5. **NEIGHBORHOOD CENTERS**

The Neighborhood Model proposes an overall increase in density in the Development Areas and suggests that each neighborhood have a designated center. Along with this density would be changes in community design to minimize incompatibilities and provide significant amenities. The overall effect should be an increase in appeal and livability of the Development Areas.

A center is a focal point of a neighborhood. A mix of uses is important to a neighborhood and usually, the mix will occur at the center. The center is within a 5-minute walk of other uses in the neighborhood. The appearance and character of the center should have a positive effect on the surrounding uses. In some cases, a center will be a high-intensity area, containing a mixture of businesses, services, public facilities, and employment that connects to residential areas and attracts activities of all kinds.

A center may also take the form of park or recreational area surrounded by residences. It functions as a public place and a destination from which activity emanates.

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Figure 2:15  Sketch of King Farm Town Center in Rockville, Maryland, an example of planning with The Neighborhood Model.