

# Smart Growth Readiness Assessment Tool

## Team Members

Mark Wyckoff, John Warbach, and Mike Forsyth (PZC), Wayne Beyea (CPP), Glenn Pape (CPP), Karen Hairston (MSU Global), Todd Shunneson (MSU Global)

## Project Summary

The **Smart Growth Readiness Assessment Tool** provides a mechanism for communities wishing to grow smart. A series of online, self-guiding procedures organized around the ten **Smart Growth Tenets** are scored to help communities understand where they are on the Smart Growth continuum. Communities are also provided with information on available resources and successful case examples to improve the Smart Growth score.

## Purpose

The **Smart Growth Readiness Assessment Tool** is being developed by the Michigan State University Land Policy Institute, Citizen Planner Program (CPP) and Planning & Zoning Center (PZC) at MSU. Funding the development of the tool is provided by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation as part of the People and Land Initiative. The **Smart Growth Readiness Assessment Tool** will be available to communities and interested citizens on February 19, 2007 at [www.citizenplanner.msu.edu](http://www.citizenplanner.msu.edu).

## Expected Outcomes & Benefits

The online tool will provide two options: first, a simple, quick assessment for individuals to gauge their understanding of Smart Growth principles and, second an extensive tool that includes a thorough community assessment. The community assessment is accompanied by an extensive set of targeted self-help resources and Michigan case studies. Any size community can gain a better understanding of how to grow smart. Facilitation services will also be available from MSU and consultants to assist individual communities and multiple communities who are planning jointly.

The **Ten Tenants of Smart Growth** are:

1. Create a range of housing opportunities and choices.
2. Create walkable communities.
3. Encourage Community and stakeholder collaboration.
4. Foster distinctive, attractive communities with a strong sense of place.
5. Make development decisions predictable, fair, and cost-effective.
6. Mix land uses.
7. Preserve open space, farmland natural beauty and critical environmental areas.



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8. Provide a variety of transportation choices.
9. Strengthen and direct development towards existing communities.
10. Take advantage of compact development designs.

### Contact

Mark Wyckoff or John Warbach  
MSU Planning & Zoning Center  
1405 S. Harrison Rd, Ste 318  
East Lansing, MI 48823  
517-432-2222  
[wyckoff@pzcenter.msu.edu](mailto:wyckoff@pzcenter.msu.edu)  
[warbach@pzcenter.msu.edu](mailto:warbach@pzcenter.msu.edu)

Wayne Beyea  
MSU Citizen Planner Program  
1405 S. Harrison Rd, Ste 308  
East Lansing, MI 48823  
517-432-7600  
[beyea@msu.edu](mailto:beyea@msu.edu)