

## New vs. Retrofit

Communities struggle with the **challenge of how to plan, build, integrate and sustain the built environment** in a way that meets current and future needs.

There needs to be a greater regulatory and fiscal planning on improving and maintaining **existing built environments** and the planning and innovation on **new built environments**.



**Older residents who have places to walk and access to parks live longer!**

**By working together and concentrating efforts on areas of greatest impact, we can achieve positive change in our communities!**

## Is your Built Environment benefiting the community...

### 1. Economically:

- By reducing sprawl, car dependency, greenhouse gas emissions and the use of finite natural resources;
- By increasing affordability and livability in ways that meet diverse social, cultural and economic needs; and
- By improving environmental outcomes and reducing waste.

**2. Environmentally:** Land use planning such as zoning often influences community attributes such as soil contamination, safety of drinking water, traffic density, water, air and noise pollution.

**3. Social:** Natural areas in a community (sidewalks, trails, parks, and playgrounds) support a sense of community by drawing people together and enhancing social connections.

**4. Safety:** Keeping residents Safety First! Ensuring proper street, park, trail lighting. Safe access to trails. Safe well maintained sidewalks (clear of snow and ice) with a drop down curb for wheelchair and stroller access. These are ways to ensure your community residents are safe while use the built environment in your community.

**5. Health:** Access to natural environment improves cognitive functioning and recovery from illness. People who live near parks and open spaces are more physically active which results in better health and wellness.