

Built Environment

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. 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 drop down curbs for wheelchair and stroller access. These are ways to ensure your community residents are safe while they use the built environment in your community.

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

NWT Healthy Communities Toolkit: Best Management Practices & Policies

- Biking to Work
- Clearing Snow: Pathways and Roads
- Snowmobile Trail Access
- Edible Garden

