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.
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

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Smart Growth America
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

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## What Smart Growth “Is” And “Is Not”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What Smart Growth “Is”</th>
<th>What Smart Growth “Is Not”</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>More transportation choices and less traffic</td>
<td>Not against cars and roads</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vibrant cities, suburbs, and towns</td>
<td>Not anti-suburban</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wider variety of housing choices</td>
<td>Not about telling people where or how to live</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Well-planned growth that improves quality-of-life</td>
<td>Not against growth</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Sprawl Vs. Smart Growth

Smart Growth
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Environment</th>
<th>Causes less air and water pollution, and destroys fewer farms and open space</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Economy</td>
<td>Succeeds economically and attracts businesses and a skilled workforce</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equity</td>
<td>Encourages more affordable housing and creates better choices in transportation and housing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engagement</td>
<td>Encourages participation in civic life and supports healthier and more active residents of all ages</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Why Do People Prefer Smart Growth?

Sprawl Creates Traffic Congestion
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>We’re Driving Ourselves Crazy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Number of miles we drive</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Time we spend in traffic</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Money lost in time and fuel</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Smart Growth America
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
Why Do People Prefer Smart Growth?

Smart Growth Provides Safe Places to Walk, Bicycle and Tricycle
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
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
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

Farms, Forests, Open Space
-.25

Source: American Farmland Trust

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## Why Do People Prefer Smart Growth?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Cost Reduction</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Roads</td>
<td>25% less</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utilities</td>
<td>15% less</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schools</td>
<td>5% less</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: Economic and Fiscal Impacts of Alternative Land Use Patterns, by Robert Burchell, Rutgers University*
In 1997, approximately 113 million people lived in counties that had unhealthy air quality.

Source: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Why Do People Prefer Smart Growth?

Smart Growth Protects the Health of People and the Environment
Why Do People Prefer Smart Growth?

Sprawl Takes Resources Away from Our Communities
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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