HUMANITIES Creating Sustainable Communities Problem-Based Scenario

Sustainable Community Redevelopment Plan

Recently our community was evaluated using the STAR Community Rating System for Sustainability. http://www.starcommunities.org/about/framework/ The rating system measures economic, environmental, and social aspects of sustainability.

The STAR report indicates that there are areas in our community that have been successfully redeveloped to meet their criteria to become sustainable communities. However, we also have some areas in our community that and are in need of redevelopment. The next STAR evaluation is in two years, and the town council would like to redevelop these areas. They are currently seeking plans from interested and informed citizens.

In the next few weeks, we will be studying examples of real-life community redevelopment as well as fictional communities in the novel *Watership Down* to explore the question, "What makes communities thrive?"

As an interested and informed citizen, *you have the opportunity to create a plan for an area in need of redevelopment that will fundamentally transform your community.*

Apply what you learn about what makes communities thrive to create a *Sustainable Community Redevelopment Plan* for an area in our community. You'll have the opportunity to present your plan to other citizens at our school's booth in the Community Fair.

Plans must meet the following criteria

1. Vision Statement
   a. Goals to that address the land use
   b. Goals to address the historical components of the community
   c. Goals to address the economic factors of the community
   d. Goals to address the political structures of the community
   e. Goals to address the social/interpersonal climate of the community

2. Description of what currently exists in terms of…
   a. land use,
   b. history,
   c. economic factors,
   d. political structures, and
   e. social/interpersonal climate.
   f. Visuals to show what currently exists (may be obtained from Google Maps, site visit photographs, etc.)

3. Explanation of Proposal
   a. Research-based rationale for redevelopment of the existing community that includes best practices for sustainable communities in the areas of:
      i. land use,
      ii. historical preservation,
      iii. economic development,
      iv. political structures including safety, and
      v. social/interpersonal relationships.

4. Leadership: Explanation of type of leadership necessary to ensure success

5. Public Engagement: Describe and analyze interviews with community stakeholders, site visits, photo shoots, and/or SWOT (strength, weakness, opportunities, threats) analysis.

6. Criticism: Summarize potential criticism with counter-arguments

7. Community Redevelopment Plan Visuals which might include:
    a. Google SketchUp models,
    b. inspirational photos of other communities, and/or
    c. hand-drawn images.