It’s Not Always Greener: Managing Urban Growth

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Introduction

• What defines urban growth?
• What are the opportunities and tradeoffs?
• What are some of the unintended consequences?
• What are some strategies to avoid the pitfalls?
Opportunities and Tradeoffs

• Sometimes the “grass is greener”
• Sometimes the tradeoffs outweigh the benefits
• What are tradeoffs associated with urban growth and economic development?
Economic Development and Urban Growth

Urban Amenities

Community Facilities

More Jobs

More Revenue

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**Trade Offs**

- Economic development and growth
- Loss of community and small town charm

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Economic development and growth

Loss of open space, which sometimes includes farmland
Trade Offs

Economic development and growth

Inconvenience of greater traffic and congestion

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Trade Offs

Economic development and growth

Suburban sprawl and loss of sense of place

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Trade Offs

Economic development and growth

Unwanted or undesirable new businesses
Unintended Consequences

Economic development and growth

Threats to neighborhood safety and security

Photo credit (right): Victor (Flickr)
Unintended Consequences

Economic development and growth

Housing that is not affordable

Photo credit (right): i Kevin Armstrong
Avoiding the Pitfalls

- Engage as many members of your community as possible to
  - Identify your community’s niche
  - Identify the community’s vision
- Think about what fulfilling the vision will mean to the community
Avoiding the Pitfalls

• Carefully assess economic development options
  • What are the tradeoffs?
  • Do the opportunities fit the vision?
  • What unintended consequences might arise?

• Go forward and prosper!
Questions? Comments?

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