5. Neighborhood Centers

Centers are the core of a neighborhood and may contain anything from a high-density mixed-use area to a school, park, places of worship, or major employment nucleus. The importance of the Center is that it provides neighborhood focus and should be within a five-minute walk from all other locations within the Neighborhood. Existing centers are identified through the Master Planning process described in Section 4.

Approaches for the creation and retention of centers are described throughout this document. Most importantly, the Center is a civic or public destination. As such, their appearance should be a major part of their function and sidewalks and paths as well as streets should lead to these places. Several different types of centers are illustrated below:

Figure 6:48 (left) The Town Square in South Riding, Loudoun County, Virginia. It is civic space bounded by a “Town Hall” (a community building) and a variety of residential structures.

Figure 6:49 (right) Rendering of proposed green in Pikesville, Maryland. The space features offices over retail. Across the street, condominium residences complete the space and provide for the activities of living, working and shopping.

Figure 6:50 Another example of apartments over retail including a mix of low and mid-rise units. This project is known as Mizner Park in Boca Raton, Florida.