

From the Planners' Bookshelf...

How Small Towns and Cities Can Use Local Assets to Rebuild Their Economies.

Lessons From Successful Places.

United States Environmental Protection Agency

EPA 231-R-15-002 May 2015 www.epa.gov/smartgrowth

The EPA has published many fine works on planning and design in small cities and towns. This is but one, check out their website, cited below, for the full inventory of their work.

“Over time, all communities experience changes that affect the industries, technologies, and land use patterns that help form the foundation of their local economies. Economically resilient towns, cities, and regions adapt to changing conditions and even reinvent their economic bases if necessary. Even if the community has lost its original or main economic driver, it has other assets that it can use to spur the local economy. While most economic development strategies involve some effort to recruit major employers, such as manufacturers or large retailers, many successful small towns and cities complement recruitment by emphasizing their existing assets and distinctive resources. This report examines case studies of small towns and cities that have successfully used this approach, including:

- Bend, Oregon (population 79,000).
- Douglas, Georgia (population 12,000).
- Dubuque, Iowa (population 58,000).
- Emporia, Kansas (population 25,000).
- Mount Morris, New York (population 2,900).
- Paducah, Kentucky (population 25,000).
- Roanoke, Virginia (population 98,000).”

LINK: <https://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/how-small-towns-and-cities-can-use-local-assets-rebuild-their-economies>

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