Suburbs and Schools: Allies or Enemies to Multi-Generational Planning

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Getting Beyond Stereotypes:

» **Rural and suburbs also plan for aging**: New Urbanism is not the only option.

» **Suburbs embrace New Urbanism**: Lifelong Communities - Atlanta.

» **Bringing schools to the table in all communities**: Joint Use Agreements
More seniors live in rural areas and suburbs...

Source: 2010 U.S. Census population data for 1,430 Maturing of America survey respondents
...but rural and suburbs lag in elder service delivery.

Source: Data from 1,430 local governments through National Association of Area Agencies on Aging’s 2010 Maturing of America survey. Numbers in parentheses indicate the number of survey questions in each category.
Suburbs lead in multi-generational land-use planning

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<th>Local government has in place:</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Zoning requirements that support “complete street” design</td>
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<td>Building codes that incorporate universal design in new construction</td>
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<td>Zoning requirements that support aging in place</td>
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<td></td>
<td>45.0%</td>
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<td>42.2%</td>
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<td>Suburban</td>
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<td></td>
<td>48.9%</td>
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<td>Rural</td>
<td>43.9%</td>
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<td>44.1%</td>
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<td>31.4%</td>
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*Source: Data from 1,430 local governments through National Association of Area Agencies on Aging’s 2010 Maturing of America survey*
Atlanta: The challenge of sprawl
A Lifelong Community is a place individuals can live throughout their lifetime that provides a full range of options to residents, ensuring a high quality of life for all.
“Most of the region’s communities are not lifelong communities.”
Lifelong Communities Initiative: Context & Defining Elements

» Launched and led by Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC)
» ARC serves as AAA for the region
» Involves 10 counties, 68 cities
» Local government implements with support from ARC
» Based in New Urbanism principles – “retrofitting sprawl”
How did they begin?

**Origins:**
Scale up “Aging Atlanta Partnership”

**Get anchored**
Extensive research produced framework and core principles

**Plan**
9-day New Urbanism charrette to plan first five Lifelong Communities sites

**Implement and Integrate!**
ARC helps local governments implement
Make principles part of plans & policy at all levels
8 Core Principles

- Connectivity
- Pedestrian access and transit
- Neighborhood retail and services
- Social interaction
- Diversity of dwelling types
- Healthy living
- Consideration for existing residents

Get anchored
Extensive research produced framework and core principles

3 Goals adopted as agency policy and framework:

- Provide housing & transportation options
- Encourage healthy lifestyles
- Expand access to services
Origins:
Scale up "Aging Atlanta Partnership"

Get anchored
Extensive research produces framework and core principles

Plan
9-day New Urbanism charrette created master plans for first five Lifelong Communities sites

Implement and Integrate
ARC helps local governments implement
Make principles part of plans and policy at all levels

How did they begin?
Existing

Planned

Atlanta Partnership” framework and core principles
How did they begin?

**Origins:**
Scale up “Aging Atlanta Partnership”

**Get anchored**
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**Plan**
9-day New Urbanism charrette focused on first five Lifelong Communities sites

**Implement and Integrate!**
ARC helps local governments implement
Make principles part of plans & policy at all levels
What’s happening on the ground now?

**Longer-Term**

- Form-based code
- Community-integrated senior housing
- Created new RD-3 zoning district for “Active Adults”
- Target key roads for pedestrian improvements

**Shorter-Term**

- Walkability assessments
- Farmers markets
- Inter-generational community gardens
- Websites geared toward seniors
- Nutrition and preventative health classes

Find a balance
Joint Use: Bringing Schools to the Table
**Joint Use: The Basics**

**What?**
- 2 or more entities – often a school and a city – share indoor or outdoor space

**Why?**
- **Obesity** rates
- Lack of places for physical activity – especially in low-income & minority neighborhoods
- More efficient use of scarce resources
- Growing demand for services

**How?**
- Informal
- **Formal, or Joint Use Agreement (JUA)**
Project:
Neveln Community Center

Community resource center brings range of organizations, services, and ages under one roof to support at-risk individuals and families

Key Partners:
- Community members
- Ankeny School District
- City of Ankeny
- Non-profit organizations
- Chamber of Commerce
- Historical society

Making it Work
- Building is owned by the school, managed by volunteers, overseen by a local board of directors.
- Tenants – mostly service providers – pay low rent
- Community planned and implemented
- Creative funding arrangements; many donated dollars and resources
Joint Use: What it Takes

» Identify the need & define the goals

» Build stakeholder support – including leaders

» Get legal expertise to craft the Joint Use Agreement

» Collaborative spirit

Rutgers Univ. shares pool and swim instruction with local YMCA – New Jersey

ImaginOn, a shared library and children’s theatre – Charlotte, NC
Key Challenges & Perceived Barriers

- Maintenance
- Operations
- Liability & Security
- Costs
- Scheduling & Staffing
- Resolving Conflict

Resources!

- **ChangLab Solutions**
  - [http://changelabsolutions.org](http://changelabsolutions.org)
  - Checklist for Developing a JUA
  - Model JUAs
  - Model Joint Use Resolutions
  - 50-State Liability Scan

- **Center for Cities & Schools**
  - [http://citiesandschools.berkeley.edu/](http://citiesandschools.berkeley.edu/)
  - Report: *Partnerships for Joint Use: Expanding the Use of Public School Infrastructure to Benefit Students and Communities*
  - Joint Use Cost Calculator
Project: 12 school play spaces opened to community

Key Partners:
- City of Tucson
- Tucson Unified School District
- Tucson Police Department

Making it Work:
- Identified need through City-led “playspace audit”
- Clear, specific goal: every resident within ½ mile of park
- Elected officials championed the issue
- Overcame security/liability concerns
- City attorney helped craft agreement
- Police department officially involved
- Low cost
Planning for Aging

» **Issue brief:** “New York City and Atlanta: Cities Plan for the Aging Population”  
  www.mildredwarner.org/p/134

» **Issue brief:** “Planning for Aging: Rural Responses to the Challenge”  
  www.mildredwarner.org/p/146

» **Conference:** Aging in Place track at APA Conference, April 2013

» **Atlanta Regional Commission, Lifelong Communities**  
  www.atlantaregional.com/aging-resources
  - Includes model ordinances, a Lifelong Communities Handbook, and many other tools and resources.

Joint Use:

» **Issue brief:** “Joint Use: School City Collaboration”  
  www.mildredwarner.org/p/147

» **APA Webinar:** “Creating More Active Communities through Joint Use Agreements”  
  www.activelivingresearch.org/node/12520

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*This presentation can be viewed and downloaded at:*  
http://www.mildredwarner.org/webinar021513