

Smart Growth

More Choices For Our Families



**Paul D. Mills – City Manager
City of Ranson**

Families Care About How Communities Grow

Election Day 2000 ballots included more than **550** growth-related measures in **38** states

For example:

There were 209 land conservation measures on ballots in 25 states

83% Passed!

\$7.5 billion for land protection

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Why Do So Many Families Care?

Environment

Air and water pollution are threatening human health

Economics

Transportation budgets are larger than food budgets

Equity

Families are finding fewer choices in housing styles, price ranges, and neighborhoods

Engagement

People have less and less time for involvement in their children's schools or other civic activities

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Soccer Moms Become Cab Driver Moms

Everything is a Drive Away

Suburban mothers spend
17 full days a year
behind the wheel, more than the
average parent spends dressing,
bathing and feeding a child

Source: Surface Transportation Policy Project

Home

Recreation

Workplace



Families Lack Time For Their Communities

From 1983-95, the average length of work trips increased by

36%

Source: U.S. Department of Transportation

Each additional 10 minutes in daily commuting time cuts involvement in community affairs by

10%

Source: *Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community*, by Robert D. Putnam

Let's Start With Definitions

Sprawl is irresponsible development that takes our tax dollars away from our community and destroys farmland and open space.

Smart Growth is well-planned development that keeps tax dollars in our communities and provides more choices for our families.

I'm Not Alone In Supporting Smart Growth

Organizations that have adopted Smart Growth principles include:

- National Association of Counties
- National Governors Association
- Smart Growth Network
- National Association of Realtors
- National Trust for Historic Preservation
- American Farmland Trust
- And many more



Ten Principles Of Smart Growth:

- 1 Mix land uses
- 2 Take advantage of compact building design
- 3 Create a range of housing opportunities and choices
- 4 Create walkable neighborhoods
- 5 Foster distinctive, attractive communities with a strong sense of place
- 6 Preserve open space, farmland, natural beauty, and critical environmental areas
- 7 Strengthen and direct development towards existing communities
- 8 Provide a variety of transportation choices
- 9 Make development decisions predictable, fair, and cost effective
- 10 Encourage community and stakeholder collaboration in development decisions



What Smart Growth “Is” And “Is Not”

More transportation choices and less traffic

Not against cars and roads

Vibrant cities, suburbs, and towns

Not anti-suburban

Wider variety of housing choices

Not about telling people where or how to live

Well-planned growth that improves quality-of-life

Not against growth

Sprawl Vs. Smart Growth



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Why Does Smart Growth Work Better?

Environment

Causes less air and water pollution, and destroys fewer farms and open space

Economy

Succeeds economically and attracts businesses and a skilled workforce

Equity

Encourages more affordable housing and creates better choices in transportation and housing

Engagement

Encourages participation in civic life and supports healthier and more active residents of all ages



Why Do People Prefer Smart Growth?

**Sprawl
Creates
Traffic
Congestion**



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We're Driving Ourselves Crazy

Number of
miles we drive

25% increase
in last 10 years

Time we spend
in traffic

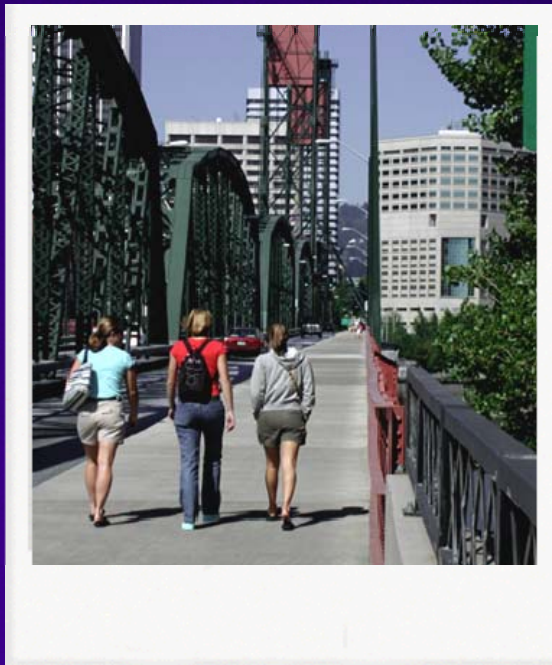
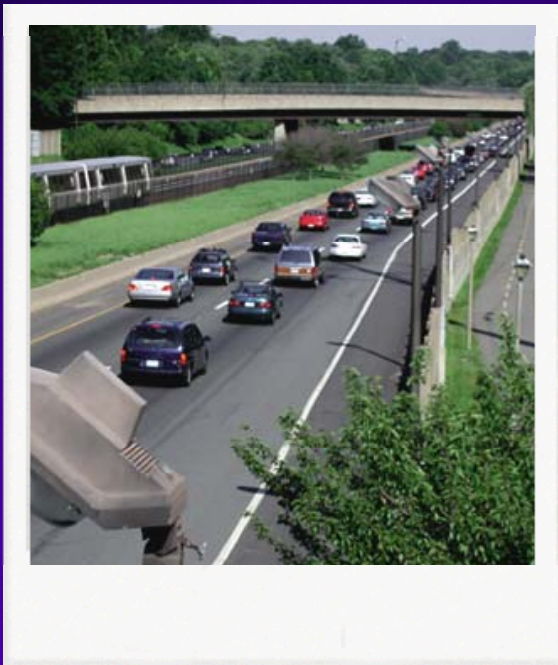
236% increase
since 1982

Money lost in
time and fuel

\$78 billion in 2000

Why Do People Prefer Smarter Growth?

Smart Growth Provides More Transportation Choices



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Why Do People Prefer Smart Growth?

**Sprawl
Provides
Few or No
Options for
Pedestrians
and Cyclists**



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Why Do People Prefer Smart Growth?

**Smart
Growth
Provides
Safe Places
to Walk,
Bicycle and
Tricycle**



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Why Do People Prefer Smart Growth?

Sprawl Destroys Farmland



Between 1982-1992, the U.S. lost an average of **45.7 acres** of farmland per hour, every day. **4,000,000 acres in total!**

Source: American Farmland Trust

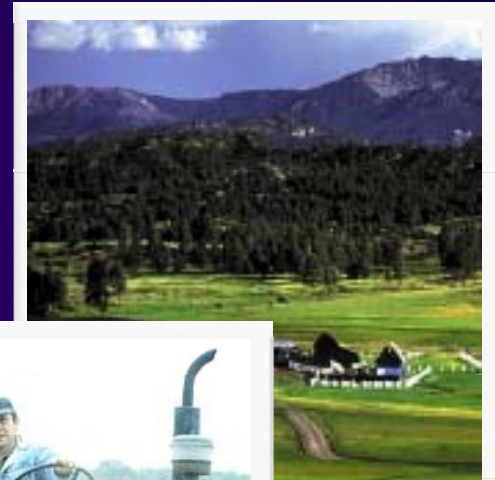
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Why Do People Prefer Smart Growth?

**Smart Growth
Allows Farmers and
Communities to
Save Farmland**



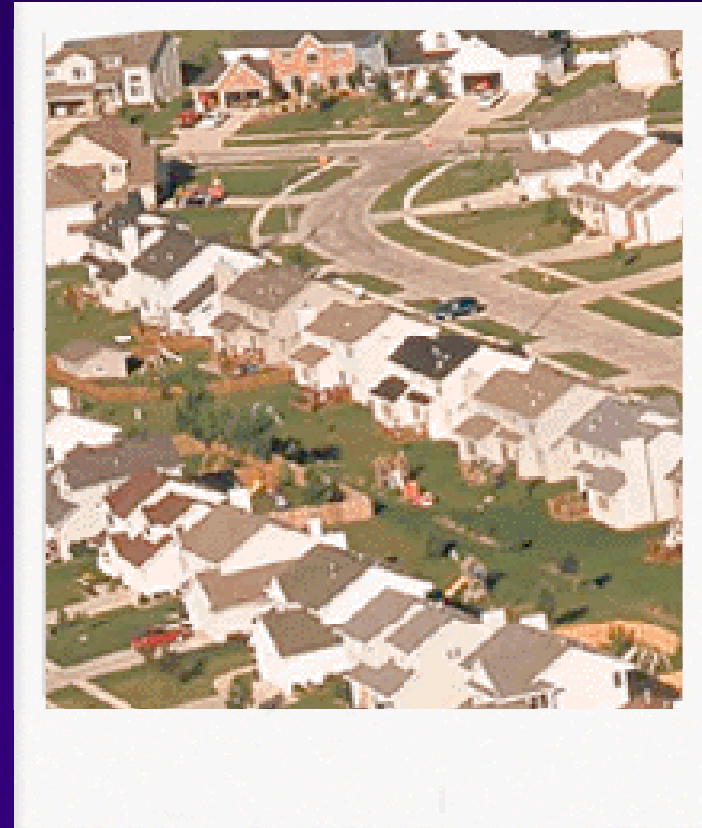
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Why Do People Prefer Smart Growth?

**Sprawl
Consumes
Open Space**



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Why Do People Prefer Smart Growth?

**Smart Growth
Creates Parks
and Preserves
Open Space**



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Why Do People Prefer Smart Growth?

Returns to Community Per Dollar Spent

**Sprawl Costs
Tax Payers
More
Money**

Residential
Developments

+.49

-.25

Farms,
Forests,
Open Space

Source:
American Farmland Trust

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Why Do People Prefer Smart Growth?

**Smart
Growth
Costs
Less**

Roads	25% less
Utilities	15% less
Schools	5% less

Source: *Economic and Fiscal Impacts of Alternative Land Use Patterns*, by Robert Burchell, Rutgers University

Why Do People Prefer Smart Growth?

**Sprawl Pollutes the
Environment and
Harms Public Health**

In 1997,
approximately
113 million
people
lived in counties
that had unhealthy
air quality

Source: U.S. Environmental
Protection Agency

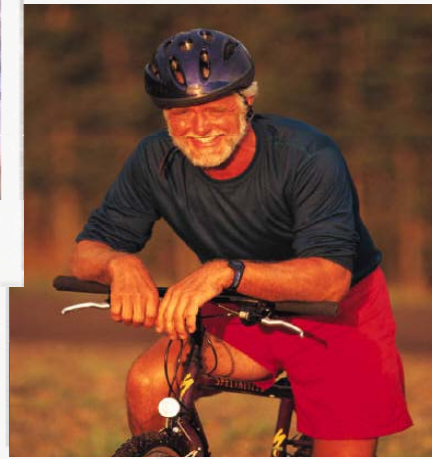
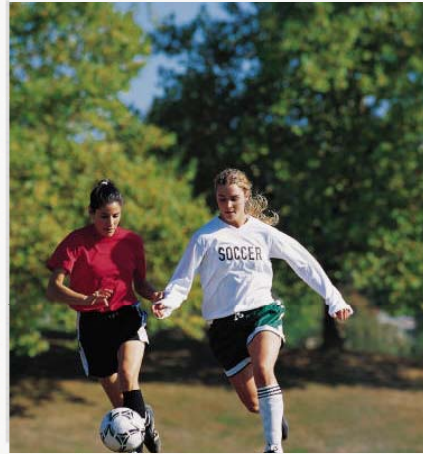
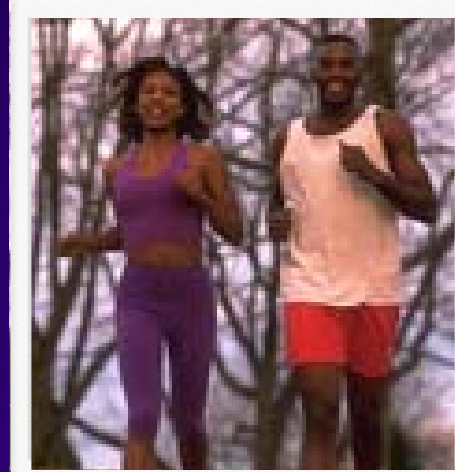
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Why Do People Prefer Smart Growth?

**Smart Growth
Protects the
Health of People
and the
Environment**



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Why Do People Prefer Smart Growth?

**Sprawl Takes
Resources Away
from Our
Communities**



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Why Do People Prefer Smart Growth?

“ There has been a lot of talk about urban sprawl. Well, one of the best ways to arrest urban sprawl is to develop brownfields, and make them productive pieces of land, where people can find work and employment. By one estimate, for every acre of redeveloped brownfields, we save four and a half acres of open space.”

Source: President George W. Bush
Speech at signing of the Brownfields
Redevelopment Act on January 11,
2002



Smart Growth Achieves the Right Balance

**Smart Growth
Enhances
Our
Communities**



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How Do We Make Smart Growth Happen?

- ✓ Support **well designed** developments
- ✓ Conduct community **vision** exercises
- ✓ Implement participatory regional, citywide, and **neighborhood planning**
- ✓ **Build coalitions** that include the entire community...businesses, schools, social equity groups, environmental organizations, elected officials
- ✓ Encourage the **public to vote** for Smart Growth and Smart Growth candidates

Public Support is Rising for Smart Growth

- **73% of the 113 ballot** measures supporting parks and open space passed in November 2001, generating \$905 million
- **Transit use has grown 21%**, while driving has increased only 11%, in the last 5 years
- **More than 1,000 bills** aimed at reforming land use regulations were introduced in state legislatures nationwide in 1999
- **11 states** have created statewide growth related commissions, since 1997



More Families Are Choosing Smart Growth

Smart Growth is *on a Roll* Across the Nation

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