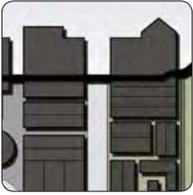


2.3: Downtown



Town Form

This large, mixed use, TRANSITIONAL Subarea currently consists of a variety of retail, restaurant, office and other commercial activities, along with long-term residences and lodging in a variety of building sizes and forms. Downtown is the center of civic, cultural, economic and social activity for our community as well as the center of the visitor experience, as a significant amount of lodging is located here. The existing character and built form is varied and inconsistent.

The goal of this subarea is to create a vibrant mixed use area by accommodating a variety of uses and amenities. The subarea will be the starting point for the development of a refined Lodging Overlay boundary and future discussion of the type and size of lodging desired. A key challenge will be to provide a balance between lodging and long-term residential housing. Future structures will be predominantly mixed use, while multifamily structures will be allowed if it properly addresses the street. Commercial uses that create an active and engaging pedestrian experience will be predominantly located on the first and second floors of buildings. Examples of these uses include restaurants, bars, a variety of retail shops and commercial amusement. Furthermore, as portions of the subarea will be located within a future Downtown Retail Shopping District, uses such as office, residential and lodging will be predominantly located on upper floors.

A goal of this subarea will be to create a consistent building size and form. In the future, a variety of two to three story buildings are desired. Buildings should be located to create an attractive street wall and take advantage of good urban design principles including massing, articulation and the provision of public space. The pedestrian realm will be of great importance in this mixed use subarea, and emphasis should be placed on adding improvements focusing on the pedestrian experience. Parking should continue to be provided predominately in public lots and on street to create a vibrant, walkable area that is oriented to the pedestrian. On-site parking should be predominantly underground or screened from view. Future redevelopment should enhance the Flat Creek corridor for recreational and ecological purposes. Buildings should front onto the creek to provide opportunities for interaction and enjoyment of this community resource.

