

Federation of Canadian Municipalities' (FCM)

Centre for Sustainable Community Development

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**Manager , Sustainable Community Demonstration Category
Green Municipal Funds**

Oct. 9, 2003



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Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM)

- National voice of municipal governments since 1901
- Dedicated to improving the quality of life in all communities by promoting strong, effective and accountable municipal governments
- Focus: federal advocacy on economic, environmental and social policies that affect municipal government
- Growing capacity to provide services to municipal governments



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FCM's Centre for Sustainable Community Development

OUR VISION:

Healthy and vibrant communities sustain local and global ecosystems.


OUR MISSION:

To demonstrate municipal leadership in sustainable community development by working with partners to implement holistic decision-making and planning processes and innovative projects.



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What is Sustainable Community Development?

Sustainable community development is a holistic process that builds social, economic and environmental capital to bring human settlement closer to living within the sustaining capacity of ecosystems locally and globally.



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What is Sustainable Community Development?

- Decision making processes. It's not an end state
- Building: social, economic and environmental capital
- Implies:
 - ☐ continuous improvement
 - ☐ integration
- Thinking long-term: acting as if we intended to stay
- A new value system built on accepting responsibility for personal, corporate and institutional lifecycle effects on social, economic and environmental capital.



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How to get there? Easy!

Work with nature not against it

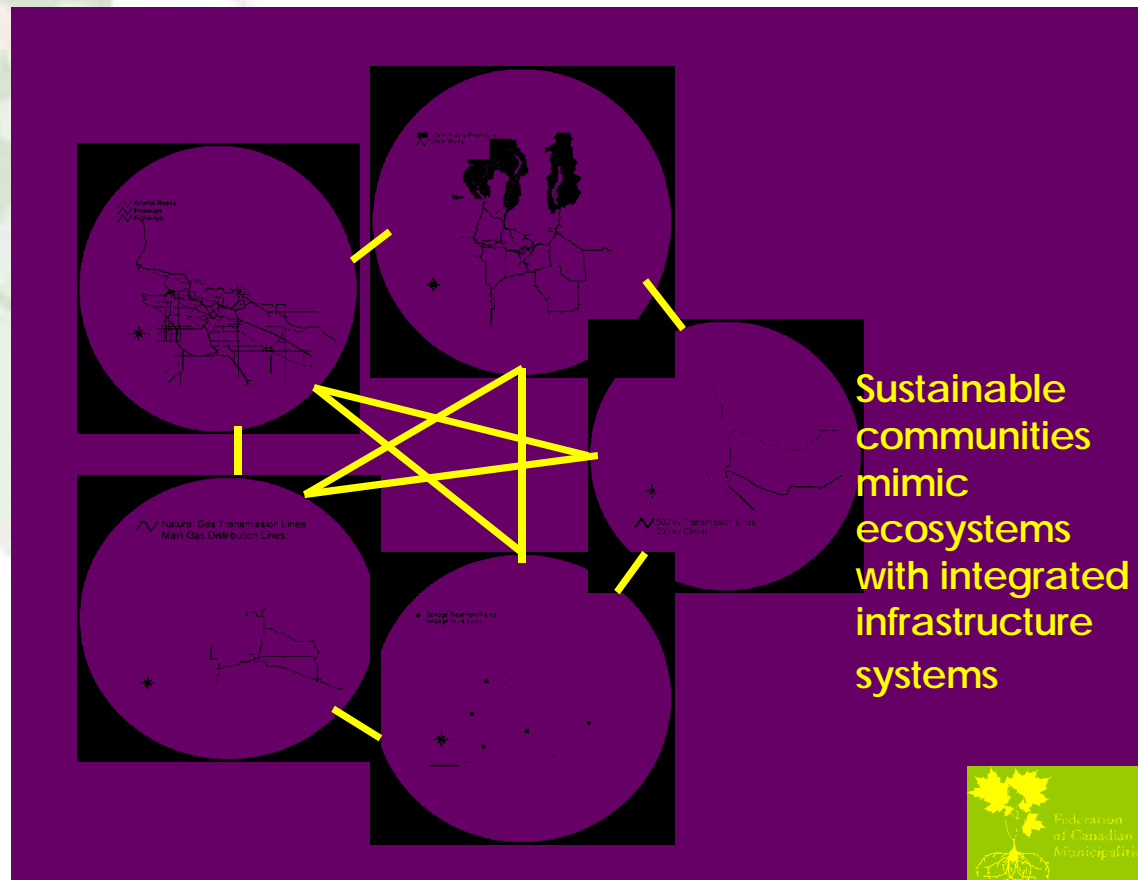
An aerial photograph of a lush, green valley. A river flows through the center, surrounded by dense forest. A road or path runs alongside the river. The background shows misty mountains.

Ecosystems
sustain
themselves
with
integrated
systems



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Holistic means integrated



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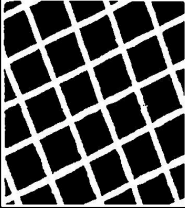
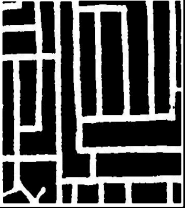

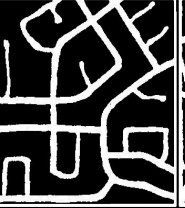

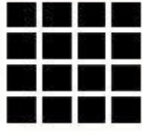



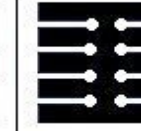
Use Green spaces to Integrate

- ❖ Green connectors instead of roads
- ❖ Green connectors facilitate surface stormwater movement = greater savings
- ❖ Green spaces treat water = greater savings
- ❖ Green spaces facilitate gentle intensification AND socialization AND recreation
- ❖ Intensification facilitates local energy production/sharing for further savings AND energy conservation

Green connectors instead of roads

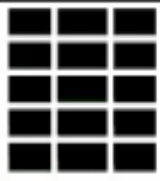
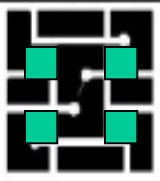
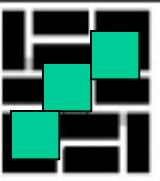
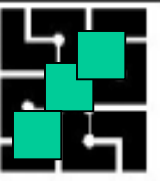
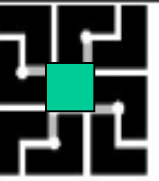
less roads = less cost = more green

pattern efficiency can vary by 12% + within a neighbourhood

	Gridiron (c. 1900)	Fragmented Parallel (c. 1950)	Warped Parallel (c. 1960)	Loops and Lollipops (c. 1970)	Lollipops on a Stick (c. 1980)
Street Patterns					
					
	Square Grid. (Miletus, Houston, Portland etc.)	Oblong grid. (most cities with a grid)	Oblong grid 2 (some cities, or in certain areas)	Loops. (Subdivisions - 1950 to now)	Cul-de-sacs. (Radburn, 1932 to now)
Percent of area for streets	36.0%	35.0%	31.4%	27.4%	23.7%
Percent of buildable area	64%	65%	68.6%	72.6%	76.3%

Develop
hybrid
options for
more
efficiency:

Locate “found” green spaces to suit

					
	Square Grid. (Most cities)	VFG A (4 loops, 4 C-D-S)	VFG- B (4 loops, 2 C-D-S)	VFG- C (8 C-D-S)	VFG- D (8 C-D-S)
Percent of area for streets	35.0%	27.4%	27.4%	23.7%	23.7%
Percent of buildable area	60%	63.6%	64.3%	68.0%	68.0%
Percent of Open Space	Required 5%	9.0%	8.3%	8.3%	8.3%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

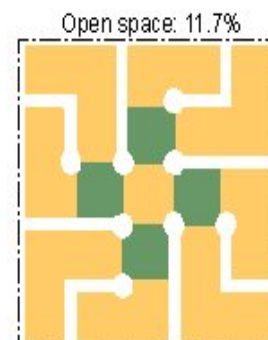
density is an independent variable



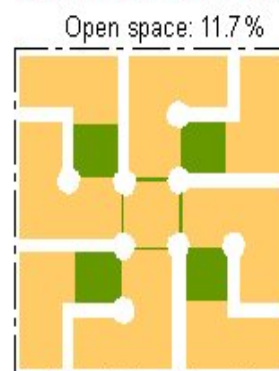
CMHC SCHL

Canada

**Efficient
options
increase
green
space,
cost less
and look
better....**



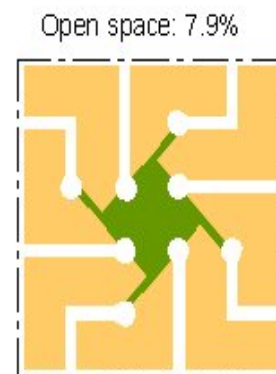
Developable area benefit: -0.4%
Dedication no longer needed: 5%
Total buildable area benefit: 4.6%



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Dedication no longer needed: 5%
Total buildable area benefit: 4.6%



Developable area benefit: 3.3%
Dedication no longer needed: 5.0%
Total buildable area benefit: 8.3%



Developable area benefit: 3.4%
Dedication no longer needed: 5%
Total buildable area benefit: 8.4%



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Green spaces as Physical Infrastructure

- ❖ Transportation: paths, bikeways, traffic calming
- ❖ Wastewater: Greywater, wetlands, living machines
- ❖ Stormwater: movement, storage, reuse
- ❖ Energy: cooling, protection
- ❖ Air quality: CO₂ absorption
- ❖ Ecosystem: habitat, biodiversity, movement corridors

Green spaces as social infrastructure

- ❖ **Socializing/crime reduction:** structured and unstructured meeting places and walkways
- ❖ **Health:** playfields, cycling, jogging, boating, air quality
- ❖ **Education:** schoolyards, arboretums, gardens



Integration saves many ways!

Saves money: Finance green spaces with the road, sewer, education, water , energy, police , health and recreation recreation budgets

Saves land: single spaces perform multiple functions, green spaces allow greater density

Saves energy: green spaces cool, protect

Saves life support system (ecosystem):



Integration saves many ways!



Roadway and
vegetated swale
are integrated



Public gathering
space is also
temporary
stormwater
retention



Green spaces treat greywater



CK Choi Bldg @UBC Recycled another bldg, preserved existing trees for cooling, aesthetics, habitat, public sidewalk/garden processes greywater

Green spaces treat storm/waste water

Constructed/natural
wetlands polish
waste water



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Green Spaces treat blackwater



Living Machines
treat blackwater
with biology

Bear River Nova Scotia

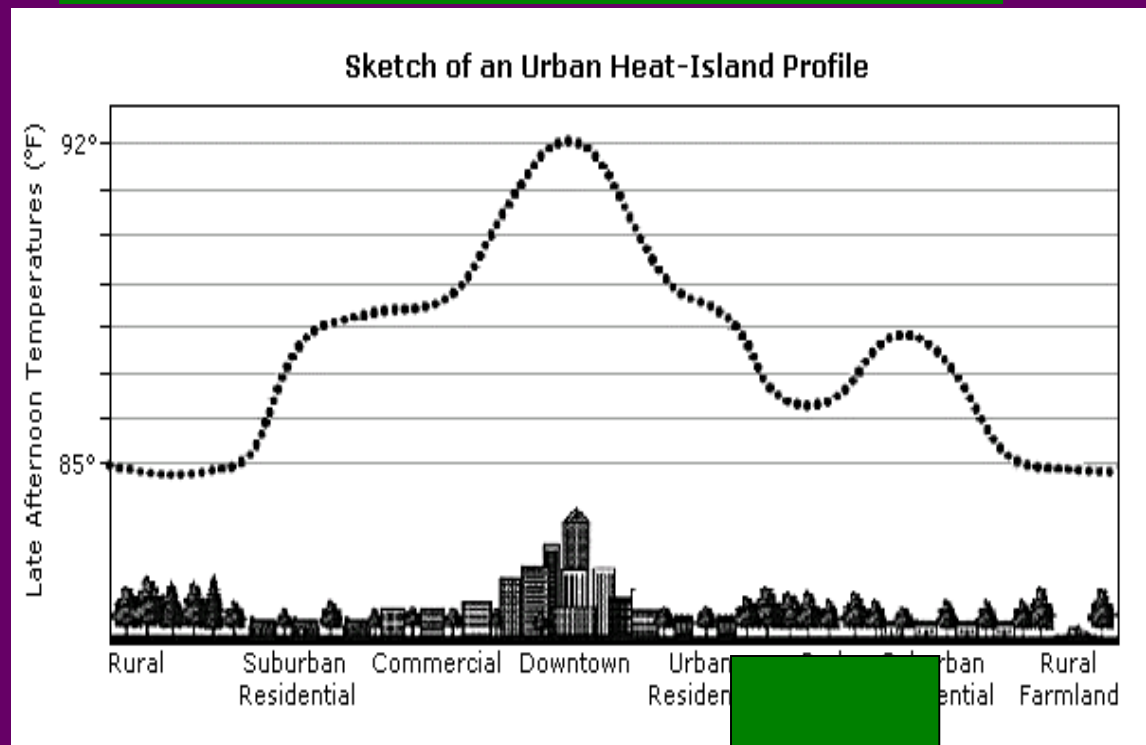


Errington B.C.



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**Green
spaces
save
energy**



Parks are cool !!



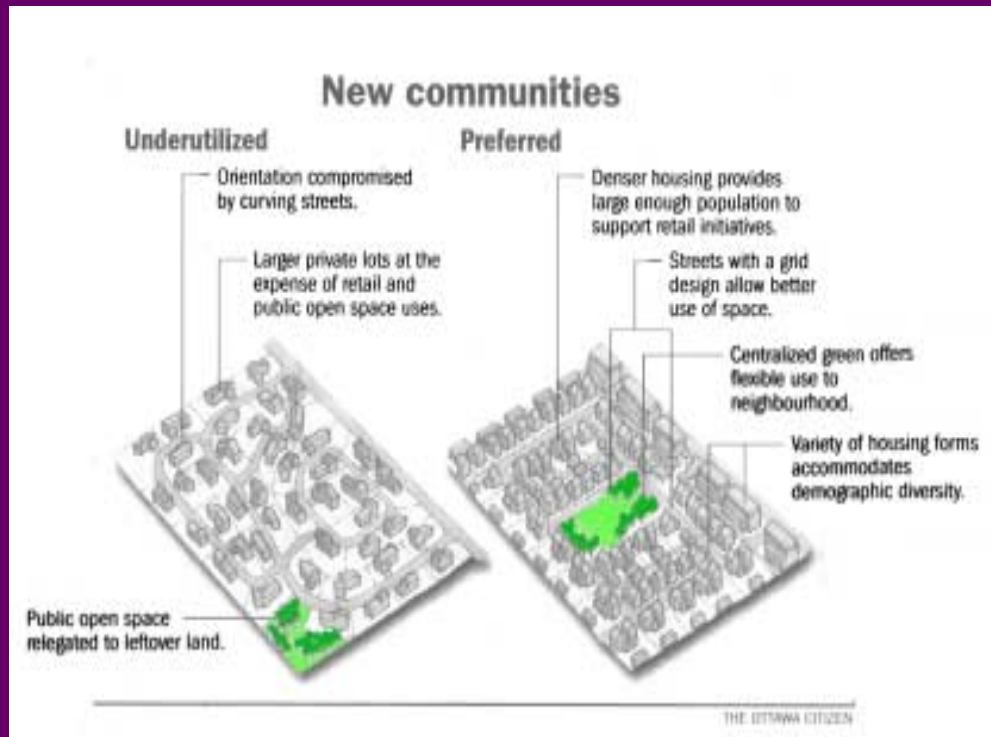
**Green roofs
save energy,
improve air
quality,
absorb
stormwater**



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**Green spaces
facilitate
gentle
intensification,
socialization,
recreation**

Sustainable communities are more compact and denser
Density is far more acceptable to all when immediately
connected to green spaces



Bain Co-op T.O. 1914

55 units per acre



260 units in 25 bldgs

courtyard plan

parking at perimeter and on street

affordable

jobs on site

community composting, gardens,
activities

rainwater reuse

5 minutes to stores and transit

1 minute to park



Bain Co-op

Ecological Protection

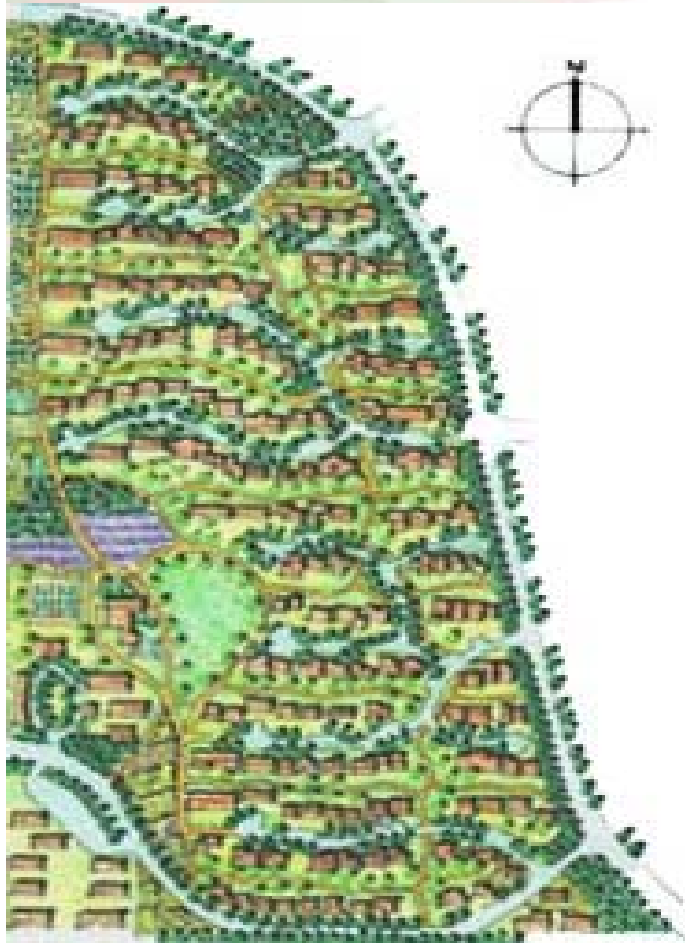
Density and Urban Design

Urban Infill



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Village Homes Davis CA 1974



242 units on 60 acres (650 people)

17 acres of community gardens
(food bills 33% lower)

crime 10% of Davis average

utility costs 50% -70% of neighbours

landscaping uses 66% water for
Davis average

car ownership lower

house values \$10-\$15 per sq.ft over
neighbors (and sell quicker)



Village Homes Davis CA (74)



Surface
stormwater
management,
circulation,
agriculture,
passive heating
and cooling
between
homes

Oslo Norway



Add solar heated apartments to courtyard, use court to purify water. grow food



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Windsong, Langley B.C.



Maintains
density and
green spaces
both

AND

Adds social
amenities as well



Ithaca, New York

187 acre site originally planned as a conventional suburb, with 10% used as communal space. Instead, predicated on principles of co-housing to produce clustered development with 85% of site as communal open space, protected area and organic farm.



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Conservation Co-op

A Built Community in Ottawa

84 unit, 4 story infill community
constructed in Ottawa in 1995.



