Even with its relatively stable urban economy, the City of Chicago has lost over 200,000 people in the last decade. Yet, like many other urban centers, its metropolitan area continues to expand, often with ever-greater density in the suburbs. Thus, in planning for our future, we must recognize and respond to the challenge of uneven growth. Rather than accepting higher density development as a generalized solution for sustainable land use, we need strategies for reshaping neighborhoods as their densities fluctuate. Smooth Growth® does just that in a landscape defined by varying degrees of urbanization. Smooth Growth proposes that quality urbanism is sustainable at lower densities, and can be achieved by reconfiguring both landscape and urban infrastructure to accommodate social and demographic changes. It presumes the radical notion that quality, rather than quantity, should govern decision-making in low growth urban environments, and that stewardship is a community value that can be leveraged to support better planning.