



CHESHIRE TOWN CENTER



Location
 Black Mountain, North Carolina
Type
 Village / Town
Year Design
 2008
Status
 Under Construction
Size
 Town Center of 6 acres
Contact
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In 1998, Sykes Ragan, the village founder of Cheshire, commissioned the first DPZ master plan for the 58-acre property, which is just one mile south of downtown Black Mountain. A subsequent charrette in 2008 provided a detailed master plan for the town center on the southwest side of Highway 9 to join with the existing town center on the northeast side of the highway. Together the two will form a retail, office, and residential center along Highway 9 that resembles the traditional Main Street of many small towns in America. The character of the town center is similar to that of Biltmore Village in Asheville, North Carolina.

Residents and visitors can enjoy the town center and main street amenities including neighborhood services, restaurants, retail, specialty shops, and junior anchor stores. Additionally, they can visit art galleries and studios, attend events in the civic buildings, and enjoy the public green space in parks. The plan includes an event and conference center with variable size meeting spaces, a terrace overlooking the creek, and food service.

Residential options in the town center include live/work units, multi-family housing, apartments, and condos located in the center of activity. The property management unit

will provide support for the lodging units located throughout Cheshire.

The Cheshire town center will be a leader in sustainable design using Light Imprint stormwater management techniques including methods for paving, channeling, storage and filtration of runoff. They reduce the cost of infrastructure and decrease site disturbance. Light Imprint techniques insure that stormwater is handled responsibly within the site as well as being dispersed near the point of origin. The filtration techniques improve the quality of stormwater; then it can help recharge the aquifer. Many of the Light Imprint techniques mitigate potential flooding, which is especially important in mountainous terrain crossed by creeks like that of Cheshire.

Many Light Imprint tools are suitable for the Cheshire town center, and the following are examples of some in the master plan. Paving tools include pervious pavement, crushed stone, wood planks, and plastic mesh geomat. Channeling tools include vegetative swales, shallow channel footpaths, flowing parks, and an Archimedian screw for fun in one of the play areas. Storage tools include a retention hollow, an irrigation pond, and landscaped tree wells. Filtration tools include green fingers, rain gardens, and roof gardens.