
PLAN SMART, RETHINKING GREEN SMARTCARD

"...AN EASY-TO-USE TOOL FOR MAKING QUALITY DECISIONS IN COMMUNITY PLANNING, BUDGETING, AND COLLABORATION"

ABOUT THE SMARTCARD: PLAN SMART, RETHINKING GREEN

The **SMARTCARD** should be viewed as a practical snapshot for measuring and assessing a community's "green planning" decisions and how they align with their best long-term interests. It is designed to help local leaders and citizen groups evaluate whether you have the right tools, resources and policies to maximize the full benefits of community forests, trees, and open spaces. Ultimately, the Smart Card helps to assess, -- "where you are now, and where do you want to be in the future"

Ideally, the **SMARTCARD** should be used to gather and organize information on what policies, practices, and strategies are working or require improvement. More importantly, it is designed to:

- Encourage broad discussion of how, placing a high priority on "green" can benefit your community
- Stimulate communities to take a closer look, revise practices, or enhance existing programs
- Take action to protect natural resources, enhance safety measures, educate citizens and stakeholders
- Identify policy, zoning, and planning processes required for Rethinking Green

Every Community is Unique

The versatility of this tool is intended to allow cities, towns, and villages to tailor strategies that can best meet your goals. In no way should the **SMARTCARD** be used to compare one community to another. You can decide where to set your priorities, establish specific goals, and what resources are needed.

DIRECTIONS: How To

The **SMARTCARD** has four sections and some questions may require information from municipal departments, civic organizations, or citizen groups. Many of the questions can be answered based on your direct experience. The questions are designed to help you think about green infrastructure in a broader context – where does it fit within your community and its vision. Ultimately, completing the **SMARTCARD** is an important exercise together with the Leadership Tool Kit to help map out long-term planning, maximize the benefits from your "green resources", and improve public awareness.

*Note: The right-hand column of the **SMARTCARD** is a resources section that we will complete for you and provide access to tools and additional assistance that can help you meet your goals.*

Return your completed SMARTCARD to: Lance Davisson at lance.davisson@state.nm.us

SMARTCARD

"Making Quality Decisions for Your Community"

COMPLETED BY _____ DATE _____

PLANNING

PROVIDES A SNAPSHOT OF PROGRAMS THAT IMPACT CURRENT "GREEN" ISSUES

Check all current programs in your community

- Member of New Mexico MainStreet Program
 - Chamber of Commerce
 - Parks Board or Tree Board or Advisory Council
 - Air quality and H2O Quality assessment/Federal Funding or EPA
 - Member of Livable Communities Initiatives or similar neighborhood improvement groups
 - Member of Smart Growth Council or similar program
 - Tree City USA designation
 - Keep New Mexico Beautiful affiliate
 - Historical Society
 - Climate change initiatives (Has your mayor signed the Climate Protection Agreement?)
- Other existing programs: _____

Check all departments involved with tree care, planting, removal decisions in your community

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Parks and Recreation | <input type="checkbox"/> Utilities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Openspace/land management | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Works |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Streets | <input type="checkbox"/> Water Authority or irrigation district |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Beautification Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> Planning / Zoning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Environment | |
- Other, please specify _____

Tree Care & Management

Which department is directly responsible for tree care? Provide information on jurisdiction (public or private or both), budgeting, contract or in-house.

What tree care and green infrastructure practices are part of your overall planning?

- Tree ordinance or related zoning
- Tree management budget
- Storm water management plan
- Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP)
- Public tree inventory or GIS tree canopy study
- Comprehensive and regularly scheduled tree management plan for street and public trees
- Trees are priority for all community planning decisions
- Community stakeholders and elected leaders engaged for ongoing support
- Municipality has city arborist or forester

HERE'S HOW WE CAN HELP YOU: RESOURCES

ISSUES & PRIORITIES

BUILD COMMUNITY SUPPORT FOR GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE AND COMMUNITY FORESTS BASED ON RECOGNIZING THE VALUE OF COMMUNITY FOREST AND MAKING THEM A PRIORITY IN OVERALL MUNICIPAL PLANNING.

What are your community's greatest ASSETS? Citizen Action, Chamber of Commerce, Tourist attraction(s), Ingenuity / Creativity (citizen and/or local government), nearby highway (potential to attract tourists), etc.

Check the GREATEST ISSUES / CHALLENGES that face your community

- Water (conservation, quality, etc.)
- Planning / Growth
- Economic Development
- Citizen Involvement
- Wildfire
- Budgeting
- Air Quality
- Tree Care and Management

HERE'S HOW WE CAN HELP YOU: RESOURCES

STRATEGIES

BUILD PUBLIC "BUY-IN", MAXIMIZE LIMITED PUBLIC RESOURCES, AND ENCOURAGE BROAD COLLABORATIVE SUPPORT.

What Strategies (Outreach & Education, Celebrations/Events) or Programs (Keep NM Beautiful grants or programs, NM Forest ReLeaf, other local, state, or federal grant programs) have you used in the past to "make your community better"?

STRATEGY/PROGRAM	SUCCESSFUL/UNSUCCESSFUL	WHY/HOW IT'S WORKING?

What other Strategies or Programs could be useful in your community?

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & COLLABORATION

MEASURE LEVEL OF COMMUNITY AWARENESS, ASSESS READINESS BY CROSS SECTION OF COMMUNITY PARTNERS, IDENTIFY OPPORTUNITIES TO KEEP CONSTITUENCIES INFORMED AND ENGAGED.

- Does your municipality actively make planning a priority by building coalitions with community stakeholders and engaging the public?
- To what extent was the public involved in developing the forestry plan, a CWPP, or other green goals or initiatives?
- Are citizens active in community planning, development and resource protection through other organizations?

FEEDBACK/ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

WHAT OTHER INFORMATION OR RESOURCES WOULD BE USEFUL IN YOUR PLANNING AND DECISION MAKING?

List any municipal staff or stakeholders you would like to be contacted.

NAME	ADDRESS	EMAIL ADDRESS	PHONE NUMBER