

SMART GROWTH IN ACTION

San Juan Pueblo Master Land Use Plan

SAN JUAN PUEBLO, NEW MEXICO

The San Juan Pueblo, just north of Santa Fe, New Mexico, has been inhabited for over 700 years. In 2000, San Juan Pueblo tribal members initiated a community planning process to articulate and implement a long-term vision for the pueblo. At community design meetings, the elders recalled, "There was always an eye on you as a child and everyone felt they could count on their neighbor."

The resulting pueblo-wide Master Land Use Plan, approved in 2001, builds off these sentiments. The plan is the first smart growth model for Native American tribes. It provides a long-term growth strategy, coordinates existing infrastructure with housing and commercial development, preserves the walkable historic plazas, and encourages retail and commercial uses in a "main street" style. The plan also includes design guidelines that enhance the traditional building pattern to preserve the architectural heritage of the pueblo, fostering a distinctive sense of place.

The Tribal Planning Department, created in 2002, guides, manages, and implements the plan and improves inter-departmental coordination of infrastructure, economic development, and housing. A Community Advisory Council of neighborhood representatives advises the Planning Department's director, who encourages residents to participate in growth and development decisions within the San Juan Pueblo.

The first project implemented under the Master Land Use Plan is Tsigo Bugeh Village, which was completed in 2003. The 40-unit development mixes market-rate and affordable rental housing and includes a community center with a large kitchen, computer and exercise rooms, and laundry facilities. The project is a model of culturally appropriate, affordable design that will help the San Juan Pueblo community sustain itself for future generations. The San Juan Pueblo is an example for Native American communities everywhere; the Planning Department is sharing the lessons it learned with other tribes across the country. In 2004, the EPA honored San Juan Pueblo with its Small Communities Smart Growth Achievement Award.

*"It's traditional living with a modern touch."
— Tomasita Duran, Executive Director, Ohkay Owingeh Housing Authority*

QUICK FACTS

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Location: San Juan Pueblo, New Mexico
Website: www.epa.gov/livablecommunities/sg_awards_publication_2004.htm
Implemented: 2000



SMART GROWTH PRINCIPLES SAN JUAN PUEBLO LAND USE PLAN

#1	Includes Mixed Land Uses	✓
#2	Exhibits Compact Building Design	✓
#3	Provides Range of Housing Types	✓
#4	Promotes Walkable Neighborhoods	★
#5	Exhibits a Distinct Sense of Place	★
#6	Preserves Open Space	✓
#7	Utilizes Existing Development	✓
#8	Provides Transportation Choices	✓
#9	Practices Fair Decision-making	✓
#10	Promotes Stakeholder Participation	★