

Lab: City Planning

How often have you complained about traffic? An overcrowded school? The long commute to work? Well here is your chance to change all of that. Your task force is assigned the planning of a suburban town. Be very careful to include all of the criteria listed below and take both economic and environmental issues into consideration.

Analyze the map of Cary provided for the principles of sustainable cities. Identify areas that you feel are sustainably designed.

1. Name three features of this area that lead you to believe it is sustainably designed.
2. How do these features impact the people who live in the area?
3. How did these design features affect the cost of development, short-term and long-term?
4. How would the infrastructure in the area differ from an area that is not sustainably developed?

Find an area that you feel is not sustainably designed.

5. What makes this area unsustainable?
6. How does this design impact the people who live in the area?
7. How did these design features affect the cost of development, short-term and long-term?
8. Why do you think the decision was made to go with an unsustainable development?

Using a sheet of graph paper and attempting to maintain the same scale as the map of Cary, redesign an area that you felt was not sustainably designed. Remember that zoning is the most important aspect – not individual buildings. Be sure to include appropriate infrastructure, as well.

9. Discuss the changes you made and why in a short paragraph.
10. In a second paragraph, discuss the possible roadblocks you might experience in the Cary Town Council on the implementation of the changes you created above. Would the roadblocks come from the council? Citizens? Businesses? Developers? How might you overcome these roadblocks?
11. Your textbook discusses cities that are good and bad about sustainable development. Using these examples or others, compare and contrast the development processes.