UNIT ASSESSMENT

1. Explain suburban sprawl. List three impacts on a community of sprawl.
   i. 
   ii. 
   iii. 

2. Explain the difference between an area that has mixed zoning and one that has a strict/separate zoning. Which one would you prefer to live in and why?

3. How has our community, and the surrounding area, changed since 1960?

4. What historic features around our community did we learn about? Describe some of the ways or things that are now being valued and preserved.

5. Explain why it is important for citizens to learn about land use and planning, and how local governments regulate land.

6. What is visual pollution and how can it be prevented or reversed?

7. Is the choice to grow or not to grow? Explain your answer.
How Well Do You Know Your Place?

Try this quiz to find out if you are a community whiz! If you can answer all of these questions, you deserve a prize for awareness of your local environment and community. If you are not sure of some of the answers, check out the sources of information listed below each set of questions.

BUILDINGS
What building materials commonly used in your region are from local sources?

What color are the bricks and stone that are quarried in your region?
Sources of information: Local builders’ association, historian

ENERGY
What portion of your electricity is generated using nuclear power? Hydroelectricity? Fossil fuels? Wind? Solar?
Sources of information: Local utility or fuel supplier

FOOD
What is the growing season in your area?

Where did the food on your dinner plate last night come from? How far is this from where you live?

Where can you buy “locally grown” food?
Sources of information: Food coop, local grocer, Natural Resources Conservation Service office

COMMUNITY
What are some important local issues where you live?

Name the decision-making body in your community?

List one or more contributions to the “common good of your community” made by a local person?

Can you name an organization in your community that helps those in need by providing food, comfort, transportation, or companionship?
Sources of information: Local city/town offices, newspaper, phone book

WASTE
Where does your garbage go?

What materials can be recycled in your community?

Where does hazardous waste in your community go?
Sources of information: Municipal public works offices, Department of Natural Resources offices.

PLANTS & WILDLIFE
Can you name 25 species of birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, trees, and flowers in your area?

Which birds stay in your area year-round?
Sources of information: Department of Natural Resources offices, local Audubon chapter, sportsmens’ clubs, books

LOCAL HISTORY
Which Native American tribe lived in your area prior to Europeans?

When did Europeans first come to the area and why?

Why was your town or city established? Why was the location important?

What was on the land where you now live a hundred years ago?
Sources of information: Public libraries, native people, older residents, historical museum or archives

WATER
Name the watershed in which you live.

When you turn on the faucet at your house, where does the water come from—lake, river, groundwater?

When you flush the toilet, where does the water go?
Sources of information: Conservation district or Natural Resources Conservation Service office, Municipal public works offices, EPA Surf Your Watershed website http://www.epa.gov/surf/

POLLUTION & THE ENVIRONMENT
What are sources of pollution in your community?

What organizations in your area are working to protect and enhance the environment?

What local, state and federal agencies regulate pollution of air, water and land in your community?
Sources of information: Department of Natural Resources offices, phone book, public library, internet

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Picture This!

Building A

Pictured on the left, is a 2-story building with hardwood floors, beautiful hardwood trim, and large spacious rooms. The walls are covered with a dark brown paneling. The floors are covered with an olive green and gold striped linoleum. There is a false acoustic tile ceiling. The large window display windows in front are covered. An addition was put on a few years ago. The left side has been rented as several apartments. A small repair shop is in the adjacent building. There is an empty lot next door.

Building B

Pictured on the right is an abandoned three-story machine shop made of sandstone from the Upper Peninsula. Built in 1911, the shop has hewn oak beams and solid oak floors that were designed for heavy loads. Except for broken windows and a rotted roof, the building is in very good shape. It occupies ten acres, with many other buildings from the same time period in various conditions. Since this building is located across the river from the downtown business district, many would like to see it removed as it is becoming an eyesore.

Your Assignment

Choose one of these buildings and using what you have learned and the information provided, develop a plan for what to do with the structure and surrounding property. Explain how your recommendation will enhance community image and property value.

I recommend...