

# Sustainable Communities Resources Section II

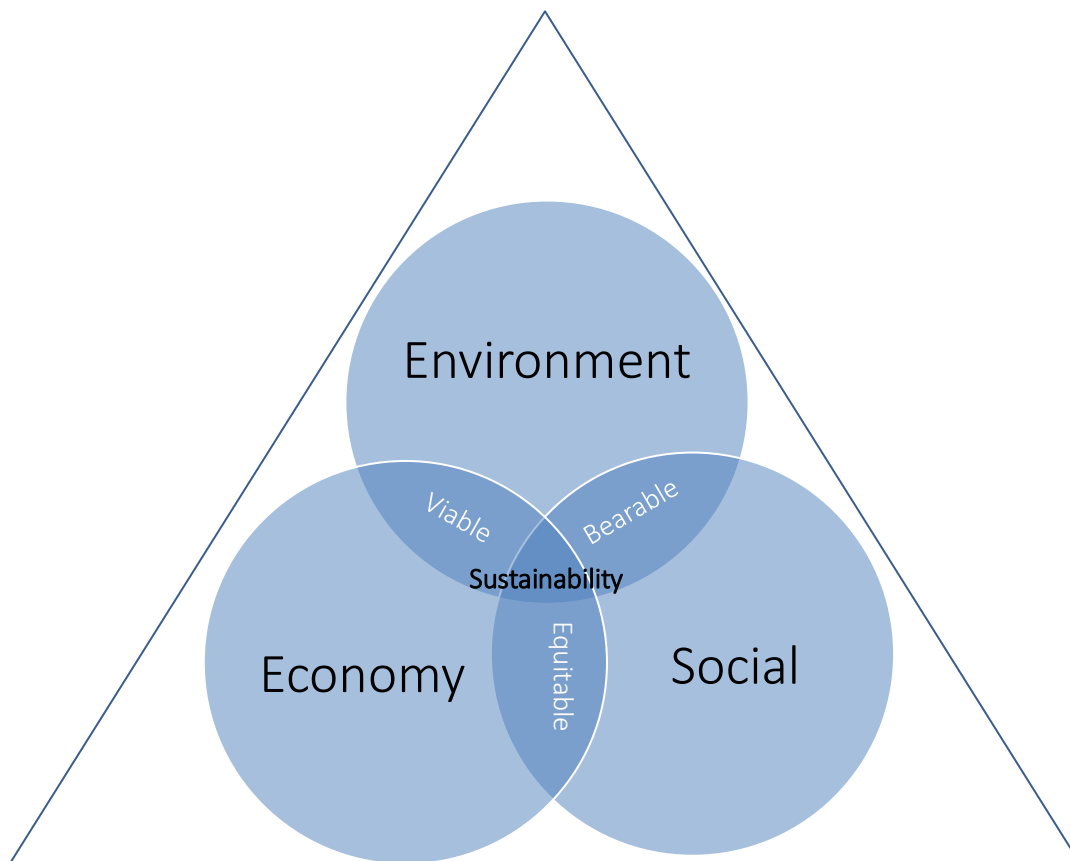
Indiana Department of Natural Resources  
Lake Michigan Coastal Program

# Sustainable Development Model

---

## About the Concept

The concept of sustainability has emerged as pervasive trend over the last decade. However, researchers and government agencies have been discussing and further refining the concept since the 1960s. In fact, the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) declared it a national policy to “create and maintain conditions under which humans and nature can exist in productive harmony, that permit fulfilling the social, economic, and other requirements of present and future generations.” In simpler terms, the concept of sustainability can be thought of as a three-legged stool. The environment, economy and social spheres must be in balance for a community to be sustainable. The concept incorporates the idea of balancing the needs of the community and limitations imposed by technology, finances or the environment.



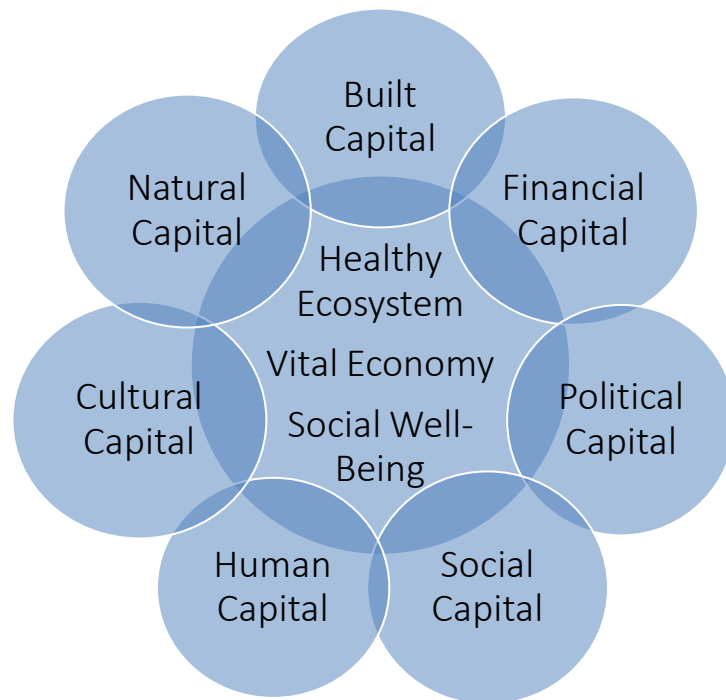
# Community Capital Framework

---

## About the Concept

The Community Capital concept, developed by sociologists Cornelia and Jan Flora and Susan Fey (2004), is an approach that decision-makers and stakeholders can use to understand how communities work. It is important to recognize your community's strengths and weaknesses, as well as how positive or negative changes in the types of capital affect the other types of capital. Sustainable, healthy communities will focus on developing and maintaining all seven forms of interconnected capital:

- Built—physical infrastructure that supports a community's basic needs
- Financial—resources available to invest in the community and community members
- Political—accessibility and receptiveness of decision-makers
- Social—connections between people and organizations
- Human—skills, ability, and knowledge held by community members and organizations
- Cultural— dynamics of traditions, customs, heritage, and/or history
- Natural—assets such as natural resources, nature-based infrastructure, or natural beauty



Flora, Cornelia and Jan Flora with Susan Fey. 2004. *Rural Communities: Legacy and Change*. 2nd ed. Boulder, CO: Westview Press.

# Indiana Citizen Planner's Guide

---

*Indiana Planning Association*

[http://www.indianaplanning.org/?page\\_id=1221](http://www.indianaplanning.org/?page_id=1221)

## About the Resource

This training resource was published by the Indiana Chapter of the American Planning Association and is geared to citizen planners: plan commission members, board of zoning appeals members, neighborhood organizations, and citizen committees. These materials provide a general overview of planning requirements in Indiana and general planning concepts. The authors strongly encourage users of this guide to read other, more general books on planning and zoning to supplement the information contained within this resource.

This resource is formatted to be user-friendly. It contains clear headings and bulleted lists that allow the reader to find specific pieces of information easily. The resource also highlights relevant statutes in the right-hand column and includes supplemental exercises for readers to aid in evaluation of their understanding of the concepts and how their organization does or does not observe proper procedures.

## Goals

The resource has a chapter devoted to explaining each of the following topics:

- Plan Commission Basics
- BZA Basics
- Avoiding Pitfalls
- Communications
- Rules of Procedure
- Ethics
- Comprehensive Plans
- Zoning Ordinance
- Subdivision Control Ordinance
- Site Plan Review

# County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plans

---

*Lake County*

2010

[http://www.nirpc.org/media/23587/lake\\_county\\_mhmp.pdf](http://www.nirpc.org/media/23587/lake_county_mhmp.pdf)

*Porter County*

2011

[http://www.nirpc.org/media/23584/porter\\_county\\_mhmp.pdf](http://www.nirpc.org/media/23584/porter_county_mhmp.pdf)

*LaPorte County*

2016

<http://laportecounty.org/Resources/EMA/LaPorteMHMPPublicReview.pdf>

## About the Plans

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) defines hazard mitigation as any sustained action to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to human life and property from hazards. The Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan (MHMP) is a requirement of the Federal Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000. The development of a local government plan is required to maintain eligibility for certain federal disaster assistance and hazard mitigation funding programs, such as the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and FEMA grants. Each county has undertaken individual plan development processes that assess risks and vulnerabilities, outline mitigation and implementation strategies, and formulate public involvement plans. These documents can be used by communities to understand where vulnerable facilities, infrastructure and populations are located. Each plan contains county-specific tables, maps, data and mitigation strategies. Mitigation goals and strategies should be incorporated into every community planning project.

## Goals

The plans assess and provide mitigation recommendations for the following hazards (Lake County's plan provides recommendations for each municipality):

- Coastal storms/seiches/erosion
- Earthquakes
- Extreme temperatures/drought
- Floods
- Fires
- Tornadoes/waterspouts/windstorms/thunderstorms
- Winter storms/ice storms
- Hazardous materials incidents

# One Region Indicators Report: Quality of Place in Northwest Indiana

---

*One Region*

2016

<http://www.oneregionnwi.org/work-products/indicators-report/>

## About the Report

This report, produced every four years, highlights the state of the region. It contains profiles of achievement, collaboration, and work being done to improve the quality of life in communities across the region. Each chapter provides a success story from a local organization, an aspiration statement determined by the One Region Research Committee, data and analysis, and regional action measures providing thoughts around action that could lead toward improvements. One Region suggests in the Executive Summary that, when looking at the indicators within the report, readers ask themselves, “What does this data mean to me? What issues does it represent? What action can be taken?” The report uses the terms “Needs Improvement” or “Improving” to assess the direction of the region as a whole.

## Recommendations

The report is broken down into 10 domains:

- People
- Economy
- Environment
- Transportation
- Education
- Health
- Public Safety
- Housing
- Arts and culture
- Government

Each of the domains contains indicators with statistics that are broken down by county. Each domain has recommended action measures that support the Research Committee’s assessment of the indicators. These recommendations can inform the work of existing organizations and inspire new ways in which to collaborate on sustainable development projects.

# Public Access Needs Assessment

---

*Eppley Institute for Parks and Public Lands*

2009

[http://www.in.gov/dnr/lakemich/files/lm-Public\\_Access\\_Needs\\_Assessment.pdf](http://www.in.gov/dnr/lakemich/files/lm-Public_Access_Needs_Assessment.pdf)

## About the Report

The Public Access Needs Assessment compiles existing data and research to establish a clear plan for the improvement of and increase in public access to land in the coastal region of Indiana. This assessment considers the region's unique characteristics—history, varied landscape, industry, and shifting trends in commerce. The research and analysis section includes a review of local and county parks and recreation master plans, federal, state, and regional planning and policy documents, a benchmarking study, condition assessments, and map development. The public engagement section includes results from individual stakeholder meetings. The service standards and gaps section includes the development of level of service (LOS) standards, a gap analysis, and a priority index.

## Recommendations

The results of the study provide insights into the current state of the region and how stakeholders see pathways to improvement. The study contains detailed suggestions about geographic areas in which certain improvements can be made, along with a priority index that planners can use to most efficiently allocate funds for public access improvements.

Results from the benchmarking study indicate that the Northwest Indiana Coastal Area is:

- Below average in the miles of multi-use walking and biking trails
- Below average in the number of public access launch points for personal watercraft
- Above average in miles of public beaches
- Far above average in fishing access points
- Above the median in total park acres

The results of the stakeholder interviews indicate that the main ideas for improvement of public access in the region are:

- Connectivity between trails and existing natural areas
- Ongoing management of restored natural areas
- Increased public awareness and access through communication and signage
- Implementation of the Marquette Plan
- Regional cooperation
- Increased funding

# Enhancing the Value of Public Spaces

---

*Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant and Purdue Extension*

2016

<https://ag.purdue.edu/extension/scep/Pages/EnhancingPublicSpaces.aspx>

## About the Program

The location, design and management of public spaces directly influence the social, economic and environmental health of communities. This Indiana-specific program addresses public spaces and their role in improving quality of place by helping neighborhoods, communities and regions plan and prepare for a vibrant future. The materials and workshop are geared to decision-makers and organizations that provide related services to programs or management of public spaces.

## Goals

Collaborative activities are used throughout a one-day workshop, developed and led by Purdue Extension facilitators, to identify best practices for improving public spaces to start the Enhancing process. An emphasis is placed on forming partnerships to achieve desired community goals. Participants will take away an action plan that can be used to:

- Update comprehensive plans
- Update parks and recreation master plans
- Support fundraising initiatives



# A Self-Assessment to Address Climate Change Readiness in Your Community

---

*Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant*  
2012

<http://greatlakesresilience.org/library/general-reference/self-assessment-address-climate-change-readiness-your-community>

## About the Tool

While climatologists are still working to understand how the Midwest will be impacted from climate change, modeling predicts that there may be more-frequent extreme storm events in our communities, increasing temperatures, reduced ice cover, and greater wind speeds. Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant has created a self-assessment tool that communities can use to understand their potential vulnerabilities to climate trends. The outputs of the tool can be used to start a conversation about how climate trends should be incorporated into community planning and projects.

This resource is not designed to be a complete vulnerability assessment, but rather a tool used to identify key areas where communities are likely to be most at risk, and start the process of working with communities to determine where a more thorough review of vulnerability may be needed. Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant can provide technical assistance to communities that wish to understand their results better or learn about ways in which vulnerabilities may be addressed.

## Goals

The tool is designed for use by municipal staff. The self-assessment covers the following topics:

- Critical infrastructure flooding readiness
- Critical facilities flooding readiness
- Built environment infrastructure
- Operations and maintenance
- Water resources
- Ecosystems and habitats
- Tourism and recreation
- Business plans and equipment
- Community plans