

**Activity 2: Community Descriptions**

**Community Description** Name Place Cards to identify each workspace. Copy the descriptions of the communities, cut them out and place the appropriate description of the community at each workspace.

|                                   |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| <p><b>Skyline City</b></p>        | <p>This is a bustling urban community along the river. Factories along the riverfront provide jobs. Houses and shops are near each other. Visitors come to the museums and enjoy the historic architecture of the buildings. There is public transportation, sidewalks, shops, neighborhood schools and parks, housing for all income levels, young and old people living nearby, public services, two factories, block parties, and community festivals.</p>  |
| <p><b>Forest Lake Borough</b></p> | <p>This borough is located in one of the most rural areas of the state located near a state park which has a great trout stream, and great hunting. It is a heavily forested area. There are small locally-owned stores along main street. An art guild is drawing in a few artisans. People have lived there for years. Small supply stores do most of their business in the fall during hunting season or spring trout season. Once was home to a large paper mill that used the lumber cut from the surrounding hillside but they have since closed down. The borough has tried to maintain a quiet profile. Biologists and state agencies are involved in reintroducing elk to the region.</p> |
| <p><b>Coal Run Borough</b></p>    | <p>Character of ethnic groups is evident, strong neighborhood connections, ethnic restaurants, strong religious connections, neighborhood support and security, railroads and coal mining operations employ most of the people.</p>  |
| <p><b>Dairy Township</b></p>      | <p>Pastoral setting, open space, farm houses situated on farms of 15 acres or more, community support and familiarity. Many make a living providing services to farmers. Specific community gatherings during the year. Annual Farm Show is the highlight of the year.</p>   |

**Activity 2:** *Nametags* - Page 1 (1/4)

**Cut out the following nametags** for each participant. The jobs are to be associated with the character of the community. Participants will group themselves by community category.

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Skyline City<br/>Mayor</b></p>  | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Housing Project Developer<br/>and Land Fill Owner</b></p>      |
| <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Bus Driver and Nature<br/>Conservancy Member</b></p>                    | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Taxi Cab Driver and Coach<br/>for City Basketball Team</b></p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;"><b>City Chamber of<br/>Commerce Member<br/>and NFL Promotion Agent</b></p> | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Factory Worker and<br/>Bicycle Club Member</b></p>             |

**Cut out the following nametags** for each participant. The jobs are to be associated with the character of the community. Participants will group themselves by community category.

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Forest Lake Borough<br/>Council Member</b>             | <b>Craftsman: Potter</b>                              |
| <b>Diner Waitress serving<br/>the “famous elk burger”</b> | <b>Tourist Bureau Director</b>                        |
| <b>Waterfowl Ornithologist<br/>and Elk Biologist</b>      | <b>Gun Repair Shop Owner<br/>and Fly Fisherperson</b> |

**Activity 2: Nametags - Page 3 (3/4)**

**Cut out the following nametags** for each participant. The jobs are to be associated with the character of the community. Participants will group themselves by community category.

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Coal Run<br/>Borough Mayor</b>                          | <b>Coal Mining Historian</b>                   |
| <b>Retired Mule Driver and<br/>Steam Engine Enthusiast</b> | <b>Pizza and Pirogies<br/>Restaurant Owner</b> |
| <b>Mountain Recreation<br/>Company Owner</b>               | <b>Mining Reclamation<br/>Bureau Director</b>  |

**Cut out the following nametags** for each participant. The jobs are to be associated with the character of the community. Participants will group themselves by community category.

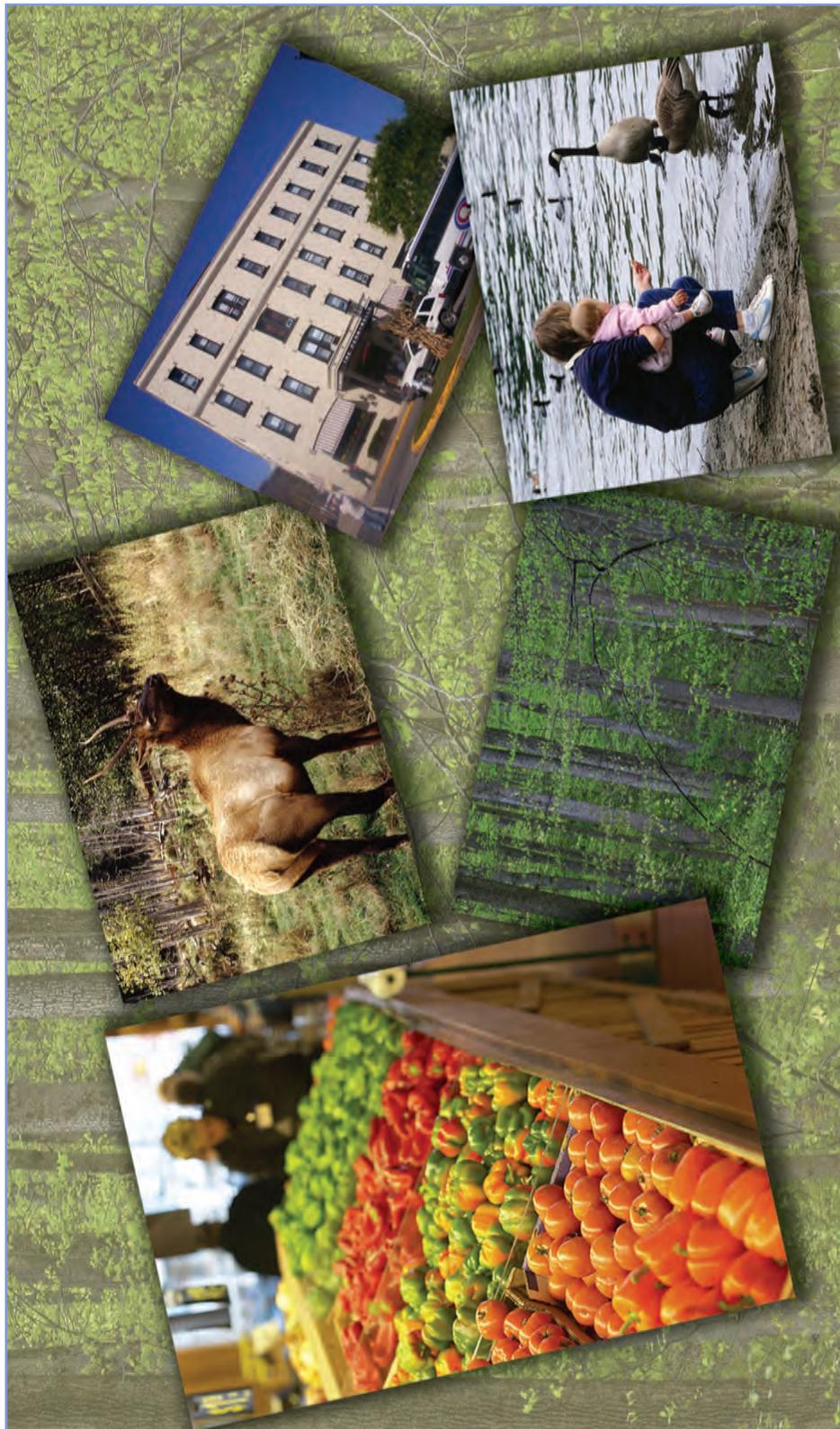
|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Dairy Township<br/>Supervisor</b>      | <b>Member of the Farmland<br/>Preservation Society</b> |
| <b>Farming Equipment<br/>Sales Person</b> | <b>Dairy Farmer</b>                                    |
| <b>Soil Conservation Agent</b>            | <b>Country Acres<br/>Housing Developer</b>             |

# Welcome to Skyline City



## Skyline City ...It's Like Night & Day!

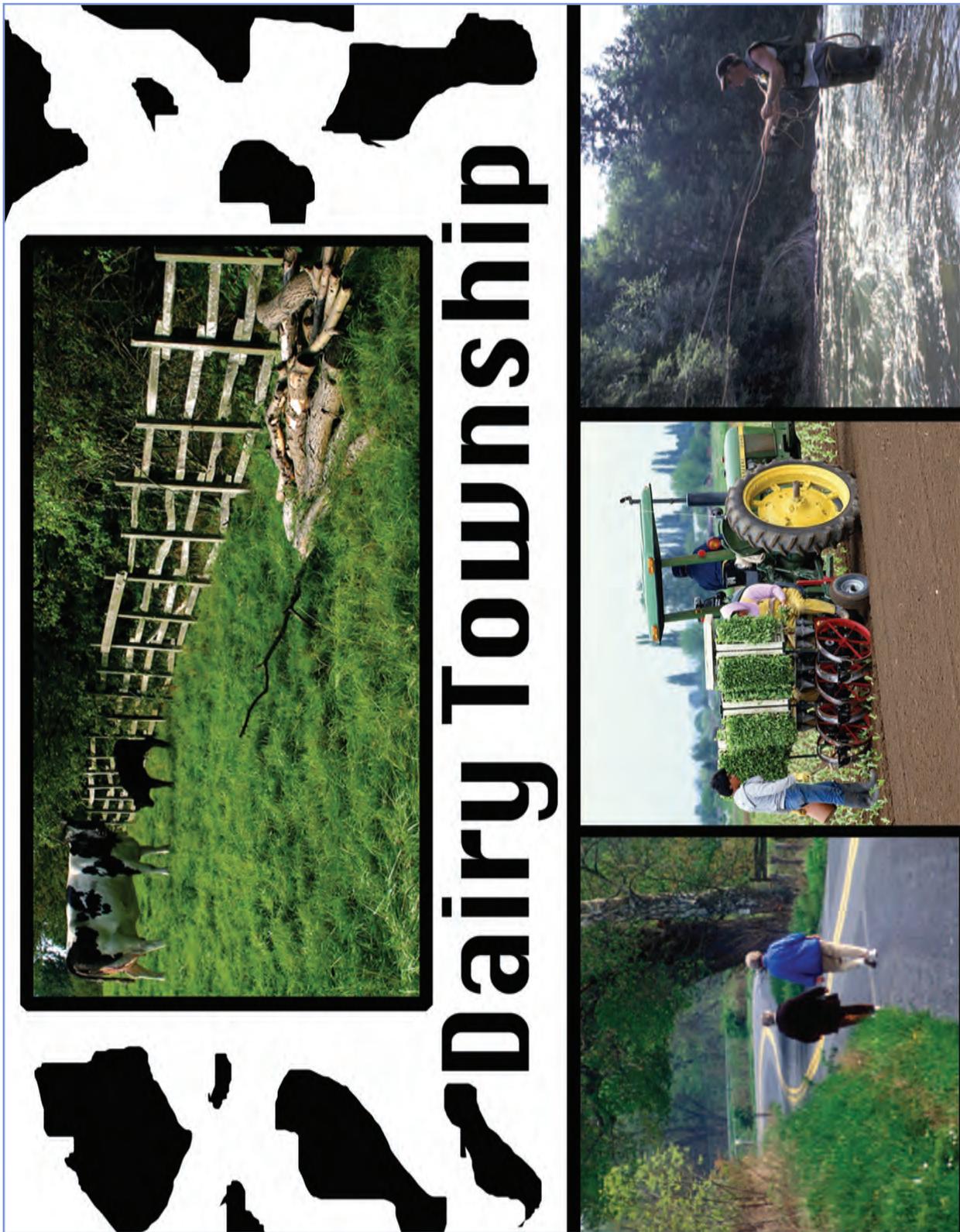




# Forest Lake Borough







**Activity 2: Toolbox for Growing Smarter – Page 1 (1/2)**

**“Smart Growth** is development that serves the economy, community and the environment.” Smart growth provides solutions to concerns facing many communities. It makes it possible for communities to grow in ways that support economic development, jobs and yet achieve healthy lifestyles and clean environments. The following have been adapted from the Smart Growth Network and Thomas Hylton’s *Saving Pennsylvania*.

**1. Mix Land Uses** Create a character of the “old” neighborhoods by having people live, work, shop and socialize in neighborhoods. Allow for planning and zoning for livable communities and promote the concept as a choice for healthy living.

**2. Take Advantage of Conservation Subdivision Design (CSD)** Americans are consuming more land than ever before. The new house size grew from 1,725 square feet in 1993 to 1,928 square feet in 1999. An important part of smart growth is to encourage and celebrate the value of compact building design and leaving more land as undeveloped. CSD incorporates mixed-use housing (single-homes, townhouses, apartment buildings) into an area while ensuring at least 50 percent of the developable land is permanently protected and left as natural space. This may be in the form of a park, trail, orchard, woodlands, etc. Build houses close to streets typically from 60–80 feet across from one another on both sides of the street. This provides a feeling of an outdoor room to the public interface.

**3. Create a Range of Housing Opportunities and Choices** Housing choices should accommodate the housing needs of all residents. Some may want large back yards but alternatives should be available that are attractive and desirable, providing walkability, access to transit and public parks.

**4. Create walkable neighborhoods** In the past 50 years, development patterns led to increased reliance on automobiles and eliminating walkability. Walkable communities enhance mobility, reduce negative environmental consequences and support improved social interaction. Communities should provide and beautify walkways, bike lanes, sidewalks and crosswalks. Traffic-calming techniques such as speed bumps and narrower streets will slow down automobiles. There should be a center of the neighborhood that could be a square or memorable intersection. It could have a Post Office or Corner Store. It is recommended that the center of the neighborhood be within a five to ten minute walk for residents.

**5. Foster Distinctive, Attractive Communities With a Strong Sense of Place** Strip shopping centers and unattractive housing development do little to stimulate civic pride. Smart growth supports the idea that development should help create communities that are distinctive and unique. To create a community of distinction some ideas might be to plant trees along streets to create a canopy for the feeling of an outdoor room. Front porches serve as a transition element from the private to public realm. They create cozy space to relax and socialize. Create gardens on corners or in lots. Construct playgrounds. Enhance unique features such as street lights or historic buildings.

**6. Preserve Open Space, Farmland, Natural Beauty and Critical Environmental Areas** Communities that preserve open space are preserving critical environmental areas, providing recreation opportunities and improving places for enjoyment and beauty. PDR or purchased development rights offers a permanent solution for communities to preserve open space by having landowners sell the rights to develop land to a trust or government agency. Preservation programs are used to keep farmland protected. Green edges surrounding a community help shape neighborhoods.

**7. Strengthen and Direct Development Toward Existing Communities** “Fix it first.” Communities could develop priorities to fix up existing neighborhoods that already have streets, sewers, lighting and schools. Brownfields programs encourage development on sites that could previously have experienced environmental contamination. By encouraging development to occur close to existing development, communities can tap existing infrastructure and protect open space and save municipal tax dollars. Planning could decide boundaries for growth over time.

**8. Provide A Variety Of Transportation Choices** States are responsible for much of the transportation planning and investment. States could offer incentives to communities that ensure mixed transportation modes, funding a balance of pedestrian, auto, transit and bike transportation facilities. Provide an interesting network system of streets. Integrate lanes, alleys, streets and boulevards to promote street vistas. Move cars to the rear for parking and preserve the frontage streetscape. Lanes and alleys allow for vehicular access to rear garages.

**9. Shops and Services Are Reachable** The elementary school should be close enough so children can walk. Playgrounds should be near dwelling areas. Civic buildings and worship buildings are located centrally or where they are easily accessible. Shops, especially a convenience store and a corner restaurant are valuable to the neighborhood.

**10. The neighborhood is organized to be self-governing** People should feel confident to gather with others for the purpose of self government. They should decide on matters of maintenance, security and physical change.

**Activity 2: Dilemma Cards**

**Copy and distribute** a Community Dilemma Card to each group. Participants are to design planning strategies that relate to the challenges on the card.

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <p><b>Skyline City Dilemma</b></p>        | <p>Due to societal changes and government incentives for new development, people began to move out of the city into the suburbs. The factories closed. There were many empty lots where old buildings were torn down. The neighborhoods began to deteriorate. Restaurants and shops closed. The city needs a plan to attract people and jobs back to the city. The city needs a plan that will strengthen attractive neighborhoods, create character based on its historical structures, improve green space, plant trees, attract jobs, provide luxuries to bring people back to live and to visit and revive the economy. They could create urban growth boundaries to protect the border distinction and work with adjacent communities to protect green space and farmlands.</p>  |
| <p><b>Forest Lake Borough Dilemma</b></p> | <p>The community had survived on fall hunters who enjoyed the quiet community, forested mountain-side, and the state park. Employment was depressed after the paper mill closed. The state reintroduced elk into the surrounding forests. As the elk population grew, visitors began traveling to the area to view the elk. The village streets and surrounding roads became heavily congested during the fall viewing time. There were few facilities to handle the numbers of elk watchers who began trespassing on people's properties searching for elk and restrooms. The growing elk population became a nuisance to the homeowners in the area. The community needs to develop a plan to promote the wildlife viewing and be able to address the needs of visitors and concerns of residents which addresses the growing elk herd and community growth. Focus should be protecting the natural and cultural resources and finding ways to minimize land use, while maintaining economic stability.</p> |
| <p><b>Coal Run Borough Dilemma</b></p>    | <p>The mining companies have reduced their output and closed many mines. Culm, the waste from the mining industry lies in big piles around the town. Abandoned trains dot the landscape and railroad beds are left to deteriorate. The fast moving streams are degraded by acid mine drainage. The community needs to develop a plan to protect the beautiful mountain vistas, natural resources and cultural and historic treasures of the area. The plan needs to provide incentives to improve the area, bring in new industry and tourism using the mountains, rivers and history.</p>  |
| <p><b>Dairy Township Dilemma</b></p>      | <p>Some farmers are being offered top dollar to sell their lands for development. Some farmers do not want to sell land. Farmers that will sell, want to protect open space and natural lands. People in the community want to protect the pastoral nature of the area and reduce sprawl. Should developments be built, they want to recommend certain types of development that will protect more open space. Your challenge is to plan for the future using planning tools such as easements, traditional neighborhood development and cluster zoning to protect the resources and cultural heritage of the area.</p>   |