

# Smart Growth Audit

## Smart Growth:

***"Smart Growth provides a variety of ways to help a community grow without overextending its resources."***

## **NH's Smart Growth Principles**

1. Maintain traditional compact settlement patterns
2. Encourage a human scale of development
3. Incorporate a mix of uses
4. Provide choices and safety in transportation
5. Preserve the working landscape
6. Protect environmental quality
7. Involve the community in planning and implementation
8. Work with neighboring communities

## What is a Smart Growth Audit?

A Smart Growth Audit is a process by which a community reviews the eight Smart Growth Principles then explores whether its Master Plan, ordinances, and regulations support these principles. The local audit serves as a guide, identifying links between ordinances and the Master Plan as well as pointing out areas where inconsistencies may exist. This project is usually guided by the Planning Board, with the Lakes Region Planning Commission (LRPC) providing technical support.

In cooperation with the NH Department of Environmental Services and Office of Energy and Planning, the LRPC is working with member communities to conduct local Smart Growth Audits.

## Why conduct an audit?

Development of a local Smart Growth Audit is an opportunity for the community to review Smart Growth Principles and determine whether they are Principles that the community supports. It also gives the community an opportunity to explore which sections of their Master Plan, ordinances, and regulations support Smart Growth. The report then suggests a variety of steps that might be put into place to help the community better implement Smart Growth Principles.

By conducting a Smart Growth Audit, many communities are able to identify areas where their ordinances and regulations may be in conflict with their Master Plan Goals.



NH Route 25, Meredith, NH

## SMART GROWTH AUDIT PROCESS

- REVIEW SMART GROWTH PRINCIPLES
- IDENTIFY WHICH PRINCIPLES APPLY LOCALLY
- MASTER PLAN IS REVIEWED
- ORDINANCES AND REGULATIONS ARE REVIEWED
- MATRIX AND SUMMARY REPORT ARE GENERATED, IDENTIFYING CONSISTENCY AND CONFLICT AS WELL AS MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS



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## Frequently Asked Questions

### What will a Smart Growth Audit cost?

Since this project is funded by the NH Department of Environmental Services, the only cost to the community is the dedication of volunteers' time and energy.

### When should we conduct a Smart Growth Audit?

Although some communities find this process useful as they develop their Master Plan, it is neither a Master Planning requirement, nor is a community limited to conducting a Smart Growth Audit strictly in association with its Master Plan Update.

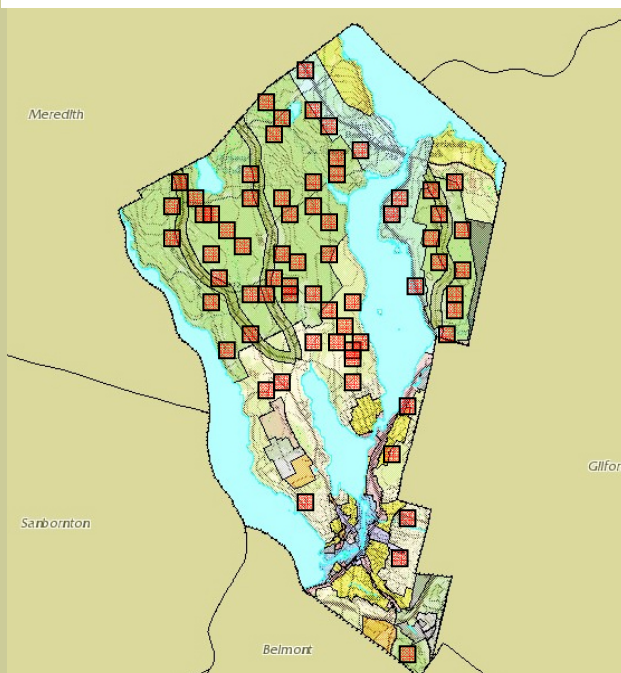
### Is this a community plan, a state plan, or a federal plan?

The state of New Hampshire has established eight Smart Growth Principles. There is a recognition that all eight of the Principles might not apply to every NH community.

The local Planning Board or a committee of citizens should help in identification of the locally applicable Principles; there should also be at least one public presentation where citizens can make recommendations and provide input.

The final document is an assessment of consistency among local documents and recommendations to be used by the community as guidance in planning.

CONVENTIONAL DEVELOPMENT



SMART GROWTH ALTERNATIVE

