Green Infrastructure in Sustainable, Resilient Communities

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Walkable Communities On The Rise

Walkable Urban Places in 30 largest metros gaining market share doubling since 2010

Drivable suburban is losing market share

Office, retail, multifamily—74% premium over drivable suburban
Existing Conditions

- Low Density Development
- Single use district
- Above ground utilities
- Auto-oriented development
- No parking in rear
- Narrow sidewalks
- Wide streets
- Low Density Development
Street level

High Density Development

Street Trees

Below-ground utilities

Mixed-Use (Residential and Commercial)

Pedestrian-friendly area

TOD District

Median for light rail

Bike Lanes
Neighborhood Level

Conventional

Smart Growth
Arlington, VA-- Smart growth at the corridor level
Big Investments in Rail Transit

Cincinnati
Charlotte
Dallas
Denver
Honolulu
Houston
Los Angeles
Minneapolis
Phoenix
Portland
Salt Lake
Seattle
Washington, DC
Affordable Housing

Brattleboro Food Coop, VT
- Downtown One Story Strip Mall to Walkable Store
- 4 Story Development
- Affordable Housing
- Moved Away From a Stream and Added Buffer
Economic Training

Mariposa District, Denver
-Health Care Training

Northwest Gardens, Ft. Lauderdale
-Construction Training
Healthy Eating and Healthy Living

Via Verde, NY
- Affordable Housing
- Rooftop Garden and Exercise Trail
- Ground floor medical clinic
- Changed city zoning rules to green
Pedestrian Amenities and Design

The BLVD, Lancaster, CA
- Farmers markets
- Affordable housing
- Wider sidewalks
- 48 new locally owned businesses
- 1,900 full time jobs
Sharing Resources

Washington, DC
-Bikes
-Cars
-Work spaces
New Workspaces
Putting It all Together

Millwork District, Dubuque, IA
- Caradco Factory
- Reconnecting Low Income Neighborhood to Downtown
- Daylighting a stream providing flood protection to 1100 properties
Different View of Water

Charles City, IA
-Stormwater and Paddle Park
Higher Aspirations: Creating Place

Creating Energy
Improving Health
Connecting to Nature and Food
Making Affordable Housing
Training for Economic Development
Culture and Business
Sharing Resources
How Is This Happening?
Lessons for Green Infrastructure

• Don’t Design For One Thing
• Pilot Projects
• Economic Development
• Funding and Regulation
• Framing
  – New jobs
  – Cultural and Recreational Trails
  – Water Parks and City Parks

• Breaking it Down
  – Public Land
  – Private Land
  – Development Trigger
  – Retrofit Strategy
  – Parking lots
  – Schools
  – Streets

• Be Part of Something Bigger
WHAT IS THE BELTLINE?

- Connecting all of Atlanta’s major submarkets.
- 22-mile Transit Loop with 5 new connections to existing MARTA service.
- 33 miles of multi-use trails
- 1300+ acres of new greenspace with the creation or expansion of 9 parks.

Slide Courtesy of: Atlanta Beltline Inc.
WHAT IS THE BELTLINE?
Key Elements

Slide Courtesy of: Atlanta Beltline Inc.

Parks
1300 + new acres

Trails
33 miles

Transit & Transportation Infrastructure
22-mile loop

Economic Development & Jobs
20 areas, 30k jobs

Affordable & Workforce Housing

Historic Preservation

Streetscapes & Public Art

Environmental Clean-up 1100 + acres
WHAT IS THE BELTLINE?

- 6,500 Acre Redevelopment Area
- $1,700,000,000 in Bond Capacity
- Multiple opportunities/challenges
- Equitable Development Sectors

Slide Courtesy of: Atlanta Beltline Inc.
Smart Growth America is the only national organization dedicated to researching, advocating for and leading coalitions to bring smart growth practices to more communities nationwide.

www.smartgrowthamerica.org

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