

## *Long Island Planning*

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### Question of the Semester

***What will Long Island  
look like in the future?***

***Can we plan on it?***

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### Need for Planning

- **Most frequent laments of LI residents:**
  - Lack of affordable housing
  - High cost of living
  - Loss of open space
  - Sprawling development
  - Lack sewer systems (sanitary and storm)
  - Inadequate transit infrastructure
  - General quality-of-life issues

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### AND the Need for Contingency Planning

As population density increases, we need to plan for possible changes to Long Island's geography by natural processes:

1. Climate change
2. Sea level rise
3. Direct hit from a hurricane
4. Breach of a barrier island
5. Decrease in available fresh water

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### Planning: The Geography of the Future

- **Site selection and use of land is a human trait that goes back to the beginning of time.**
- The earliest inhabitants of LI made decisions as to where to live based on the availability of food, water and shelter.
- European colonists also made decisions about how to interact with the new land based in part by their traditions.

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### Planning: The Geography of the Future

- Colonists made choices where to build forts, ports and settlements.
- Land was surveyed for settlement, farming and pasturage.
- Village streets were laid out in a (familiar) pattern and land was divided by fences.
- People decided to which areas to link and then how to do so: road, water, rail.

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## Planning: The Geography of the Future

- **Transportation** became the key element as populations moved away from self-sufficiency and towards a money economy.
- **Transportation** became the key to moving people and goods quickly from one area to another.
- As the **time-distance ratio** shrank, people were able to interact with more distant areas in the same or less amount of time.

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## Community Planning

- **Vision: How does our island grow?** by Eric Alexander, Executive Director, Smart Growth Planning Group, Vision Long Island, Opinion, Newsday, July 13, 2008.
- ...many LI residents have been taking the reins of planning...and mapping the future of their own communities...realizing that LI's present land use system is...broken.
- No one said (transformation) would be easy.
- The transformation of LI's suburban communities to meet the needs of our changing population is going to take time and...effort.

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## Robert Moses (1888-1981): The Master Planner and Power Broker

- One of the most debated figures in urban planning.
- His vision and leadership changed the face of downstate NY, especially NYC and LI.
- At one point he held 12 different titles in state and city government.
- Responsible for housing, parks and recreation, transportation and power projects around NYS.

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## Question of the Day

### **The Legacy of Robert Moses on Long Island**

**Did he do good for LI?**

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## Robert Moses' Legacy

- Had more projects in the wings than money to carry them out. But when money was available, he was ready to use it!
- Developed the NYS park system including all the state beach parks of Long Island.
- Focused on getting people to natural features.
- Saw the auto as the people mover of the future.
- Favored parkways over highways or expressways and mass transit.

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## Robert Moses' Legacy

- He set aside parkland for people's use and enjoyment. He designed parkways (landscaped, slow speed, curved roads with low-hanging overpasses) to connect the parks. Usually blocked mass-transit projects.
- The **Belt Parkway system** in Brooklyn and Queens created a strip of storefront parks but cut off neighborhoods from the shoreline.
- The **Northern State, Southern State, and Wantagh State parkways** linked LI parks.

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## Robert Moses' Legacy

- Developed the “**housing tower in a park**” method of urban development but destroyed neighborhoods to build them.
- He built highways to connect parts of the city without regard for neighborhood cohesiveness.
- When Federal money shifted to expressways, he built the **Long Island Expressway** and other high speed highways in the region.

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## Regional Plan Association

- RPA is America's oldest (1922) and most distinguished independent urban research and advocacy group. ([www.rpa.org](http://www.rpa.org))
- RPA prepares long range plans and policies to guide the growth and development of the New York- New Jersey-Connecticut metropolitan region.**
- It has a separate Long Island office.
- RPA enjoys broad support from the region's and nation's business, philanthropic, civic, and planning communities.

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## Regional Plan Association



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## Regional Plan Association

### Planning process impediments:

- Downtowns have been built for cars not people.
- Zoning codes need to be updated.
- LI needs more rentals.
- Maximums set without setting minimums.
- Planning narrowly focused without the big picture in mind.



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## LI Regional Planning Council

- The LIRPC was formed in 2008** from the original Long Island Regional Planning Board **for the purpose of promoting the physical, economic and social health and well-being of the Long Island region** (Nassau and Suffolk counties) and its residents.
- The main goal of the LIRPC is to educate Long Island's officials, stakeholders and residents on key issues affecting the quality of life on Long Island, and to serve as a catalyst for action** by proposing immediate and long-term implemental solutions for these issues of regional concern.

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## LI Regional Planning Council

### Scenarios for 2035

- Distributing growth throughout Long Island.
- Concentrating growth around existing transit network.
- Developing new centers of population and jobs.



Sustainable Strategies for  
Long Island 2035  
December, 2010

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## Smart Growth

**The *Smart Growth Policy Plan for Suffolk County* defines it as:**

*"Anticipating and providing for sensible growth, balancing jobs and economic development with preservation of the natural environment and the historical community fabric."*

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## Smart Growth Report for Suffolk Co.

**Suffolk County Smart Growth Committee Report: ANALYSIS AND PRIORITIZATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SMART GROWTH POLICY PLAN FOR SUFFOLK COUNTY**

November 2003

**Suffolk County Department of Planning  
Suffolk County, New York**

1. Encourage the development of area-wide plans that address drinking water resources as well as provide for a reallocation of density to permit compact centers and open space.  
 2. Allow the transfer of development rights from county parcels.  
 3. Encourage new sewer districts and public water supply.  
 4. Enable the purchase of non-farm development rights.  
 5. Encourage a variety of housing choices.

## Smart Growth Report

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## 2011 Suffolk County Comprehensive Plan

**Demographic/Economic Trends**

- Population Changes and Forecasts
- Development Trends
- Employment Trends
- Economic Trends

**Natural Resources**

- Ground Water
- Surface Water
- Coastal Resources

Wildlife/Plant Habitat Critical Environmental Areas Wetlands Air Quality Agricultural Lands

**Land Use**

- Inventory by County and Towns
- Institutional - Public Facilities
- Land Available for Development

Saturation Rate of Growth Housing – Current/ Future Commercial - Conditions by Sector Land Needed for Conservation of Resources

**Human and Cultural Resources**

- Social Equity
- Environmental Justice

Education Historic and Cultural Resources

**Energy Supply/Consumption**

- Usage Trends

Carbon Impact Conservation of Resources

**Solid Waste**

- Reduction
- Reuse
- Recycle

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## 2006 Nassau County Strategic Vision

**Future Vision for Nassau County –**

Improve Quality of Life and Address Challenges by:

1. Encouraging High-Skilled/High-Tech/High-Pay Industries
2. Supporting Sports, Entertainment and Tourism
3. Developing Next Generation and Senior Housing
4. Revitalizing Historic Downtowns
5. Developing the Nassau "Hub"
6. Addressing Needs of Emerging Minority Communities
7. Redeveloping Abandoned Brownfield Properties
8. Protecting Open Space and Natural Resources
9. Improving Public Transit Connections and Usage
10. Focusing on Educational Opportunities and Needs

**Nassau County Strategic Vision**

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## 2006 Nassau County Strategic Vision

**Implement the Vision: Summary of Opportunities**

1. Target selected downtown areas for revitalization.  
 2. Focus on emerging minority communities.  
 3. Transform brownfield sites into usable areas.  
 4. Create a Nassau Hub Transit system

**Nassau County Strategic Vision**

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## 2007 Nassau County Strategic Plan for Economic Development

**High-Tech/High-Skilled Industry** – Attracting new business, creating new jobs  
**Downtowns** – Working to revitalize traditional downtowns  
**Minority/Under-Served Communities** -- Integrating resources for sustainable growth  
**Brownfields** – Redeveloping abandoned and contaminated sites  
**Workforce and Senior Housing** – Finding housing solutions for groups in-need  
**Open Space** – Protecting the beauty and integrity of suburban life  
**Transportation** – Identifying new transit options for the Nassau Hub  
**Education** – Bringing attention to the need for improved public schools

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## Question of the Semester

**Soooo...**  
***What will Long Island look like in the future?***

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