

New Land Use Planning Tool: Informative CD for Communities Concerned with Water Quality

Most land use decision-making at the local level is done by volunteers working on planning or zoning boards. Water quality in local communities is affected by such land use decisions. With proper training and background, it is possible to design communities that permit growth and economic development without harming water quality.

New York Sea Grant (NYSG) provided funding to Cornell University's Department of City and Regional Planning to help NYSG and Cornell Cooperative Extension develop an educational tool for local decision makers that would give them the background they need to protect water quality while meeting other community goals such as commercial and residential development.

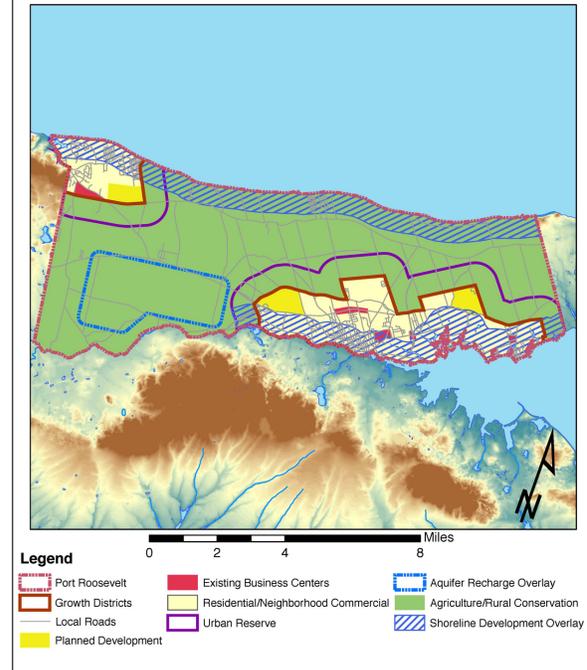
The final product was an educational CD that showcased four hypothetical communities based on four real New York communities. Each case study projected growth using population data for the area and the resulting degradation of water quality under existing zoning. Alternative zoning and planning techniques were proposed for the four communities to permit the same amount of growth, while protecting water quality.

New CD Tool Being Used

The CD *Land Use Planning: An Informative CD for Communities Concerned with Water Quality* was widely distributed and advertised through NYSG channels.

Reaction to the CD has been positive. Representative comments include:

Map 4: Recommended Land Use Framework
Port Roosevelt, NY



The Land Use Planning: An Informative CD for Communities Concerned with Water Quality includes land use maps that help planners identify areas for planning attention.
Image: Kevin Anderson, Sea Grant Scholar

- “The CD was very informative and will be useful to me in my work with municipal officials. I like the model for this as a way to affect change in land use decision making.”
- “Thanks for sending your ‘Informative CD.’ It is indeed informative, and I was pleased to see that compact growth made it in in various guises. A great addition to the Sea Grant repertoire!”