



# Smart Growth Project Scorecard

*1000 FRIENDS of Connecticut is a statewide organization whose mission is to promote and shape growth to ensure a prosperous economy, a healthy natural environment, and distinctive, integrated and attractive communities while promoting opportunities in education, housing, transportation, and employment for ourselves and future generations.*

1000 FRIENDS of Connecticut has created a tool to score real estate developments using smart growth criteria. The Smart Growth Project Scorecard highlights how planned projects reflect smart growth standards and principles. Completed evaluation reports will educate policymakers and citizens on smart, sustainable development so communities and investors can make more informed decisions about proposed projects. Ideally, this program will stimulate smarter development in Connecticut and broader application of smart growth principles.

1000 FRIENDS is not a government agency and has no authority over real estate development projects. It is an advocate for smart growth projects, policies, and principles and seeks to bolster smart developments statewide. Developers volunteer to participate in the scoring process which engages a panel of at least four volunteer professionals in relevant disciplines to evaluate the plan using 32 criteria in the following eight categories:

- Maximize the Use of Existing Infrastructure
- Provide Transportation Choice, Accessibility and Connectivity
- Provide for a Mix of Uses
- Provide Compactness; Use Land Efficiently
- Provide a Range of Housing Options
- De-Emphasize Parking
- Excellence in Urban Design (Site and Building)
- Environmental Stewardship (Site and Building)

1000 Friends will provide letters and testimony in support of high scoring projects. The organization will post the project evaluation on its website and distribute it to the press. It will be included in a growing public archive of exemplary Connecticut projects. Sponsors of projects not meeting that threshold will have a chance to meet with the 1000 FRIENDS panel to discuss how the development could be strengthened.

Applications are accepted on an on-going basis and must be accompanied by a fee, which is figured on a sliding scale based on project size. Additional information and sample evaluations are available on the 1000 FRIENDS of Connecticut Website at [www.1000friends-ct.org](http://www.1000friends-ct.org). Please direct questions to the 1000 FRIENDS of Connecticut at 860-523-0003, or call Committee Chair Toni Gold at 860-232-9018.

**Acknowledgements:** The scorecard was patterned after one developed by the Smart Growth Leadership Institute, an affiliate of Smart Growth America, which promotes smart growth nationwide and subsequently adapted by the Livable Communities Coalition in Atlanta, GA; a scorecard used at New Jersey Future, a statewide smart growth education and advocacy organization; the TND DesignRating Standards version 2.2 by Laurence Aurbach, and the US Green Building Council's draft LEED ND.