

## IOWA SMART PLANNING LAW

The Iowa Smart Planning law (SF 2389) does not mandate how communities should grow. Rather, it requires that communities and state agencies consider Smart Planning Principles when planning for the future and provides guidance concerning important elements local plans should include.

### PART ONE

#### Iowa Smart Planning Principles

- Establishes Iowa Smart Planning Principles as a guide for decision making while developing local comprehensive plans.
- Directs state agencies to integrate the Iowa Smart Planning Principles into state programs and investment decision-making.

### PART TWO

#### Definition and Guidance

- Provides guidance for developing a local comprehensive plan.

### PART THREE

#### Iowa Smart Planning Task Force

Establishes a task force to:

- Develop statewide goals consistent with the Iowa Smart Planning Principles and work with State agencies to integrate Principles into appropriate State programs.
- Recommend an effective and efficient State planning and coordination structure.
- Recommend assistance necessary to support and incentivize local planning.
- Recommend a framework for regional planning and collaboration.
- Deliver a report to the Governor and General Assembly by Nov. 15, 2010.



Additional information about  
Iowa Smart Planning is available at  
[www.rio.iowa.gov/smart\\_planning](http://www.rio.iowa.gov/smart_planning).



For more information, contact:  
Aaron Todd  
515-242-5299  
[aaron.todd@rio.iowa.gov](mailto:aaron.todd@rio.iowa.gov)

Published by the Rebuild Iowa Office  
[www.rio.iowa.gov](http://www.rio.iowa.gov)

JUNE 2010

## WHAT IS COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING?

Comprehensive planning is a transparent, public process in which communities establish a future vision and locally-designated standards in order to promote public health, safety and prosperity.

Successful planning attracts economic development, protects and preserves the community's resources, and encourages a strong community identity.



## WHERE ARE WE NOW?

Currently, Iowa:

- has a limited framework for regional collaboration, relying on local entities to resolve issues that extend beyond one jurisdiction's boundaries.
- does not adequately support financial and technical resources needed to assist communities in completing an effective planning process.

These issues will be addressed by Iowa's Smart Planning Task Force.

## WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?

### Smart Plans Ensure Local Decision-Making.

Smart Planning:

- encourages civic involvement and ensures that community members have a voice in the future of their communities.
- encourages the maintenance of rural character and strong community identities.
- identifies a community's priorities and strengths and guides decision-making.

### Smart Plans Attract Dollars and Spur Action.

Smart Planning:

- produces resilient communities which in turn attract economic development.
- proactively markets a region to attract opportunities for citizens, businesses and government.
- identifies priority projects and attracts greater private and public investment.

### Smart Plans are a Practical Way to Protect and Enhance Resources.

Smart Planning:

- facilitates good fiscal management.
- reduces the impact of natural and man-made hazards.
- promotes the protection and preservation of sensitive and working lands, property and human life.

## IOWA SMART PLANNING PRINCIPLES

- Collaboration
- Efficiency, Transparency and Consistency
- Clean, Renewable and Efficient Energy
- Occupational Diversity
- Revitalization
- Housing Diversity
- Community Character
- Natural Resources and Agricultural Protection
- Sustainable Design
- Transportation Diversity

