

Tennessee Growth Readiness

The Tennessee Growth Readiness program reached over 300 planners and public works officials serving 270-plus communities since its start in the fall of 2003. Of these, officials serving over 180 communities evaluated development rules and identified changes that will reduce growth's impact on water resources.

Tennessee communities are determined to grow and prosper. Jobs are needed to keep communities whole. New revenue enables them to maintain and enhance community services. Yet they cherish their legacy of natural beauty and bountiful water. The Tennessee Growth Readiness program helps communities learn how land use decisions affect water quality. It gives them resources to comply with regulatory requirements, and to make

informed decisions about how to grow and prosper without losing the quality of life that Tennessee's natural resources afford them.

The Tennessee Growth Readiness program is for planners and public works officials because they are intimately involved in the day-to-day, nuts-and-bolts of their community's land use and water quality decisions. Officials from four communities helped develop and pilot the program for their colleagues in other communities. They worked with the Tennessee Department of Agriculture, UT's Water Resources Research Center, Southeast Watershed Forum and Tennessee

Valley Authority, to build the program from existing best practices by the University of Connecticut, State of Alabama and Center for Watershed Protection.

Tennessee Growth Readiness workshops and technical assistance considered as a whole supports communities' logical progress toward

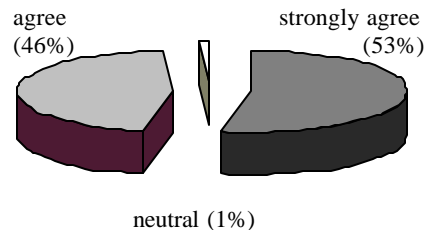


Memphis-area planners and public works officials work together in a TGR workshop. They are developing a proposal for the County Mayor to reduce growth's impact on water resources.

"Our water quality awareness and expected improvements in regulations would have been inconceivable without your well formulated procedures and resources." - Michael Oakes, County Engineer, Shelby County

"My county is one of the fastest growing in Tennessee. Tennessee Growth Readiness has given us a systematic way to think beyond traditional engineering approaches to managing stormwater and to working in partnership with our planning department. My colleagues in other communities have used TGR presentations with elected officials to obtain funds needed to address stormwater issues. The program is a great resource for growing Tennessee communities."

*Robert Karesh
Stormwater Quality Coordinator,
Williamson County*



Here's what participants said when asked if TGR workshops and technical assistance was effective and useful.

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reducing the impact on water resources as they develop. Here is an outline of program resources:

Leadership Training

Participants learn to make presentations and gain support for different approaches to how their community manages growth.

"My staff serves 212 cities and counties in Tennessee. Since our training, we've presented to planning commissions in 45 communities. Also, we're evaluating zoning, subdivision and site design regulations in 155 of our contract communities. The results are helping us make our work plans for these communities. The planners find TGR training extremely valuable. We continue to find opportunities to use what we've learned to help our communities."

*Dan Hawk
Director, State Local Planning Assistance, Tennessee
Department of Economic and Community Development*

Site Planning Roundtable Management Training

Participants learn to evaluate their development rules against model principles, and to lead a consensus building process for adopting new principles and planning practices.

Land Use Planning for Water Quality

Participants learn to make land use allocation decisions that reduce the impact of future growth on water resources. These decisions complement new development rules.

Action Planning

Participants develop a work plan for changing their development rules and processes. The work plan outlines specific actions and responsibilities for participants.

"We used TGR presentation materials extensively to support the Blount County Water Quality Plan. Through the program, the cities of Maryville and Alcoa joined with us to undertake a joint review of regulations, comparing zoning and subdivision regulations with ideal standards relating to water quality."

*John Lamb
Director of Planning, Blount County*

Multiple Jurisdiction Review Workshop

Participants identify how they can work together across jurisdictional boundaries on changes to development rules and processes.

Community Growth Readiness Workshop Series

Through a series of workshops, community opinion leaders come to consensus on changes to their community's development rules and processes.

HOME MATTERS
Government, developers working together
Roundtable strives for environmentally friendly development

By Rhonda Robinson
KNOXVILLE NEWS-SENTINEL

Imagine a neighborhood where apartments overlook a bank and a gas station, attached housing sits next to expensive single-family residences, the streets run different widths, and the residents vary widely in income. Welcome to Sequeyesh Hills, one of Knoxville's

From left, Cindy Ronda, Les LaCamera and Chris Grebb, all with the Knox Site Planning Roundtable, review subdivision plans at the Knox County Department of Engineering and Public Works.

The Knoxville News-Sentinel covered the Site Planning Roundtable as they recommended changes to development rules.