

An Overview of Smart Growth Progress in New York

Upstate Land Use Roundtable
SUNY Plaza, Albany



First, what is smart growth?

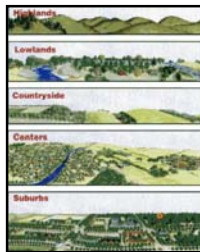
Smart Growth means making wise land development and conservation choices and is measured by its outcomes on the landscape



Onondaga County Settlement Plan (www.dpz.com)

Common Principles

- Reinforcement of historic development patterns: compact community centers with mixed uses
- Encourage sustainable development and balanced growth that reflects a sense of place and efficiently uses public utilities and services
- Conservation of open spaces, natural beauty, and sensitive environmental areas
- Promote Agriculture and Farmland Protection



Dutchess County Greenway Connections

Common Principles

- Provision of a variety of transportation choices, and create more livable, walkable neighborhoods
- Creation a diversity of housing opportunities and choices
- Strengthen intergovernmental partnerships
- Community collaboration in the decision-making process
- Help create, implement and sustain the vision of local communities



Smart Growth is the opposite of S-P-R-A-W-L

Sprawl is dispersed, auto-dependent development outside of compact urban and village centers, along highways, and in rural countryside



Characteristics of Sprawl

- Excessive land consumption
- Low densities in comparison with older centers
- Lack of choice in ways to travel
- Fragmented open space, wide gaps between development and a scattered appearance
- Lack of choice in housing types
- Separation of uses into distinct areas
- Repetitive one-story development
- Commercial buildings surrounded by acres of parking
- Lack of public spaces and community centers

New York's Quality Communities Program 2000-2006

- Executive Order
- Establishment of Interagency Task Force
- Ten Statewide Roundtables
- Issuance of a report with 41 recommendations
- Formation of Interagency Working Group – 25 agencies/chaired by Lt. Governor
- A series of state resources created...

State Resources 2000-2006

- Grant program for local governments
 - 5 Rounds/ \$9.57 million/ 175 projects
- Clearinghouse website (www.qualitycommunities.org)
- Awards for excellence
- Enhancement of training curriculums and technical publications
- Statewide conferences
- Newsletter
- Formation of a technical assistance program
- Completion of a Five-Year Report

Considering the Future

- 2006 Report -15 Recommendations
- Increased interagency cooperation
- Enhanced assistance to local governments
 - Technical Assistance
 - Smart Growth Training Curriculum
- More involvement of SUNY

Division of Coastal Resources

Mission:

To make communities, both human and natural, better places

Priorities to Accomplish the Mission

- Revitalize waterfronts as economic generators
- Improve water quality
- Protect open space and natural resources
- Reclaim brownfields for new uses

Avenues for Delivering the Mission

- Leadership
- Planning and Project Development
- Expertise and Financial Assistance
- Partnerships
- Community Capacity-building
- Advocacy
- Education



Implementing Projects that Make a Difference

- Over \$114.6 million from the EPF LWRP, BOA and the Clean Water/Clean Air Bond Act has been invested since 2003 to support 389 projects...
- urban waterfront redevelopment
- brownfield redevelopment
- watershed management
- natural resource restoration and protection
- harbor management
- Local Waterfront Revitalization Programs (LWRPs)

Project Example - Oswego

- ▣ Oswego River linear park
- ▣ Transient boat docks and services
- ▣ Private sector reinvestment in the downtown
- ▣ Annual Harborfest attracts 250,000 people & 750 boats
- ▣ Substantial economic benefit

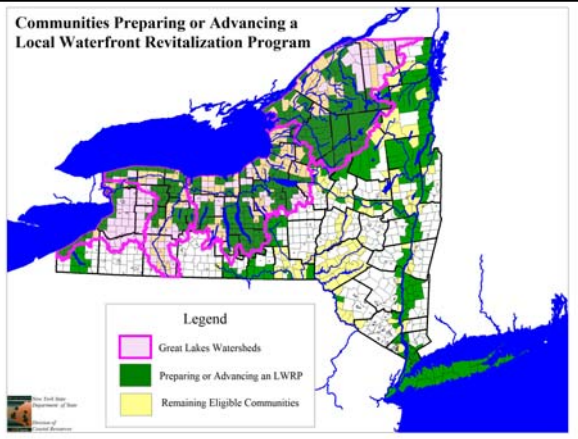


Local Waterfront Revitalization Program

The Division of Coastal Resources works with nearly 300 communities through the LWRP

- LWRPs address a variety of topics including:
 - ▣ protection of natural resources
 - ▣ economic development
 - ▣ public access
 - ▣ growth management & hazards management
- LWRPs are a State-funded planning mechanism that enables the State to align local resources with State priorities
- LWRPs incorporate revision and adoption of local development controls to facilitate implementation

Communities Preparing or Advancing a Local Waterfront Revitalization Program



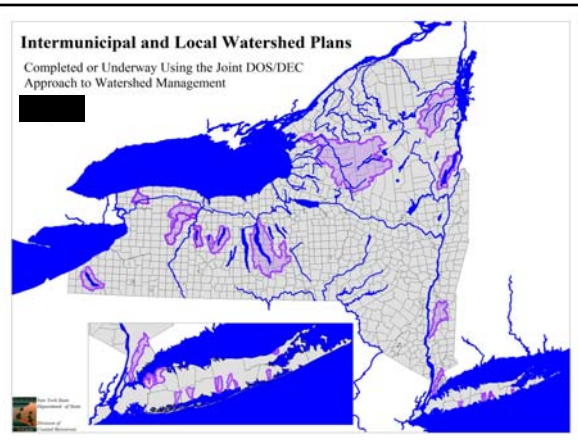
Watershed Planning and Implementation

- 228 communities participating
- 4,600 square miles of watershed
- \$21 million provided since 1994



Intermunicipal and Local Watershed Plans

Completed or Underway Using the Joint DOS/DEC Approach to Watershed Management

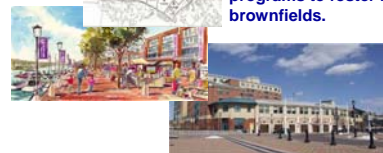


Brownfield Opportunity Areas (BOA) Program

Planning arm of the Superfund/Brownfields Law of October 2003

End product: revitalization plan and implementation strategy for an area affected by multiple brownfields

Blends land use planning with remedial programs to foster redevelopment of brownfields.



BOA Program Structure

Systematic proactive approach to recycling underutilized land

- ▣ Community-based planning in three steps
 - Pre-Nomination Study
 - Nomination Study
 - Implementation Strategy
- ▣ Site assessment funding for strategic sites
- ▣ Favorable terms: 90% funding for eligible activities; 25% advance payment

Contacting the Department of State



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