# Community Sustainability

**Principles of a Sustainable Community**

* **1. Mixed land use:** 
  + Involves planning to ensure that homes, shops, and recreation are located within close proximity to each other. This increases community sustainability by:
    - Making it easier to combine trips.
    - Makes mass transit more efficient.
    - Creates a better quality of life for community members.
* **2. Compact design:**
  + Reducing the footprint of new construction:
    - Preserves natural areas.
    - Keeps homes close to jobs.
    - Allows local governments to save money on water, sewer, electric, transportation, and other services.
* **3. Range of Housing:**
  + Providing a variety of housing options with different price points attracts diversity and encourages equitable distribution of households (as opposed to grouping income levels in the same areas).
  + This concept helps promote inclusivity for all within the community.
* **4. Walkable Areas:**
  + Enhancing walkability within a community allows goods and services to be accessed via a safe, easy walk, which lessens the need for automotive transportation and associated transportation costs. It also enhances social life and benefits residents’ health.
* **5. Creating a “sense of place”:**
  + A sustainable community is a cohesive group with a strong identity, unique culture, and strong values. Having a sense of place enables residents to direct future goals toward preserving and bettering the unique qualities of their community.
* **6. Preserve open space and other natural areas:**
  + Natural areas enhance quality of life through:
    - Providing an easily accessible “escape” from town or city life.
    - Mitigating potential floods and other natural disasters.
    - Helping preserve environmental health by promoting clean air and water.
    - Increasing economic prosperity through tourism and by increasing property values.
* **7. Variety of Transportation Options:**
  + When communities are not tied to cars, it removes barriers for those who can’t have or don’t want one. Plus, mass transit and self-powered transportation (walking, biking) decreases a community’s dependence on fossil fuels, reduces pollution, and alleviates traffic congestion.
* **8. Predictable and fair development:**
  + Governments at all levels have the ability to promote sustainability by ensuring development projects are affordable and attractive to private investors. This allows the community to continue developing and growing in a sustainable and equitable way.
* **9. Encourage collaboration:**
  + Having a collaborative development process in which everyone’s voice can be heard enables all demographics to have a say in community growth. Encouraging various perspectives also enhances stakeholder collaboration and can lead to a quicker resolution of issues.
* **10. Strengthen direct development in existing communities:**
  + Directing new development in areas with preexisting infrastructure reduces the amount of resources and energy needed to build new developments. It also makes sure existing infrastructure isn’t going to waste.
  + It also helps preserve a community’s natural areas by focusing development in the town center as opposed to on the fringe, where many of these natural areas are found.

# Questions for HS and Up:

* Which of these is an example of a community sustainability principle?
  + **Mixed land use.**
  + **Have a variety of transport options.**
  + Focus development on new communities.
  + Resist community input in order to streamline development process.
* Which of these is not a benefit of preserving natural spaces in cities?
  + Decrease the negative effects of storms and flooding.
  + Increase tourism.
  + Raise property values.
  + **Reduce traffic.**
* What are the benefits of compact design?
  + **Keeps homes close to jobs.**
  + Raises costs for supplying energy, water, sewer services, etc.
  + Develops natural areas for more useful purposes.
  + Increases traffic.
* Which of these is a community sustainability principle that can be applied to BOTH rural and urban communities?
  + Preserve natural spaces.
  + Build compact neighborhoods.
  + Encourage stakeholder and community involvement in decision making.
  + Provide a range of transportation options.
  + **All of these.**