

Smart Growth for Source Water Protection

FORUM SERIES REPORT

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Developed for Beaver Watershed Alliance, October 2023
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Purpose and Description of Report

The purpose of this report is to document and celebrate the impact that the 2023 Beaver Watershed Alliance Smart Growth for Source Water Protection Forums had for expanding the ability of stakeholders to take action in implementing Smart Growth practices across Northwest Arkansas and the Beaver Lake Watershed and beyond. The report describes the purpose of the program. It provides background information related to the formation of the program, as well as highlighting the meaning and the science of Smart Growth. The report provides an overview of the methodology used to develop the program and discusses the program layout, rollout, the outcomes of the forums, and the goals and successes shared by participants. Lastly, it provides recommendations for next steps that the Alliance, the community, as well as for individuals can take to keep momentum behind the Smart Growth initiatives generated during the program.

Background

The Beaver Watershed Alliance (Alliance) was formed in 2011 to establish programming to maintain high-quality drinking water in Beaver Lake and improve water quality in the Beaver Lake watershed. The Alliance represents a diverse stakeholder group from conservation, education, water utilities, technical and science, business, agriculture, recreation, and local government groups working together for the cause of clean water. The Alliance's mission is to proactively protect, enhance, and sustain the water quality of Beaver Lake and the integrity of its watershed.

In 2022, the Beaver Watershed Alliance received a grant from the Arkansas Department of Agriculture to develop a program with the mission of increasing the implementation of Smart Growth and LID design in the Beaver Lake watershed and Northwest Arkansas. As part of this program and its funding, they set out to install 3 LID features within the Beaver Lake watershed. One is to be located in the City of Fayetteville at the Huntsville Avenue and McClinton Street improvements. Another is to be located in the City of West Fork and will be incorporated into the library parking lot designs. A central piece of the program funding was to produce, facilitate, and host six (6) public forums on the topic of Smart Growth for Source Water Protection. The final piece of the overall program that was laid out was to host a conference on Smart Growth and Low Impact Development that would build on the 6 Smart Growth Forums created over the course of the year. This report is a compilation of the activities and outcomes of the forums and provides recommendations for the future conference that will be developed and hosted over the coming months.

The Purpose and Objective of the Smart Growth Forums

The purpose of the Smart Growth for Source Water Protection Forums was to increase efficacy in taking action on Smart Growth in our region. The approach was to facilitate 6 public forums focused on regional development, with an emphasis on watershed management processes and practices, adoption of Low Impact Development, challenges and issues, and model frameworks (local or beyond) for resilient cities. The objectives were to 1) better understand the issues and challenges that communities face in terms of water management through forums and surveys,

2) provide regionally appropriate technical assistance to communities with local information and guidance for successful Smart Growth based on results from the forums, 3) increase communication and leadership throughout all NWA cities, urban and rural, to connect on a regional level for water protection and restoration.

Method of program development

In order to determine the best approach for the forum series, the Beaver Watershed Alliance team convened a Steering Committee of regional Smart Growth experts and advocates to advise on the format, tone, content, and stakeholder engagement for the forums. The Steering Committee was made up of representatives from Beaver Watershed Alliance, the University of Arkansas Community Design Center, the University of Arkansas Agricultural Extension, Garver Engineering, Crafton-Tull Engineering, the Illinois River Watershed Partnership, and the Urban Land Institute of Northwest Arkansas. This group advised the team to design the Smart Growth Forums in a way that facilitated and inspired leadership and action on implementing Smart Growth in the region.

This mandate by the Steering Committee was very important in shaping the vision for the forum. It led to developing the forums as part of a 6-part series, creating forum topics that were designed to align with the methodology found in Adaptive Leadership which builds individual leadership capacity in navigating complex challenges (Heifetz, Grashow, and Linsky, 2009). The forum series, as a result, focused on building participant capacity for leading change for Smart Growth, focusing on techniques for developing the group's ability to articulate their vision, connect with what motivates them, think systematically, understand the benefits and risks, build stakeholder buy-in, align with current policies and codes, and think politically to know when to effectively speak up and lead change. The theory of change for the series was that 1) because the community has had several existing programs that teach the technical aspects of Smart Growth, and 2) because the majority of forum participants would already be familiar with Smart Growth as a concept, 3) this program would be designed to focus on building the leadership capacity of participants so that they would be able to go put into the world and mobilize others to implement Smart Growth designs and decision-making.

Overall Program Layout

The program was developed using an in-person, interactive group discussion format that incorporated on-site tours of examples of Smart Growth and Low Impact Development designs found in Northwest Arkansas (Table 1). The forums took place in a variety of locations around Northwest Arkansas in an effort to reach as many stakeholders across the region as possible. They were hosted in Springdale, Arkansas at the Regional Planning offices, Rogers, AR at the Rogers-Lowell Chamber of Commerce, Fayetteville, Arkansas at the Fayetteville Public Library, and in Fayetteville, Arkansas at the University of Arkansas Agricultural Extension offices. Forum 1, called "What do we want for our community?," focused on connecting participants with what they want to create for our community and what drives them to do this work of creating more Smart Growth that protects source water. Forum 2, called "What do we need to know?," explored what we need to know about the system in order to better know where to take action. Forum 3, called "What's in it for me?," explored economic models and incentives for facilitating

action on Smart Growth. Forum 4, called “What’s going on now?,” hosted a discussion on current city planning codes in NWA that either encourage or restrict Smart Growth design across municipalities. Forum 5, called, “What the “hales a swale?,”” took time to better understand the stakeholders’ needs in order to make progress on the Smart Growth goals and how to engage them in creating a new way of operating. Lastly, Forum 6, called “How can we lead change?,” focused on building individual capacity to understand the politics of group dynamics and the practice of mindfully navigating those politics to bring about positive change for Smart Growth (Appendix A).

Forum Series Rollout

The Forum series began with an email invitation and registration request that went out to 1,146 individuals in early spring of 2023. As part of the registration process, participants for the upcoming Smart Growth Forum Series were requested to submit their Smart Growth goal in preparation for the upcoming events. The communications also invited attendees to attend all six (6) of the forums, noting that the sessions would build on each other and that the more sessions each person attended, the more relationships would be built within the Smart Growth community. Overall, the forums convened over 200 participants from around NWA and from diverse roles (Table 2). Many of the participants attended multiple sessions, 7 of which attended all 6 forums.

Forum #1, called “*What Do We Want for Our Community?*” took place on April 27th, 2023 at the Northwest Arkansas Planning Offices in Springdale, Arkansas with 32 people in attendance. The focus of the session was on reconnecting participants with their vision for what they want to create for the future of source water protection in Northwest Arkansas. The group shared their vision for what they want to create in the region (Appendix B) and what calls them to do the work of sustainability (Appendix C), and then workshopped their Smart Growth goals in small groups to begin practicing articulating those goals and describing what they will need in order to achieve those goals (Table 3).

Forum #2, called “*What Do We Need to Know?*” took place on May 18, 2023 at the Chamber of Commerce in Rogers, Arkansas with 35 people in attendance. During this session the group explored the tools, programs, and the systems in place that they need to know about in order to move forward with achieving their Smart Growth goals. We had panelists from the Beaver Watershed Alliance, the Illinois River Watershed Partnership, Garver Engineering, Crafton-Tull Engineering, and the University of Arkansas Agricultural Extension who shared the diverse programs in place that provide information and tools about how to design and implement Smart Growth so that source water is protected. The discussion pointed participants towards existing resources on how to design for Smart Growth. The session closed with a tour of Smart Growth examples in downtown Rogers where Lance Jobe of the City of Rogers described the programs in place that are incentivizing and facilitating the implementation of Smart Growth.

Forum #3, called “*What’s in it for Me?*” took place on June 1, 2023 at the Beaver Water District offices in Lowell, Arkansas with 23 people in attendance. During this session, Trish Ouei welcomed the group and highlighted the efforts that Beaver Water District undertakes to

promote Low Impact Development use in the watershed. Participants then had the opportunity to hear from Devin Howland with the City of Fayetteville and James McCarty with Beaver Water District on the economic incentives that can be created to encourage people to choose Smart Growth designs when planning their communities. In pairs, participants discussed the economic incentive models that could help them achieve their Smart Growth goals. Lastly, the group toured examples of low impact development designs located at the Beaver Water District Headquarters.

Forum #4, called “*What’s Going On Now?*” took place on July 13, 2023 at the Fayetteville Public Library in Fayetteville, Arkansas with 48 people in attendance. During this session the group focused on exploring the current planning and zoning codes in the region with a special guest speaker, John McCurdy of the City of Rogers. John gave an inspiring talk about what is working in the region, what is not working, and what policies and codes are needed if the region is going to successfully protect the beauty and the source water as population and development continues to grow. As part of this session, the participants answered the question, “What planning and zoning codes would you like to see created in NWA?” In response, they shared five (5) themes that they felt passionate about achieving for the region (Table 4). The group was asked if there were those who wanted to champion each of the 5 areas. Those who were interested in championing raised their hands and led small group discussions on identifying the problem, a potential solution to the problem, and the stakeholders they would need at the table to begin to take next steps.

Forum #5, called “*What the ‘hales the swale’?*” took place on August 17, 2023 at the Washington County Agricultural Extension offices in Fayetteville, Arkansas with 34 people in attendance. During this session we explored the challenges in mobilizing key stakeholders to one’s goals for Smart Growth, specifically focusing on the 5 areas they identified in Forum #4 (Table 4). The group viewed a video presentation by Derek Severs on the topic of leadership. They then got into their groups for the 5 topic areas and analyzed how they can best mobilize key stakeholders to follow them as they speak up for and advocate for Smart Growth in the region. The groups toured the grounds of the Agricultural Extension office to view examples of Smart Growth and low impact development design.

Forum #6, called “How can we lead change?” took place on September 28, 2023 at the Fayetteville Public Library in Fayetteville, Arkansas with 27 in attendance. The session focused on building participants’ capacity to lead change. The presentation focused on building understanding of the principles of Adaptive Leadership, highlighting the skills needed to navigate complex problems and bring about systemic change. The presentation explored the difference between authority and leadership, as well as the difference between technical and adaptive challenges. Lastly, the group learned about how to improve their ability to think politically and how to “get on the balcony” so that they can be mindful about the roles that people play when experiencing change. The participants gathered into their 5 topic areas (Table 4) and went through a peer advising protocol process to build clarity into the goals they are trying to reach.

Outcomes

The key outcomes from the Smart Growth Forum Series can be seen in several aspects of the program. The first, and likely the most important, comes from the value of connecting with others in the community who have a shared vision of clean water and healthy communities. In the final survey for the series, 100% of respondents shared that “networking” was the most important part of the Forum Series that enabled them to take action on their Smart Growth goal. Part of this important outcome from the Forum Series is the work the group did to articulate their vision for Northwest Arkansas and the source water of the region. In Appendix B, you can view the vision statements that participants shared early in the forum series and in Table 3 you can view the Smart Growth goals that participants worked on throughout the duration of the series. By taking time to articulate their vision and goals, share them with others, and discuss them, they found that others are supportive. Participants shared that this was very motivating for them as they made progress towards achieving their goals for Smart Growth.

Another important outcome from the Forum Series was the ability of some participants to make tangible progress on their Smart Growth goals as a result of the connections and discussions made during the forum series. For example, some participants were already in roles in their organizations or communities where they could move forward easily in mobilizing others to action. This was seen by Bonny Stitt, a resident and planning commissioner who shared that she was able to convene stakeholders in her community for the first time on the topic of Smart Growth, with a goal of inspiring her community to see the environmental and economic benefits of implementing Smart Growth practices. You can read her inspiring testimonial in Figure 2. Another example of a participant who was able to make progress as a result of the Forum Series was Kelsey Criswell, a Water Resources Engineer in the community. She shared that knowing that there are people actively working towards creating more Smart Growth in the region reignited her passion for sustainability and motivated her to take action. The series provided her with the focus, knowledge, and vocabulary that enabled her to further integrate Smart Growth into her work, and lastly, she shared that she was able to build a network of partners with whom she has already started working in order to implement Smart Growth projects in the region. Read more about Kelsey’s perspectives in Figure 3.

One of the outcomes of the Forum Series was creating more clarity about the types of programs, initiatives, and resources that are available for those who want to know more about how to implement Smart Growth. Several participants shared that it was very helpful to discuss the need for planning codes across the region, recognizing that there are many inconsistencies and gaps across communities. By learning about this need, it provided clarity for participants on where to focus their efforts and in what communities. Participants also shared that it was very helpful to go through the peer advising protocol for their smart growth challenge because it helped them to have someone listen to their ideas and ask them questions about them. This helped them build more clarity into how to articulate what they want to create, what steps to take next, and what to consider as they move forward.

An outcome that will benefit the Beaver Watershed Alliance and other watershed partnerships in the region is the outcome of having identified five (5) Smart Growth Action Areas chosen by

regional stakeholders (Table 4). These 5 themes were identified by the region's most experienced and knowledgeable stakeholders on the topic of Smart Growth. This prioritization can help watershed organizations improve their outreach to stakeholders, align their programs with what interests stakeholders, and can help watershed organizations like Beaver Watershed Alliance communicate with their funders about the projects that are most relevant to the community.

Recommendations

Based on the outcomes from the Smart Growth for Source Water Protection Forum Series, the following actions are recommended. It is recognized that Beaver Watershed Alliance will be hosting a conference in the coming year on the topic of Smart Growth. The following recommendations are intended to go beyond that conference with the hope that the conference can be a place where stakeholders can be invited to the ongoing efforts proposed.

First, it is recommended that the Beaver Watershed Alliance and its partners continue to convene this and other groups related to Smart Growth. The most frequent feedback provided by participants was their interest in staying connected to each other and continuing to work together towards creating more Smart Growth in the region. Beaver Watershed Alliance is well positioned to provide these services, especially with the strong relationships the team has built with other watershed partnerships and conservation organizations in the State and across the region. Recognizing that convening stakeholders in-person requires resources, the group could explore hosting virtual gatherings on a regular basis to touch base on Smart Growth activities taking place and offer suggestions and connections to those in attendance. Beaver Watershed Alliance could also develop an online platform specifically for Smart Growth in Beaver Watershed and invite stakeholders to share updates about their recent Smart Growth activities and efforts. Lastly, and the most ideal outcome, would be to identify a funding source that would support an ongoing program with staffing support to engage stakeholders through in-person settings throughout the year on the topic of Smart Growth.

It is also recommended that the Beaver Watershed Alliance offer support services, including advice and coaching to those who feel passionate about and motivated by taking action on Smart Growth, but are unsure about how to move forward. Based on the survey data provided by participants, there are many who are interested in taking action, but are unsure about the steps to take. This is a fantastic opportunity for a watershed partnership to support those who want to lead, but who just need the leadership and accountability support to help them move forward. These services could be provided by existing staff or from external partners. There could also be a mentoring program set up among watershed partnership members and stakeholders where those who feel called to take action can support each other in their efforts. This type of program could be set up via an online platform or through a match-making process conducted by existing staff.

The Smart Growth for Source Water Protection Forum Series led to the development of 5 topic areas that were most important to participants (Table 4). It is recommended that the Beaver Watershed Alliance Smart Growth 2025 Smart Growth conference be organized around these 5

themes, offering sessions that participants can take part in based on the topics most aligned with their expertise and interests. There will be overlap between the themes and these overlap areas can be the topics highlighted on the mainstage during plenary sessions. This report provides an example of a conference program developed based on the outcomes of the Forum Series (Table 5).

Conclusions

It is evident that the Beaver Watershed Alliance is a highly regarded, well-respected organization in the region with enough of a following to have an immense positive impact on water quality and watershed protection in the region. The attendance of the Smart Growth for Source Water Protection Forum Series demonstrates the loyal following that the organization has created and the passion of the participants was evident throughout the program. It is through these connections and the ability of the organization to create these relationships that Northwest Arkansas will benefit from clean and accessible water, as well as beautiful and healthy watersheds. The only thing left to do is continue this work to inspire and facilitate action by those who share in this passion for a resilient and sustainable community in the future.

Tables and Figures

Table 1 - Forum topics, dates, and descriptions

Forum	Description
Forum 1 (04-27-23)	What do we want for our community? Creating a shared vision and taking action on our smart growth goals.
Forum 2 (05-18-23)	What do we need to know? What tools are available? What examples exist? Moving closer to achieving our goals in smart growth.
Forum 3 (06-01-23)	What's in it for me? Identifying and articulating the economic incentives of Smart Growth practices
Forum 4 (07-13-23)	What's going on now? Exploring the current system to know where to take action on planning and zoning codes for smart growth in the region
Forum 5 (08-17-23)	What the “hales a swale?” Facilitating training and expertise for workforce and decision-makers to facilitate implementation of Smart Growth for NWA
Forum 6 (09-28-23)	How can we lead change? Techniques and strategies for staying connected with our vision to courageously lead bold change for Smart Growth in our region for generations to come.

Table 2 - Attendance and percent of organization types represented in the Forum Series

Forum #	# of Participants	Business	Government	Non-profit	Unknown
1	32	34%	22%	25%	19%
2	35	23%	29%	26%	22%
3	23	30%	30%	30%	10%
4	48	25%	35%	17%	23%
5	34	26%	38%	21%	15%
6	27	7%	37%	26%	30%

Table 3 - Smart Growth goals shared by participants via survey

Forum	What is your goal for Smart Growth in Northwest Arkansas?
Forum 1	Develop growth management plan for unincorporated Benton County
	Infrastructure that does not shift the problem downstream - reduce sprawl development to preserve open space, provide housing for all demographic + socioeconomic categories - more cluster development with Low Impact + Green Infrastructure - reduce erosion in both Beaver and Illinois watersheds
	Have as much nature preserved as is being built
	Keeping raindrops on the ground where they fall + revegetating all riparian buffers
	Widely available access to nature + waterways - high quality, low cost water
	Healthy urban streams
	Keep the nature while creating a system that benefits the community + social activity
	See green space required (wanted) for urban growth - think parks, green space in every subdivision
	LID mandate in NWA city codes
	Mainstream this in city government
	Make Fayetteville the best smart growth sustainable city in the country
	Educating the public about SWP. Continuing education
	To become more educated to Smart Growth (LID) so I can communicate better to other people in NWA

	I am not sure yet!
Forum 2	Good planning so that NWA isn't forced to be reactionary and create problems
	Green space preservation as a starting point not an afterthought
	Gaining knowledge
	Clean water with sustainable growth
	To prevent degradation of the environment
	Green space and water quality
	Improving/protecting water quality; managing traffic congestion/pollution
	More natural infrastructure integration
	Build vibrant urban communities to house people well without losing our wonderful ecological diversity
Forum 3	LID
	Sustainable Stormwater Management
	To facilitate growth that is sustainable/resilient while also promoting equity and affordable housing
	Protection of land that impacts water sources, natural habitats, outdoor recreation, and the natural landscape that defines NWA
Forum 4	Preservation of natural floodplains and wetlands. Protection of water quality. Flood control.
	Ecological uplift
	To learn something new

	Protecting wildlife; protecting green spaces
	Education and spread of information - so many are clueless about the watershed, water conservation, recycling, etc.
	Preserve open space, natural resources, and stream and water quality in the region and in my neighborhood
	Create sustainable community in NWA
Forum 5	Regional sustainability
	Use of LID, understanding limitation of local/NWA geology and threat to water quality if smart growth is not implemented
	Making sure West Fork grows in environmentally-friendly ways
	Understanding actionable next steps for our region to move toward large-scale adoption of practices (regulatory)
Forum 6	Maximum conservation of natural resources
	Improve water quality
	Improving water quality, protecting resources through riparian restoration
	Protect your water source(s)
	Education! Too many clueless people
	Smart growth becomes the new normal
	Learn more

Table 4 - Smart growth topic areas identified by participants. These topics were identified during Forum 4 and were used as breakout groups during Forums 4, 5, and 6.

Topic Areas for Smart Growth
Floodplain protection (e.g. streamside protection, LID design)
Building Design (e.g. vegetated roofs)
Complete Streets (e.g. multi-modal, LID)
Stormwater runoff and decision-making
Greenspace (e.g. density ratios)

Table 5 - Draft agenda for Smart Growth Conference 2025 based on outcomes of Smart Growth Series 2023

Day 1 - Our vision for NWA and what calls us to do the work of Smart Growth in NWA	
Plenary session	Funder interview to focus on high level visioning, theory, current state of the region
Session 1	NWA Council on growth in NWA
Session 2	Water science - scientists speak on the status of water quality in the region.
Session 3	Conservation organization to speak on conservation opportunities and challenges
Session 4	Planning team to speak on what is missing and what is needed in planning codes
Session 5	Ecological restoration to speak on the restoration needs in the region
Session 6	City Economic development - Economic benefits of Smart Growth
Session 7	On-site tour of Smart Growth example
Day 2 - Opportunities for action	
Plenary session	Panelists to speak on the experiences they have in taking action on Smart Growth
Session 1	Technical design for Smart Growth

Session 2	The status of policy and code for floodplain protection and streamside protection
Session 3	Facilitating the use of vegetation in building design
Session 4	Growing the use of Complete Streets in the region
Session 5	Stormwater runoff and future development
Session 6	Designing for the future - using density ratios to plan housing and water needs
Session 7	On-site tour of Smart Growth feature

Figure 1 - Graphic depicting Smart Growth design (Source: Utah Department of Environmental Quality, 2023)

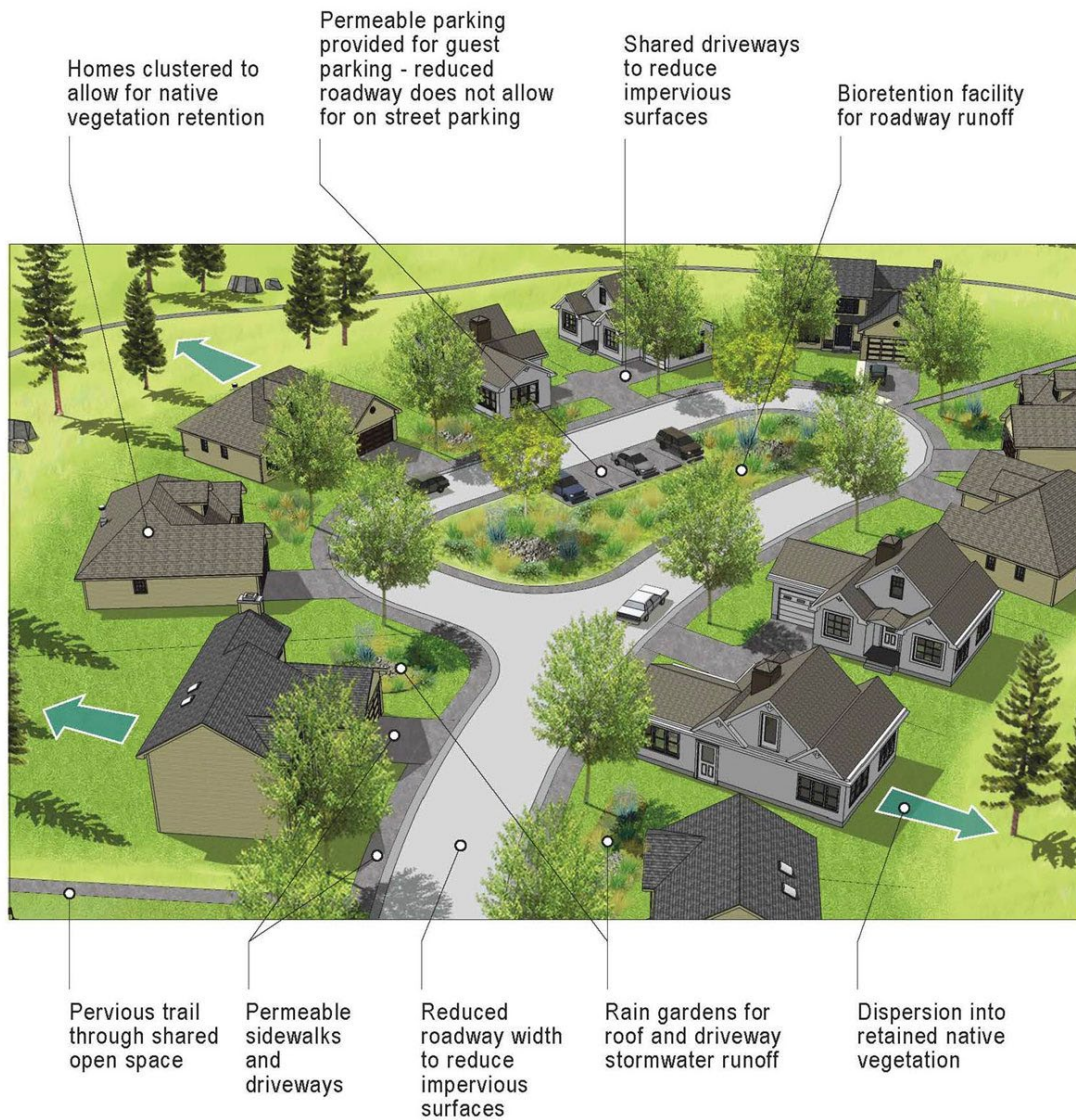


Figure 2 - Participant testimonial from Bonny Stitt

"My recent involvement in the West Fork planning commission landed me an invitation to the Smart Growth Forums, and I'm so glad I took the time to attend. Just being in a room with so many people from all over Northwest Arkansas who want to shape our region's growth in healthy ways was encouraging in and of itself. It's so good for those of us who care about the earth to notice that we're not alone. The Forums also treated us to inspirational talks, and at one meeting we were handed beautiful little metamorphic rocks to remind us that good things can come from heat and pressure. At several of the meetings, we worked together in small groups to come up with solutions to specific problems, and it was a great reminder that there's power and creativity in numbers. I came away feeling inspired to put together a Smart Growth Committee here in West Fork to try to prepare for the region's growth spurt as it eventually moves our way. Big kudos and lots of appreciation to Becky Roark and Sarah Lewis for planning and executing these inspirational forums!" - Bonny Stitt, City Planning Commissioner

Figure 3 - Participant testimonial from Kelsey Criswell

"Although I can feel overwhelmed with the possibility of negative impacts of current projections, getting exposed to the larger sustainability community in NWA has made a big impact on me. Knowing that many people are working toward Smart Growth from different approaches is exciting and has reignited my passion for doing my own work well. I have gained focus, knowledge, and vocabulary to use to pursue and incorporate more Smart Growth projects. The biggest impact on me, however, is the network of contacts I have gained through attending the forum series. As a result, I feel I can better do my actual job in water quality as an engineer. I am currently pursuing new partnerships with others as a result. An unexpected outcome of attending the forums is that I discovered I care about several sustainability aspects of development, including protecting urban greenspace and allowing equitable access to greenspaces. I have learned how to navigate the existing structure of development and how to get involved in my community. I am very grateful for the Smart Growth series, and I plan to use my experience to affect positive change." - Kelsey Criswell, Water Resources Engineer

Figure 4 - Image of Forum 1 Session at NWA Regional Planning office



Figure 5 - Image of on-site visit to The Ramble in Fayetteville, Arkansas hosted by the Watershed Conservation Resource Center



Figure 6 - Image of Forum 6 participants, Fayetteville Public Library



Appendix A - Agendas for the six (6) Forum Series sessions

Forum #	Title	Agenda
1	What do we want for our community?	<p>11:15 - 11:30 am: Arrive and have lunch</p> <p>11:35 am: Introductions and Welcome</p> <p>11:45 am: Tim Conklin, NWA Regional Planning Commission</p> <p>11:50 am: Growth in the Beaver Lake Watershed - Becky Roark, Executive Director, Beaver Watershed Alliance</p> <p>12pm: Smart Growth & Watershed Urbanism as a Public Good - Steve Luoni, Director, University of Arkansas Community Design Center</p> <p>12:15: Facilitated discussion: What Do We Want for Our Community? Creating a shared vision and taking action on our smart growth goals – Sarah Elaine Lewis, PhD, Edgewater Coaching & Consulting</p> <p>1:30 pm: Wrap up / Post Surveys / Distribute Flyers for next Forums</p>
2	What do we need to know?	<p>11:45 am: Getting closer to reaching our goals. Dr. Sarah E. Lewis, Edgewater Coaching and Consulting</p> <p>12:20 pm: Smart Growth Panel Discussion: Becky Roark, Beaver Watershed Alliance; Leif Kindberg, Illinois River Watershed Partnership; Juliet Richey, Garver; Karen McCurdy, Crafton Tull; Katie Teague, University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture – County Extension Service</p> <p>12:50 pm: Tour of Smart Growth Examples, Lance Lobe, City of Rogers, Arkansas</p> <p>1:20 pm: Action Steps, led by Dr. Sarah E. Lewis</p> <p>1:30 pm: Wrap Up/Post Surveys/Next Forum</p>
3	What's in it	11:40 am: Welcome – Beaver Water District

	for me?	<p>11:50 am: Facilitated discussion - Dr. Sarah E. Lewis, Edgewater Coaching and Consulting</p> <p>12:35 pm: Smart Growth “Lakeside Chat”: Devin Howland, City of Fayetteville and James McCarty, Beaver Water District</p> <p>12:55 pm: Facilitated Discussion – Dr. Sarah E. Lewis, Edgewater Coaching and Consulting</p> <p>1:00 pm: Tour of Smart Growth Examples – Beaver Water District team</p> <p>1:30 pm: Wrap Up/Post Surveys/Next Forum</p>
4	What’s going on now?	<p>11:35: Welcome and Introductions - Becky Roark</p> <p>11:40: Facilitated discussion – Dr. Sarah E. Lewis, Edgewater Coaching & Consulting</p> <p>12:00: Gaps and Opportunities, Regional Planning and Zoning Codes for Smart Growth - John McCurdy, Director of Community Development, City of Rogers</p> <p>12:15: Questions and Discussion</p> <p>12:20: Large Group Brainstorm - What do you want to create? - Sarah Lewis</p> <p>12:30: Small Group Breakouts - Action Plan Creation</p> <p>1:00: Share out - Make your pitch!</p> <p>1:25: Summarize and celebrate</p> <p>1:30: Close and next steps</p> <p>1:35: Walking Tour of The Ramble with WCRC</p>
5	What the ‘hales a swale?’	<p>11:35: Welcome and Introductions - Becky Roark, Beaver Watershed Alliance and Tate Wentz, Arkansas Dept. of Agriculture-Natural Resources Division</p>

		<p>11:45: Welcome and Outreach Program Highlights - Katie Teague, UA Division of Agriculture Extension and Research</p> <p>11:55: Facilitated Discussion for Smart Growth Action Areas – Dr. Sarah E. Lewis, Edgewater Coaching & Consulting</p> <p>12:15: Small Groups – How can we mobilize others to our smart growth ideas?</p> <p>1:00: Share out action plans</p> <p>1:25: Summarize and celebrate</p> <p>1:30: Close and next steps</p> <p>1:35: Optional tour of grounds</p>
6	How can we lead change?	<p>11:15-11:30 am: Lunch served, Attendees Check In</p> <p>11:35 am: Welcome + Introductions, Becky Roark, Executive Director, Beaver Watershed Alliance</p> <p>11:45 am: Facilitated Discussion on Building Leadership Capacity, Dr. Sarah E. Lewis, Edgewater Coaching & Consulting</p> <p>12 noon: Peer Advising Process on Focus Areas for Smart Growth</p> <p>12:45 pm: Presentations of Progress and Actions by Forum Participant Volunteers</p> <p>1:15 pm: Celebration of Forum Series - Outcomes and Successes, Becky Roark, BWA</p> <p>1:30 pm: Close and Next Steps, Invitation to the Tour (West Avenue – Low Impact Development features)</p>

Appendix B - Vision statements for Northwest Arkansas shared by participants via survey and discussed during Forum 1

How do you see Northwest Arkansas in 50 years?

- A fully functional watershed integrated with carbon infrastructure and great communities
- Agriculture in NWA be pushed to the edge, making the watershed area less resilient
- Antifragile - beautiful - community oriented environment to see a green necklace in cities
- Increased public interest and care for ecosystem services by a watershed
- To be better off than they are today
- Focus on recharge and working with natural environment throughout - green roofs - wild flowers - Reclamation of roads
- I hope the NWA watersheds provide more habitat and function more like the natural world. Also, clean enough to swim and fish in!
- Continuing education -- helping the environment and comm. -- educating others -- due to NWA growing, wanting to get others to care
- Preserve/rehabilitation of stream networks
- Devoid of run-off and appreciated as examples of beauty
- sustainable and resilient solutions for next 50 years -- 50 year plan NWA is pursuing
- In the current direction we are headed. The NWA watershed will be run down from over development
- In 50 years - that water is protected, clean, and safe to drink and touch
- 2050 goal - less sprawl/controlled -- build up (build taller) -- daylight creeks = feature, not after thought -- like-minded residents, planners, elected officials
- No growth because lack of capacity
- Planned - healthy - sustainable - diverse - connected
- 1) Clean + sustainable Lake Fayetteville 2) Clabber Creek is a park on both sides of the stream the entire length 3) The Illinois River has no algae 4) Beaver Lake is the cleanest in the country
- Clean, alive, connected
- Hopefully, they will greenspaces shared with suburban/urban development
- Hopefully not paved over or destroyed
- Polluted, reduced greenspace, my fear is that we will ruin this landscape as we grow over it.
- Beautiful! Intact river systems where everyone knows their watershed
- Repaired, resilient, interactive, beautiful + educational parts of the landscape -- highlights of the urban fabric -- destinations within the rural fabric
- Stable - (think Amsterdam) bikeable/walkable cities -- balanced urban/rural systems that take care of natural environments sustaining them.
- Unless we take action now, the NWA watersheds will be decimated
- Taking the watershed and using it to better community with recreation, beauty, water cleanliness, and the recycling of water
- Swimmable waters, open spaces, connected communities, clean water
- Riparian buffers, land set aside for natural ecosystem services, large parks / wetlands, ...housing/building, more trees in cities, fewer mowed lawns

- Fully functioning ecosystem, recreation, ecosystem services, water managed onsite as a resource instead of a challenge/deforested prairie landscapes
- Protection and restoration of beneficial uses to ensure sustainability through implementation of intact river corridors
- Vision - Goal - needs coordination - need more engineering voices Your challenge - how to get cities to influence developers One step today - more conviction
- Active participation - accurate testing of water quality - finding people who care; awareness - networking with people who care about water
- Northwest Arkansas achieves sustainable growth
- Community shows great resilience in face of tremendous storm
- Northwest Arkansas prioritizes water over profit
- Watersheds work together to create solutions for the next 50 years
- NWA offers a template for Smart Growth to other parts of the country
- NW Arkansas is a bright spot in the nation for water quality
- NWA Planning Commission publishes a model for Smart Growth for cities around the US to learn from!
- Increased management; increase public awareness; clean, restored, functioning large scale focus on natural resources
- Formal natural resources focus -- Starting small; what's in front of us

Appendix C - Participant responses to the question, "What calls you to do the work of Smart Growth?"

- Swimming in Beaver Lake on a Summer's day
- Protect the rural character of the county - listening to testimony of county residents
- Strengthening the connection + interaction of humanity to the environment in a beneficial manner
- Protect the natural beauty and all life interconnected to it
- To build an interesting environment
- 1. Passion for water quality protection/environmental diversity 2. Compelled to live in a place where I feel context - connected to place/people
- Wild Places Nature Water Calm
- Love of nature -- Want for my children's future -- Belief that it's necessary -- Peace in being close to nature -- Concerns for SW quality + flooding -- Chicago vs. Fay --
- Because to create built environments that do not match the nuance, complexity and amazing breadth of the capacity of the human brain and soul is nothing but selling ourselves short
- My childhood memories + work as a botanist conducting biological surveys across the US. I became very intimate with many ecosystems across the US. Developed a deep relationship and desire to nurture that relationship
- Improving water quality for all Arkansas
- A sense of responsibility to protect natural resources + love for nature
- Sustainability and safety! Preserve + protect local resources
- Children and next generation experiences
- Clear cut subdivisions look gross. Development that obliterates nature screams that we value money over all else. I'm called to this because I do not want that!
- Harmony between people + nature
- With continued efforts I hope to see the watersheds have more Arkansas native landscaping -- restore wetlands + prairies -- green highways
- I want to preserve natural beauty for all to enjoy -- worked for RR- saw impact to Glacier Park
- Start to influence quality of life of other (public) -- love of outdoors
- Educate myself to better city planning
- Preserve nature as well as have a nice place to live. (Raise the standard of living for everyone)
- Safety + protective issues -- since childhood -- I want to keep my neighbors safe and protected
- We have to strategize on how to sustain a healthy world with over 8 billion people. Solving this issue locally to preserve our way of life in NWA. My responsibility as a City Council member
- Love for our watershed + Beaver Lake as our source of drinking water -- fear that we won't be able to sustain our drinking water quality or be able to provide enough for our growth
- my family camping trips intro to NR classes in college, High school teacher's passion - - the common sense of it all
- At the very base of it, I want people to protect what I love and want to protect - the natural world
- loss of public water access (swimming holes) -- protection and natural treatment of water
- Water protection / clean water -- benefit for the health of the community
- Humans are not the only life form on this planet -- the land is alive

- A desire to see our region develop in ways that my children will experience and be better off here
- (drawing of tree and river)
- Protecting our natural environment without its death, destruction or loss -- trees washing out – flooding
- Suburban Sprawl (PHX) -- concrete jungle lack of character (sense of place)
- The inseparability of human beings and their environment - they are one
- Want to fight GREED to keep my home Natural - Seeing the population pressure and how that affects our natural landscape + lines pockets of the few at the expense of many
- "Role" - "Duty" to lead change for drinking water

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