towards a more sustainable Buffalo Niagara

Land Use and Development

Laura Smith, Chair (Buffalo Niagara Partnership)

Jajean Rose-Burney, Facilitator (UB Regional Institute)
Agenda

• Welcome, introductions and process update

• Continuing our Strategy Discussion

• Defining a Land Use Concept – Scenario Planning

• Administrative Review and Next steps
Working Team Process and Timeline

6 Meetings/4 Tasks

1 Establishing Goals
2 Frame Strategies
3 Identify Actions
4 Construct Indicators

+2 Additional Meetings

We are here

2014

Nov 2013 Community Congress Workshops

WINTER 2014

Review & Refine

At two more meetings in 2014 the working teams will consider feedback from the fall Council and Community Congress sessions.

REGIONAL PLAN
FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

DRAFT Plan
Spring 2014
Scenario modeling:
A chance to say how we should grow

- A small-group hands-on exercise
- Map and “chips” to show where growth should go
- Markers to show what lands should be preserved
- And to indicate investments in transportation
Scenario modeling:
A chance to say how we should grow

- The chips represent a set of place types
- Each represents a square mile of land area
- Each has a different land use and density
- Recognizable to the typical lay person
- Illustrating the choices we have to make
- Instructing about land-use transportation connection
Scenario modeling:
A chance to say how we should grow

The seven place types include:

- Urban Centers
- Village Centers
- Traditional Neighborhoods
- Office/Industrial
- Suburban Strip
- Single Family Residential
- Exurban residential
Scenario modeling:
A chance to say how we should grow

- We will consolidate the maps
- Create several alternative scenarios
- Test each for their impact on key metrics
- To guide a choice of land use concept
Scenario modeling:
A chance to say how we should grow

- This builds on the Regional Framework effort
  - Base scenario was recommended in ENRF
  - But participants can trade up or down
- Learning from other regions and similar exercises
- Using an optimistic GBNRTC population projection
- Now testing the “game” by playing it
1. Maintain and create places in city, suburb, village, and countryside that are vibrant, beautiful, efficient, distinctive, have lasting value, and are loved by the people who live there.

2. Foster a pattern of development that makes wise use of resources – land, existing building stock, transportation, utilities and other infrastructure – to save money and energy and promote economic prosperity and quality of life.

3. Protect or restore our waterfronts, connect them to local communities, make them more accessible to the public, and dedicate them to “water dependent” or “water enhanced” uses.

4. Maintain, improve, expand, and increase access to our parks, recreation areas, trails and open spaces and connect them to each other and the places people live and work.

5. Protect and restore natural resources including rural and agricultural land, natural habitat, biodiversity, watersheds, air quality, water bodies and the quantity and quality of our water, as well as the ecological services that natural resources provide.
6. Promote the adaptive reuse of residential, commercial, industrial, and ecclesiastical building stock to preserve embedded energy, neighborhood integrity, and heritage.

7. Manage abandoned industrial and commercial land and neighborhoods in decline to minimize negative impacts now and prepare their resources for timely and appropriate reuse.

8. Create communities that are resilient and adaptable, that can serve the region’s needs even as population, demographics, climate, and other factors fluctuate.

9. Improve public literacy about planning and build public support for regional planning and smart growth policies.
Preliminary Strategies: Land Use and Development

A: Structure and Process of Land Use Planning

1. Create a regional planning body.*

2. Define a land use concept for the region.

3. Broaden the base of public service provision.

4. Redesign revenue-raising structures to promote land use goals.

5. Build support for regional planning through public engagement and reaching more diverse stakeholders.

*Develop planning capacity at the municipal level.
Preliminary Strategies: Land Use and Development

B: Strategies for Redevelopment

1. Establish mechanisms to manage declining or devalued properties, neighborhoods and districts.

C: Strategies for Protecting Natural Resources

1. Identify important and sensitive natural resources and natural places.

2. Provide incentives to preserve natural areas, rural land, and farms.

3. Plan at the watershed scale considering both land use and water use.
Today’s Strategy Discussion

A: Structure and Process of Land Use Planning
5. Build support for regional planning through public engagement and reaching more diverse stakeholders.

B: Strategies for Redevelopment
1. Establish mechanisms to manage declining or devalued properties, neighborhoods and districts.

C: Strategies for Protecting Natural Resources
1. Identify important and sensitive natural resources and natural places.
2. Provide incentives to preserve natural areas, rural land, and farms.
3. Plan at the watershed scale considering both land use and water use.

*Define a land use concept for the region.
A: Structure and Process of Land Use Planning

5. Build support for regional planning through public engagement and reaching more diverse stakeholders.

• It’s understood that the ultimate success of planning efforts will depend on better and greater public engagement and education, continuously and as part of planning processes, and for public officials and decision makers as well as the general public.
B: Strategies for Redevelopment

1. Establish mechanisms to manage declining or devalued properties, neighborhoods and districts.

• Areas of the region’s larger cities are severely in decline, with numerous vacant, devalued and deteriorated properties. We need mechanisms to hold and manage vacant lots and vacant buildings until they are ready for reuse or redevelopment.
C: Strategies for protecting natural resources

1. Identify important and sensitive natural resources and natural places.

   And

2. Provide incentives to preserve natural areas, rural land, and farms.

   Can be combined and broadened...

Identify important natural resources, natural places, and farmland, quantify the environmental services they provide, and provide incentives to protect and restore them.

• The first step in protecting these vital assets is identifying them. Quantifying the value of their environmental services can strengthen an argument for their protection and restoration. Mechanisms for protecting and restoring them assumes a “carrot” approach as opposed to a regulatory “stick.”
C: Strategies for protecting natural resources

3. Plan at the watershed scale considering both land use and water use.

• Land use and water issues are inherently connected. Using a watershed scale will help focus planning on our natural systems and how they function and impact our quality of life, economy and environment.
Land Use and Development Working Team

Help us get the word out!
Tell us who to contact from your organization

1RF would like to utilize existing communication networks as we prepare for our next Community Congress this November.

1RF Working Team Members
Help us get the word out!

Your Organization’s Communications Contact:
We can provide all sorts of information and content (i.e. small website badges, image files, draft language, etc.) your communications staff can use to help promote One Region Forward events.

Just tell us who to contact from your organization:

Name: ____________________________
Phone: ____________________________
Email: ____________________________

Are you signed up for One Region Forward eNews?
Yes ________ No ________

Your Organization’s Communications Tools:

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If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us

Teresa Bosch de Celis  
One Region Forward Project Assistant  
tboschde@buffalo.edu

Bart Roberts  
One Region Forward Project Manager  
bjr8@buffalo.edu