An Urban Village is….

- a compact, walkable, mixed-use neighborhood
- a place where everything you need is within walking distance
- a place where connecting is possible
- also known as a *New Urbanism* town village, or neighborhood
Urban Village Origins

- Old is sometimes new

- Elements of:
  - Smart growth
  - Sustainable/green development
  - Walkable cities
  - New Urbanism
Envision for a moment ……

- What does your favorite urban place look like?
- How does it work?
- What do you enjoy most about it?
- Could that magic happen here?
Ten Key Principles of the Urban Village
Key Principles of the **Urban Village**

1. **Walkability**
   - Most things are within a 10 minute walk of home and work
   - Pedestrian friendly street design
   - Pedestrian streets free of cars in special cases
2. Connectivity

- Interconnected street grid network disperses traffic & eases walking
- A hierarchy of narrow streets, boulevards, and alleys
- High quality pedestrian network and public realm makes walking pleasurable
Key Principles of the **Urban Village**

### 3. Mixed-Use & Diversity

- A mix of shops, offices, services, recreational activities, apartments, and homes

- Mixed-use within neighborhoods, within blocks, and within buildings

- Diversity of people - of ages, income levels, cultures, races, and lifestyles
Key Principles of the *Urban Village*

4. Mixed Housing

- A range of types, sizes and prices in closer proximity, such as:
  - Cottages
  - Single family detached and attached
  - Multi-family
  - Accessory
  - Upper floor rentals over retail
  - Condominiums
Key Principles of the *Urban Village*

5. Quality Architecture & Urban Design

- Emphasis on beauty, aesthetics, human comfort, and creating a sense of place
- Special placement of civic uses and sites within community.
- Human scale architecture & attractive surroundings nourish the human spirit

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Key Principles of the *Urban Village*

6. Traditional Neighborhood Structure

- Discernable center and edge
- Public space at center
- Quality public realm
- Public open space designed as civic art
- Contains a range of uses and densities within 10-minute walk
Key Principles of the *Urban Village*

7. Increased Density

- More buildings, residences, shops, and services closer together

- New Urbanism design principles are applied at the full range of densities
Key Principles of the *Urban Village*

8. Smart Transportation

- A network of high-quality public transit connecting cities, towns, and neighborhoods together

- Design that encourages a greater use of bicycles, rollerblades, scooters, and walking as daily transportation
Key Principles of the *Urban Village*

9. Sustainability

- Minimal environmental impact of development and its operations
- Eco-friendly technologies, respect for ecology and value of natural systems
- More efficient use of public infrastructure and services
- Energy efficiency
- More walking, less driving

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Key Principles of the **Urban Village**

10. Quality of Life

Taken together, these principles add up to a high quality of life well worth living, and create places that enrich, uplift, and inspire the human spirit.
Bellingham Urban Villages… A Working Definition

- Urban Villages are activity centers that provide pleasant living, shopping, and working environments; strong pedestrian accessibility; adequate, well located open spaces; an alternative, well connected street system; and a balance of retail, office, residential and public spaces.