

## Sprawl is likely to increase

Sprawl encroaches on the green spaces for which Vermont is known and loved. Spread far apart, homes and businesses create inefficiencies of travel and service provision. Between them stretch hundreds of miles of paved surfaces that collect toxins and inhibit natural water filtration. But sprawl is perpetuated, in many cases, by the same people who detest it, making it a difficult problem to resolve.

### the FACTS

- Acre for acre, urban development is the primary source of phosphorus pollution in Lake Champlain. Seventy percent of this contaminant derives from rain and snow melt runoff. The soil's natural ability to purify drainage is cut in half when toxins are gathered and concentrated on pavement. Sprawl contributes to this problem because it generates more pavement and more pollutants due to lengthy commutes.<sup>145</sup>
- In a 2005 poll conducted by the Vermont Forum on Sprawl, 90% of Vermonters polled believed that current trends of increasing sprawl will continue unless preventative action is taken.<sup>146</sup>

### In a 2006 poll, Vermonters identified **sprawl** among their five most important issues.<sup>147</sup>

- Two-thirds of Vermonters would like their new home to be located in an outlying or rural area, yet 90% of the same respondents believe that residential development should occur in or adjacent to existing downtowns or neighborhoods.<sup>148</sup>

### GIVING THOUGHT

#### *Spending today and setting aside for the future*

Now or later? Where timing is concerned, grantmakers work within two schools of thought. Both are valid and each serves a distinct purpose.

Spend today—make more dollars available to address urgent needs and prepare for the future by building capacity in the present.

Set aside for the future—spend some today, but invest the most for tomorrow. Beneficiaries receive fewer dollars today but, because of investment returns, they enjoy far more dollars over time. Plus, the collection of sizable long-term assets helps attract new funds and positively influences other grantmakers' decisions.

The Foundation has an obligation to help interested donors do both, benefiting Vermont residents of today, while building community capital that future generations can put to good use.