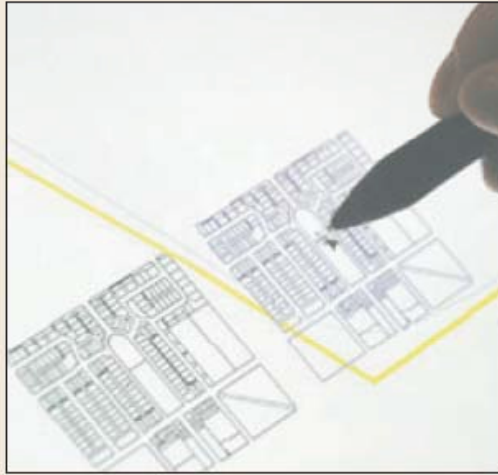Drawing Blocks & Parcels

Creating Neighborhood Scenarios

Painting Land-Uses

Designing Thoroughfares

MHC 250

OVERVIEW OF PLANNING PRACTICE

Planning for the future is…

- Anticipating possibilities
- Solving problems
- Serving "all" people
- Determining what's "good" and figuring out how to get there
- Deals with change
- It's a means to an end or a tool that helps:
  - Make decisions about land use and/or the built environment
  - Balance between "wants" and "needs"
  - Develops regulatory environments that don't stifle creativity, but maintain orderly growth
- About using data/information
- About city management

When we plan or intervene…

- Goals/Purpose of planning
  - to guide society
  - to transform society

- Planning becomes the link between knowledge and action

- According to Friedmann (1987) <u>Planning in the Public Domain</u>
- We usually adopt one of the following approaches
  - policy analysis
  - social learning
  - social reform
  - social mobilization

Social Reform Approach

- Bold; goal-oriented
- Comprehensive
- Responds to crisis situations
- Intervention oriented
- Political
- Desire for "perfection"
  - striving towards an ideal state
- Examples?

Policy Analysis Approach

- Define the problem
  - context
  - objectives
  - criteria; hypotheses
- Search for data alternatives
  - facts, alternative scenarios, costs-benefits
- Explain & interpret results
- Recommend a set of actions
- Examples?

Social Learning

- Learning by doing
  - pragmatic
- Regional planning approaches
  - Several surveys to capture the richness of the region
  - Regional planning needs linked to broad social goals
  - Encourages Participation, but probably dominated by the elites
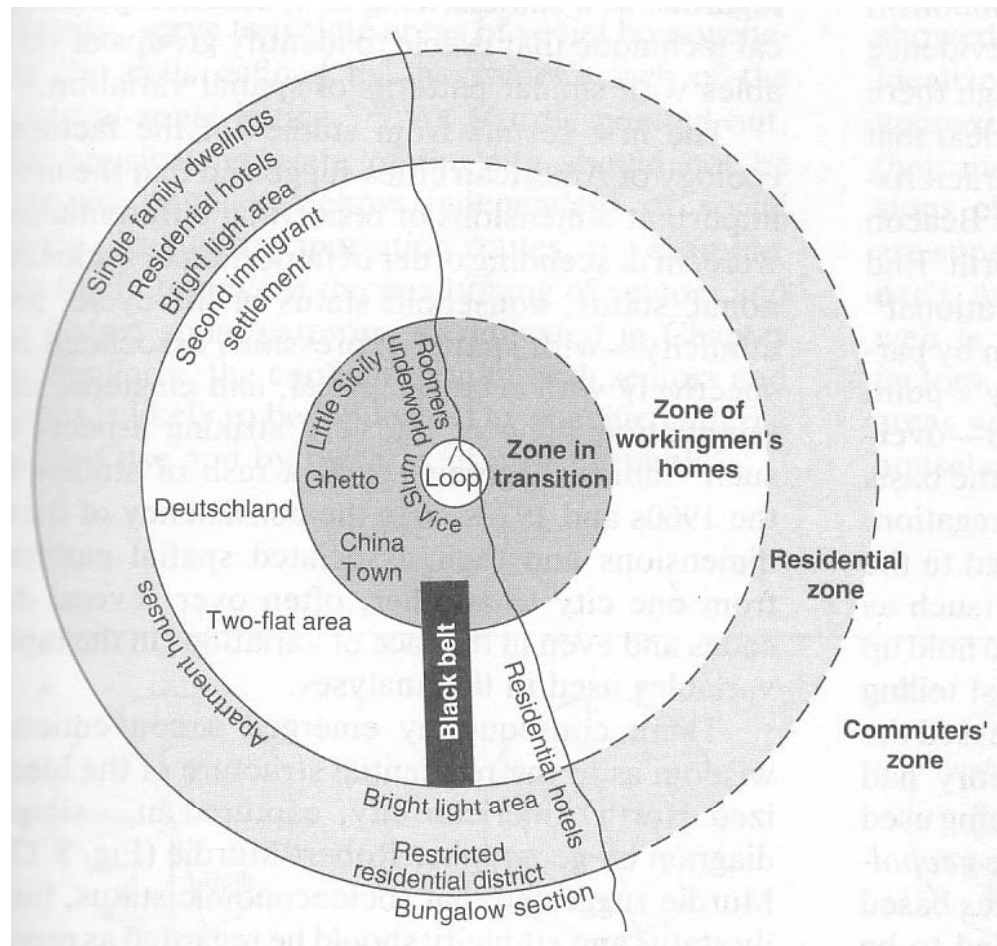 - Planning as an educative process
  - Examples?

Social Mobilization

- Inevitably involves "struggle"
- Choice of means
  - violent or non-violent
  - reform or revolution
  - working within the political system or outside it
- Organizing
  - strategies differ (us versus them, or inclusive)
  - single issue-oriented or comprehensive a
- Scale
  - Local →Global and /or Global ←Local
- Examples?

Understanding Structure and Process

Park & Burgess, The Chicago School

How Planning Works (in theory)

The 4 step process (there are many variations)

- Problem Diagnosis
  - articulate goals and objectives
- Analyze the environment
  - Identify resources and constraints
- Develop alternative solutions or strategies
- Evaluate solutions in the light of goal-related criteria
- Implement "best" alternative

In practice…however,

- Real decision-making processes do not meet the demands of rationality
  - incomplete information
  - simultaneous consideration of all possible alternatives
- People "satisfice"
  - discover options one at a time
  - evaluation standards are not rigid
- Is this problematic?

A working definition of "planning"

Planning is the deliberate social or organizational activity of developing an optimal strategy of future action to achieve a desired set of goals, for solving <u>novel</u> problems in complex contexts, and attended by the power and intention to commit resources and to act as necessary to <u>implement</u> the chosen strategy

- E.R. Alexander, planning theorist

Adaptations of the Rational Model

- Comprehensive Planning
- Policy Planning
- Strategic Planning
- Consensus Building

Creating Comprehensive Plans

- Also called Master Plans or General Plans
- What makes a plan comprehensive?
  - geographic coverage
  - subject matter
  - time horizon
- Long range planning for a defined area
- Focus on the physical environment
- General Purpose of a master plan is to:
  - guide and coordinate development
  - consider present and future needs
  - promote general welfare
  - promote efficiency

What's in a Comprehensive Plan

- Mandate for comprehensive planning typically comes from state law
- Elements can include:
  - housing
  - land use
  - transportation
  - environment
  - parks and open space
  - utilities and infrastructure
  - school facilities
- Local communities can include other issues that they are concerned about
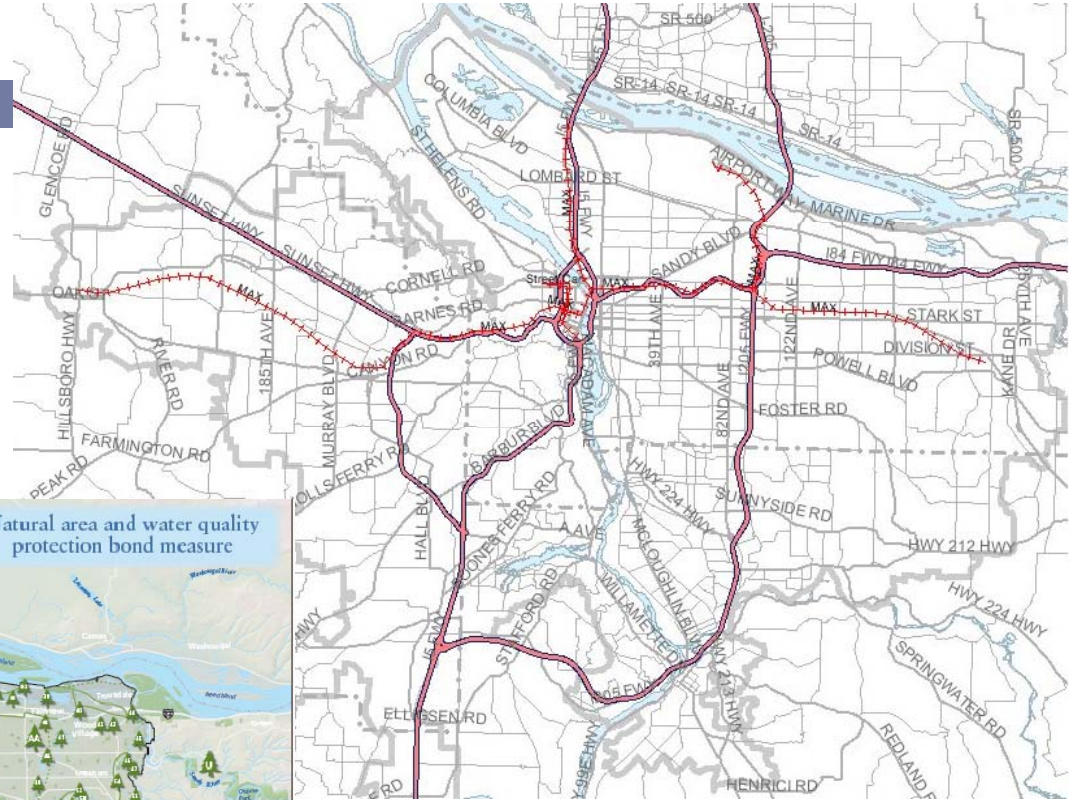
City Comprehensive Plans

□ City of Madison, Wisconsin

- ❑ http://www.cityofmadison.com/planning/comp/plan.html

2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Fall 2002 Public Meetings				
Fall 2002 - Winter 2004 Collecting and Analyzing Background Data				
Fall 2002 - Fall 2003 Determining Issues and Opportunities				
	Fall 2003 Public Meetings			
		Spring 2004 Survey and Discussion Kit		
		Spring 2004 Downtown Planning Process		
		Spring 2004 - Fall 2005 Drafting Plan Chapters		
			Summer 2005 Discussion Draft Review	
			Fall 2005 - Winter 2006 Final Draft Plan Public Reviewn and Adoption	

Regional Comprehensive Plans

- Metro; Metropolitan Portland's elected regional government
- 2040 Plan
  - http://www.metro-region.org/index.cfm/go/by.web/id=231

Comprehensive Plan Components

- Typically, a comp. plan will include:
  - Reasons for creating the plan
    - institutions, actors
  - Executive Summary
  - Context
    - an inventory of existing conditions
  - Social Objectives
    - a statement of needs and goals
  - Policies
    - implementation strategies with time frames
- Adaptations to the comp. plan
  - Spatial/Physical Plans *versus* Verbal/Policy Plans

Comprehensive Planning Process

- Plan-making
  - building consensus about a shared vision
- Information
  - technical analyses (from professionals)
  - local knowledge (from citizens)
- Process
  - Balancing needs of stakeholders
- Therefore, we begin with ?
  - articulating what's wrong, what needs to be changed
  - creating a shared vision of the future
  - establishing a timeframe for the plan

- Ultimately, a good plan must have content