Abstract

Urban economics dictate that cities must grow to maintain their vitality. Small cities increase their population and economic base, thereby expanding their city limits. Large cities manage growth so that expansion is controlled, avoiding real estate and economic depressions. Former Albuquerque Mayor David Rusk argues in Cities Without Suburbs that cities with aggressive growth strategies prosper while land locked cities lose vitality, economic base and eventually, population. The City of Madison, Wisconsin is on the threshold of being prohibited from growing by its neighbors. Using ArcView software, an "annexation potential" formula was developed to identify and analyze growth limits, generating an Ultimate Growth Area map.

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