practices and features into park design as described in overall guidelines
- Take advantage of different microclimates, including sun and shade, orientation (north, south, east, west), top of slope/bottom of slope, water's edge
- Promote safety and security in all design solutions, including landscape lighting, open views into the site, and accessibility
- Provide seasonal interest and color; promote high quality materials and finishes
- Provide opportunities and specific sites for public art, special events, performance

TC₄ Street/sidewalk dimensions and streetscape elements

Destination streets (like Town Center Parkway) and connector streets (like Rhinestone) should not only work for the automobile, but should also provide a safe, attractive and inviting experience for the pedestrian (see street/sidewalk diagram) including:

- Provide ample walk widths to support intensity of pedestrian use and bicycle traffic – recommend 6 foot minimum for pedestrian walks and 10 foot minimum for bicycle paths
- Provide urban streetscape solutions (sidewalks, boulevard plantings, curb and gutter) along Ramsey, Armstrong and Bunker Lake Boulevards, replacing the existing rural road sections (road shoulder, drainage ditch)
- Install street trees to frame the street and provide shade

- Provide street lighting that meets all safety standards and design criteria, creates a signature for this sub-district and compliments overall lighting design for the Town Center
- Explore street light spacing, height and type of fixtures that fit with residential use (note, however, that too much light is as bad as too little)
- Explore a range of options for streetscape improvements including special pavements, interesting concrete tinting or scoring patterns, additional plantings, ornamental fencing and other features (note, however, that simpler is better and too much clutter is a negative)

TC₄ Bicycle/pedestrian connections (on-street and off-street)

The Master Plan describes a network of bicycle/pedestrian trails and walkways (both on and off-street) that connect sub-districts to various amenities within the Town Center and to the rest of the City. Proposed park improvements include off-street pedestrian and bicycle paths including grade-separated crossings through Town Center Park at Rhinestone and Zeolite Streets. Bicycle riders may choose to share the street with vehicular traffic, but there is no provision for dedicated bike lanes on any of the Town Center streets at this time. Providing and maintaining bicycle and pedestrian connections should be a key component for all development projects in this sub-district.

TC₄ Residential courts, pocket parks and other private green space

Along with proposed public parks and great streets, there are many opportunities to integrate private courtyards and pocket parks within the Neighborhood Sub-district. These small-scale greens provide important 'breathing space', contribute to stormwater management and offer additional recreational amenities (tot lot, sitting areas) to serve specific building tenants or residents. Back gardens, auto-courts and other options should be considered as part of every residential site development plan.



Overview

The Neighborhood Sub-district emphasizes residential development. To support the proposed mix of housing, a framework of streets and blocks, based on the traditional grid system, encourages compact development patterns with increasing densities closer to the heart of the Town Center. Typical blocks either front onto signature parks or include some private green space within the site; many blocks have both. The major streets that frame this property, including Ramsey, Armstrong and Bunker Lake Boulevards, provide an important 'face' for this sub-district. Residential front doors will connect with public walks along each of these streets promoting the urban character of the Town Center. Site development guidelines include the following:

TC4 Land Use

- Provide a mix of housing types, styles and price range including a variety of unit and building types within each block
- Promote increased density closer to the Mixed Use Core Sub-district and along major streets, specifically targeting locations along Town Center Parkway and the surrounding boulevard streets

TC4 Building Placement

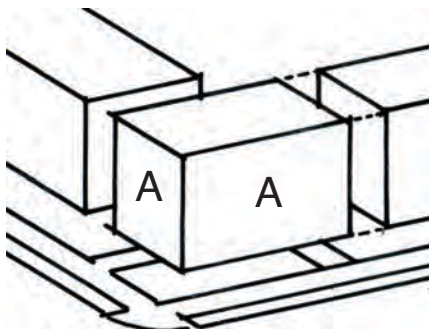
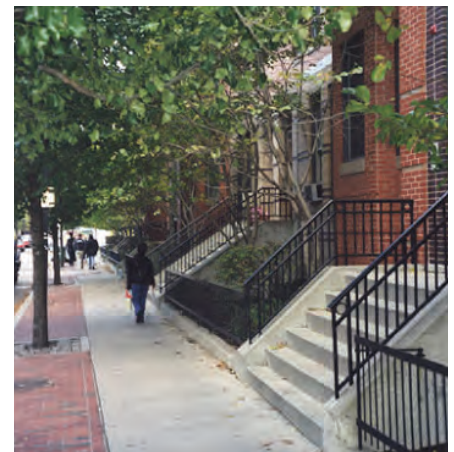
- Building setbacks are based on three factors – housing type, street width and the combination of desired public streetscape improvements and private 'garden' spaces
- Special consideration should be given to architectural elements, materials and other design features for buildings located at primary intersections, for example, at Bunker Lake Boulevard and Town Center Drive
- Special attention should be given where streets intersect with parks, for example many of the streets that front on or end near Town Center Park
- No more than 25% of building beyond maximum setback



- Minimize openings between buildings, although limited driveway access and some provision for pedestrian connections through blocks are encouraged – gaps in the building wall along street frontage to accommodate surface parking lots, greater building setbacks or other purposes are discouraged
- Build to corners of each block, maintaining the building wall at street intersections

TC4 Parking Strategies

- Incorporate surface parking lots into the center of blocks, screened from public streets with landscape, fencing and other ornamental elements
- Locate majority of visitor parking on-street
- Locate garage doors away from public view; garage doors fronting on public streets are not allowed
- Avoid long stretches of garage doors in the same plane – recesses and projections, landscape features and other site elements will provide some relief to this building face



- Build to corners
- Treat both sides as fronts

Overview

The largest in terms of overall acreage, the Neighborhood Sub-district will define the character and quality of the entire northern half of the Town Center property. With prominent street frontage along most of the major thoroughfares that serve this site, the variety of choices for building type, architectural style and design detailing are crucial decisions that together will promote a safe and attractive residential neighborhood. Integrating contemporary and traditional styles is also an important consideration, central to the notion that a unique and creative model for housing development will be a signature for the Town Center. Architecture to be '4-sided' at all locations visible to public areas. Emphasis to be on great design along public street frontage. Architecture guidelines include the following:

TC4 Building Design, Character and Expression

- Provide a variety of building types and styles, expressed both in large scale (overall building) and small scale (design details)
- Express residential character through definition and identification of individual units within larger buildings
- Vary roof styles along street fronts including some recesses and setbacks
- Promote interesting, animated architectural features without being thematic or artificial – faux decorative elements are discouraged
- Avoid large, unbroken façades, specifically at 'side elevations' facing streets
- Emphasize important intersections and other nodes by placing distinctive architectural elements or interesting façades at these prominent locations
- Provide distinctly different front elevations for each building type along any given block

TC4 Scale, Proportion and Building Height

- Provide a variety of architectural elements of different heights along any given block that serve to break up the predominant building mass including porches, entry canopies, bay extensions and other features
- Emphasize individual building and unit entries through changes in height, scale and massing
- Minimize single story portions of any façade along street frontage
- Encourage increased building height, higher density and larger scale buildings along major streets, along park frontage and close to the core sub-district



TC4 Street Presence

- Locate building and unit entrances on primary façade; articulate entrances to ensure easy visibility and access
- Provide public / visitor access doors on building façades that face streets having on-street parking; buildings facing streets without on-street parking should treat the street-side elevation as the primary façade including covered porches, canopies, recesses and projections
- Provide windows and other architectural features for end units to enhance building character; blank walls are not allowed
- Address both street-facing elevations for corner buildings; treat both façades equally as primary elevations
- Provide outdoor living space (garden, terrace) along all public streets





TC4 Windows and Doors

- Maximize window area and design diversity along street front façades
- Provide windows into below grade levels that extend more than 3 feet above grade
- Provide recessed entries wherever possible
- Use clear glass for all windows and doors – mirrored, reflective or highly tinted glazing is discouraged
- Provide primary access doors facing public streets

TC4 Materials

- Provide a diverse mix of materials, applied in a variety of proportions, exposures and detailing within a block, or along a street
- Encourage durable, high quality materials - local sources if available
- Encourage the use of brick, stone and a variety of high quality materials
- Discourage the use of vinyl siding; large expanses of continuous siding is discouraged
- Include smaller scale elements, variety of materials and careful detailing that appeal to pedestrian activities; material or color changes should occur at these elements



- Horizontal material changes should only occur at inside corners or should return 8' of any wall
- 35% of non-glazed street front wall are should be brick unless building design is enhanced through other means such as covered porch areas, broken roof lines, articulated façade and material or color changes.

Overview

The Town Center Master Plan illustrates a strong armature of green, including a mix of public parks, destination amenities, courtyards, commons and other features. As a key component of the overall plan, this integrated system of parks, trails and open space provides the framework around which all other land uses are organized. Placemaking and connectivity are important site development considerations, linking each block and each sub-district with major public spaces nearby and with many other amenities and attractions in the Town Center. Site development guidelines include the following:

TC5 Land Use

- Encourage connections to proposed public parks via streets, walkways and trails as part of every development plan
- Encourage the creation of additional park space, perhaps mostly private or semi-public greens, as part of every development plan
- Include park features and recreational amenities specifically related to surrounding land use, sub-district character and defined needs of adjacent buildings
- Uses, structures and events, other than those specifically related to parks and recreational programs and activities, are not allowed



TC5 Building Placement

- Locate park structures within reasonable viewing distance from adjacent streets, or park walkways and trails, for easy access and visual surveillance
- Locate park structures near primary intersections, pedestrian crosswalks and bridge crossings to create visual markers and interesting objects within the park landscape – frequently these locations can be seen from several directions, perhaps terminate a view from a distance down the street or sit at a prominent activity node and will likely become future landmarks



TC5 Parking Strategies

- Provide on-street parking spaces adjacent to all public and private parks
- Provide options for additional/overflow parking on park property to support holiday traffic and special events including porous pavements and turf parking areas (Netlon and other soil amendments)
- Minimize surface parking lots on park property whenever possible to maximize green space
- Locate surface parking lots away from the major streets and provide adequate screening that includes plantings, fencing, earth berms or other attractive solutions

Overview

There are numerous opportunities to include buildings and other structures as significant design features within the proposed parks, trails and open space system for the Town Center. These could range from simple picnic shelters and landscaped arbors to more complex park buildings that might contain meeting rooms, rest rooms, storage areas and other facilities. Design of these important buildings should respond to the specific setting and landscape features in each park, and complement the overall character and quality of buildings located within surrounding blocks. Architecture guidelines include the following:

TC5 Building Design, Character and Expression

- Create structures that reflect, and perhaps blend qualities of both the natural landscape and the unique urban form of various sub-districts and specific blocks within the Town Center

- Provide structures that add character, comfort and support proposed uses within each park
- Provide structures that are unique, highly detailed and durable
- Provide structures that heighten the overall design character and quality of the Town Center, where park buildings, as a separate category, distinguish themselves as great architecture

TC5 Scale, Proportion and Building Height

- Emphasize intimate scale to support street level activities and promote pedestrian comfort
- Emphasize scale and proportion that will complement, not compete, with surrounding character of park space

TC5 Materials

- Provide a diverse mix of materials, applied in a variety of proportions and design details
- Encourage the use of durable, high quality materials, including brick and stone, together with woods and metals to promote the idea of permanence



Overview

The overall structure of the Town Center is based on a system of linked parks, trails and open space. This includes existing and proposed parks and trails defined in city and regional parks plans, joined with new parks and trails within the Town Center. Of equal importance is the contribution from each block and each development project to this green structure, adding a variety of private, semi-private and perhaps some additional public space throughout each sub-district. Great strolling streets provide connections between commercial, workplace, entertainment and residential neighborhoods and encourage shared use for cars, pedestrians and bicycles. Public realm and streetscape guidelines include the following:

TC5 Parks, plazas and other public gathering spaces

Public spaces throughout the Town Center should:

- Blend both contemporary and traditional motifs with a focus on pedestrian use
- Encourage a balance of natural/informal landscapes with formal/urban plazas and squares; a mix of pavements and plantings, promenades and meandering trails
- Integrate stormwater management practices and features into every park design
- Provide a variety of opportunities to capture different microclimates with many choices for seating - including movable chairs, fixed benches, open lawn - and access to both sun and shade
- Provide a variety of levels or elevations to add interest to the ground plane and to provide informal steps, or lawn terraces for sitting
- Promote safety and security in all design solutions, including landscape lighting, open views into the site, and accessibility
- Provide seasonal interest and color; promote high quality materials and finishes
- Provide opportunities and specific sites for public art, special events, performance and markets



TC5 Street/sidewalk dimensions and streetscape elements

Destination streets (like Sunwood), connector streets (like Rhinestone), and background streets (like many of the residential neighborhood streets) all front on public parks and all contribute to the desired connectivity throughout this new community. While each street must provide a defined level of service for the automobile, creating attractive and inviting amenities for pedestrian and bicycle use is equally important. Streets adjacent to public parks in the Town Center will include the following:

- Provide gracious sidewalk width to support intensity of pedestrian traffic in the various sub-districts
- Provide off-street bicycle trails wherever possible
- Install street trees to frame the street and provide shade
- Provide street lighting that meets all safety standards and design criteria, while creating a signature character for each sub-district
- Explore street light spacing, height and type of fixtures to support uses and activities (note, however, that too much light is as bad as too little)
- Explore a range of options for streetscape improvements including special pavements, interesting concrete tinting or scoring patterns, additional plantings, ornamental fencing and other features (note, however, that simpler is better and too much clutter is a negative)



TC5 Bicycle/pedestrian connections (on-street and off-street)

The Master Plan describes a network of bicycle/pedestrian trails and walkways (both on and off-street) that connect sub-districts to various amenities within the Town Center and to the rest of the City. Proposed park improvements include off-street pedestrian and bicycle paths including grade-separated crossings through Town Center Park at Rhinestone and Zeolite Streets. Bicycle riders may choose to share the street with vehicular traffic, but there is no provision for dedicated bike lanes on any of the Town Center streets at this time. Providing and maintaining bicycle and pedestrian connections should be a key component for all development projects in this sub-district.

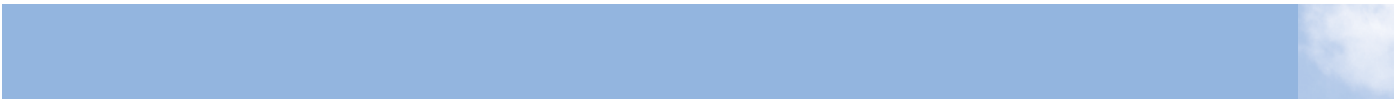
small-scale greens provide important 'breathing space', contribute to stormwater management and offer additional recreational amenities (tot lot, sitting areas) to serve specific building tenants or residents. Back gardens, auto-courts and other options should be considered as part of every residential site development plan.


TC5 Residential courts, pocket parks and other private green space

Along with proposed public parks and great streets, there are many opportunities to integrate private courtyards and pocket parks within the Neighborhood Sub-district. These



Sub-District Guidelines - Signs & Lights





Ramsey
Town Center,
L.L.C.