

Instructional Scenario

Analyzing Land-Use Comprehensive Plans



Course/Duty Area: Introduction to Natural Resources & Ecology Systems/Examining Land Use

Scenario:

You have been nominated to sit on your local planning commission to analyze and recommend changes to your locality's comprehensive plan. You will have to look at your locality's current plan and its proposed future plan. After analyzing the plans, you will recommend changes in a presentation to the planning commission for a vote during their next meeting.

Big Question:

What recommendations would you suggest to the planning commission to change the comprehensive plan, and what impacts, benefits, and drawbacks do you foresee happening with these proposed changes?

Focused Questions:

- What are the current zoning plans and how will they change in the future?
- What factors need to be considered when creating or changing zoning regulations?
- Why do you think zoning regulations are important in natural resources and agriculture?
- How do you properly read a map?

Student Project or Outcome:

Students will work in groups to review and analyze their locality's current and future comprehensive plans. Based on the information discovered, they will work with their team to propose changes to the comprehensive plan with justification and reasoning behind their proposals. They will present their proposals to the class, who will represent the planning commission.

Project-Based Assessment:

- Have a town planner or member of the planning commission speak to the class about their role.
- Have students plan a town or community and develop zoning regulations that minimize adverse effects on the environment.

Teacher Resources:

- [What is LEED Certification?](#), Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED)
- [Comprehensive Plan Example](#), Frederick County, VA Comprehensive Plan
- [Addressing Natural Resources in a Comprehensive Plan](#), Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

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