
Town of Lloyd Comprehensive Plan Update

Smart Growth Principles

“Smart Growth is an approach to community planning and development that integrates what are known as the “3 Es” – Economy, Equity, and Environment, with an emerging fourth E – Energy” - New York Department of State.

Smart Growth embodies land use planning principles that can influence the creation of livable, sustainable, and equitable communities. The 15 principles promoted by the Department of State in 2021 are as follows:

1. **Mixed Land Uses:** A mix of land uses can convey substantial fiscal and economic benefits by placing commercial uses near residential areas as critical component of achieving viable places to live for those who use and depend upon the area’s commerce.
2. **Range of Housing Opportunities and Choices:** Provide quality housing with efficient access to jobs, resources and amenities for people of all income levels, ages and races.
3. **Development and Redevelopment in Existing Communities:** Smart Growth directs development towards existing communities already served by infrastructure, seeking to utilize the resources that existing neighborhoods offer, and to conserve open space and irreplaceable natural resources on the urban and metropolitan fringe.
4. **Distinctive, Attractive Communities with a Strong Sense of Place:** Smart Growth encourages communities to set standards for development and construction that respond to community values of architectural aesthetics, neighborhood-friendly design and human-scale planning, as well as expanded choices in housing and transportation.
5. **Density:** Compact communities are more land- and energy-efficient; provide the critical mass for neighborhood retail, commercial development and mass transit; protect natural resources; and promote walkability. Concentrating and directing growth in designated centers reduces the demand for sprawling development of greenfields on the metropolitan fringe, thus saving open space and farmland and protecting natural resources. Growth in centers maximizes the use of existing infrastructure, avoiding costly municipal expenditures on the extension and maintenance of new infrastructure.
6. **Clean Energy:** The inclusion of clean energy siting and development into planning, zoning, building and infrastructure, including, but not limited to, solar, wind, geo-thermal and micro-grids.
7. **Climate Change:** Concentrating residential, commercial, office and recreational land uses provides the density and critical mass necessary to sustain mass transit, reducing automobile dependency, vehicle miles travelled and transport-based greenhouse gas emissions. Denser communities are also more energy-efficient.

8. **Resiliency:** Land use, development and infrastructure that is adaptive to climate change impacts and is resilient and resistant to extreme storm events.
9. **Green Infrastructure:** Smart Growth incorporates green buildings – energy conservation measures, renewable energy, sustainable site location and maintenance, locally produced materials and food – well-maintained and well-placed parks, trails, linked open spaces, child accessible, environmental and ecological education areas, sustainable storm-water management and urban forestry.
10. **Social Diversity and Integration:** Communities designed on Smart Growth principles allow people of diverse ages, incomes, races and physical abilities to interact more regularly, easily and safely by encouraging walkable communities, accessible public spaces and a variety of age-, income- and race/ethnic-integrated housing opportunities.
11. **Regional Planning and Coordination:** We conduct our daily lives on a regional, multi-jurisdictional basis – in many cases living in one local government, working in another and recreating in yet another. And economic, ecological and transportation systems also operate regionally. It is therefore imperative that municipal planning also align and coordinate with regional objectives, systems and plans, as represented, for example, in NYSERDA Regional Sustainability Plans, REDC Strategic Plans, countywide plans and plans developed by Regional Planning Councils. Regional planning and coordination allow stakeholder to more effectively collaborate across jurisdictional lines to leverage resources and achieve mutual goals and objectives – environmental, social and economic.
12. **Walkable/Bikeable Neighborhood Design:** Walkable/bikeable communities make pedestrian activity possible by mixing land uses, building densely and connecting streets in a gridded pattern, thus expanding transportation options and creating streetscapes that better serve a range of users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, transit riders, and automobiles.
13. **Variety of Mobility Choices:** Providing people with efficient and varied mobility choices – walking, biking, public transit – fosters greater community opportunities for housing, shopping, and jobs compliant with Smart Growth principles.
14. **Well-Planned and Well-Placed Public Spaces:** The public realm plays a prominent role in the Smart Growth paradigm. Smart public spaces increase walkability, social interaction, livability, a sense of place and neighborhood aesthetics.
15. **Community and Stakeholder Collaboration in Planning:** Collaborative efforts can lead to creative resolutions of development issues and greater community understanding of the importance of good planning and investment which results in great places to live, work, shop and play.