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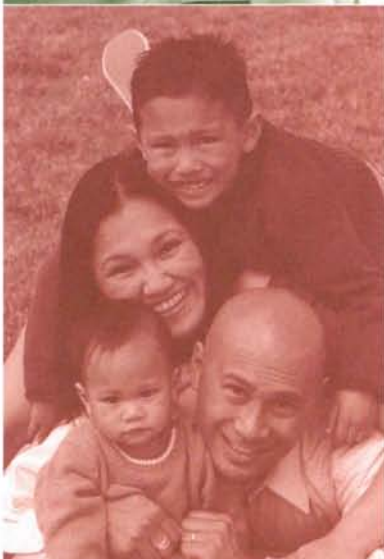
1000 Friends of Minnesota: Community Growth Options

Outcome evaluation: Baseline data

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Wilder Research would like to thank the community members who participated in this evaluation. Without their involvement, this evaluation would not be possible.

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Summary

Community Growth Options (CGO) is a multi-year project designed to assist communities in successfully accommodating growth while maintaining their economic vitality, environmental integrity, social connectivity, and their own unique character. Specifically, CGO seeks to build capacity for ongoing planning and implementation in ten growing communities over a six-year period. The overarching goal of the project is a replicable model of planning that specifically addresses the unique challenges facing small growing communities.

A long-term outcome evaluation was developed to assess the effectiveness of the initiative at both at the broad programmatic and the individual community levels across the six years of the model. Implementation of the outcome evaluation began with data collected from community members via an on-line survey approximately six month after community-level work started.

Key findings

The following are the key findings from the baseline assessment:

■ 65 percent of respondents have received information about community planning-related meetings, and 51 percent have attended at least one.

■ Almost all (97%) community leaders who responded to the survey agree it is important that strong citizen input and support be part of their community's planning process and that planning documents be clear and accessible. Seventy-one percent say their community's comprehensive plan accurately represents their community's vision, and 50 percent said it is shared with and supported by local citizens.

■ The three smart growth principles identified as important by over 90 percent of respondents are: 1) the community encourages input from its residents so that needs, and the programs to address them, are defined by the people who live and work there (93%); 2) the community works to preserve natural spaces and critical environmental areas (91%), and, 3) as the community develops, building construction makes efficient use of land and resources (91%).

■ Having goods and services residents need regularly within an easy and safe walk is the principle least frequently rated as important (55%). This is also one of the two principles with the most demographic differences in ratings of importance. Significant demographic differences exist between community leaders and other community

members, women and men, and individuals who do not live with a spouse/partner and those who do (in each pairing, the first group had a greater percentage of respondents agree that the principle is important).

■ Having quality housing available for people of all incomes is the other principle with the most demographic differences. Significant demographic differences exist between community leaders and other community members, individuals who do not live with a spouse/partner and those who do, and individuals who do not live with children under the age of 18 and those who do (in each pairing, the first group had a greater percentage of respondents agree that the principle is important).

■ Having quality housing available in the community for people of all incomes is the only principle for which more people thought it is already exists in their community (68%) than said it is important to have in their community (61%).

■ For all of the principles measured besides housing, a greater proportion of respondents agreed each principle is important than said the given principle is currently true.

■ The two principles that had the largest gap between the percent of respondents who say it is important to have in their community and the percent who say it currently exists involve building construction and community development. Specifically, 93 percent of respondents say it is important to them that development decisions in their community are predictable, fair, and cost effective, and 32 percent believe this is currently true. Similarly, 92 percent say that it is important to them that building construction in their community makes efficient use of land and resources, and 49 percent think it already does.

■ In regard to several smart growth principles, women were more likely than men to say the principle is important to them and their families and/or that it is important the principle be true in the community in which they live.

   o Our community encourages input from its residents so that needs, and the programs to address them, are defined by the people who live and work here.

   o We strive to create an interesting, unique community which reflects the values and cultures of the variety of people who reside here.

   o Development decisions in our community are predictable, fair, and cost effective for residents and investors.

   o Our community supports a variety of transportation choices.

   o As the community develops, building construction makes efficient use of land and resources.

- o Goods and services that residents need regularly are located within an easy and safe walk.

- o Our community works to preserve working agricultural land.

■ Community leaders were more likely than other community members to say the following principles are already true of their community.

- o Our community encourages input from its residents so that needs, and the programs to address them, are defined by the people who live and work here.

- o We strive to create an interesting, unique community which reflects the values and cultures of the variety of people who reside here.

- o Development decisions in our community are predictable, fair, and cost effective for residents and investors.

- o As the community develops, building construction makes efficient use of land and resources.

Introduction

Community Growth Options project

Community Growth Options (CGO) was intended to be a multi-year project funded by the McKnight Foundation and implemented by 1000 Friends of Minnesota and their University of Minnesota partners, the Center for Urban and Regional Affairs and the Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs. The project was designed to deliver financial and other assistance for community planning, ordinance development and implementation to small, fast-growing communities.

The project was developed at a time when Minnesota was in a period of rapid growth and many small communities had a vision of maintaining their community character, open spaces, and rural lifestyle, while also enjoying the economic development that growth could bring. The overarching purpose of the project is the development of a replicable model of planning that specifically addresses the unique challenges facing small growing communities.

The CGO was implemented in ten communities. The 10 participating communities all had access to a comprehensive array of policy, communications, educational, technology, and University resources at no additional cost to support and enhance their planning and implementation efforts. Unfortunately, the project was implemented at the same time the economy took a marked downturn, and the project lost funding after its first year in the selected communities.

CGO project goals

The following were the goals and guidelines of CGO to direct its process over the course of six years:

- Assist local elected officials, staff, and citizens to guide the development patterns in their communities

- Support Minnesota communities in accommodating growth

- Create models of successful planning and implementation

- Encourage planning firms to provide to growing communities a comprehensive array of integrated services

- Create and sustain in communities a demand for long-term planning, sustainable local policies and a balanced-growth approach to community development

The implicit message 1000 Friends of Minnesota wanted to convey to communities through CGO and other initiatives is that the current mode of developing new communities is not environmentally or economically sustainable and, in reality, is not what most folks want. It is better to grow in a way that protects farmland and open space, revitalizes neighborhoods and uses existing resources, keeps housing affordable, and provides a variety of transportation choices. Such development results in:

- Fewer and shorter trips made by automobile, reducing carbon emissions and improving air quality

- More opportunities for exercise and public enjoyment of parks and open space, resulting in fewer health problems

- People being able to remain in their communities as their life circumstances change, resulting in a more socially diverse community

- Less impervious surface areas in the form of parking lots and rooftops, resulting in better water quality

- More farmland conserved, which for edge communities means maintaining their rural character

Ultimately, this type of development is less costly, resulting in lower taxes and/or the ability of the community to provide more and better services to residents.

Resources provided to communities

The 10 participating communities all had access to a comprehensive array of policy, communications, educational, technology, and University resources at no additional cost to support and enhance their planning and implementation efforts. These resources included:

- *A variety of communications options.* The project publishes newsletters about each community, which are distributed to all community citizens, as well as CGO program-wide newsletters that highlight progress in all selected communities. Each community also has dedicated space on the CGO website for easy information sharing regarding the project.

- *Regular training opportunities.* CGO staff regularly offer workshops for local elected officials, staff, and citizens on various planning and natural resource topics relevant to the community.

- *University of Minnesota resources*. These resources include 10-week graduate student internships and faculty research support, which may involve GIS support, market research, community surveys, and data-gathering.

- *Technical assistance*. Additional technical assistance is provided to support and inform the community planning process. CGO staff are available to provide 3D visualization, interactive mapping, and GIS analysis.

Purpose of the study

This effort was the first of its kind in the United States and it had the potential to serve as a planning model for other rapidly growing communities throughout the country. In order for this to occur, 1000 Friends of Minnesota and Wilder Research developed an outcome assessment to assess the effectiveness of CGO in key areas both within and between communities. This report details the results of the baseline data assessment with communities.

Study methods

The primary, over-arching goal of this effort is to change the framework in which planning is being done in Minnesota's fastest growing communities toward one that promotes sustainable development choices. Progress toward the development of community support for smart growth was measured through a web survey of community members. A link to the survey was provided on the CGO website and through community-specific marketing materials. The web survey allowed for anonymous responses and was able to be completed from any computer with access to the internet, both of which were intended to help increase response rates. A paper copy of the survey was also available to be distributed upon request. The survey primarily focused on community member perceptions of the smart growth principles within their communities, including the extent to which each principle was present in their communities and how important each principle is to the respondent and their family. Community members were also asked broad questions about their awareness of and comfort with the community planning process. Additional questions were included in the survey for respondents who are community leaders. These questions were more specific about their impressions of the CGO process, planning services they have received, and benefits of the project.

Outcome evaluation: Baseline findings

Community attitudes towards smart growth principles were assessed as part of CGO's outcome evaluation, with the plan of collecting data yearly to assess change. The following results are from the first round of data collection which occurred six to nine months after work with the communities began.

Participants

In total, 390 participants from CGO's 10 target communities responded to the on-line survey. In order to protect the anonymity of both communities and respondents, each community is identified by a letter, rather than its name. As seen in Figure 1, each community comprised between 3 and 21 percent of the total sample.

1. Survey completion by community

Community	N	% of total respondents
Community A	24	6%
Community B	19	5%
Community C	21	5%
Community D	81	21%
Community E	49	13%
Community F	27	7%
Community G	14	4%
Community H	11	3%
Community I	64	16%
Community J	80	21%

Note: Total percentage exceeds 100 due to rounding.

Of the 367 respondents who provided their gender, 57 percent are male. Most of the survey participants (87%) currently live with a spouse or partner. Forty-two percent have children under the age of 18 living in their homes.

About one-fourth of respondents reported that they serve on a council, board, or committee in their community. These community leaders were asked an additional set of questions above and beyond the questions asked of the general community.

Perceptions of planning and attitudes about smart growth overall

Community perceptions

Almost 70 percent of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that they are aware of the community planning process in their community (see Figure 2). Forty-five percent were aware of the Community Growth Options project in their community.

In terms of participating in planning, 69 percent of respondents reported feeling welcome at City Hall. Sixty-five percent said they receive notices about community meetings and events that are occurring. About half have participated in a community planning conversation or meeting.

Items around satisfaction with the planning process received the fewest endorsements. Forty percent of respondents stated they feel like their community is heading in the right direction in terms of development and slightly less said they are satisfied with the planning process in their community.

2. Community perceptions of planning (N=390)

	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Not sure
I am aware of the community planning process in my community.	19%	50%	22%	5%	5%
I am aware of the Community Growth Options project in my community.	15%	30%	41%	9%	6%
I have participated in community planning conversations or meetings.	20%	31%	37%	11%	1%
I am satisfied with the planning process in my community.	10%	28%	31%	15%	17%
I generally feel welcome at City Hall.	21%	48%	12%	6%	15%
I receive notice of community meetings/events that are occurring.	16%	49%	23%	7%	5%
I feel like my community is heading in the right direction in terms of development.	11%	29%	21%	17%	21%

Respondents were asked about the importance of specific smart growth principles to them and their families in generally and specifically as a component of their community. Notably, all the principles were important to at least half of respondents, and all but two were important to over three-fourths of respondents (see Figure 3).

The principles most commonly identified as important were the following: the community encourages input from its residents so that needs, and the programs to address them, are defined by the people who live and work there (93%); the community works to preserve natural spaces and critical environmental areas (91%), and, as the community develops, building construction makes efficient use of land and resources (91%).

Having goods and services residents need regularly within an easy and safe walk was the principle least frequently rated as important by community members (55%).

Respondent ratings of how important it is to them that each principle be true in their community were similar.

Respondents were also asked to rate whether each principle was currently true of their community. The proportion of respondents who agreed or strongly agreed that the principle was currently true was consistently lower than the proportion who said the principle is important to them. The principles most often said to currently exist were that the community works to preserve natural spaces and critical environmental areas (71%) and quality housing is available for people of all income levels (68%). The principles least often believed to be present were that goods and services that residents need regularly are located within and easy and safe walk (25%) and development decisions are predictable, fair, and cost-effective for residents and investors (32%).

3. Community attitudes about smart growth principles (N=390)

Smart growth principles	Respondents who "agree" or "strongly agree"		
	This is important to me and my family	It is important to me that this is a component of my community	This is currently present in my community
Our community encourages input from its residents so that needs, and the programs to address them, are defined by the people who live and work here.	93%	96%	55%
Our community works to preserve natural spaces and critical environmental areas.	91%	92%	71%
As the community develops, building construction makes efficient use of land and resources.	91%	92%	49%
Development decisions in our community are predictable, fair and cost effective for residents and investors.	87%	93%	32%
Commercial and residential uses are located close to one another at a scale appropriate to my community.	85%	84%	60%
We strive to create an interesting, unique community which reflects the values and cultures of the variety of people who reside here.	84%	85%	55%
Our community works to preserve working agricultural lands.	79%	81%	58%
Our community supports a variety of transportation choices, such as walking, biking and/or public transportation.	77%	81%	42%
Quality housing is available in our community for people of all income levels.	70%	61%	68%
Goods and services that residents need regularly are located within an easy and safe walk.	55%	64%	25%

Community leader perceptions

Almost all (97%) community leaders who responded to the survey agreed or strongly agreed it is important that strong citizen input and support be part of their community's planning process and it is important that planning documents, ordinances, and procedures be clear and accessible (see Figure 4).

Eighty-one percent of community leaders said they believe that their community's development pattern impacts the larger region. Sixty-four percent felt their community is more prepared for future land use decisions than it was a year ago.

In assessing their community's comprehensive plan, 71 percent said it accurately represent their community's vision for the future, 67 percent said it is regularly used by decision makers to guide policy changes, and 50 percent said it is shared with and supported by local citizens.

4. Community leader perceptions of planning (N=91)

	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Not sure
It is important that our community has strong citizen input and support as part of our planning process.	64%	33%	1%	0%	2%
It is important that our planning documents, ordinances and procedures are clear and accessible.	74%	23%	1%	0%	2%
Our community's comprehensive plan accurately represents our vision for the future.	29%	42%	10%	3%	17%
Our community's comprehensive plan is shared and supported by local citizens.	13%	37%	38%	3%	19%
Our comprehensive plan is regularly used by decision makers to guide policy changes (i.e. regulations and incentives).	25%	42%	10%	2%	21%
I believe that our community development pattern impacts the larger region.	48%	33%	10%	1%	8%
Our community is more prepared for future land use decisions than we were a year ago.	32%	32%	15%	6%	15%

Attitudes about specific smart growth components

Encouraging input from residents

Ninety-three percent of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that it is important to them and their family that communities encourage input from its citizens so that needs, and the programs to address them, are defined by the people who live and work there (see Figure 5). Ninety-six percent say it is important to them that this be true in their community. Fifty-five percent felt this currently is true in their community.

■ Women were significantly more likely than men to say that communities encouraging and using citizen input is important to them and their families (98% vs. 93%) and that it is important that it exist in the community in which they live (99% vs. 94%; see Figure 6).

■ Community leaders were significantly more likely than other residents to believe that citizen input was currently being encouraged and used (71% vs. 57%).

5. Community attitudes about encouraging input from residents (N=390)

Our community encourages input from its residents so that needs, and the programs to address them, are defined by the people who live and work here.	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Not sure
This is important to me and my family.	49%	44%	3%	3%	1%
It is important to me that this is a component of my community.	56%	40%	3%	1%	1%
This is currently present in my community.	10%	45%	23%	13%	8%

6. Attitudes about encouraging input from residents by respondent characteristics

	Respondents who "agree" or "strongly agree"		
Our community encourages input from its residents so that needs, and the programs to address them, are defined by the people who live and work here.	This is important to me and my family	It is important to me that this is a component of my community	This is currently present in my community
Community leader			
Yes	96%	97%	71%[a]
No	94%	96%	57%[a]
Gender			
Male	93%[a]	94%[a]	63%
Female	98%[a]	99%[a]	58%
Living with spouse or partner			
Yes	96%	97%	60%
No	91%	94%	68%
Living with children under 18			
Yes	97%	98%	59%
No	94%	95%	62%

[a] *Indicates a statistically significant difference between groups at the p < .05 level.*

The proportion of respondents in each community that agreed or strongly agreed it is important citizen input be a part of planning both in general and specifically in their community was consistently high, ranging from 89 to 100 percent, with averages and medians of about 95 percent (see Figure 7). In contrast, the percent of respondents in each community who felt this was currently true varied substantially from 36 percent at its lowest to 89 percent at its highest.

7.   Descriptive summary of community attitudes about encouraging input from residents (N=390)

Our community encourages input from its residents so that needs, and the programs to address them, are defined by the people who live and work here.	This is important to me and my family	It is important to me that this is a component of my community	This is currently present in my community
Range of the percent of respondents who "agree" or "strongly agree" by community	89% - 100%	91% - 100%	36% - 89%
Average of the percent of respondents who "agree" or "strongly agree" by community	95%	96%	61%
Median of the percent of respondents who "agree" or "strongly agree" by community	94%	96%	61%

Attitudes about creating an interesting, unique community

About 85 percent of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that it is important to them that a community strive to create an interesting, unique community with reflects the values and cultures of residents both in general and specifically in regard to their own community (see Figure 8). Fifty-five percent of respondents said that their community is such a place.

- Women were significantly more likely than men to say both that this is important to them and their family (93% vs. 84%) and that it is important it be true in the community in which they live (94% vs. 84%; see Figure 9).

- Community leaders were significantly more likely than residents to believe their community currently strives to be such a place (71% vs. 60%).

8.   Community attitudes about creating an interesting, unique community (N=390)

We strive to create an interesting, unique community which reflects the values and cultures of the variety of people who reside here.	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Not sure
This is important to me and my family.	37%	47%	10%	3%	3%
It is important to me that this is a component of my community.	38%	47%	10%	3%	3%
This is currently present in my community.	9%	46%	25%	8%	12%

9. Attitudes about creating an interesting, unique community by respondent characteristics

	Respondents who "agree" or "strongly agree"		
We strive to create an interesting, unique community which reflects the values and cultures of the variety of people who reside here.	**This is important to me and my family**	**It is important to me that this is a component of my community**	**This is currently present in my community**
Community leader			
Yes	92%	92%	71%[a]
No	86%	86%	60%[a]
Gender			
Male	84%[a]	84%[a]	62%
Female	93%[a]	94%[a]	66%
Living with spouse or partner			
Yes	88%	88%	63%
No	77%	87%	70%
Living with children under 18			
Yes	85%	85%	65%
No	90%	90%	62%

[a] Indicates a statistically significant difference between groups at the p < .05 level.

The percentage of respondents in each community who said it is important to them and their families that a community strives to be interesting and unique and reflect the cultures and values of its residents ranged from 77 percent to 100 percent, with a mean of 87 percent and a median of 86 percent. The proportion who wanted this to be true of their community was similar. Once again, the percentage of respondents in each community who felt this was currently true represented an even greater range, from 36 percent to 83 percent depending on the community.

10. Descriptive summary of community attitudes about creating an interesting, unique community (N=390)

	It is important to		
We strive to create an interesting, unique community which reflects the values and cultures of the variety of people who reside here.	**This is important to me and my family**	**me that this is a component of my community**	**This is currently present in my community**
Range of the percent of respondents who "agree" or "strongly agree" by community	77% - 100%	79% - 100%	36% - 83%
Average of the percent of respondents who "agree" or "strongly agree" by community	87%	88%	61%
Median of the percent of respondents who "agree" or "strongly agree" by community	86%	88%	59%

Development decisions

Eighty-seven percent of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that it is important to them and their family that the development decisions in a community are predictable, fair, and cost effective for residents and investors (see Figure 11). Over 90 percent said it is important to them that this be true of their community. Thirty-two percent felt this is currently true.

■ Women were significantly more likely than men to say that fair, predictable and cost effective development decisions are important to them and their families (96% vs. 87%) and that it is important that it exist in the community in which they live (98% vs. 92%; see Figure 12).

■ Community leaders were significantly more likely than other residents to believe that development decisions were currently like this (54% vs. 35%).

11. Community attitudes about development decisions (N=390)

Development decisions in our community are predictable, fair and cost effective for residents and investors.	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Not sure
This is important to me and my family.	43%	44%	5%	5%	4%
It is important to me that this is a component of my community.	49%	44%	3%	2%	2%
This is currently present in my community.	5%	27%	29%	20%	19%

12. Attitudes about development decisions by respondent characteristics

Development decisions in our community are predictable, fair and cost effective for residents and investors.	Respondents who "agree" or "strongly agree"		
	This is important to me and my family	It is important to me that this is a component of my community	This is currently present in my community
Community leader			
Yes	87%	94%	54%[a]
No	91%	95%	35%[a]
Gender			
Male	87%[a]	92%[a]	43%
Female	96%[a]	98%[a]	38%
Living with spouse or partner			
Yes	91%	95%	39%
No	90%	97%	50%
Living with children under 18			
Yes	89%	94%	44%
No	91%	96%	37%

[a]   *Indicates a statistically significant difference between groups at the p < .05 level.*

The percentage of respondents in each community who agreed or strongly agreed in the importance of predictable, fair, and cost effective development decisions ranged from 72 percent to 100 percent, with a mean of 90 percent and a median of 91 percent (see Figure 13). The percentage who said it is important to them that this be true in their community was less varied, 87 percent to 100 percent, with a mean and median of 96 percent. The proportion of respondents who felt this was currently the case in their community ranged from 26 percent to 67 percent.

13. Descriptive summary of community attitudes about development decisions (N=390)

Development decisions in our community are predictable, fair and cost effective for residents and investors.	This is important to me and my family	It is important to me that this is a component of my community	This is currently present in my community
Range of the percent of respondents who "agree" or "strongly agree" by community	72% - 100%	87% - 100%	26% - 67%
Average of the percent of respondents who "agree" or "strongly agree" by community	90%	96%	42%
Median of the percent of respondents who "agree" or "strongly agree" by community	91%	96%	41%

Commercial and residential uses

Eighty-five percent of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that having commercial and residential uses located close to one another at a scale appropriate to the community is important to them and their family (see Figure 14). Eighty-four percent said that it is important that this is a component of their community. Sixty percent believed that commercial and residential uses are currently located this way.

■ Community leaders were significantly more likely than residents to report that close location of commercial and residential uses is important to them and their family (93% vs. 85%) and that it is important that this occur in their community (93% vs. 84%; see Figure 15).

14. Community attitudes about commercial and residential uses (N=390)

Commercial and residential uses are located close to one another at a scale appropriate to my community.	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Not sure
This is important to me and my family.	27%	58%	9%	4%	3%
It is important to me that this is a component of my community.	32%	52%	10%	3%	3%
This is currently present in my community.	10%	50%	23%	11%	6%

15. Attitudes about commercial and residential uses by respondent characteristics

Commercial and residential uses are located close to one another at a scale appropriate to my community.	Respondents who "agree" or "strongly agree"		
	This is important to me and my family	It is important to me that this is a component of my community	This is currently present in my community
Community leader			
Yes	93%[a]	93%[a]	69%
No	85%[a]	84%[a]	62%
Gender			
Male	86%	85%	67%
Female	88%	88%	61%
Living with spouse or partner			
Yes	86%	86%	65%
No	91%	90%	61%
Living with children under 18			
Yes	88%	88%	65%
No	86%	86%	64%

[a] Indicates a statistically significant difference between groups at the p < .05 level.

The proportion of respondents who agreed or strongly agreed it is important for commercial and residential uses to be located close to one another varied from 62 percent to 98 percent, with a mean of 85 percent and a median of 90 percent. The variation in proportion of respondents that said it is important that this be true in their community was similarly dispersed. The percentage of respondents who said that commercial and residential uses are currently located this way in their community ranged from 41 to 80 percent.

16. Descriptive summary of community attitudes about commercial and residential uses (N=390)

Commercial and residential uses are located close to one another at a scale appropriate to my community.	This is important to me and my family	It is important to me that this is a component of my community	This is currently present in my community
Range of the percent of respondents who "agree" or "strongly agree" by community	62% - 98%	67% - 96%	41% - 80%
Average of the percent of respondents who "agree" or "strongly agree" by community	85%	84%	64%
Median of the percent of respondents who "agree" or "strongly agree" by community	90%	88%	66%

Supporting a variety of transportation choices

Seventy-seven percent of respondents agreed or strongly agreed it is important to them that a community supports a variety of transportation choices, such as walking biking, and/or public transportation (see Figure 17). About 80 percent said it is important that this be the attitude in their community, while 42 percent said it currently is.

■ Community leaders were significantly more likely than other residents to say it is important to them that their community support a variety of transportation choices (90% vs. 80%; see Figure 18).

■ Adults with children under the age of 18 were significantly more likely than adults who did not have children of this age to say that this attitude is important to them and their family (84% vs. 76%).

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17. Community attitudes about supporting a variety of transportation choices (N=390)

Our community supports a variety of transportation choices, such as walking, biking and/or public transportation.	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Not sure
This is important to me and my family.	37%	40%	15%	7%	1%
It is important to me that this is a component of my community.	40%	41%	11%	7%	1%
This is currently present in my community.	7%	35%	37%	17%	4%

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18. Attitudes about supporting a variety of transportation choices by respondent characteristics

Our community supports a variety of transportation choices, such as walking, biking and/or public transportation.	Respondents who "agree" or "strongly agree"		
	This is important to me and my family	It is important to me that this is a component of my community	This is currently present in my community
Community leader			
Yes	83%	90%[a]	49%
No	76%	80%[a]	42%
Gender			
Male	77%	80%[a]	42%
Female	82%	88%[a]	43%
Living with spouse or partner			
Yes	80%	83%	42%
No	73%	84%	52%
Living with children under 18			
Yes	84%[a]	83%	47%
No	76%[a]	84%	39%

[a] *Indicates a statistically significant difference between groups at the p < .05 level.*

Looking at the communities individually, the proportion of respondents who agreed or strongly agreed it is important to them and their families that the community supports a variety of transportation choices, such as walking, biking, and/or public transportation ranged from 54 percent to 93 percent, with a mean of 77 percent and a median of 76 percent (see Figure 19). The percent that said it is important to them that their community support transportation choices was somewhat higher and similarly dispersed, from 58 percent to 100 percent, with a mean of 82 percent and a median of 85 percent. The percentage who felt this is currently true in their community ranged from 22 percent at its lowest to 67 percent at its highest.

19. Descriptive summary of community attitudes about supporting a variety of transportation choices (N=390)

Our community supports a variety of transportation choices, such as walking, biking and/or public transportation.	This is important to me and my family	It is important to me that this is a component of my community	This is currently present in my community
Range of the percent of respondents who "agree" or "strongly agree" by community	54% - 93%	58% - 100%	22% - 67%
Average of the percent of respondents who "agree" or "strongly agree" by community	77%	82%	45%
Median of the percent of respondents who "agree" or "strongly agree" by community	76%	85%	44%

Building construction making efficient use of land and resources

Ninety-one percent of respondents agreed or strongly agreed it is important to them and their families that, as the community develops, building construction makes efficient use of land and resources (see Figure 20). Ninety-two percent said it is important to them that this be true in their community. About half said it currently is true.

■ Women were significantly more likely than men to say that efficient use of land and resources is important to them and their families in general (97% vs. 93%) and specifically in their community (98% vs. 93%; see Figure 21).

■ Community leaders were significantly more likely than other residents to believe that building construction is currently making efficient use of land and resources (73% vs. 56%).

20. Community attitudes about building construction making efficient use of land and resources (N=390)

As the community develops, building construction makes efficient use of land and resources.	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Not sure
This is important to me and my family.	43%	48%	3%	2%	3%
It is important to me that this is a component of my community.	47%	45%	3%	2%	3%
This is currently present in my community.	9%	40%	22%	10%	20%

21. Attitudes about building construction making efficient use of land and resources by respondent characteristics

As the community develops, building construction makes efficient use of land and resources.	Respondents who "agree" or "strongly agree"		
	This is important to me and my family	It is important to me that this is a component of my community	This is currently present in my community
Community leader			
Yes	98%	97%	73%[a]
No	93%	94%	56%[a]
Gender			
Male	93%[a]	93%[a]	59%
Female	97%[a]	98%[a]	63%
Living with spouse or partner			
Yes	95%	96%	60%
No	88%	91%	67%
Living with children under 18			
Yes	96%	95%	60%
No	94%	96%	61%

[a] Indicates a statistically significant difference between groups at the p < .05 level.

The proportion of respondents in each community who agreed or strongly agreed that building construction making efficient use of land and resources is important to them and their families and is an important component to have in their community was consistently high, ranging from 85 to 100 percent, with averages and median of about 96 percent (see Figure 22). In contrast, the percent of respondents in each community who felt this was currently true varied substantially from 26 percent at its lowest to 76 percent at its highest.

22. Descriptive summary of community attitudes about building construction making efficient use of land and resources (N=390)

As the community develops, building construction makes efficient use of land and resources.	This is important to me and my family	It is important to me that this is a component of my community	This is currently present in my community
Range of the percent of respondents who "agree" or "strongly agree" by community	85% - 100%	87% - 100%	26% - 76%
Average of the percent of respondents who "agree" or "strongly agree" by community	95%	96%	62%
Median of the percent of respondents who "agree" or "strongly agree" by community	96%	97%	64%

Housing for people of all incomes

Seventy percent of respondents agreed or strongly agreed it is important to them and their family that quality housing in available in their community for people of all incomes (see Figure 23). Sixty-one percent said it is important to them that this be a component of their community, and 68 percent said it currently is.

■ Community leaders were significantly more likely than other residents to say that housing for people of all incomes is important to them and their families (92% vs. 66%) and that it is important to them that their community have such housing (93% vs. 66%; see Figure 24).

■ Respondents who do not live with a spouse or a partner were more likely than respondents who do to say they want their community to have housing for people of all incomes (87% vs. 71%).

■ Respondents who do not live with children under the age of 18 were more likely than those who do to say that such housing is important to them and their families (78% vs. 65%) and that they want it to be a component of their community (80% vs. 62%). In contrast, respondents who live with children under the age of 18 were more likely to believe that this variety of housing already exists in their community (82% vs. 72%).

23. Community attitudes about housing for people of all incomes (N=390)

Quality housing is available in our community for people of all income levels.	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Not sure
This is important to me and my family.	25%	45%	19%	9%	2%
It is important to me that this is a component of my community.	32%	29%	18%	9%	2%
This is currently present in my community.	17%	51%	17%	4%	11%

24. Attitudes about housing for people of all incomes by respondent characteristics

Quality housing is available in our community for people of all income levels.	Respondents who "agree" or "strongly agree"		
	This is important to me and my family	It is important to me that this is a component of my community	This is currently present in my community
Community leader			
Yes	92%[a]	93%[a]	72%
No	66%[a]	66%[a]	78%
Gender			
Male	75%	76%	76%
Female	69%	68%	77%
Living with spouse or partner			
Yes	71%	71%[a]	75%
No	84%	87%[a]	85%
Living with children under 18			
Yes	65%[a]	62%[a]	82%[a]
No	78%[a]	80%[a]	72%[a]

[a]   *Indicates a statistically significant difference between groups at the p < .05 level.*

Respondents' attitudes about housing for people of all incomes varied considerably across communities, from about half of respondents agreeing or strongly agreeing this is important to them and their families in one community to all respondents saying it is important in another (see Figure 25). The proportion of respondents who said it is important that such housing be a component of their community was similarly disparate across communities (from 43% to 100%), as was the proportion who said their community currently has these housing options (from 41% to 100%).

25. Descriptive summary of community attitudes about housing for people of all incomes (N=390)

Quality housing is available in our community for people of all income levels.	This is important to me and my family	It is important to me that this is a component of my community	This is currently present in my community
Range of the percent of respondents who "agree" or "strongly agree" by community	48% - 100%	43% - 100%	41% - 100%
Average of the percent of respondents who "agree" or "strongly agree" by community	77%	77%	82%
Median of the percent of respondents who "agree" or "strongly agree" by community	80%	82%	89%

Goods and services within walking distance

Fifty-five percent of community residents agreed or strongly agreed having goods and services residents need regularly located within an easy and safe walk is important to them and their family (see Figure 26). Sixty-four percent stated it is important to them that this be a component of their community. Twenty-five percent believed this currently is a component of their community.

- Community leaders were significantly more likely than other residents to say that that having goods and services in walking distance is important to them and their families (70% vs. 52%) and is important to have as a component of the community in which they live (81% vs. 60%; see Figure 27).

- Women were significantly more likely than men to report it is important to them and their families (63% vs. 54%).

- Community members who were not living with a spouse or partner were significantly more likely than those who were to say having goods and services in walking distance is important to them and their families (81% vs. 55%) and is important to have in their community (81% vs. 64%).

26. Community attitudes about goods and services within walking distance (N=390)

Goods and services that residents need regularly are located within an easy and safe walk.	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Not sure
This is important to me and my family.	32%	23%	29%	14%	2%
It is important to me that this is a component of my community.	39%	25%	25%	10%	1%
This is currently present in my community.	6%	19%	45%	28%	2%

27. Attitudes about goods and services within walking distance by respondent characteristics

	Respondents who "agree" or "strongly agree"		
Goods and services that residents need regularly are located within an easy and safe walk.	This is important to me and my family	It is important to me that this is a component of my community	This is currently present in my community
Community leader			
Yes	70%[a]	81%[a]	30%
No	52%[a]	60%[a]	23%
Gender			
Male	54%[a]	63%	24%
Female	63%[a]	71%	25%
Living with spouse or partner			
Yes	55%[a]	64%[a]	24%
No	81%[a]	81%[a]	33%
Living with children under 18			
Yes	58%	65%	24%
No	57%	66%	25%

[a]   *Indicates a statistically significant difference between groups at the p < .05 level.*

Community attitudes about having goods and services within an easy and safe walk showed the most variation across communities of all the principles, with respondent agreement raging from 21 percent to 90 percent, and with a mean of 58 percent and median of 65 percent (see Figure 28). Ratings of the importance of having this be true in one's own community were similarly dispersed. The proportion of respondents who said this is currently the case also varied substantially from 5 percent at its lowest to 60 percent at its highest.

28. Descriptive summary of community attitudes about goods and services within walking distance (N=390)

	This is important to me and my family	It is important to me that this is a component of my community	This is currently present in my community
Goods and services that residents need regularly are located within an easy and safe walk.			
Range of the percent of respondents who "agree" or "strongly agree" by community	21% - 90%	28% - 100%	5% - 60%
Average of the percent of respondents who "agree" or "strongly agree" by community	58%	65%	26%
Median of the percent of respondents who "agree" or "strongly agree" by community	65%	76%	25%

Preserving natural spaces

Just over 90 percent of respondents agreed or strongly agreed it is important to them and their families in general and specifically in their community that the community works to preserve natural spaces and critical environmental areas. Seventy-one percent said their community currently does.

■ Women were significantly more likely than men to believe their community currently works toward preserving natural spaces and critical environmental areas (85% vs. 76%).

29. Community attitudes about preserving natural spaces (N=390)

Our community works to preserve natural spaces and critical environmental areas.	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Not sure
This is important to me and my family.	55%	36%	4%	2%	3%
It is important to me that this is a component of my community.	56%	36%	4%	3%	2%
This is currently present in my community.	21%	50%	14%	5%	11%

30. Attitudes about preserving natural spaces by respondent characteristics

Our community works to preserve natural spaces and critical environmental areas.	Respondents who "agree" or "strongly agree"		
	This is important to me and my family	It is important to me that this is a component of my community	This is currently present in my community
Community leader			
Yes	95%	95%	81%
No	93%	92%	78%
Gender			
Male	92%	92%	76%[a]
Female	96%	96%	85%[a]
Living with spouse or partner			
Yes	94%	93%	79%
No	93%	94%	79%
Living with children under 18			
Yes	92%	93%	83%
No	96%	94%	77%

[a] Indicates a statistically significant difference between groups at the p < .05 level.

The proportion of respondents in each community that agreed or strongly agreed that preserving natural spaces and critical environmental areas is important to them and their families and is an important component to have in their community was consistently high, ranging from 83 to 100 percent, with averages and medians of 93 percent (see Figure 31). In contrast, the percent of respondents in each community who felt this was currently true varied from 43 percent to 96 percent.

31. Descriptive summary of community attitudes about preserving natural spaces (N=390)

Our community works to preserve natural spaces and critical environmental areas.	This is important to me and my family	It is important to me that this is a component of my community	This is currently present in my community
Range of the percent of respondents who "agree" or "strongly agree" by community	83% - 100%	83% - 100%	43% - 96%
Average of the percent of respondents who "agree" or "strongly agree" by community	93%	93%	75%
Median of the percent of respondents who "agree" or "strongly agree" by community	93%	93%	74%

Preserving working agricultural lands

About 80 percent of respondents agreed or strongly agreed it is important to them and their family that a community in general and their community, specifically, work to preserve agricultural land (see Figure 32). Fifty-eight percent said this is currently true in their community.

■ Community leaders were significantly more likely than other residents to say that that preserving working agricultural land is important to them and their families (91% vs. 81%; see Figure 33).

■ Women were significantly more likely than men to respond that it is important to them and their families (91% vs. 78%) and it is important to them that this be a component of their community (92% vs. 79%).

■ Community members who did not have children under the age of 18 were significantly more likely than those who do to rate preserving agricultural land as important to them and their families in general (87% vs. 78%) and specifically in regard to the community in which they live (88% vs. 78%).

32. Community attitudes about preserving working agricultural lands (N=390)

Our community works to preserve working agricultural lands.	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Not sure
This is important to me and my family.	36%	43%	11%	5%	4%
It is important to me that this is a component of my community.	39%	42%	11%	5%	4%
This is currently present in my community.	16%	42%	16%	6%	20%

33. Attitudes about preserving working agricultural lands by respondent characteristics

	Respondents who "agree" or "strongly agree"		
Our community works to preserve working agricultural lands.	This is important to me and my family	It is important to me that this is a component of my community	This is currently present in my community
Community leader			
Yes	91%[a]	90%	70%
No	81%[a]	82%	74%
Gender			
Male	78%[a]	79%[a]	70%
Female	91%[a]	92%[a]	78%
Living with spouse or partner			
Yes	83%	84%	75%
No	84%	86%	62%
Living with children under 18			
Yes	78%[a]	78%[a]	74%
No	87%[a]	88%[a]	75%

[a]   *Indicates a statistically significant difference between groups at the p < .05 level.*

The proportion of respondents in each community who agreed or strongly agreed preserving working agricultural lands is important to them and their families and is an important component to have in their community ranged from 75 to 100 percent, with averages and medians of about 87 percent (see Figure 34). The percent of respondents in each community who felt this was currently true varied from 58 to 88 percent.

34. Descriptive summary of community attitudes about preserving working agricultural lands (N=390)

Our community works to preserve working agricultural lands.	This is important to me and my family	It is important to me that this is a component of my community	This is currently present in my community
Range of the percent of respondents who "agree" or "strongly agree" by community	75% - 100%	77% - 100%	58% - 88%
Average of the percent of respondents who "agree" or "strongly agree" by community	87%	87%	74%
Median of the percent of respondents who "agree" or "strongly agree" by community	88%	85%	75%

Satisfaction with 1000 Friends of Minnesota

Most community officials were satisfied with the services they received from the CGO in general and from 1000 Friends of Minnesota and the external consultants specifically.

- 75 percent said that 1000 Friends of Minnesota's involvement in their local planning efforts enriched the process

- 72 percent said their involvement in CGO has allowed their community to better understand their options for future community development and design

- About 70 percent said each that they found value in the CGO project beyond the financial assistance offered and they found the mapping and land use evaluation assistance provided by 1000 Friends of Minnesota to be valuable

- 70 percent said they were satisfied with the service provided by the consulting firm they worked with through the CGO

35. Community leader satisfaction with 1000 Friends of Minnesota (N=91)

	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Not sure
We have found the mapping and land use evaluation assistance provided by 1000 Friends of Minnesota to be valuable.	13%	56%	15%	2%	13%
Having 1000 Friends of Minnesota involved in our local planning efforts has enriched the process.	15%	60%	10%	4%	10%
We find value in the CGO project beyond the financial assistance offered.	23%	48%	18%	3%	8%
I am satisfied with the service provided by the consulting firm we are working with through the Community Growth Options project.	13%	57%	17%	3%	10%
Involvement in CGO has allowed our community to better understand our options for future community development and design.	18%	54%	18%	3%	8%

Recommendations

- **Outreach efforts may want to consider gender differences in attitudes towards smart growth.** In regard to several smart growth principles, women were significantly more likely than men to say that the principle is important to them and their families and that it is important to them that the principle be a component of the community in which they live. While, this gender difference will clearly not be true of everyone, it may be useful to keep it in mind when identifying who is most likely to be a champion for a specific smart growth principle and how to target efforts to change community members' attitudes towards smart growth.

- **Education efforts should focus not only on the importance of smart growth principles but on the extent to which these principles currently exist in a given community.** Community leaders were significantly more likely than other community members to believe that several smart growth principles were currently in practice in their community. While it is not clear whose perception is "right," it is likely that planning decisions will be more effective if both groups have an accurate understanding of progress thus far when making the decision.

- **Efforts to create new policies and systems in regards to incorporating community input into planning, preserving natural spaces and critical environmental areas, and ensuring building construction makes efficient use of resources may be the most effective.** The highest proportion of respondents said these principles: the community encourages input from its residents so that needs, and the programs to address them, are defined by the people who live and work there; the community works to preserve natural spaces and critical environmental areas; and, as the community develops, building construction makes efficient use of land and resources are important to them and their family. Thus, these principles are likely to have the most community and government support for policy and system change. It should be noted that changing systems and policies around community input specifically will be helpful, but not sufficient. This evaluation and anecdotal evidence strongly suggest that efforts to involve community members will require extensive, direct outreach as well as higher level change.

- **In contrast, efforts focused on having goods and services in walking distance and encouraging walking as a form of transportation will likely require the most groundwork.** Of all the smart growth principles, having goods and services that are needed regularly within an easy and safe walk was least frequently rated as important by community members. It is likely that the first steps in creating change in this area will need to focus on increasing community knowledge about the benefits of walking to resources and changing attitudes about its importance and ease.

Appendix

For each community, attitudes by smart growth principles

For each smart growth principle, attitudes by community

For each community, attitudes by smart growth principles

A1. Community A: Attitudes about smart growth principles (N=24)

	Respondents who "agree" or "strongly agree"		
Smart growth principles	This is important to me and my family	It is important to me that this is a component of my community	This is currently present in my community
Our community encourages input from its residents so that needs, and the programs to address them, are defined by the people who live and work here.	96%	100%	50%
Our community works to preserve natural spaces and critical environmental areas.	100%	100%	63%
As the community develops, building construction makes efficient use of land and resources.	88%	92%	21%
Development decisions in our community are predictable, fair and cost effective for residents and investors.	88%	92%	21%
Commercial and residential uses are located close to one another at a scale appropriate to my community.	71%	67%	38%
We strive to create an interesting, unique community which reflects the values and cultures of the variety of people who reside here.	88%	88%	50%
Our community works to preserve working agricultural lands.	88%	96%	71%
Our community supports a variety of transportation choices, such as walking, biking and/or public transportation.	67%	75%	29%
Quality housing is available in our community for people of all income levels.	46%	42%	38%
Goods and services that residents need regularly are located within an easy and safe walk.	21%	33%	13%

A2. Community B: Attitudes about smart growth principles (N=19)

	Respondents who "agree" or "strongly agree"		
Smart growth principles	This is important to me and my family	It is important to me that this is a component of my community	This is currently present in my community
Our community encourages input from its residents so that needs, and the programs to address them, are defined by the people who live and work here.	89%	95%	84%
Our community works to preserve natural spaces and critical environmental areas.	79%	79%	68%
As the community develops, building construction makes efficient use of land and resources.	89%	89%	68%
Development decisions in our community are predictable, fair and cost effective for residents and investors.	68%	84%	53%
Commercial and residential uses are located close to one another at a scale appropriate to my community.	89%	89%	74%
We strive to create an interesting, unique community which reflects the values and cultures of the variety of people who reside here.	79%	79%	68%
Our community works to preserve working agricultural lands.	79%	79%	79%
Our community supports a variety of transportation choices, such as walking, biking and/or public transportation.	63%	58%	47%
Quality housing is available in our community for people of all income levels.	74%	79%	95%
Goods and services that residents need regularly are located within an easy and safe walk.	53%	42%	26%

A3. Community C: Attitudes about smart growth principles (N=21)

Smart growth principles	Respondents who "agree" or "strongly agree"		
	This is important to me and my family	**It is important to me that this is a component of my community**	**This is currently present in my community**
Our community encourages input from its residents so that needs, and the programs to address them, are defined by the people who live and work here.	90%	95%	71%
Our community works to preserve natural spaces and critical environmental areas.	86%	90%	71%
As the community develops, building construction makes efficient use of land and resources.	95%	95%	57%
Development decisions in our community are predictable, fair and cost effective for residents and investors.	90%	100%	52%
Commercial and residential uses are located close to one another at a scale appropriate to my community.	86%	86%	62%
We strive to create an interesting, unique community which reflects the values and cultures of the variety of people who reside here.	71%	76%	62%
Our community works to preserve working agricultural lands.	86%	76%	62%
Our community supports a variety of transportation choices, such as walking, biking and/or public transportation.	71%	76%	57%
Quality housing is available in our community for people of all income levels.	86%	76%	86%
Goods and services that residents need regularly are located within an easy and safe walk.	76%	86%	5%

A4. Community D: Attitudes about smart growth principles (N=81)

Smart growth principles	Respondents who "agree" or "strongly agree"		
	This is important to me and my family	It is important to me that this is a component of my community	This is currently present in my community
Our community encourages input from its residents so that needs, and the programs to address them, are defined by the people who live and work here.	88%	95%	57%
Our community works to preserve natural spaces and critical environmental areas.	90%	84%	64%
As the community develops, building construction makes efficient use of land and resources.	78%	81%	33%
Development decisions in our community are predictable, fair and cost effective for residents and investors.	81%	85%	27%
Commercial and residential uses are located close to one another at a scale appropriate to my community.	70%	72%	52%
We strive to create an interesting, unique community which reflects the values and cultures of the variety of people who reside here.	81%	79%	56%
Our community works to preserve working agricultural lands.	72%	74%	65%
Our community supports a variety of transportation choices, such as walking, biking and/or public transportation.	53%	59%	21%
Quality housing is available in our community for people of all income levels.	48%	51%	43%
Goods and services that residents need regularly are located within an easy and safe walk.	25%	27%	11%

A5. Community E: Attitudes about smart growth principles (N=49)

	Respondents who "agree" or "strongly agree"		
Smart growth principles	This is important to me and my family	It is important to me that this is a component of my community	This is currently present in my community
Our community encourages input from its residents so that needs, and the programs to address them, are defined by the people who live and work here.	100%	100%	37%
Our community works to preserve natural spaces and critical environmental areas.	96%	100%	59%
As the community develops, building construction makes efficient use of land and resources.	98%	96%	49%
Development decisions in our community are predictable, fair and cost effective for residents and investors.	96%	98%	24%
Commercial and residential uses are located close to one another at a scale appropriate to my community.	94%	94%	69%
We strive to create an interesting, unique community which reflects the values and cultures of the variety of people who reside here.	96%	96%	49%
Our community works to preserve working agricultural lands.	86%	88%	53%
Our community supports a variety of transportation choices, such as walking, biking and/or public transportation.	92%	96%	29%
Quality housing is available in our community for people of all income levels.	90%	88%	82%
Goods and services that residents need regularly are located within an easy and safe walk.	76%	86%	29%

A6. Community F: Attitudes about smart growth principles (N=27)

Smart growth principles	Respondents who "agree" or "strongly agree"		
	This is important to me and my family	It is important to me that this is a component of my community	This is currently present in my community
Our community encourages input from its residents so that needs, and the programs to address them, are defined by the people who live and work here.	93%	96%	59%
Our community works to preserve natural spaces and critical environmental areas.	93%	89%	89%
As the community develops, building construction makes efficient use of land and resources.	96%	93%	67%
Development decisions in our community are predictable, fair and cost effective for residents and investors.	89%	89%	37%
Commercial and residential uses are located close to one another at a scale appropriate to my community.	96%	96%	74%
We strive to create an interesting, unique community which reflects the values and cultures of the variety of people who reside here.	93%	89%	74%
Our community works to preserve working agricultural lands.	81%	89%	74%
Our community supports a variety of transportation choices, such as walking, biking and/or public transportation.	74%	85%	56%
Quality housing is available in our community for people of all income levels.	93%	96%	96%
Goods and services that residents need regularly are located within an easy and safe walk.	63%	78%	48%

A7. Community G: Attitudes about smart growth principles (N=14)

	Respondents who "agree" or "strongly agree"		
Smart growth principles	This is important to me and my family	It is important to me that this is a component of my community	This is currently present in my community
Our community encourages input from its residents so that needs, and the programs to address them, are defined by the people who live and work here.	100%	100%	64%
Our community works to preserve natural spaces and critical environmental areas.	93%	93%	79%
As the community develops, building construction makes efficient use of land and resources.	100%	100%	43%
Development decisions in our community are predictable, fair and cost effective for residents and investors.	93%	100%	29%
Commercial and residential uses are located close to one another at a scale appropriate to my community.	57%	64%	50%
We strive to create an interesting, unique community which reflects the values and cultures of the variety of people who reside here.	71%	79%	29%
Our community works to preserve working agricultural lands.	93%	86%	29%
Our community supports a variety of transportation choices, such as walking, biking and/or public transportation.	71%	79%	21%
Quality housing is available in our community for people of all income levels.	71%	86%	71%
Goods and services that residents need regularly are located within an easy and safe walk.	36%	36%	7%

A8. Community H: Attitudes about smart growth principles (N=11)

Smart growth principles	Respondents who "agree" or "strongly agree"		
	This is important to me and my family	It is important to me that this is a component of my community	This is currently present in my community
Our community encourages input from its residents so that needs, and the programs to address them, are defined by the people who live and work here.	91%	91%	36%
Our community works to preserve natural spaces and critical environmental areas.	73%	82%	27%
As the community develops, building construction makes efficient use of land and resources.	100%	100%	55%
Development decisions in our community are predictable, fair and cost effective for residents and investors.	91%	100%	36%
Commercial and residential uses are located close to one another at a scale appropriate to my community.	91%	82%	64%
We strive to create an interesting, unique community which reflects the values and cultures of the variety of people who reside here.	91%	100%	36%
Our community works to preserve working agricultural lands.	91%	91%	55%
Our community supports a variety of transportation choices, such as walking, biking and/or public transportation.	91%	91%	55%
Quality housing is available in our community for people of all income levels.	100%	100%	18%
Goods and services that residents need regularly are located within an easy and safe walk.	82%	100%	55%

A9. Community I: Attitudes about smart growth principles (N=64)

	Respondents who "agree" or "strongly agree"		
Smart growth principles	This is important to me and my family	It is important to me that this is a component of my community	This is currently present in my community
Our community encourages input from its residents so that needs, and the programs to address them, are defined by the people who live and work here.	94%	94%	50%
Our community works to preserve natural spaces and critical environmental areas.	94%	97%	67%
As the community develops, building construction makes efficient use of land and resources.	95%	97%	53%
Development decisions in our community are predictable, fair and cost effective for residents and investors.	83%	95%	31%
Commercial and residential uses are located close to one another at a scale appropriate to my community.	94%	92%	58%
We strive to create an interesting, unique community which reflects the values and cultures of the variety of people who reside here.	83%	89%	44%
Our community works to preserve working agricultural lands.	80%	81%	47%
Our community supports a variety of transportation choices, such as walking, biking and/or public transportation.	86%	95%	41%
Quality housing is available in our community for people of all income levels.	91%	94%	100%
Goods and services that residents need regularly are located within an easy and safe walk.	73%	88%	22%

A10. Community J: Attitudes about smart growth principles (N=80)

	Respondents who "agree" or "strongly agree"		
Smart growth principles	**This is important to me and my family**	**It is important to me that this is a component of my community**	**This is currently present in my community**
Our community encourages input from its residents so that needs, and the programs to address them, are defined by the people who live and work here.	94%	94%	59%
Our community works to preserve natural spaces and critical environmental areas.	91%	91%	89%
As the community develops, building construction makes efficient use of land and resources.	93%	94%	56%
Development decisions in our community are predictable, fair and cost effective for residents and investors.	90%	94%	34%
Commercial and residential uses are located close to one another at a scale appropriate to my community.	90%	88%	64%
We strive to create an interesting, unique community which reflects the values and cultures of the variety of people who reside here.	83%	83%	66%
Our community works to preserve working agricultural lands.	76%	76%	54%
Our community supports a variety of transportation choices, such as walking, biking and/or public transportation.	93%	89%	66%
Quality housing is available in our community for people of all income levels.	58%	54%	100%
Goods and services that residents need regularly are located within an easy and safe walk.	63%	73%	35%

For each smart growth principle, attitudes by community

A11. Community-specific attitudes about encouraging input from residents

Our community encourages input from its residents so that needs, and the programs to address them, are defined by the people who live and work here.	Respondents who "agree" or "strongly agree"		
	This is important to me and my family	It is important to me that this is a component of my community	This is currently present in my community[a]
Community A (N=24)	96%	100%	50%
Community B (N=19)	89%	95%	84%
Community C (N=21)	90%	95%	71%
Community D (N=81)	88%	95%	57%
Community E (N=49)	100%	100%	37%
Community F (N=27)	93%	96%	59%
Community G (N=14)	100%	100%	64%
Community H (N=11)	91%	91%	36%
Community I (N=64)	94%	94%	50%
Community J (N=80)	94%	94%	59%

[a]   *Indicates a statistically significant difference between communities at the p < .05 level.*

A12. Community-specific attitudes about creating an interesting, unique community

We strive to create an interesting, unique community which reflects the values and cultures of the variety of people who reside here.	Respondents who "agree" or "strongly agree"		
	This is important to me and my family	It is important to me that this is a component of my community[a]	This is currently present in my community
Community A (N=24)	88%	88%	50%
Community B (N=19)	79%	79%	68%
Community C (N=21)	71%	76%	62%
Community D (N=81)	81%	79%	56%
Community E (N=49)	96%	96%	49%
Community F (N=27)	93%	89%	74%
Community G (N=14)	71%	79%	29%
Community H (N=11)	91%	100%	36%
Community I (N=64)	83%	89%	44%
Community J (N=80)	83%	83%	66%

[a]   *Indicates a statistically significant difference between communities at the p < .05 level.*

A13 Community-specific attitudes about development decisions

Development decisions in our community are predictable, fair and cost effective for residents and investors.	Respondents who "agree" or "strongly agree"		
	This is important to me and my family[a]	It is important to me that this is a component of my community	This is currently present in my community
Community A (N=24)	88%	92%	21%
Community B (N=19)	68%	84%	53%
Community C (N=21)	90%	100%	52%
Community D (N=81)	81%	85%	27%
Community E (N=49)	96%	98%	24%
Community F (N=27)	89%	89%	37%
Community G (N=14)	93%	100%	29%
Community H (N=11)	91%	100%	36%
Community I (N=64)	83%	95%	31%
Community J (N=80)	90%	94%	34%

[a]   *Indicates a statistically significant difference between communities at the p < .05 level.*

A14. Community-specific attitudes about commercial and residential uses

Commercial and residential uses are located close to one another at a scale appropriate to my community.	Respondents who "agree" or "strongly agree"		
	This is important to me and my family[a]	It is important to me that this is a component of my community[a]	This is currently present in my community
Community A (N=24)	71%	67%	38%
Community B (N=19)	89%	89%	74%
Community C (N=21)	86%	86%	62%
Community D (N=81)	70%	72%	52%
Community E (N=49)	94%	94%	69%
Community F (N=27)	96%	96%	74%
Community G (N=14)	57%	64%	50%
Community H (N=11)	91%	82%	64%
Community I (N=64)	94%	92%	58%
Community J (N=80)	90%	88%	64%

[a]   *Indicates a statistically significant difference between communities at the p < .05 level.*

A15. Community-specific attitudes about supporting a variety of transportation choices

Our community supports a variety of transportation choices, such as walking, biking and/or public transportation.	Respondents who "agree" or "strongly agree"		
	This is important to me and my family[a]	It is important to me that this is a component of my community[a]	This is currently present in my community[a]
Community A (N=24)	67%	75%	29%
Community B (N=19)	63%	58%	47%
Community C (N=21)	71%	76%	57%
Community D (N=81)	53%	59%	21%
Community E (N=49)	92%	96%	29%
Community F (N=27)	74%	85%	56%
Community G (N=14)	71%	79%	21%
Community H (N=11)	91%	91%	55%
Community I (N=64)	86%	95%	41%
Community J (N=80)	93%	89%	66%

[a]   *Indicates a statistically significant difference between communities at the p < .05 level.*

A16. Community-specific attitudes about building construction making efficient use of land and resources

	Respondents who "agree" or "strongly agree"		
As the community develops, building construction makes efficient use of land and resources.	This is important to me and my family[a]	It is important to me that this is a component of my community[a]	This is currently present in my community
Community A (N=24)	88%	92%	21%
Community B (N=19)	89%	89%	68%
Community C (N=21)	95%	95%	57%
Community D (N=81)	78%	81%	33%
Community E (N=49)	98%	96%	49%
Community F (N=27)	96%	93%	67%
Community G (N=14)	100%	100%	43%
Community H (N=11)	100%	100%	55%
Community I (N=64)	95%	97%	53%
Community J (N=80)	93%	94%	56%

[a]   Indicates a statistically significant difference between communities at the $p < .05$ level.

A17. Community-specific attitudes about housing for people of all incomes

	Respondents who "agree" or "strongly agree"		
Quality housing is available in our community for people of all income levels.	This is important to me and my family[a]	It is important to me that this is a component of my community[a]	This is currently present in my community[a]
Community A (N=24)	46%	42%	38%
Community B (N=19)	74%	79%	95%
Community C (N=21)	86%	76%	86%
Community D (N=81)	48%	51%	43%
Community E (N=49)	90%	88%	82%
Community F (N=27)	93%	96%	96%
Community G (N=14)	71%	86%	71%
Community H (N=11)	100%	100%	18%
Community I (N=64)	91%	94%	100%
Community J (N=80)	58%	54%	100%

[a]   Indicates a statistically significant difference between communities at the $p < .05$ level.

A18. Community-specific attitudes about goods and services within walking distance

	Respondents who "agree" or "strongly agree"		
Goods and services that residents need regularly are located within an easy and safe walk.	**This is important to me and my family[a]**	**It is important to me that this is a component of my community[a]**	**This is currently present in my community[a]**
Community A (N=24)	21%	33%	13%
Community B (N=19)	53%	42%	26%
Community C (N=21)	76%	86%	5%
Community D (N=81)	25%	27%	11%
Community E (N=49)	76%	86%	29%
Community F (N=27)	63%	78%	48%
Community G (N=14)	36%	36%	7%
Community H (N=11)	82%	100%	55%
Community I (N=64)	73%	88%	22%
Community J (N=80)	63%	73%	35%

[a]   *Indicates a statistically significant difference between communities at the p < .05 level.*

A19. Community-specific attitudes about preserving natural spaces

	Respondents who "agree" or "strongly agree"		
Our community works to preserve natural spaces and critical environmental areas.	**This is important to me and my family[a]**	**It is important to me that this is a component of my community[a]**	**This is currently present in my community**
Community A (N=24)	100%	100%	63%
Community B (N=19)	79%	79%	68%
Community C (N=21)	86%	90%	71%
Community D (N=81)	90%	84%	64%
Community E (N=49)	96%	100%	59%
Community F (N=27)	93%	89%	89%
Community G (N=14)	93%	93%	79%
Community H (N=11)	73%	82%	27%
Community I (N=64)	94%	97%	67%
Community J (N=80)	91%	91%	89%

[a]   *Indicates a statistically significant difference between communities at the p < .05 level.*

A20. Community-specific attitudes about preserving working agricultural lands

	Respondents who "agree" or "strongly agree"		
Our community works to preserve working agricultural lands.	**This is important to me and my family[a]**	**It is important to me that this is a component of my community[a]**	**This is currently present in my community**
Community A (N=24)	88%	96%	71%
Community B (N=19)	79%	79%	79%
Community C (N=21)	86%	76%	62%
Community D (N=81)	72%	74%	65%
Community E (N=49)	86%	88%	53%
Community F (N=27)	81%	89%	74%
Community G (N=14)	93%	86%	29%
Community H (N=11)	91%	91%	55%
Community I (N=64)	80%	81%	47%
Community J (N=80)	76%	76%	54%

[a]   *Indicates a statistically significant difference between communities at the p < .05 level.*