

Sustainable Community Planning

Since the early 1980s, Resource Dimensions' team of economists, planners, and social and environmental scientists have assisted communities, counties, states, and various agencies in the U.S., Britain and Canada in developing integrated sustainable community planning processes, policies, and decision support tools designed to aid in implementing a spectrum of local and regional projects and programs. Through such efforts, we have developed GIS-based asset and issue mapping tools, computer-based decision support tools, sustainability matrices, and a range of aids to facilitate diverse stakeholder involvement through collaborative sustainability processes aimed at an integrated triple-bottom line.

Representative projects include numerous housing, market, and needs assessments; feasibility and community needs analyses; rural economic development and conservation strategies; community and environmental amenity-based economic development analyses; and a variety of fiscal and development impact analyses.

Selected Projects

SR 28 Eastside Corridor Project EIS: Social and Environmental Justice Assessments. *Federal Highway Administration and the Washington State Department of Transportation.* In addition to an economic impact analysis, Resource Dimensions assessed the social/community impacts and environmental justice components of the \$150M+ transportation project over the expected 10-year construction cycle. This included developing and assessing community profiles for East Wenatchee and the larger Chelan-Douglas County region, conducting key informant interviews, community-based forums, and in-depth analyses of land and buildings, business/industry studies and an assessment of impacts and opportunities resulting from the project. Additional components included development of a supplemental plan to enhance public involvement and address needs/concerns of Title VI populations within the decision-making context, and plan implementation. *In association with David Evans and Associates.*



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Public Attitudes and Willingness-to-Pay for Community-based Parks and Recreation Assets. *Peninsula Metropolitan Park District.* For this Pierce County, Washington park district, Resource Dimensions conducted an integrated analysis designed to aid the agency in understanding the range of values associated with community recreational needs and wants, and their willingness-to-pay (WTP) for parks and various recreation assets. To estimate the WTP and identify the optimal suite of new park and recreation assets that the public would likely support, Resource Dimensions sought public and agency input using an iterative research process that included the use of interviews, focus groups and an online choice experiment survey. These tools were used to collect qualitative and quantitative information on issues central to this investigation. Findings from the study helped inform the agency about criteria that may be used to design an optimal bond package to fund potential park services and facilities projects, and to advise the agency on prevalent community views, perceived gaps in recreational resources, and issues of trust that may impact the success of any proposed bond initiative to support parks. Several recommendations came from this study; one being community outreach and education. As a result, the park district has initiated a comprehensive community-relations-building effort.

Community-based Fiscal Impact Assessment of Alternative Development Scenarios and Coordinated Development Assessment Protocol. *City of Kirkland, Washington.* The project's goal was to determine the full range of fiscal and economic implications of annexation on the existing and future proposed annexation area (PAA) and city businesses and residents. Resource Dimensions reviewed the City of Kirkland's internal analysis and performed an independent analysis of the range of fiscal and economic development impacts associated with the City's existing and future PAA. A 20-year cash flow revenue model grounded in various assumptions about City boundaries, current development and assumptions about future development, including timing and phasing by land use type, was developed to estimate the changes in the different affected taxable bases. In addition, forecast scenarios were run using CommunityViz® to determine and model the potential longer-term effects of proposed annexation on economic development in the PAA and the City under different scenarios. *In association with GordonDerr.*

Rural Communities and the Role of Trust in Public Lands Management in the Midwest. *National Park Service and USDA Forest Service.* Resource Dimensions led a multiple case examination of the relationship between rural communities and nearby national forest and park lands throughout the Midwest. This study included three national forest/prairie units (Mark Twain National Forest, Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie, and Hiawatha National Forest), and two national park units (Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore and Ozark National Scenic Riverways) and their associated communities. The role of trust between local community members and the managing agencies was examined. The study included in-depth interviews with over 100 residents and agency personnel. Data was evaluated using qualitative analysis methods. The culmination of the project was a trust conceptual model and set of recommendations to managers for building meaningful and enduring relationships with local communities.



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