

Coming Soon to Merrimack's Town Center...

Over the past decade the Town of Merrimack has done a considerable amount of planning for the future of its town center. The Town Center Plan (1999), the Master Plan Update (2002), and the Merrimack Village Design Charrette (2006) provide a wealth of information about the existing features of the center as well as a vision for the center's future. However, these documents offer very few recommendations for how to achieve this vision. The Town of Merrimack is working with the Nashua Regional Planning Commission to analyze these existing documents and develop a short Action Plan with specific items that can be implemented by the town to achieve a unified and well developed town center.

The timing of this project coincides with the Town's current work with the State of NH to develop a new courthouse to the southwest of the existing municipal complex. Once completed, the town can then work towards the redevelopment of the original complex.

Developed by the Nashua Regional Planning Commission and Town of Merrimack iTRaC Committee, appointed by the Economic Development Citizens Advisory Committee.

For more information, please contact the Merrimack Community Development Office at 603-424-3531 or economicdevelopment@merrimacknh.gov.



The Making of a Great Town Center

People



Transportation Options



Recreation



Pedestrian Amenities



Municipal Facilities

Businesses



People

People are the key to a thriving town center. Town centers are great places to meet neighbors, hold meetings, and spend time with families. Town centers should be dynamic, attracting people of all ages and walks of life. Communities create vibrant town centers by focusing on the facilities and amenities discussed below.



Municipal Facilities



Municipal facilities help to draw people into the town center. Such facilities include Town Halls, schools, post offices, and libraries. Locating municipal facilities in a town center also helps to promote civic awareness and responsibility among residents.

Transportation Options

Providing a variety of transportation options and amenities within the town center encourages visitors to park centrally and walk, bike, or take public transit between destinations. In turn, this decreases congestion, noise, and air pollution, which detract from town centers. Amenities may include bike routes and racks, sidewalks, and bus shelters.



Recreation

While many people use town centers to run errands and conduct business, others look to town centers for recreation opportunities. Recreation facilities in the town center should cater to a variety of age groups, from playgrounds for children to fitness trails and picnic areas for adults and families. These facilities should tie as seamlessly as possible into other town center elements to encourage the greatest amount of use.



Pedestrian Amenities



In order to encourage people to walk within the town center, it is important to provide pedestrian amenities that enhance comfort and safety. These may include sidewalks, crosswalks, public art, trash receptacles, and benches.

Businesses

A diverse set of businesses helps to draw people to a town center. People are more likely to spend time in the town center if they can accomplish all of their errands as well as their pleasure shopping while there. Thus, communities should work to attract businesses such as banks, pharmacies, restaurants, and gift shops to the town center.

