



# **Livable Regions and Communities in Appalachia**

Anne E. Keller, Ph.D.  
EPA Region 4, Atlanta, GA

*Downtown View*

Photo Courtesy of Kimberly Bennett

# What Makes a Livable Community?

- Shops, civic buildings, entertainment, services located in central location
- Has a strong, diverse economic engine that can better weather changes
- Is attractive and supports healthy community
- Lasts through good times and challenging ones
- Evolves but keeps its character--provides place for change within context



# Dodge City, KS in 1874



# Asheville, NC



# Cartersville



*Do*  
Photo

*Memorial Car Cruise*

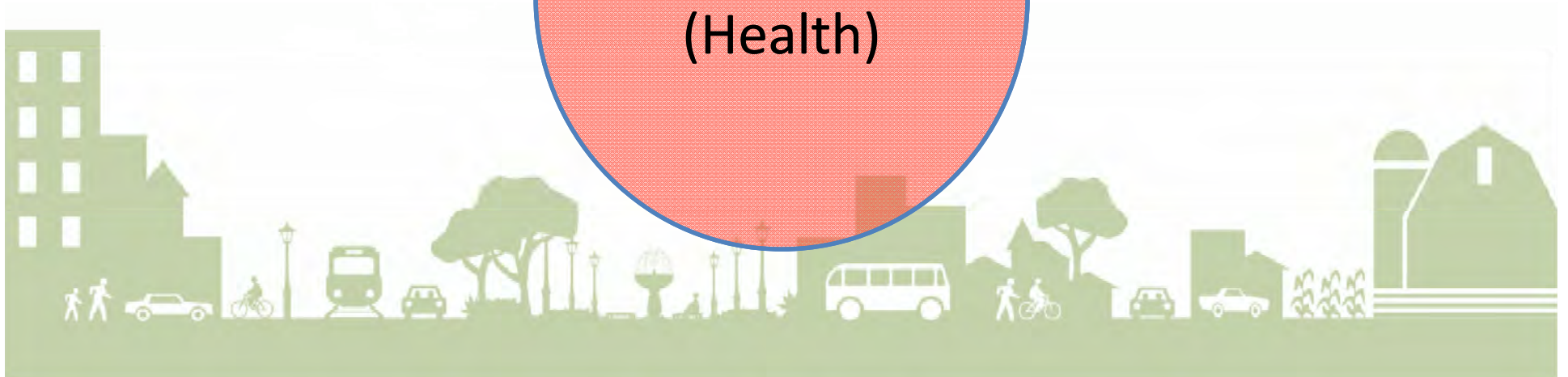
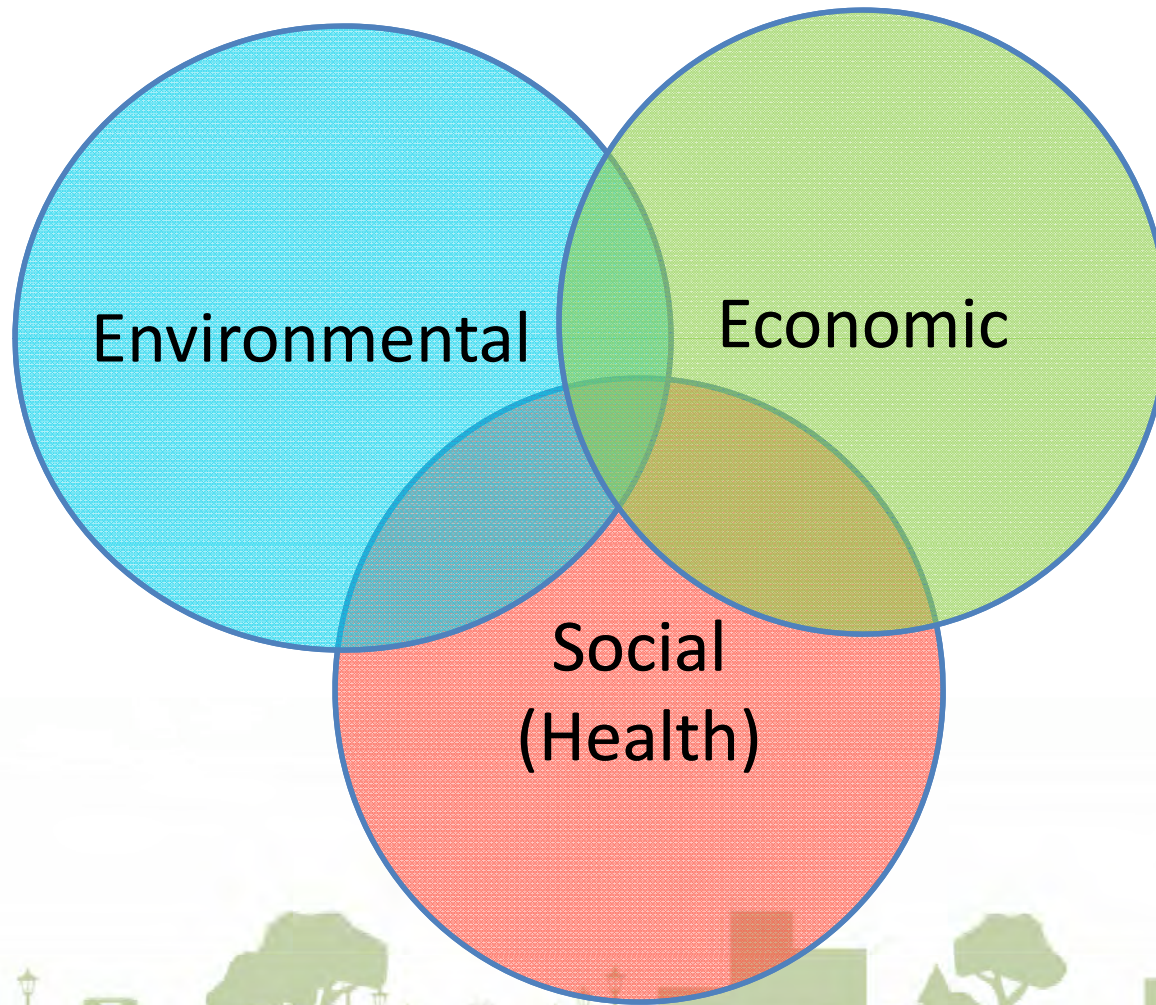


*Downtown Storefronts*

Photo Courtesy of Kimberly Bennett



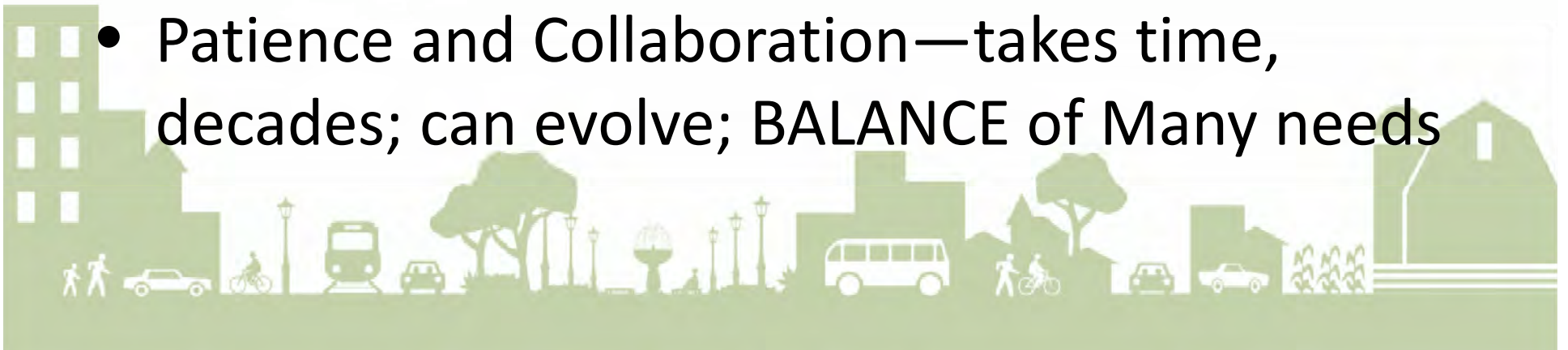
# Elements of a Livable Community Plan



# “Must Haves” .....

## How Do You Get There?

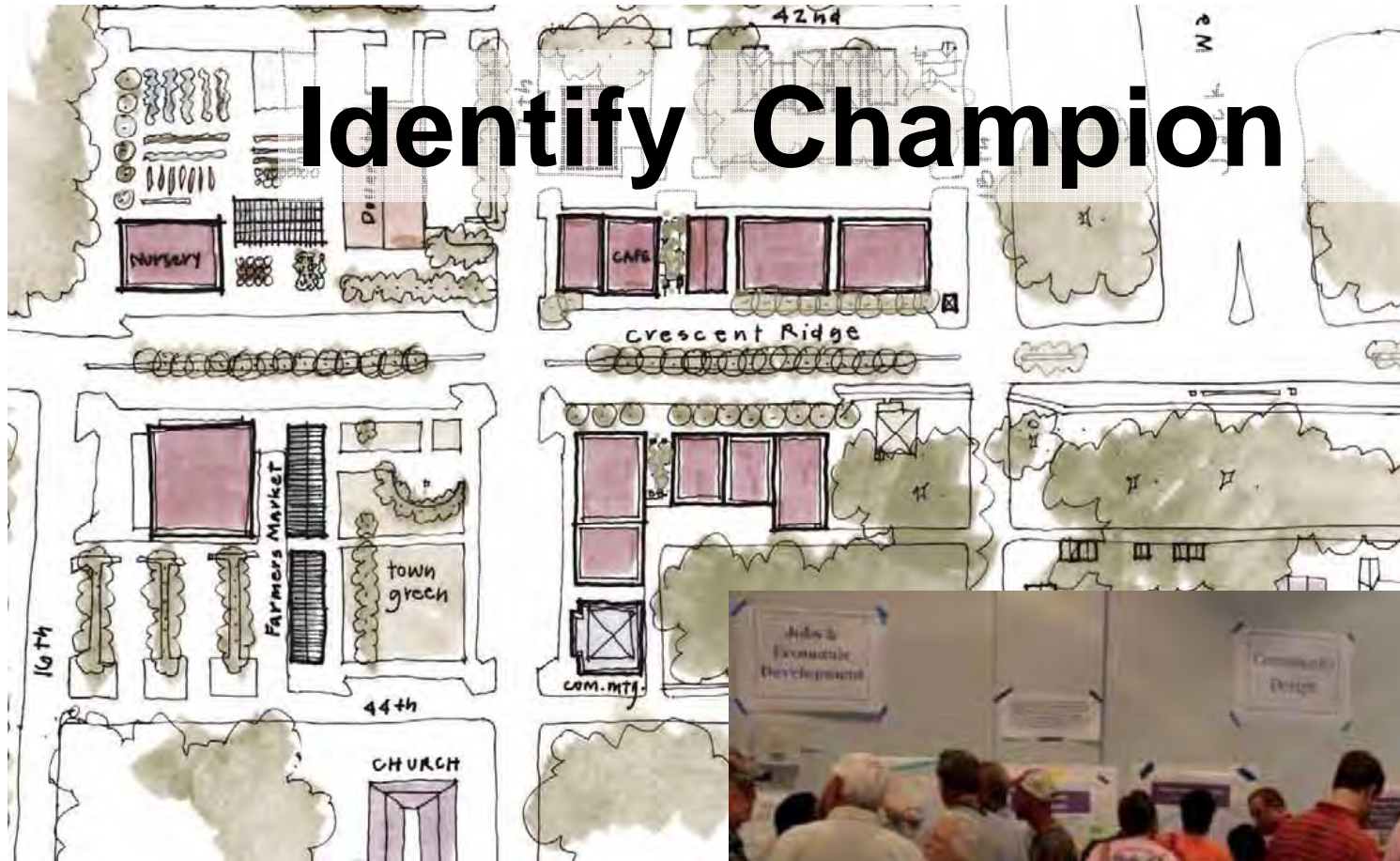
- Shared Vision—community has to agree
- Plan—develop with participation from everyone
- Champion—long term commitment to lead, passion
- Patience and Collaboration—takes time, decades; can evolve; BALANCE of Many needs







# Identify Champion

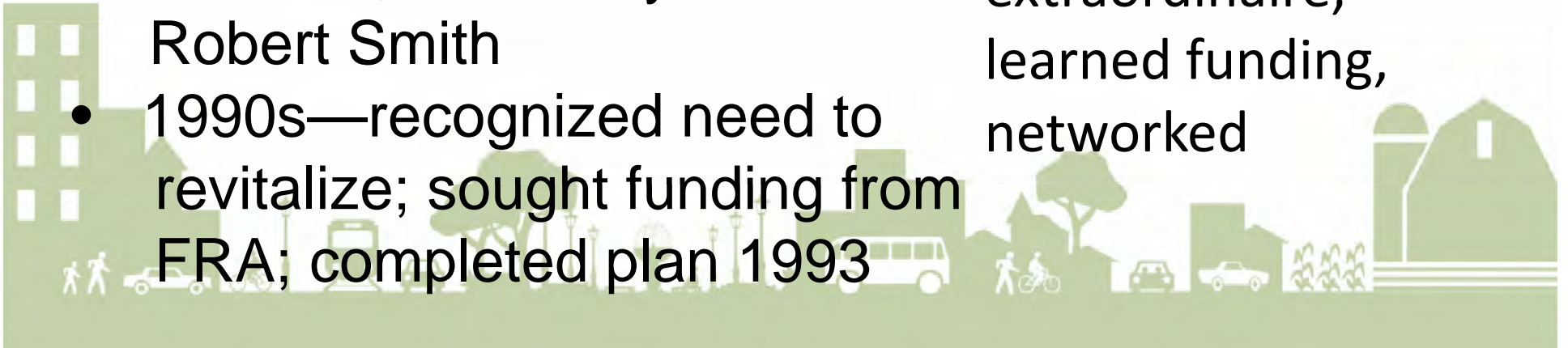


# How Long Does it Take?



- Meridian, MS—Mayor John Robert Smith
- 1990s—recognized need to revitalize; sought funding from FRA; completed plan 1993

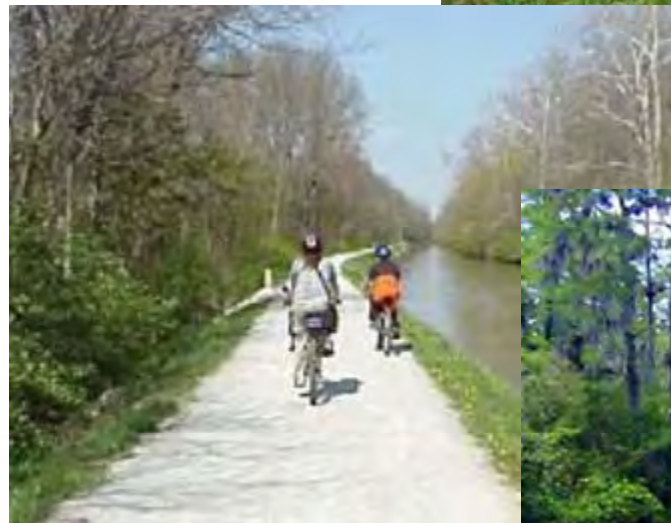
- 1997—Union Station, new multi-modal transit station; additional elements another 8-10 years
- Mayor was champion, storyteller extraordinaire, learned funding, networked





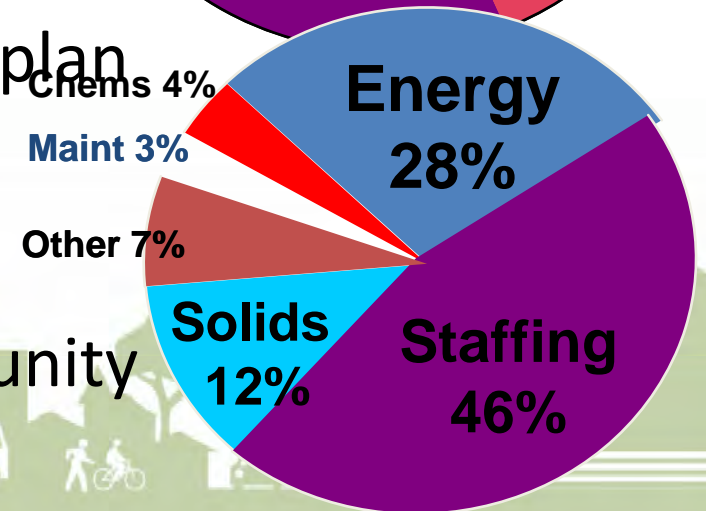
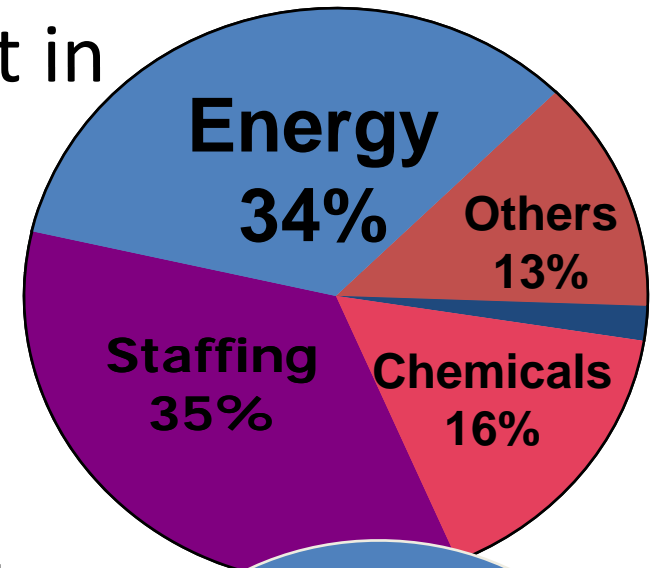
# Environmental Priorities in Rural Communities

- Rain gardens
- Green infrastructure—  
stormwater  
improvements
- Greenways and trails
- Parks
- WWTP—energy  
efficient facilities and  
management



# Energy Management at Water and Wastewater Utilities

- Focus on energy management in WWTP and DWP
- Phased approach
  - Visit the site and evaluate potential ways to save energy
  - Provide training and develop plan
  - Implement plan and monitor results
  - Report to officials and community



# Social Considerations



Places that support the needs of a variety of people

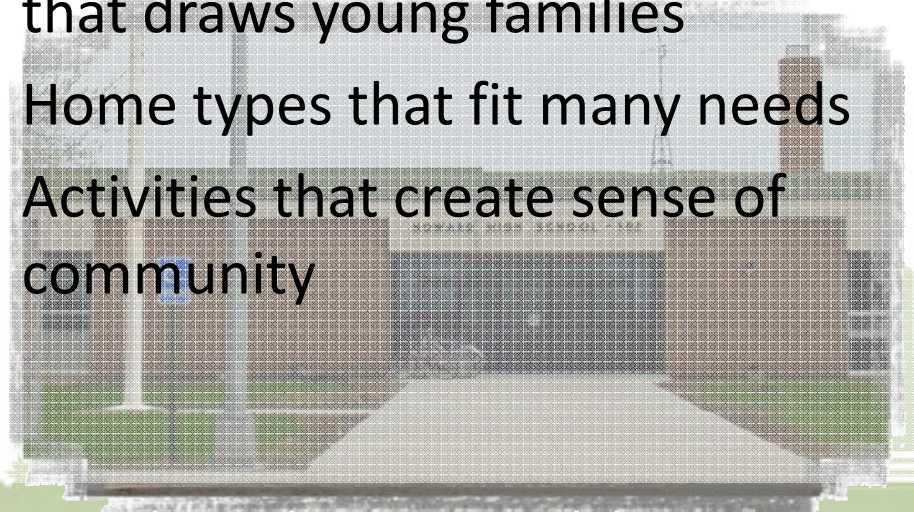
Homes and services for older generation

Activities that attract young people

Community services and security that draws young families

Home types that fit many needs

- Activities that create sense of community

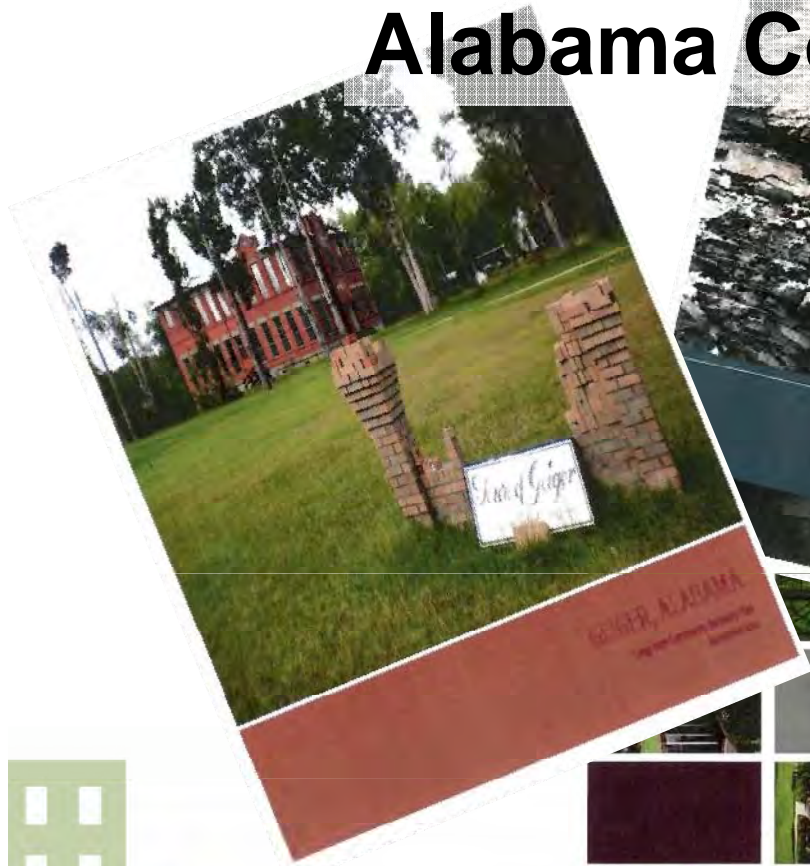


# Economic

- Build in many dimensions, use local/regional assets
- Low impact to infrastructure
- Attract non-profits, artists or small businesses
- Establish community-run businesses that invest in local priorities
- Energy efficient civic buildings, clustering
- Provide opportunity to make a decent living



# Some Priorities Identified by Alabama Communities





# Phil Campbell and Holt

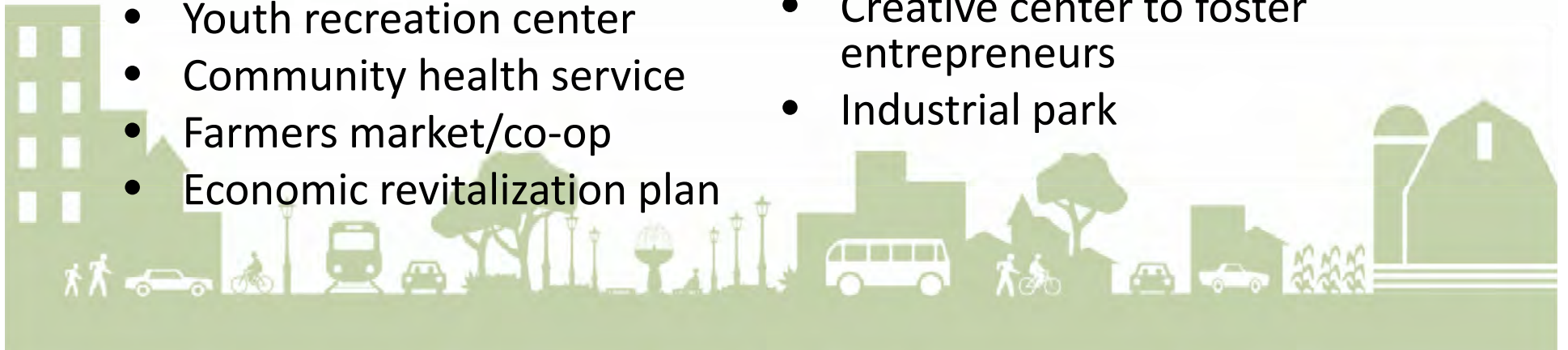
## Phil Campbell

- Land use/zoning
- Jobs
- Return of food store
- Sewer system
- Memorial park
- Pocket parks and playgrounds
- New gateway to community
- Walking and bike trails
- Youth recreation center
- Community health service
- Farmers market/co-op
- Economic revitalization plan

- Outdoor track/basketball
- School technology
- Small business cooperative

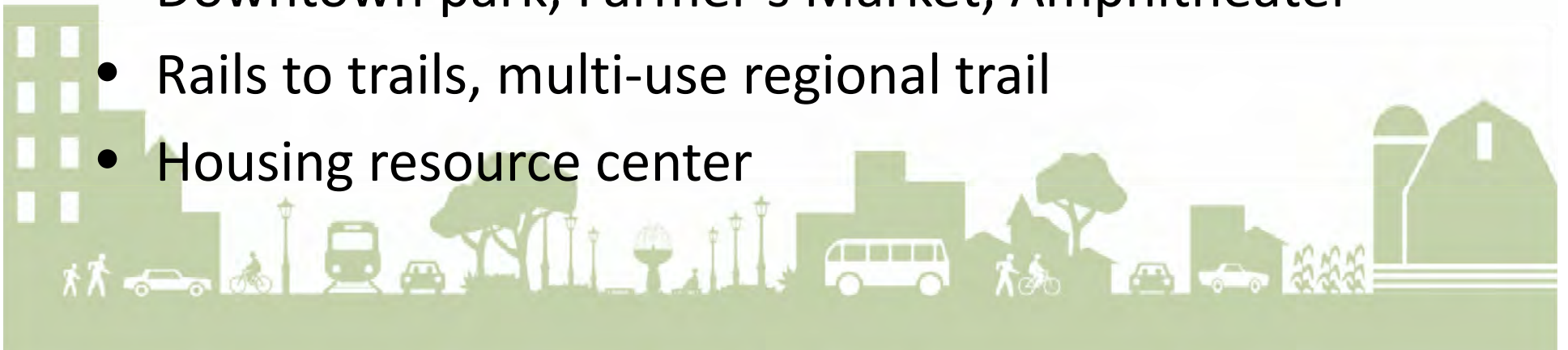
## Holt

- Housing market analysis
- Capacity building for housing and human services
- Community redesign
- Creative center to foster entrepreneurs
- Industrial park



# Hackleburg

- Establish Hackleburg CDC
- Economic and housing market analysis—status and needs
- Main street corridor study
- Sewer
- History center
- Downtown park, Farmer's Market, Amphitheater
- Rails to trails, multi-use regional trail
- Housing resource center



# Greensburg, KS

- New industry—wind turbines
- Trademark for area
- Green buildings—energy efficient and LEED certified
- Tourism—green solution is drawing visitors from around the world



# Miner County, SD

ReImagine Rural: Rural Learning Center - Windows Internet Explorer  
http://rurallearningcenter.org/

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Rural Learning Center

**REINVENT** TAKING HOLD OF NEW IDEAS.  
MAKING THINGS BETTER.

A movement of change is rolling across the landscape as many rural communities pioneer a new future. Rural is taking on an exciting new meaning. Small communities are coming alive with big ideas. People are connecting to each other and to a world of opportunity.

Renewed hope is the driving force. And nobody knows it better than the people of Miner County, South Dakota.

Welcome to a world where we can all ReImagine Rural.

Welcome to the Rural Learning Center.

HOW TO REACH US  
SIGN UP TO KEEP IN TOUCH  
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MINER COUNTY LINK  
NEWS & HAPPENINGS

MARDNEY COMMONS  
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OUR STORY  
OUR WORK  
OUR CENTER  
OUR BLOG

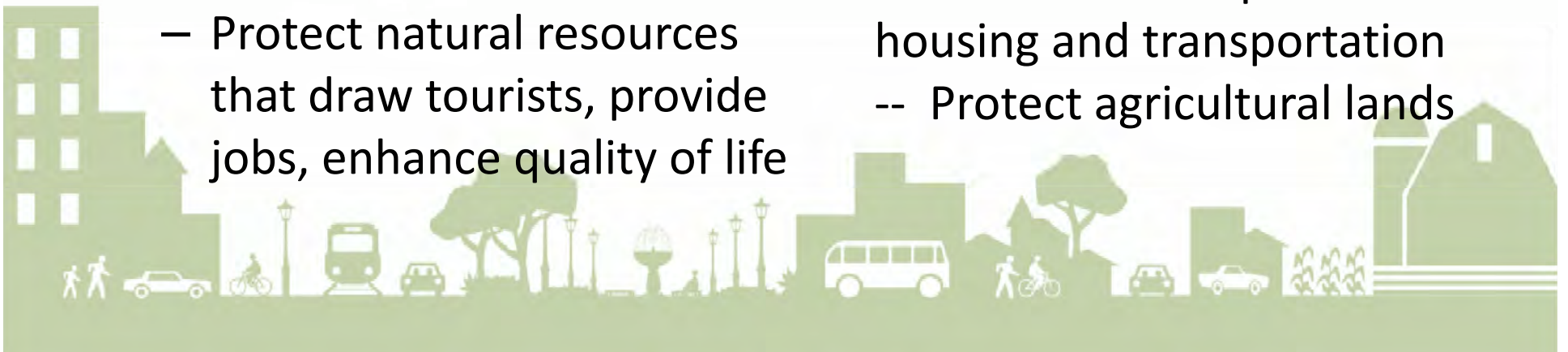
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# Asheville, NC

- Five counties, planning organization
- Several priorities:
  - Maintain character of the area
  - Enhance green manufacturing/business
  - Improve locally produced energy, better access
  - Protect natural resources that draw tourists, provide jobs, enhance quality of life



- Provide more options for housing and transportation
- Protect agricultural lands



# East Tennessee River Valley Geotourism MapGuide

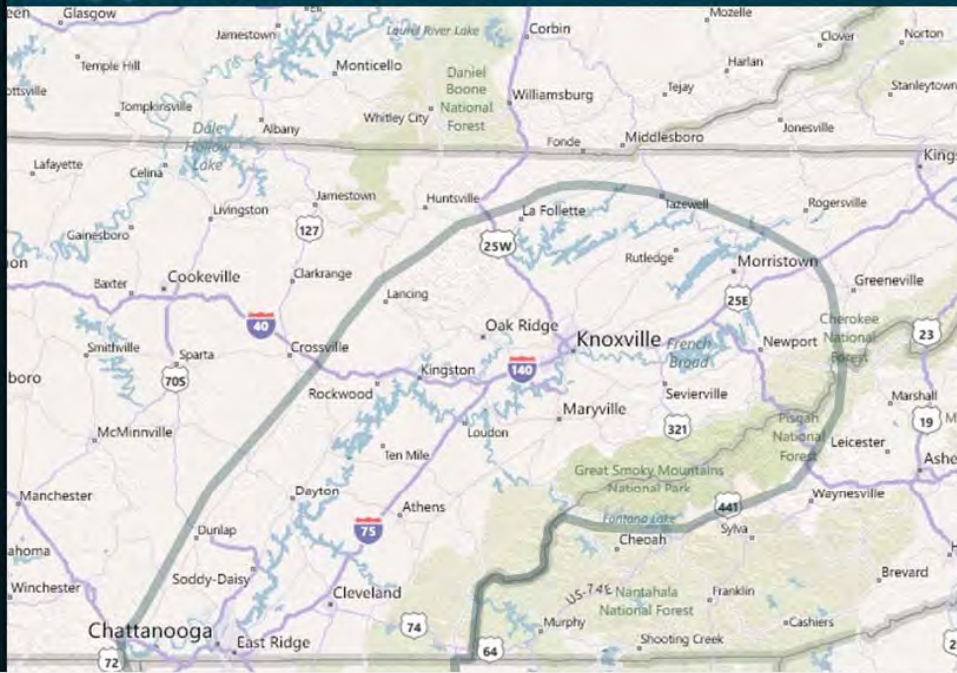


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## Interactive MapGuide

List of Places [View](#)

Zoom + Atlas | Satellite | Hybrid | Terrain

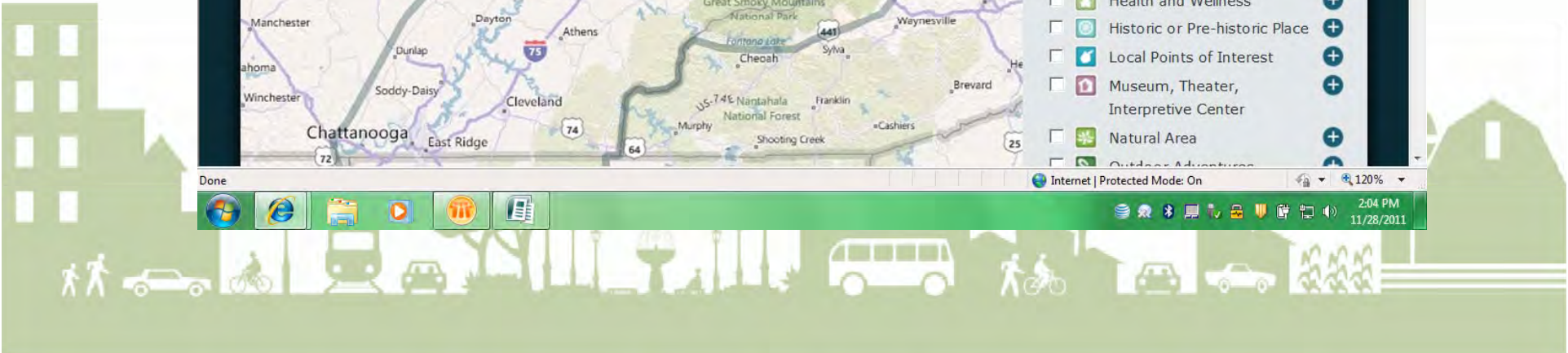


## Show & Search Places

- Show All Places
- Show Only Featured Places
- Search by Keyword
- Show Local Voices
- Show My Favorites [Sign Up or Login](#)

## Category Legend

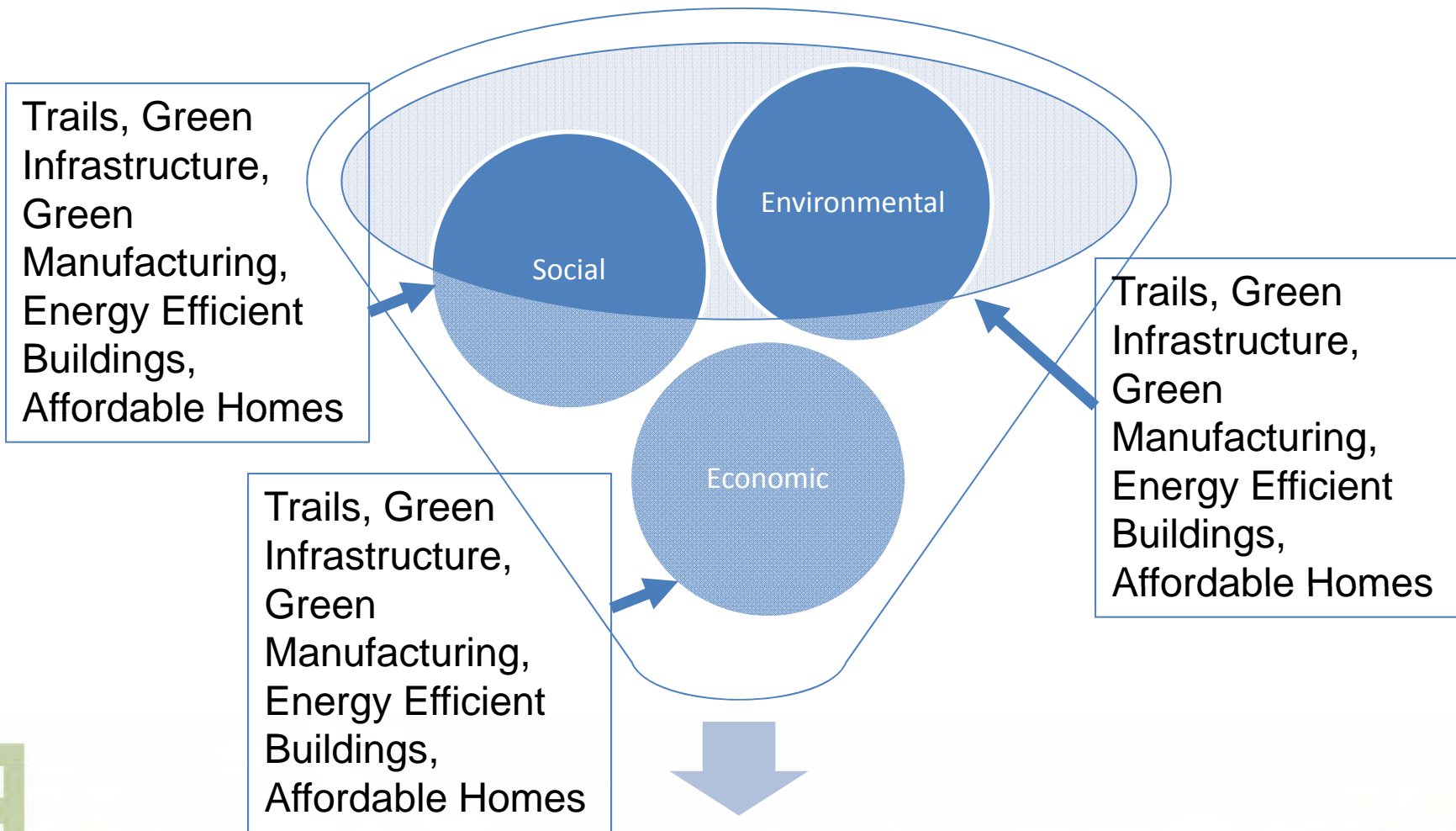
- Select / Deselect All
- Accommodation
- Action Opportunities
- Community
- Festival or Event
- Food or Drink
- Health and Wellness
- Historic or Pre-historic Place
- Local Points of Interest
- Museum, Theater, Interpretive Center
- Natural Area
- Outdoor Adventure



# How Can Rural and Small Towns Build Economic Sustainability?

- Farming—vegetables, cattle, dairy, nuts, fruit
- Value-added products
- Green/light industry
- Tourism
- Warehousing
- Phone banks





## Sustainable Community





# One Last Thought

Change is the price for rural survival.

(Rural Development in the United States,  
William Galston, Karen Baehler; 1994)

