



*Western Upper Peninsula Center
for Science, Mathematics and Environmental Education*

A partnership of

Copper Country & Gogebic-Ontonagon Intermediate School Districts and Michigan Technological University
Serving schools and communities in Houghton, Baraga, Gogebic, Ontonagon and Keweenaw Counties

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**Design Guidelines to Enhance Community Appearance and Protect Natural Resources—
a guidebook for citizens, decision-makers, and students**

Unplanned or poorly planned development can have significant impacts on natural and cultural resources in the Great Lakes region. Communities want their economies to grow without losing what makes them special—scenic landscapes, historic downtowns, and places of unique cultural character.

To facilitate a greater understanding of community planning tools and natural resource “Best Management Practices,” a 65-page guidebook *Design Guidelines to Enhance Community Appearance and Protect Natural Resources* has been developed that compares traditional development to a more visually appealing approach that also protects natural and cultural resources. Tools to accomplish the recommended approach are suggested.

The guidebook features color photos that address twenty of the most common development issues including: shoreline development, water quality and storm water management, landscape character protection, visual corridors, pedestrian accessibility, historic preservation, signage, lighting, and more. “We wanted a tool that would help create an informed electorate and encourage public participation in the planning process,” explains Joan Chadde, Education Program Coordinator for the Western Upper Peninsula Center for Science, Mathematics and Environmental Education at Michigan Tech University in Houghton, MI. “People don’t realize they have choices. So often, the issue is presented as ‘growth or no growth,’ but that just isn’t so.”

The *Design Guidelines* guidebook may be purchased for \$10/copy, or \$5/each for 10+ copies. Send a credit card, check, or purchase order to: Joan Chadde at Michigan Technological University, jchadde@mtu.edu, or phone 906-487-3341. For more information, visit: www.wupcenter.mtu.edu.

The guidebook is being used for citizen planning workshops, teacher professional development, and middle/high school classes. The *Smart Growth Network* selected the guidebook for inclusion on their *Smart Growth Shareware* CD being distributed to 10,000 communities nationwide.

The guidebook was developed by Joan Chadde, along with teachers Linda Rulison, Ruth Ann Smith, Jean Dunstan, Jenn Klipp, and City of Houghton planning commission member, Kristine Bradof with funding from The Dunn Foundation of Newport, Rhode Island and The Wege Foundation of Grand Rapids, MI. Additional funds for printing came from the Smart Growth Network and Americana Foundation, along with contributions from the Central Lake Superior Watershed Partnership, Houghton Rotary Club, League of Women Voters of the Copper Country, and the National Environmental Education and Training Foundation.