

Waterfront and Coastal Smart Growth Elements

Helping Communities Maximize Their Coastal Advantages

NOAA and EPA are developing a Waterfront and Coastal Smart Growth Elements document that will identify the unique ways Smart Growth Principles apply to waterfront and coastal communities. This publication will provide an overview of the elements, as well as case studies, tools, and techniques. Coming early next year – look for it at the Program Managers' Meeting 2009.

Draft Waterfront and Coastal Smart Growth Elements

1. Mix land uses to ensure that working waterfronts, water-dependent, and public access uses remain a viable and stable part of the waterfront.
2. Take advantage of compact community design to optimize waterfront and water-based activities in targeted areas.
3. Provide a range of housing opportunities and choices to meet the needs of both seasonal and permanent residents.
4. Create walkable waterfronts and shoreline communities with visual and physical access to and along the waterfront for public use.
5. Foster distinctive, attractive communities with a strong sense of place while protecting, preserving, and enhancing the heritage of the built and natural coastal community.
6. Preserve open space, natural beauty, and coastal features to protect ecological systems and services.
7. Strengthen and direct development to existing communities and encourage waterfront revitalization, where appropriate.
8. Provide a variety of land and water-based transportation options.
9. Make development decisions predictable, fair, and cost-effective through consistent policies and coordinated permitting processes.
10. Promote community and stakeholder collaboration in development decisions, to ensure benefits for local residents and the public trust legacy of coastal waters.



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