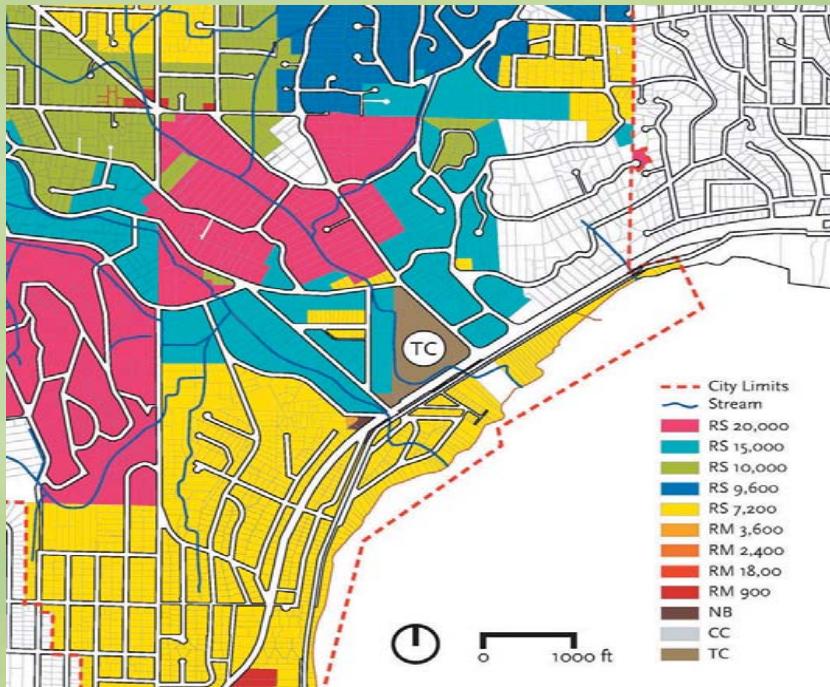




Lake Forest Park Town Center is a 16 acre shopping center located at the intersection of Ballinger Way and SR 522 (Bothell Way), near the shores of Lake Washington. The site has excellent visibility from Bothell Way, and is a “gateway” to the remainder of Lake Forest Park. Ecologically, the site functions poorly as it is largely covered by buildings and non-permeable paving. Surface water runoff flows directly from the site into Lyon Creek, and then nearby Lake Washington. Although it is a key location, it currently lacks the level of public realm amenity expected from a Town Center. The center was built in the 1960's and is home to many essential and thriving businesses ranging from locally owned businesses to national chain stores.

Applicability



Lake Forest Park Zoning Map for area



To provide maximum opportunity for redevelopment of this center, these Town Center Framework Design Guidelines apply to all parcels within the City of Lake Forest Park's "Town Center" zoning. The intent of this effort is to encourage the coordinated redevelopment of the Town Center zone. Although, a redevelopment proposal need not include all parcels within the Town Center zone, any redevelopment proposal will be reviewed within the spirit and intent of the framework design guidelines.

Vision for Town Center

Vision for Town Center

Vision for Town Center.....	24
Guideline Objective.....	25
Placemaking.....	26
Environmental Stewardship.....	36
Mobility and Walkability.....	38
Public Realm.....	40



Sustainability Task Force Vision for Town Center

An important element of this project was the Task Force's articulation of a vision statement for Town Center. The vision served as a set of guiding principles or ideas that the City can use to navigate by in discussions and decisionmaking about the future of the property. The Task Force's vision is simple and compelling.

- Lake Forest Park is a model community;
- Town Center is an inviting gathering place and the heart of the City's diverse, high quality, economically viable, community-scale shopping and business district;
- Town Center is a safe and walkable hub of activity for all ages;
- The buildings on the site, including housing, blend in with the community's character; and
- Recognized regionally for its environmental stewardship, the Center features the community's environmental assets, making it a place unlike any other.

From the Sustainability Task Force Recommendations Report, October 18, 2004

Guideline Objectives

The Town Center Design Guidelines represent a unique “pre-regulatory” tool with three overriding objectives.

- *First*, the guidelines seek to encourage redevelopment of the Town Center. By articulating a market-based vision for the property, the City will be seen as a partner in its future redevelopment.
- *Second*, the guidelines propose to offer more intensive development capacity in exchange for important community amenities. Allowing additional or different development to occur creates value. Portions of this increased value can be allocated toward enhancing public aspects of the redeveloped Town Center.
- *Third*, the guidelines seek to increase certainty for both residents and the Town Center’s future developer.

Guideline Concept

The Lake Forest Park Town Center is currently zoned for low-density commercial and residential uses and it offers no public amenities (with the exception of Third Place Commons). Existing zoning does not provide sufficient incentive for the redevelopment of the property. In order to balance sufficient incentives with the community’s vision for the Center, the Framework Design Guidelines contain two levels of redevelopment intensity.

- *Mixed-Use Baseline*: The mixed-use baseline provides an opportunity to integrate a significant number of residential units into the existing commercial space to create a true town center. Buildings would be limited to 4 floors (3 floors over the ground level), a list of “baseline” public amenities would be required, and certain performance standards would have to be met.

- *Mixed-Use Bonus*: The mixed-use bonus increases the allowed residential density by one level (4 floors over the ground floor) in return for specific public amenities.

In both cases the scale and design of individual buildings would be guided by additional development standards such as setbacks and limitations to the number of levels on the property’s periphery.

Placemaking is an encompassing term used to define the qualitative nature of an area. For this Framework Design Guideline, we will focus on three areas of Placemaking that are most critical to this site;

1. Pedestrian scale of the site
2. Edge Conditions
3. Character of the Redevelopment

Pedestrian Scale of the Site

The concept of a “pedestrian scale” is one that strongly resonates with the community participants. The 16+ acre Town Center was developed as an auto-oriented strip center. This is clearly not what the community considers a successful model for the future.

For visioning purposes, a grid proportional in scale to Portland’s “Pearl District” was overlaid onto the town center. One at the scale of Bellevue’s downtown was also overlaid for comparison. While both cities are working hard to make their downtown’s more pedestrian friendly, Portland has the advantage of the smaller scale grid which translates to more corners on buildings, opportunities for natural lighting and ventilation, more windows than walls, more places between the buildings - the public realm.

Over time, the Lake Forest Park Town Center should be redeveloped in a scale that similarly better suits people. A pedestrian scale grid should be integrated into the overall site to establish a general framework from which elements such as structures, transportation and parking, sidewalks, courtyards, and environmental enhancements can be designed in a coordinated manner. A pedestrian scale grid means there is a people oriented system of moving through the site. It does not necessarily mean the streets and access ways are laid out on the same grid. To achieve the sense of pedestrian scale, at approximately every 200'-250' there should be a ground related, accessible public walking route throughout the site.

Any redevelopment scenario must place the pedestrian first. Pedestrians must have the senses of comfort and safety when enjoying the center, and cars should be very slow moving where they interface with people (think Pike Place Market and select areas of U-Village for some examples).



To achieve the sense of pedestrian scale, at approximately every 200'-250' there should be a ground related, accessible public walking route throughout the site.

Placemaking Baseline Standard - Ped Scale

TOWN CENTER FRAMEWORK DESIGN GUIDELINES

Placemaking



BELLEVUE: Vehicular Block 600' x 600'

PORTLAND: Vehicular Block 200' x 200'



LAKE FOREST PARK TOWN CENTER:

Pedestrian Grid



Pedestrian Scale Grid example at LFP

Edge Conditions

Along Lake City Way south of Lake Forest Park, there are examples of multi-level structures that loom over the public realm. Lake Forest Park's Town Center will be different. These guidelines recommend that all building frontages that are adjacent to the site's edges must present a pedestrian character. The following pages offer guidelines for upper level building setbacks that will achieve an appropriate transition to the surrounding neighborhood scale.

The graphic to the right diagrams the perimeter of the site where this transition to the more residential scale of Lake Forest Park will take place. This stepped setback approach will also occur in the interior of the site adjacent to major public realm elements, also described in the following pages.

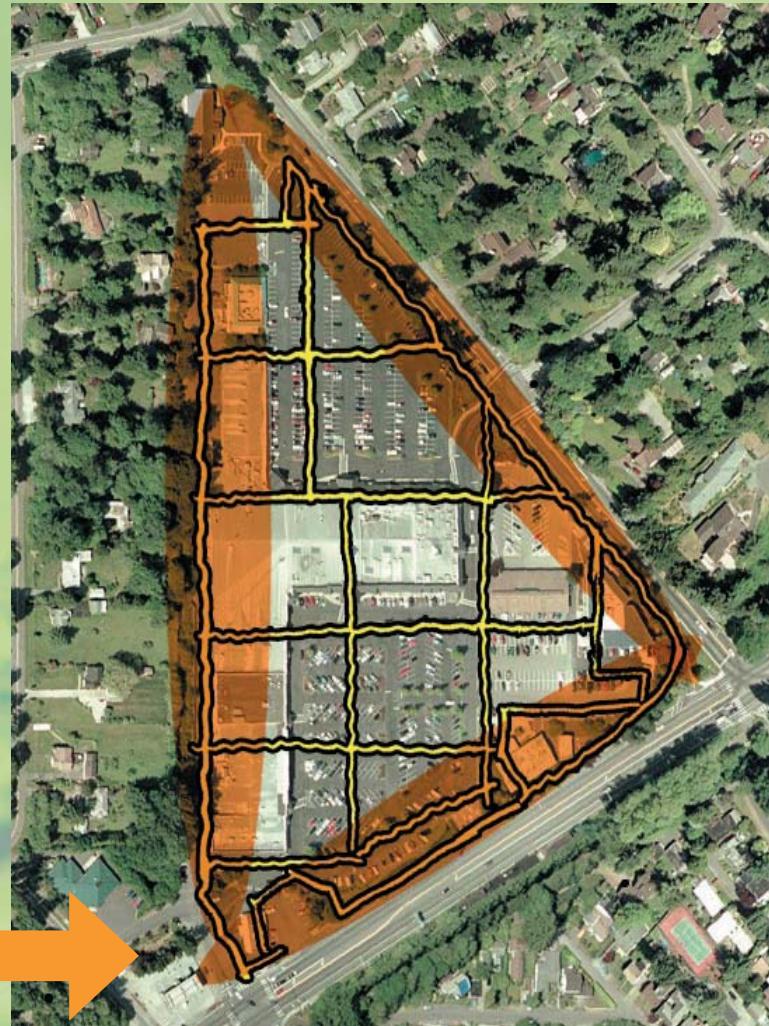
The buildings on site, including housing, blend in with the community's character.

Sustainable Task Force Vision - October, 2004

EDGE SCALE DIAGRAM:
“Step” upper setbacks
at project boundaries



NTS



Character of the Redevelopment

The following are baseline performance standards to establish general character elements on the site, such as density, scale, setback and mix of use.

Density

Residential -

Residential density shall be determined by performance rather than proscription, that is, the development proposal will be primarily reviewed for its approach to achieving the ideals set forth related to elements such as the edge conditions and number of levels.

Commercial –

No building footprint should exceed 60,000sf.

Building Scale

The following are anticipated heights for floor to floor levels for various uses.

Grocery – up to 20'

Retail – up to 18'

Workplace/office – up to 12'

Residential – 10' typical

Streetscape Orientation

- Adjacent the public realm, the following streetscape elements should be incorporated,

Residential Streetscape

- The private residence floor level should be elevated approximately 36" from the adjacent public realm.
- The building should avoid blank walls by engaging the public realm with windows and detailing. Access doors are not necessarily components of this orientation.

Non-residential Streetscape

- The business should architecturally face the public realm with glazing, typically no less than 50% of the ground level façade.
- Doors, plazas and entry courts should typically front onto the public realm.
- The presence of loading bays and garage entries should be minimized.

General character baseline standards

A note on performance vs prescriptive standards.

When you walk through a great place do you think to yourself "this is feels wonderful" or do you think "how many dwelling units to the acre is this?" *Performance based* standards as proposed in this document recognize Town Center as a unique place. The City must be engaged in its design evolution, rather than rely upon *proscriptive based* standards typical of zoning code check lists.

The Town Center should have excellent spaces and places, not a completed checklist of zoning requirements. Good developers will appreciate the opportunity to show the community what they can do with a creative design team, and the community will benefit from design rigor being wholly focused on the character of this place.

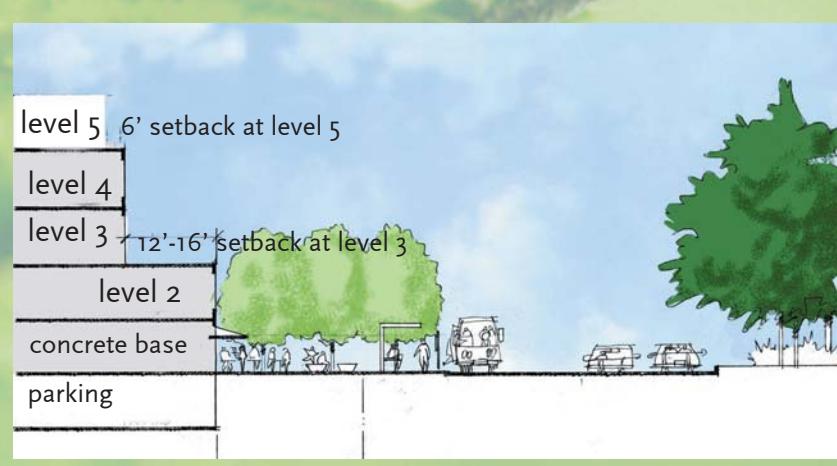
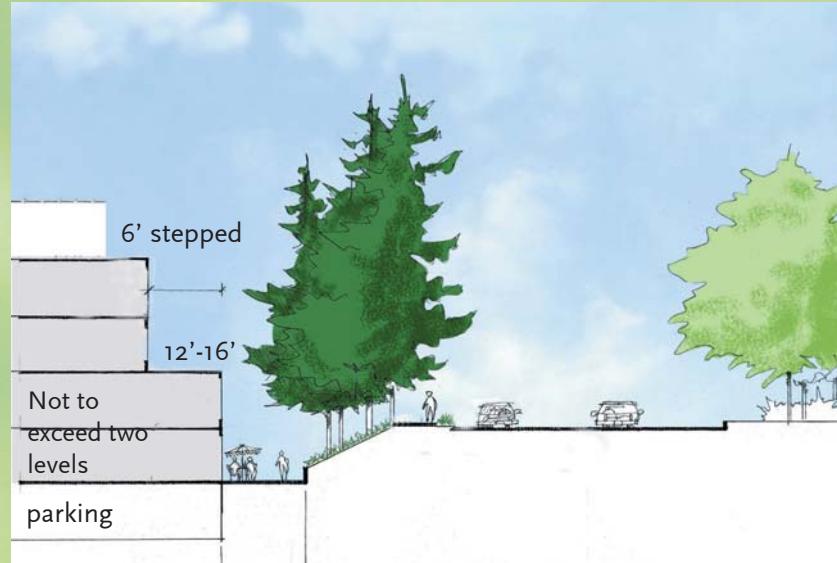
Stepped Setbacks

To help define character, the baseline standard scale of the buildings adjacent the edges and areas of major public realm, such as the major internal plaza or a primary pedestrian-focused “main street,” should not exceed two (2) levels for the building’s first 12- 16’, regardless of its use.

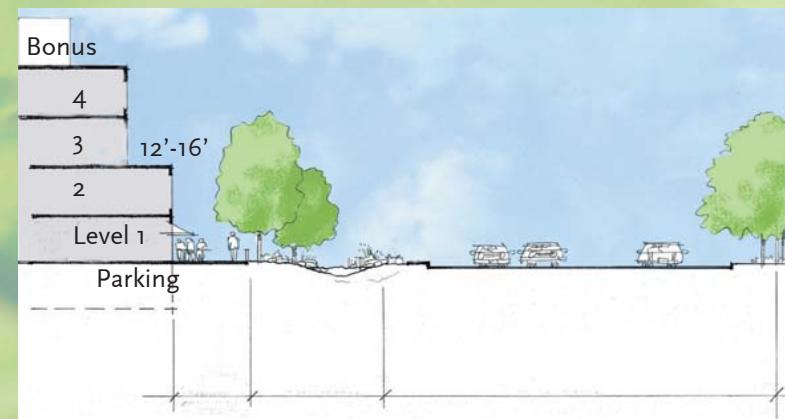
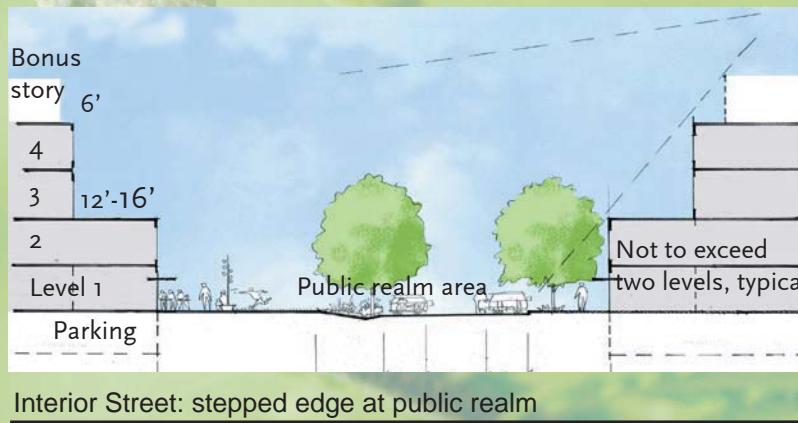
Behind the stepped edge of the buildings, the scale may be three (3) levels over one (1) level of concrete base. An exception to the number of concrete base levels, up to two levels total, will be considered in slope transition areas if the proposal demonstrates that the overall intents of scale, character and reduced surface parking is met.

Another level may be added to the top of the structure as a bonus level if public benefit is provided above and beyond the baseline standards described in these redevelopment guidelines. This will total four (4) levels over concrete base. Suggestions of public realm benefits and its review process can be found in the Implementation section of this document.

Any bonus level should be stepped back not less than 6' from the edge of the story below.



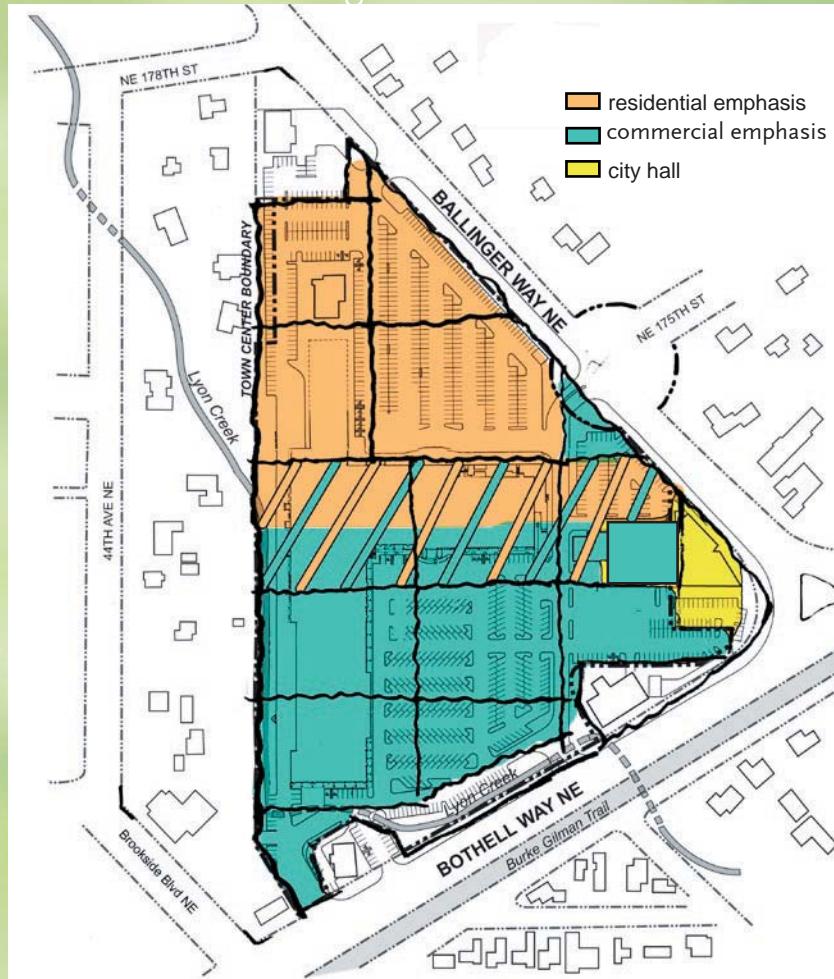
Stepped Setbacks



Bothell Way: stepped edge and Lyon Creek walk

NTS

Character/Mix of Uses



To achieve the goal of mixing uses on site, uses may be mixed either horizontally (side by side) or vertically (integrated within the same building).

Residential must be included on site as a component.

Allowable uses include but are not limited to residential, senior housing, live-work, retail, service, office, professional office, public realm, event space and performing arts.

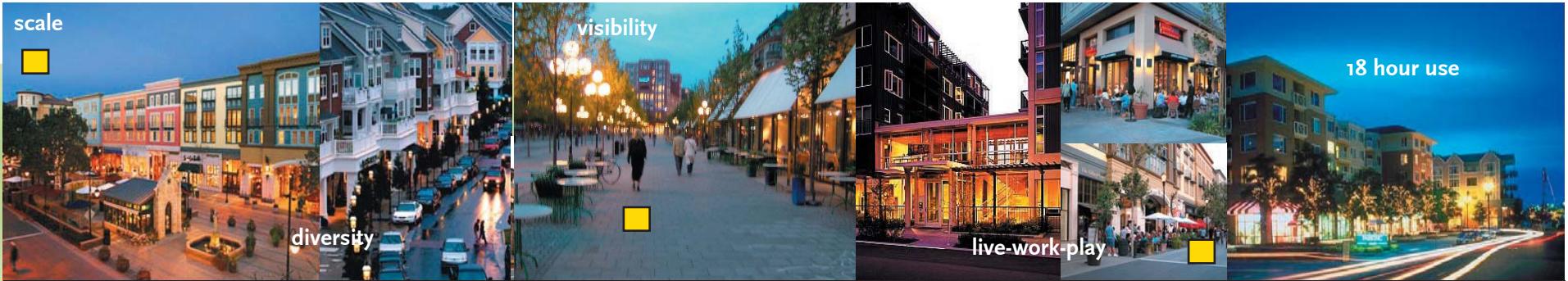
Baseline Standards, Mix of Use

The graphic to the left indicates areas of land use emphasis. Generally, the area nearest Bothell Way (blue) is most suited for commercial emphasis. Residential may be a component of this area, but should be subservient to the commercial uses. The area to the north of the site is more suited to residential uses. Limited commercial activity could occur therein.

Market analysis for the site indicates the site is larger than necessary for exclusive commercial activity unless a substantial portion of the site is dedicated for surface parking. It is important for the creation of value on the site to augment the uses with a meaningful amount of residential use.

Character/Mix of Uses





VIBRANT MIXED-USE



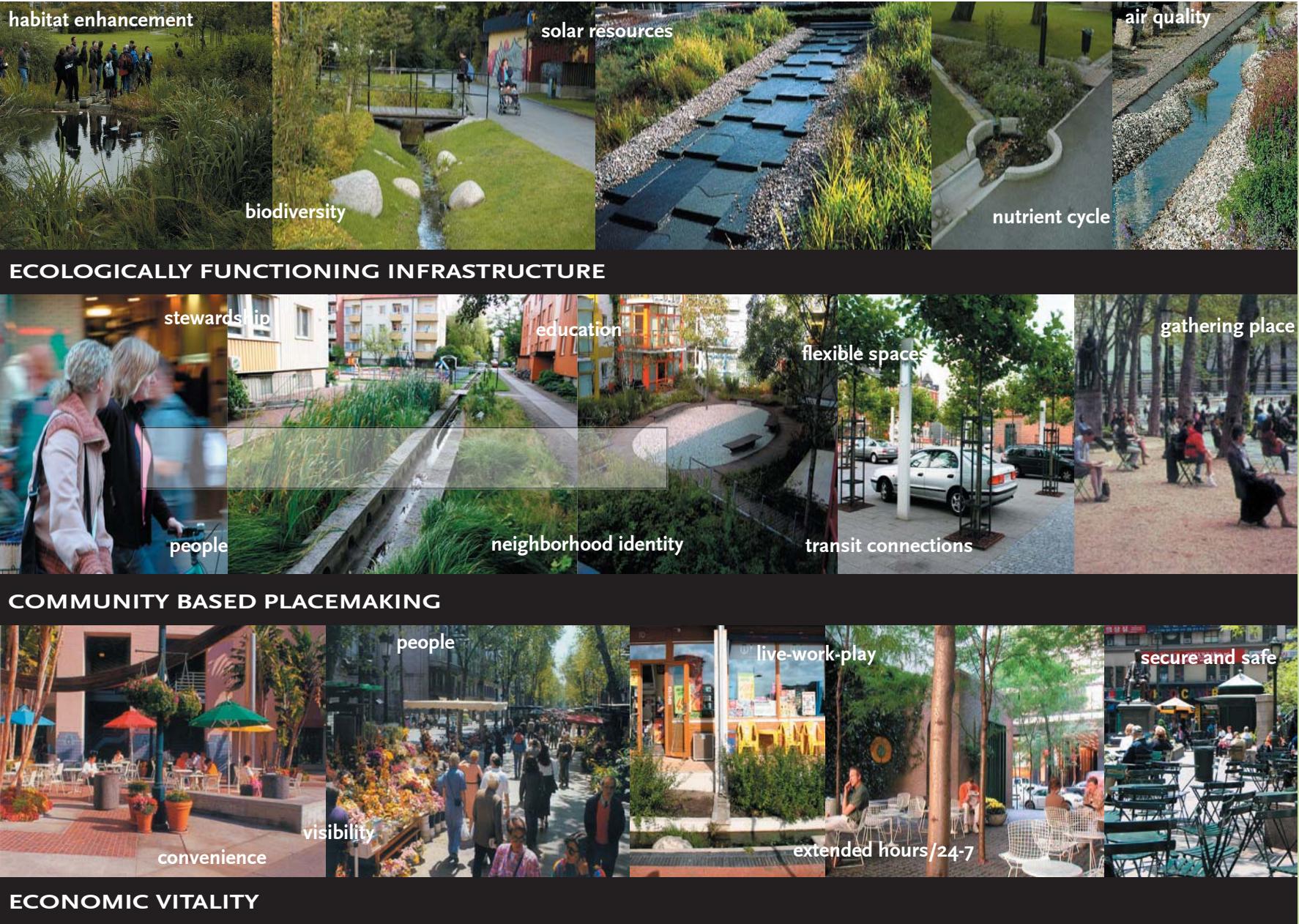
RESIDENTIAL



STREETS AS PUBLIC REALM

Above are examples of projects that were presented to the public for comment. Although all have their own design quality, the five images that resonated most with the community and the Design Guidelines Task Force are highlighted with 





Ecological Infrastructure - The sensible blending of infrastructure function with ecological benefit received strong support from the community and the Design Guidelines Task Force. Highlighting environmental features can create a unique character and identity for the Center.

Environmental Stewardship

"Recognized regionally for its environmental stewardship, the Center features the community's environmental assets making it a place like no other..."

Sustainable Lake Forest Park Town Center Task Force Vision 2004



ECOLOGICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

The idea that man-made and natural systems are connected is not new. We recognize that certain infrastructure choices and strategies, especially regarding storm water, can have great impact on a site's ecological performance. A vision of the Sustainable Task Force was to highlight and express the environment at Town Center. At the public meeting it was suggested that the Environment and Placemaking should even be considered as one topic within this document. Further, the idea of an "ecological infrastructure," had strong support.

The graphic at the left is a diagram that expresses in conceptual form some of the particular expectations the community has expressed relative to creating an environmental stewardship strategy for the site. These include:

1. enhance and improve Lyon Creek's habitat in a manner that will create a sense of identity as well for the Town Center.
2. preserve and enhance the strong edge of mature landscape along Ballinger Way including the removal of the ground level invasive species and renovating the area with a native or appropriate low water need planting palette.
3. to integrate environment and infrastructure. To highlight this integration as an identity and differentiation for the Town Center.
4. clean and control rate of surface water runoff prior to its release into Lyon Creek.

Environmental Stewardship

Baseline Standards for Environmental Performance at Town Center

The following are baseline recommendations for environmental performance at Town Center. The developer may offer for consideration innovative strategies other than those listed to meet the intent.

This document offers a selection of acceptable standards from which the owner can choose for renovation, new construction and site work. As a baseline standard, the owner will direct the developer to select a performance benchmark to reference, prepare support documentation that demonstrates the project's achievement, and submit this documentation to the City for review. Submittal for official certification to the benchmark organization is encouraged but not required, and would alleviate the requirement for City review. The City reserves the right to submit project documentation for certification on its own.

The owner must submit (to the City or benchmark organization) documentation that refers to at least one of the following performance standards for all significant renovation, new construction and associated site work. Note that none of the standards below are codified requirements from the City, but rather common references for the builder and City to understand environmental performance. Some uses, such as retail centers and grocery stores, do not have a readily tailored rating system. In this instance, the applicant should demonstrate a benchmark of performance that exceeds "code compliant" by 20% for energy use and water consumption.

Residential

- BuiltGreen three (3) star
- Green Globes two (2) globe rating
- LEED R for residential (certification, when available)

Commercial and Mixed Use

- BuiltGreen three (3) star for residential portion
- Green Globes (2) globe rating
- LEED NC for New Construction (certification level)
- LEED EB for Existing Buildings (certification level)

Benchmark Organization websites

Built Green www.builtgreen.net

Green Globes www.thegbi.com

Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED)
www.usgbc.org

Other informational web sites

Advanced Buildings Technologies&Practices
www.advancedbuildings.com

US Department of Energy www.energy.gov

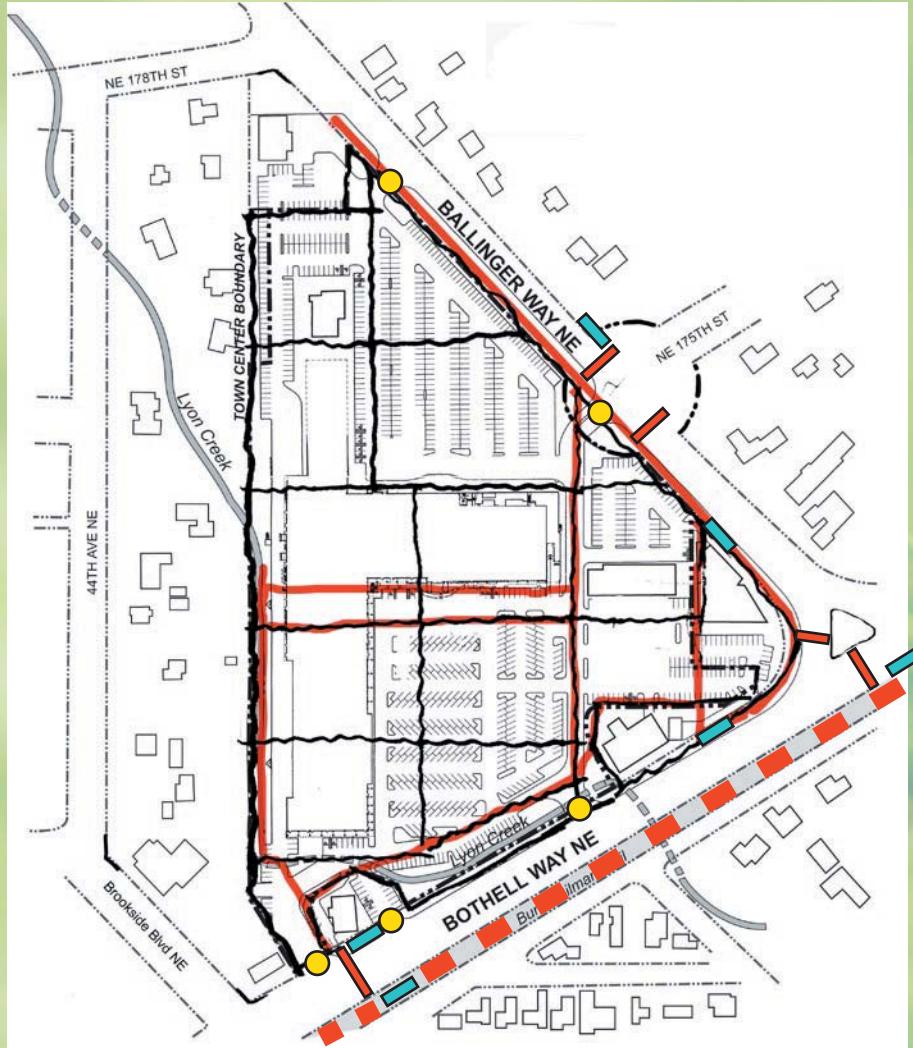
Rocky Mountain Institute www.rmi.org

US Government - Energy Star www.energystar.gov



Mobility and “Walkability”

TOWN CENTER FRAMEWORK DESIGN GUIDELINES



- **vehicular access**
 - potential transit access also
- **crosswalk**
 - same as existing
 - re-paint and/or surface
- **pedestrian connection**
- **bus stops**
 - structured
 - along access drives
 - add info kiosks/lighting
- **burke gilman trail**



“The Center will be a safe, walkable hub of activity for people of all ages.”

Lake Forest Park Task Force Report Vision 2004

Mobility and “Walkability”

Pedestrian environment

- “Pedestrian first” design
- Provide a pedestrian pathway adjacent to Lyon Creek along Bothell Way.
- Provide a pedestrian trail adjacent Lyon Creek on the west property when adjacent redevelopment occurs.
- Create a connected pedestrian “grid” system within the Center that gives clear priority to the pedestrian.
- Provide a pedestrian walkway separated by landscape strip from Ballinger Way - 6' minimum width.

Transit

- Connect shelters with pedestrian walkways to the Center’s retail core.
- Provide lighting and informational kiosks at the shelters.

Bicycle

- Provide clear bike route of travel between the center and the crosswalk connections to the Burke Gilman Trail. Highlight this regional trail as an amenity to the site.
- Provide bike racks exclusive from the sidewalks, and bike trails along the site’s edges connecting to the core areas.
- Provide bicycle storage units within multi family housing area.
- Provide bicycle storage areas adjacent transit
- Facilities or within park and ride facility if developed.

Vehicular

- Maintain five existing access driveways to site
 - Two on Ballinger Way
 - Three on Bothell Way
- Lengthen distance between access points and internal drive aisle options to lengthen stacking capability (internalize parking areas rather than around perimeter)
- Design internal streets with pedestrian authority, traffic calming techniques, and to prevent short cutting of the Ballinger Way/Bothell Way intersection.

Parking

- Specific parking standards as well as shared use calculations from consultant will be considered

ADA

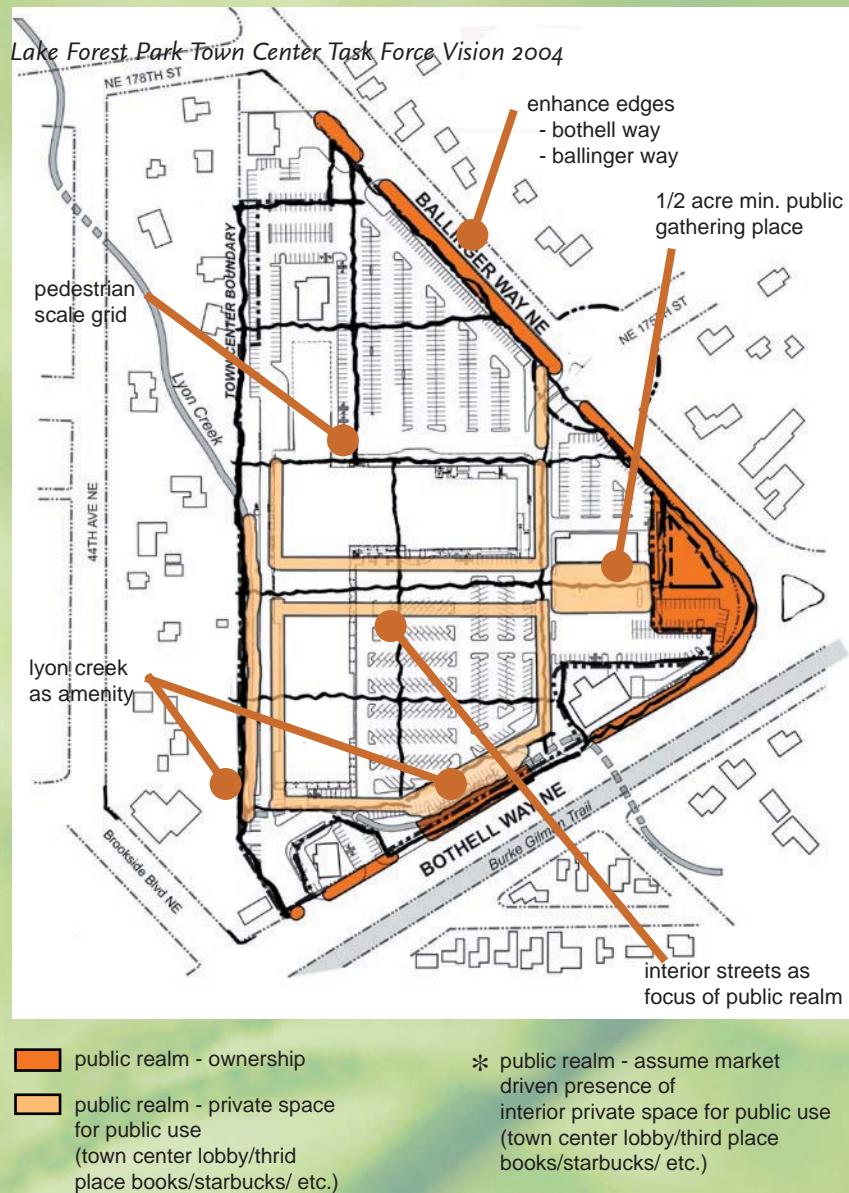
- Redevelopment will at a minimum comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act, as well as make every reasonable effort to be an inclusive and accessible to people of all abilities.



Public Realm

TOWN CENTER FRAMEWORK DESIGN GUIDELINES

"Town Center is an inviting gathering place and the heart of the City's diverse, high quality, economically viable, community - scale shopping and business district."



Public Realm - Public Ownership portion

Maximize the synergy between the adjacent publicly-owned amenities by;

Ballinger Way right of way –

- Preserve and enhance existing mature trees within the Ballinger Way right of way. Replace invasive ivy with more acceptable, native landscape material.
- Consider City Hall as one possible template of how to interface with Ballinger Way (residential/office example)
- With retail, Architecturally face Ballinger Way esplanade with uses and courtyards to provide visual connection
- Enhance the functionality of the walkway along the Ballinger Way edge by creating a safe, walkable and bikeable landscape esplanade along the entire Ballinger Way Edge (8'-10' of road separated trailway). Connect to and highlight bus stops.

Bothell Way right of way

- Integrate a Pedestrian space along the Bothell Way frontage extending from east to west.
- Connect to and highlight bus stops and Lyon Creek open space area.

Public Realm

On-site public realm - private ownership portion

*“Social condensers” -- the place where citizens of a community or neighborhood meet to develop friendships, discuss issues, and interact with others -- have always been an important way in which the community developed and retained cohesion and a sense of identity. Ray Oldenburg (1989), in *The Great Good Place*, calls these locations “third places.”*

A Design Guideline Task Force member summed it up well when he described the service that Third Place Commons has provided Lake Forest Park. To paraphrase, he said “it is a place where you can easily meet friends rather than “play host,” where it is easy to access from anywhere in Lake Forest Park in 5-10 minutes, it’s a place where teenagers can go with the friends after school, on foot or bike, to work on projects, play “magic” cards or chess in the company of neighbors rather than an unsupervised house. It is a place where people can linger and converse regardless of weather or daylight. It’s a place where seniors have dance classes and kids learn to make puppets. It’s a flexible place for book readings, public gatherings and performances; the list goes on.”

Third Place Commons is privately run and the City has no control over whether it stays or goes. However, the Task Force expresses through this document that any potential redevelopment provide the spirit and function described above. In summary, as a baseline condition we strongly urge the provision of an interior open space that is demonstrated to be flexible and functional for a range of events, that it be central and activated by surrounding uses, day and evening, summer and winter. That it is inviting to all ages and public in nature, where a person can feel

welcome even if they are not shopping. In essence, the space should function as a “Third Place.”

The community has suggested that a quality public realm is one of their chief desires to realize within Town Center. We suggest the developer to thoughtfully consider the many important uses of the public realm and suggest a response that meets the spirit outlined above as well as blends with the new Town Center. The Task Force recommends a minimum of 5,000 sf of interior flexible interior open space and 10,000 sf of adjacent exterior open space as a minimum size to be meaningful and programmable.

Public realm summary of recommendations

5,000 sf flexible interior open space

10,000 sf adjacent exterior open space

Surrounding uses to have “eyes on” orientation to space

Space to be welcoming and activated during business hours in every season.

Programming of the space can be through a non-profit or similar organization.

Space to be free of admission excepting special events such as concerts, and welcoming to all.

Open space relative to any residentially focused portion of the site will be reviewed independently and for its appropriateness in providing a range of exterior open space experiences for residents.