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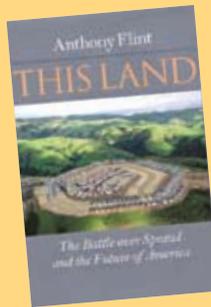
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New Books Detail Impacts of Land Use Decisions



THIS LAND: THE BATTLE OVER SPRAWL AND THE FUTURE OF AMERICA by Anthony Flint tells the story of the anti-sprawl movement, a 1960s-style revolution of New Urbanism, smart growth, and green building.



SPRAWL KILLS: HOW BLANDBURBS STEAL YOUR TIME, HEALTH AND MONEY by Joel S. Hirschhorn is a hard-hitting book with a new market approach for replacing sprawl with Healthy Places—mixed-use communities that promote active living.

Forum Offers New Tool for Preserving Scenic Road Corridors

The Forum announces publication of *The Roadscape Guide: Tools to Preserve Scenic Road Corridors*. Created by the Champlain Valley Greenbelt Alliance, this new resource helps communities conserve areas of open space between cities and villages to permanently preserve viewsheds and scenic gateways along road corridors. Visit www.vtsprawl.org or call (802) 864-6310 to order the Guide.





Winooski Mayor Clem Bissonnette accepts the City's 2006 Smart Growth Award.

Awards Celebration Recognizes Smart Growth Projects in Vermont

“I liked this neighborhood so much, I decided to live here!” said Eric Farrell of F&M Development Company LLC. when he accepted a 2006 Smart Growth Award for his O’Dell Parkway Neighborhood. The South Burlington project transformed a suburban shopping plaza into a walkable neighborhood that features a mix of housing with convenient access to stores and transportation.

Farrell was among the developers, non-profit organizations and municipalities, whose leadership was recognized at the Vermont Forum on Sprawl’s first annual Smart Growth Awards Celebration. More than 130 people



attended the evening reception and lake cruise on Thursday September 7th.

“We wanted to showcase how Vermonters are working together to reinvigorate our downtowns and villages with new opportunities for housing, shopping and employment,” said Noelle MacKay, Executive Director for the Vermont Forum on Sprawl. “These projects are just a sample of the incredible smart growth projects that are occurring around the state.”

Governor Douglas provided the opening remarks at the evening reception, recognizing the Forum’s leadership and work on the recently enacted growth centers bill. John Ewing, the Forum’s Board Chair, said “So many legislators and organizations came together around the

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SPOTLIGHT

Snow Receives Arthur Gibb Award

Arthur Gibb dedicated much of his life to ensuring that Vermont is a better place for future generations. A former state legislator and Environmental Board Chair, he was known for his commitment to land use planning.



Art was deeply involved in passing legislation to ban billboards, enact the state’s bottle deposit law, regulate junk yards and modernize statutes governing local and regional planning. He passed away in 2005 at the age of 97.

As part of our 2006 Smart Growth Awards, the Forum honored Art’s legacy by establishing the Arthur Gibb Award for Individual Leadership. Our selection committee chose Connie Snow, Executive Director of the Brattleboro Area Community Land Trust, as the first recipient of this special award.



“Receiving the first Arthur Gibb Award for Individual Leadership from the Vermont Forum on Sprawl is an honor,” said Snow. “I believe that the work of the Brattleboro Area Community Land Trust has demonstrated, over the past twenty years, that the creation of quality affordable housing and the revitalization of our older downtown neighborhoods has worked to prevent sprawl and to restore community.”

“Dad would have been so happy to see these projects,” said Barbara Otsuka, Gibb’s daughter. “He felt citizen participation on the local level was so important in deciding how the land should be used.”

AWARDS CELEBRATION (continued from page 1)

issue of growth centers, and I'd like to thank you all for your hard work." The Forum is currently monitoring the Administration's implementation of the growth centers program.

Projects and Plans Receive Recognition

The Forum recognized development projects that embodied smart growth principles, as well as community planning efforts that enabled smart growth development.

"Our award selection committee was thrilled to receive such a strong response to our request for nominations in the first year," said MacKay. "All of the projects nominated met our criteria, making the selection process challenging," she added.

Other award recipients included the City of Winooski and its many public and private partners for their \$160 million project to revitalize Vermont's third largest city. "It is so important that we invest in our downtowns so they continue to thrive as places where people live, work and shop," said Mayor Clem Bissonnette. The project is comprised of commercial/retail facilities, a mix of affordable, market-rate and luxury housing, an enclosed municipal parking garage hidden from street view, a re-engineered traffic pattern and a riverwalk that links to a 104 acre natural area.

The Town of Groton, Housing Vermont and the Gilman Housing Trust won a Smart Growth Award for their revitalization of five historic buildings in the village center. This project created 19 attractive and affordable apartments, and provides space for a new town library, general store and a number of small businesses.



To explore growth and development options in their village, the Putney Planning Commission created the award-winning plan "Visualizing Density in Putney Village." This visual plan shows how various types of development would look on key parcels in Putney Village, and will guide the town as it considers how to plan for growth.

Partnerships Key to Success

Each of the award-winning projects owes its success, in part, to the creative partnerships established. Often innovative and complex projects would not be possible without diverse partners who provide different skills and perspectives. These and other projects around the state demonstrate that we are successful when we focus on our common interest—the future of our communities.

Thank You to Awards Celebration Sponsors!

The Forum thanks the following sponsors of our 2006 Smart Growth Awards: Ben & Jerry's Foundation; Truex, Cullins and Partners

Architects; Winooski Falls; The Hartland Group; the Orton Family Foundation; Preservation Trust of Vermont; Shems, Dunkiel, Kassel and Saunders; Vermont Association of Realtors, John T. Ewing, Robert Gannett, Wayne and Deborah Granquist, Noelle MacKay, Sarah Muyskens, Brick Box Company, Main Street Landing, National Bank of Middlebury, ORW Landscape Architects and Planners, Sirotkin & Necrason, Vermont Housing & Conservation Board, and the Vermont Housing Finance Agency.

To learn more about the award-winning projects, please visit www.vtsprawl.org. ■

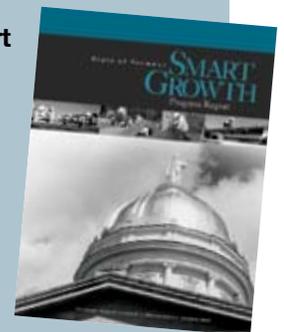
Vermont Smart Growth Collaborative Updates State Government Progress Report

Is state government helping communities build upon existing infrastructure, or providing them with loans and grants to build wastewater facilities in sprawl locations? Is the state Department of Education encouraging the renovation and construction of schools in our downtowns and villages?

The newly updated *State of Vermont Smart Growth Progress Report* answers these questions and indicates that, while some state agencies have increased their smart growth investments, others have contributed to sprawl. The report, prepared by the Vermont Smart Growth Collaborative, evaluates state government's policies and spending practices from 2003-2006 to determine if they have promoted smart growth, not sprawl.

The report indicates some state agencies, including the Vermont Economic Development Council (VEPC), Vermont Economic Development Authority (VEDA), have slightly improved their spending practices. The Agency of Natural Resources, however, has ignored its own sewer funding rule, providing 77% of its loans and grants for wastewater facilities serving sprawl locations.

Visit the Collaborative's website at www.vtsmartgrowth.org to view the report, or call the Vermont Forum on Sprawl at (802) 864-6310 for more information.



Forum Presents Nation's First Accredited Smart Growth Course for REALTORS®

The Vermont Forum on Sprawl and the Vermont Association of Realtors recently partnered to present the nation's first accredited Realtor course on smart growth. Nearly 150 Vermont Realtors attended this continuing education course at the Lake Morey Inn in Fairlee.

The course uses the results of the Forum's research and initiatives, as well as national data, to educate Realtors about smart growth concepts and benefits. By using current examples of smart growth projects, the course outlines how a community's smart growth features, such as village neighborhoods and mixed use development, can be marketed to homebuyers.

The Forum and the Vermont Association of Realtors are working with the National Association of Realtors to explore how this course can be used as a model for other state Realtor associations around the country.



Communities Evaluate Economic Impacts of Big Box Stores

Across the nation, cities and towns faced with big box store proposals are struggling to assess how these stores will affect their community. Will they strengthen the local economy and provide jobs, or drain resources away from downtowns and create only low-wage service jobs? Many Vermonters have the same concerns and want information about the economic impact of proposed big box stores in their community.

Wal-Mart supporters cite the need for Vermonters to have access to low-cost products.



They portray opponents as environmental elitists who would stifle economic growth at the expense of low and middle-income Vermonters.

The truth is that Vermonters want what's best for their community. They want jobs that pay a livable wage, enabling them to buy a home, have access to health care and take care of their families.

A recent study published in *Social Science Quarterly* found that's not what Wal-Mart offers—20,000 families have fallen below the official poverty line as a result of Wal-Mart's expansion. The Pennsylvania State University study concluded that, although Wal-Mart employs many people living in its communities, for most, the hours worked and wages paid do not help these families transition out of poverty.

In St. Albans, city officials and downtown businesses have voiced the same concerns—that the proposed Wal-Mart will pay low wages, and will actually result in a net job loss for the community. They are disputing the findings of a recent economic impact study prepared by JLD Properties, the developer for the proposed

Burlington Schools Use Healthy Neighborhoods/Healthy Kids Handbook

Burlington's Champlain and Lawrence Barnes schools are using a new *Healthy Neighborhoods/Healthy Kids Handbook* created by project partners Vermont Forum on Sprawl and Shelburne Farms Sustainable Schools Project. Teachers and administrators will use the Handbook and provide comments and suggestions. The Handbook will be finalized for distribution in the Spring of 2007.

MEMORIAL

Nancy Nye



Vermont has lost a passionate worker for affordable housing and ardent supporter of smart growth. Nancy Nye, one of the Forum's founding Board members, passed away Sunday, November 12, 2006.

Nancy was asked in 1998 by Board Chair John Ewing to serve on the Forum's Board because of her commitment to social justice, affordable housing, and community development. Over the past nine years with the Forum, Nancy was a clear, consistent and strong voice for ensuring all Vermonters have a home.

While on the Forum's Board, she worked with the nominating committee and served as a consultant on our Vermont Neighborhoods project. She was passionate about her work, and dedicated to our mission.

Nancy will be greatly missed by her friends, family, and the numerous organizations to whom she devoted so much time and energy. A memorial service was held on November 18th in Woodstock.

160,000-square-foot Wal-Mart store. As Vermonters evaluate big box store proposals, they want to know the real costs of Wal-Mart's cheap goods. To help them, the Vermont Forum on Sprawl is working with the Vermont Smart Growth Collaborative, and evaluating the economic and environmental impacts of the proposed store. For more information on big box stores, visit www.vtsprawl.org.