



# Smart Growth

Sustainable developments are efforts that meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Such considerations directly reflect our use of energy and land resources. We can see past failures in such considerations in the way the city turned its back on the river and dedicated its downtown to parking lots.

*We are not alone with these challenges.* There is an expanding movement called **Smart Growth** in this country and around the world. This movement focuses on creation of more vibrant downtowns and a reversal of the challenge of “sprawl” with the vision of improving lives by improving communities.

Smart growth is a way to build cities, towns, and neighborhoods that are economically prosperous, socially equitable, and environmentally sustainable.

## Secrets of Successful Communities

*“One of the challenges in small towns is how to retain its younger generations, especially in a world that is competing to attract and retain talented young people”* - Ed McMahon (Chair of Charles E. Fraser on Sustainable Development and Environmental Policy at Urban Land Institute).

*“It is up to the community to not only plan for the future but to capitalize on its distinctive assets rather than adopting a completely new and different identity”* - Ed McMahon

## Smart Growth is a National Movement

**Boulder, CO** Mix Land Uses | **Portland, OR** Taking advantage of compact building design

**DuPont, WA** Creating Walkable Neighborhoods | **Rockville, MD** Provide a Variety of Transportation Choices

## Smart Growth Principles

### Mix Land Uses:

Residential, commercial, recreational spaces in close proximity to one another

### Take Advantage of Compact Building Design:

Preserves more open space & each building makes more efficient use of land & resources (ie. growing vertically, rather than horizontal).

### Create a Range of Housing Opportunities & Choices:

Provide quality housing for all income levels, increase housing supply in existing neighborhoods.

### Create Walkable Neighborhoods:

Desirable places to work, live, learn, worship & play. 2 factors: 1. Goods (housing, offices, retails); 2. Services (transportation, schools, libraries) are within an easy and safe walk.

### Foster Distinctive, Attractive Communities with a Strong Sense of Place:

Encouraging a community to craft a vision & set of standards for development that respect community values.

### Strengthen & Direct Development Towards Existing Communities:

Infill development provides opportunities.

### Provide a Variety of Transportation Choices:

Better coordinate land use & transportation; increase availability of high-quality transit; couple a multi-modal approach.

### Make Development Decisions Preditable, Fair, Cost Effective:

In order for smart growth to work, it must be embraced by the private sector.

### Community & Stakeholder Collaboration in Development Decisions:

Communities have different needs & will emphasize some smart growth principles over others.

### Preserve Open Space:

Bolsters local economies, improves community quality of life & guides new growth into existing communities.