

SCARSDALE STRATEGIC MOBILITY + PLACEMAKING PLAN

Design Workshop Summary

May 17, 2022, 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

After an introduction, Adam Tecza (FHI Studio) led a brainstorming activity where participants developed a list of programmed and unprogrammed activities that a redesigned Village Center could accommodate. The participants came up with the following:

Programmed	Unprogrammed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outdoor dining • Farmers market • Oktoberfest or weekly festival • Open street events • Talks • Parades/festivals • Concerts/live music • Sports (e.g., cornhole, minigolf) • Children’s play or performance • Formal fundraiser • Group fitness (e.g., yoga) • Games (e.g., chess, backgammon) • Walking tour • Cocktails • Food festival • Holiday festival 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walking • Lemonade sales • Working + laptop • Dog walk • Shopping • Window shopping • Bocce • People watching • Commuting • Fundraising • First date • Community meeting • Music • Meeting with friends • Coffee • Planting and smelling flowers • Biking • Shopping • Using phone • Eating • Exercise • Relaxing

Following this activity, participants developed a list of ideas and shared with small groups. The groups were encouraged to share what they liked about the idea, build on the ideas, and ask questions. Ideas included programmed and unprogrammed elements, as well as potential short-, medium-, and long-term implementation timelines.

Group #1

Idea 1: Winter Festival

Host a winter festival with skating events, performers, ice sculptures, and hot cocoa. Use decorative lighting to brighten Village Center during darker months. The small group liked that the event:

- Activates the Village Center during winter months
- Brings in creative talent
- Creates atmosphere
- Makes the Village Center a destination



Potential ideas to build on this idea included:

- Food trucks
- Christmas market
- Heating (e.g., propane heaters)
- Curling

Questions:

- Is it going to be cold enough in the future given climate change?
- Are heating elements (e.g., propane) a good idea?
- Where would the rink be located?

Idea 2: Build on Bicycle Sundays (“Destination: Scarsdale”)

Provide a variety of programming, including talks, events, and food trucks. Support the event through increasing the number of bike racks, seating, and picnic tables. The small group liked that the event:

- Leveraged an existing event
- Enlivened Village Center on the weekend

Potential ideas to build on this event included:

- Closing the entire parkway
- Working with Westchester County to expand months the event occurs
- Finding a safe route for cyclists to get to the Village
- Make temporary (or permanent) wayfinding signage for cyclists

Questions:

- Is there enough parking capacity?
- What County coordination would be needed?
Would merchants want to open on Sundays?
- Could you build out the bike network so people would not have to drive to the event?

Idea 3: Improve Aesthetics through Lighting and Fountains

Consider a fountain at Christie Place and Chase Road, as well as one near Boniface Circle. Use lighting to improve areas throughout the Village Center, including the War Memorial. Consider the space around the Post Office for events like flea markets. The small group liked the following:

- Highlights the significance of the war memorial
- Provides lighting to areas that need it (e.g., Chase Road)
- Adds water feature

Additional ideas included:

- Crane Road could be seen as a gateway to the Village with improved lighting and potentially a roundabout.
- Redesigning Boniface Circle could make the memorial more visible and comfortable

Questions:

- Could Chase Road be made one-way?
- What could be done to make the area safer for pedestrians?
- What kind of fountain? Could kids play in the fountain?

Idea 4: Curb-less Street

Make the street from Boniface Circle to Spencer Place a curb-less street. Implement seasonal bollards and add shade sails, string lights, and more communal seating. Consider bioswales and low-maintenance landscaping. Provide branding and a gateway or make the clock near the train station serve more as a gateway. The group liked the following:

- Includes branding, which is needed for the Village Center
- Addresses Village need for a gateway
- It creates a space that is attractive and does not need to be programmed to bring people to the Village Center.

Additional ideas:

- Provide awnings
- Increase use of planters
- Consider sculptures, perhaps ones that tell the story of Scarsdale that can be added to.
- Permit a rooftop restaurant to add a vertical element to experiencing the Village Center.

Group #2

Idea 5: Redesigned Street Network

Restrict car access for a portion of Spencer Place below Boniface Circle. Reverse traffic along Harwood Court and Spencer Place. This would reduce the impact of closing the area of the Dine in the 'Dale tent on the intersection of Chase Road and Popham Road. The group had questions about the impact this would have on traffic and how the additional on Spencer Place would be used. Ideas included:

- A wishing wall (see Idea 7)
- A space for music
- Outdoor Dining
- Lighting

Idea 6: Food Kiosks

The Town could support the creation of food kiosks at commuting hours for dinner pickup. Cute carts could provide space for people to pick up pre-prepared meals to take home or for outdoor dining/at picnic spaces. This would require a covered space that is comfortable to sit.

Idea 7: Wishing Wall

The Village could support the construction of a wishing wall where people of all ages could write messages & wishes, draw pictures and post things they would like to see happen. It could be up for a month and would need to be under an awning with lights.

Idea 8: Light and Music Show

The Village could close the street to vehicles and encourage businesses to put light displays in windows. Alternatively, the Village could put on a choreographed light and music festival which would draw people to the Village center.

Idea 9: Farmers Market

The farmers market would be better with different vendors. It could be done weekly in harvest season. This could be paired with farm to table cooking instructions and chefs preparing meals that people could eat on site.

Idea 10: Monthly Night Out

The Village could shut down the street and provide a pedestrian- and bicycle-only space. There could be games, spaces to eat, and opportunity for businesses to stay open later for shopping.

Idea 11: Planter Tour

The Village could provide people to sponsor individual planters. There could be a competition for the “best” planter, with categories such as most original, most exotic, etc. The plants could be labeled with the names of plants and flowers.

Additional Comments

- There is a need to track feedback on tactical interventions. This would allow the Village to have more quantitative assessments of how much support there are for sustained changes and how things would need to be modified.
- Attendees noted that if Chase Park were a better location, they would not need to use the streets to hold events. The major issue with the park is that it is sloped, which makes it a bad space for hosting events. Participants felt there were insufficient amenities in the park to ensure that it is active.

Attendees

- Greg Cutler
- Brice Kirkendall-Rodriguez
- Susan Douglass
- Max Grudin
- Jane Veron
- Marcy Berman-Goldstein
- Sameer Ahuja
- Justin Arest
- Rob Cole