

Vision Kit for Newton's Village Centers

Explore Newton's village centers, reflect on how you currently experience them and imagine what they could be in the future. Your stories will help guide the City of Newton on how to update zoning for village centers.

Instructions

- Step 1: Pick the village center you want to focus on with the Vision Kit
- Step 2: Prepare! Find a time to carry out the vision kit in person or virtually. Invite neighbors or set out on your own. Print the Vision Kit out, upload it on your phone, read it on your computer, or pick up copies from the Planning Department Office at City Hall. All options available at newtonma.gov/zoningredesign
- Step 3: Explore with this Vision Kit: Do 1, 2 or more of the themes listed here! Take photos or draw!
- Step 4: Share Your Story: Send in your photos and ideas as you complete the themes, either at tinyurl.com/NewtonPhotos, by emailing zoningredesign@newtonma.gov, or bring a hard copy to the Planning Department Office at City Hall. These will be shared on our social media! No photos? See Step 5
- Step 5: Weigh in on the interactive community discussion board called Polis. This can be done at any time - we encourage you to bring your ideas from the Vision Kit to it! <https://pol.is/4vfmwwzdds>
- Optional step : Learn more with the Vision Kit Companion about history, policy considerations and zoning recommendations in Newton's various planning documents related to village centers. See link below.

Social Media

Connect with us on Facebook at [@NewtonPlanningandDevelopment](https://www.facebook.com/NewtonPlanningandDevelopment)

Connect with us on Instagram at [@NewtonPlanning](https://www.instagram.com/NewtonPlanning)

Themes

What's a Village Center?

What are the defining features of a village center? Where does it begin and end? Why did you pick this one?

Environment

Find elements in your village center that support a greener future.

What does the 'green future' of your village center look like? Are there more places for things like walking and biking, trees and plants, rainwater collection, or solar panels?

Shopping, Eating & Working

Go to the stores and restaurants you often visit, or ones you are looking forward to revisiting when safe to do so. What do you prefer to buy in person versus online?

What businesses would you like to open up? Would you like to be able to work in a village center?

Housing

Go to one of your village center public transit stops and observe what kind of housing you see. Find a multi-family building (3 or more units). If you don't see any, find one in/around your village center. Guess what year the building was constructed.

What types of housing do you envision in your village center in the future?

Accessibility

Find a place in your village center that feels most accessible for you, and a place that feels least accessible. This can be considered physically (abilities to physically move, see, hear, speak and more) as well as emotionally & in terms of senses (noise, smell, how calm a place feels, or access to public furniture).

What would a fully accessible village center look and feel like?

Inclusive, Diverse + Welcoming Spaces

Find a part of a village center that feels most welcoming and safe for you and your identities. What makes it feel inclusive? Examples include community centers, non-profits, places of worship, a place where your language is spoken, where you see and interact with people who share your identity, places that are age-friendly.

How could your future village center welcome people of all ages, genders, races, socioeconomic statuses, sexualities, and more backgrounds?

Transportation

How do you get to your village center (walk, bike, public transit, car)? Is there infrastructure that makes this safe and easy, like sidewalks/crosswalks, bike lanes/racks, sheltered transit stops, parking (lots/garage/on-street)? How do you move through your village center? Are there any alleyways or cut-throughs that break up the different spaces?

How will you get to and from your village center in the future? What will be the most visible transportation features in your village center? Parking for cars? Bike lanes? A public transit station?

Arts + Culture

Find a place in a village center that creatively engages you. Examples include art (statue, mural, painting) or an area that is used for a pop-up, temporary event or creative activities (outdoor market, concert, parade).

How are village centers currently encouraging creative practices? What would a more 'creative' village center look and feel like?

Anything Else?

Take a photo of, draw or imagine anything else that feels important to you about the village center(s).

Is there anything else that would make your 'future' village center come to life? Is it something new or something old?

Contact Information and Links

Share Images & Ideas at tinyurl.com/NewtonPhotos

Contact zoningredesign@newtonma.gov

Access material at newtonma.gov/zoningredesign