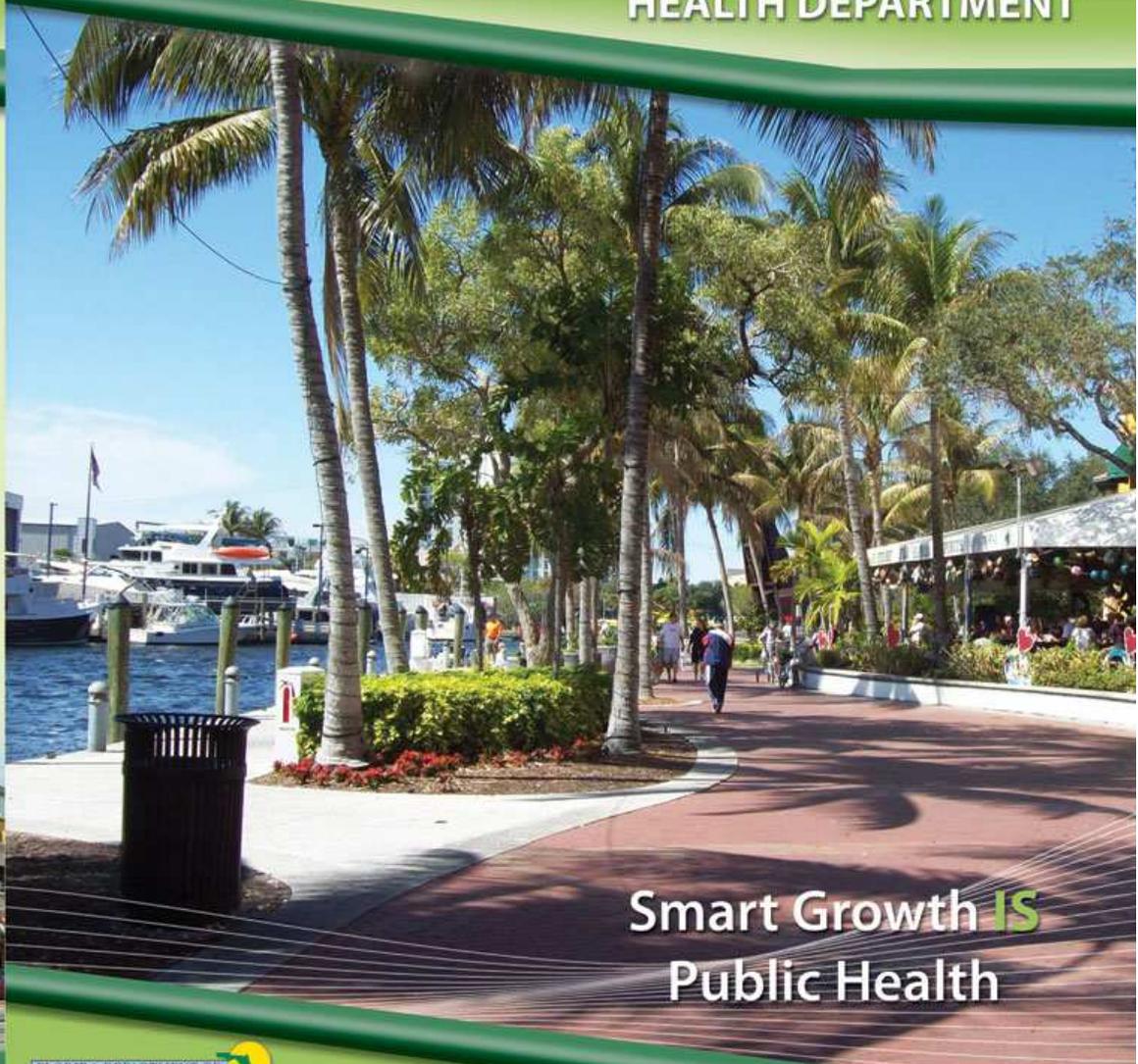


Broward County HEALTH DEPARTMENT



Smart Growth Principles, if applied in a planning setting will promote strong communities, healthy people and livable cities. By working together, public health officials, decision makers, planners and community stakeholders can create safe, walkable cities that promote public and environmental health.

For more information, please contact the **Broward County Health Department**, www.browardchd.org, Division of Environmental Health at 954-467-4700 or the **Smart Growth Coalition** at: <http://www.smartgrowthpartnership.org>.



Smart Growth **IS** Public Health



Smart Growth Is Public Health

Public health and urban planning are inherently related and most effective when implemented in an inter-disciplinary way. Urban planning, like public health, is a community-oriented practice that informs processes of growth management, development and land use. Holistic approaches to public health are complimented by urban planning's resolve to improve the built environment. Smart Growth, married to public health is one such integrated approach.

By focusing on the Smart Growth principles, public health officials and planners can work together to maintain and promote community wellness and sustainable design. Smart Growth principles and how they correlate with public health, are listed here.



Create A Range of Housing Opportunities and Choices

- Inclusionary housing allowing for varying sizes and prices
- Implementation of a mix of different kinds of housing including live/work/play and inter-generational dwellings to promote a sense of community and cohesion

Create Walkable Neighborhoods

- A mix of shops, homes, schools, businesses and libraries
- Connecting streets
- Promotes health by encouraging walking and biking which results in a lower incidence of chronic disease, obesity and heart disease

Encourage Community and Stakeholder Collaboration

- Involve a wide range of stakeholders in community decision making to promote shared community values and outcomes
- Invites all members of communities to participate in decisions which affect their health safety directly and indirectly
- Addresses a wide variety of health hazards which could occur as a consequence to any building project such as, exposure to toxic chemicals, fire hazards, explosions, and hazardous waste spills that could occur as a result of this project

Foster Distinctive, Attractive Communities With a Strong Sense of Place

- Branding a community or city using manmade or natural boundaries provides a distinctive look and positive energy which fosters mental health and a sense of belonging
- Also addresses public health concerns like community cohesion, shared values and a community that works together to address environmental and chemical hazards which engender disease cohesion

Make Development Decisions Predictable, Fair and Cost Effective

- By making the process predictable, developers are encouraged to invest in other Smart Growth values such as inclusionary zoning laws, infill and mixed use which promote adaptive reuse of land and walkability

Mix Land Uses

- Promotes walking and biking for routine tasks, reducing the likelihood of obesity, hypertension and heart disease
- Provides the densities needed to create viable public transportation

Preserve Open Space, Farmland, Natural Beauty and Critical Environmental Areas

- Open spaces to play to decrease obesity in children
- Provides habitat for plants and animals, promoting biodiversity
- Decreases air pollution
- Protects surface and groundwater from trash, chemical pollutants and debris that could enter the water system

Provide a Variety of Transportation Choices

- Walkable streets promote public health and safety for pedestrians, bicyclists and those who choose public transportation
- Decreases air pollution which affects those with pulmonary disease

Strengthen and Direct Development Towards Existing Communities

- Schools can be located in close proximity to homes to encourage walking or bike riding
- Parks, trails and other recreational opportunities are in close proximity to residents, providing opportunities to exercise and interact
- Reduces construction footprints and impervious surface which promotes healthy water quality for drinking and recreation

Take Advantage of Compact Building Design

- Allows for the best, most efficient use of land and resources
- Encourages transit use which decrease air pollution and emissions