# Growth Scenarios for Sussex Communities using CommunityViz, an ArcGIS Tool for Land Use Planning 

by

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## Growth is here



## Sussex County has 606,785 acres

At a population size of 156,638 our density is only one quarter person per acre.

Or, each person has 3.78 acres of open space.

## But not all the land is 'available'

Some 'land' is water, roads, ag easement, ag district, Fish\&Wildlife, or protected.

After removing those areas we have 492,514 acres. A density of about $1 / 3^{\text {th }}$ a person per acre.


Or, each person has 3.14 acres of open space.


## Towns cover about 28 thousand acres

About 6\% of our available land base


## About $27 \%$ of our population lives in town



## About $73 \%$ of people live in the 'country'

In 2000, 114,789 people lived on about 492,514 acres.

In 2010, we are projected to have 187,510 people living in Sussex County. What will be the impact of that many people?

Do we want to 'guide' that growth?


## Town-areas differ in concentration of people



## Community Vizٌ - a tool to model growth


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## Community Vizo - assumptions




## New dwellings in $2010=51,127$

100,516 homes currently


## Some results of increased population



## Directing population increase



## Some results of directed population increase



## Additional possible scenario Green Infrastructure

- Green Infrastructure includes working agriculture and forest lands, groundwater recharge areas, etc.
- Population densities are directed towards existing towns.
- Green Infrastructure recommendation is about 165,000 acres of working lands in the county.


## Questions ... to start

- What is an acceptable level of population density within towns?
- What happens to existing AR lands outside the Green Infrastructure?
- Can market forces create demand for purchase of development rights from Green Infrastructure?

