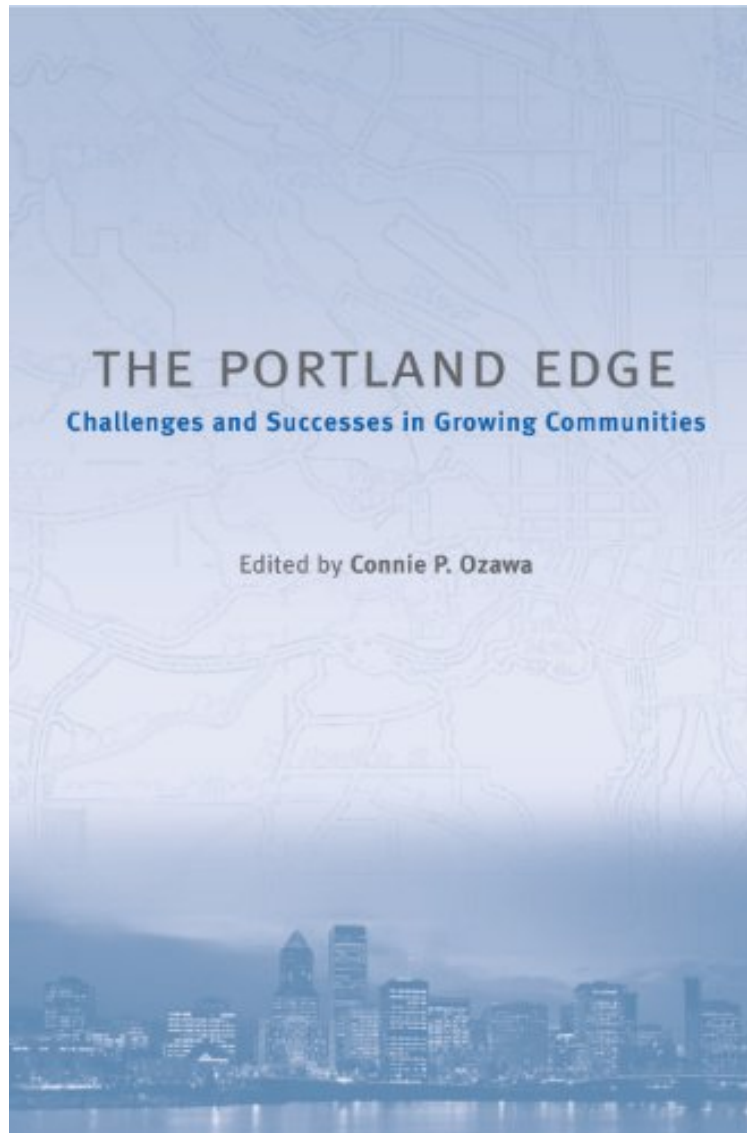


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The Portland Edge: Challenges And Successes In Growing Communities

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From Island Press : The Portland Edge: Challenges And Successes In Growing Communities before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Portland Edge: Challenges And Successes In Growing Communities:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Very useful overviewBy Hugh H. SchwartzThe Portland Edge provides a very useful overview of developments in the Portland area, combining the responses of those with different sets of concerns. It helped me a good deal in understanding what has gone on there over in recent years, and in

preparing my current piece on Incorporating Economics Into Urban Planning. Hugh Schwartz, author of a book on Curitiba, Brazil of 0 people found the following review helpful. Not really the model of great urban leadership. By From the Pacific NW Published 2012; now it's mid 2017. Portland is now has the most expensive housing market relative to income of any USA city. No cause evictions are common. Homelessness and tent cities are common and widespread. Not really the model of great urban leadership, planning, or policy. Certainly not anything sustainable and definitely no longer livable. 11 of 11 people found the following review helpful. The successes and challenges in Portland communities. By Yan I am a professor of City and Regional Planning and I found this book a much-needed addition to the urban-planning literature. The book is written at a level appropriate for a wide range of audiences including planning students, policy makers, politicians, urban planners, and community activists. The comprehensiveness of the work provides a much-needed explanation for students yearning for a broader understanding of how an ensemble of urban elements can help American cities accommodate growth while sustaining a sense of community for their dwellers. What is unique about Portland's current land-use system? If planning is so popular, how does one explain the recent backlash? Where would be the balance between regulatory rules and other possibilities? These are examples of questions asked by *The Portland Edge* (edited by Connie Ozawa), written by a team of academics at Portland State University's School of Urban Studies and Planning. The thirteen chapters of the edited book are organized in four sections. The first section presents the demographic, economic, and civic character of the Portland region by presenting data on key dimensions of economy, equity, and environment. The second section traces Portland's growth-management policies and details the institutional structures by describing a range of the roles of regional and city bodies, such as Metro (the elected regional planning authority), the Portland Development Commission, citizen-involvement mechanisms, and neighborhood associations. The third section unveils Portland's social structures that allow people to create collective visions of community and offers examples of how the underrepresented groups and the citizen advocates work to voice themselves. The last section lays out several issues of the most interest, such as the liveliness of downtown and neighborhoods, housing affordability, implementation of state transportation and environment policies at the local jurisdiction level, and Portland's responses to the homeless. Those interested in examining the ways in which urban policy and planning have made a difference in the Portland region will find that the book offers a valuable overview of the region, a helpful background of the stressors on the current urban political and social system, and an effective explanation of current conditions in the context of the people and social institutions that have been influential in shaping today's Portland. The book offers the reader a comprehensive range of matters: each chapter picks a different angle of the inquiry--for example, the struggle between the well represented and the underrepresented, the competition between the central city and the suburbs, the rivalry between highways and transit, and the balance between Portland's natural landscapes and the interests of today's property owners. The bulk of the book presents a balanced view of Portland today through operationalizing the concept of quality of life. The book contributes in integrating environmental, social, and economic issues in a systematic evaluation framework that allows other communities to carry out critical and empirical inquiry to examine civic identity and urban environment in their communities. The book does a good job of what it intends to accomplish: to detail successes and challenges in Portland communities.

Portland, Oregon, is often cited as one of the most livable cities in the United States and a model for "smart growth." At the same time, critics deride it as a victim of heavy-handed planning and point to its skyrocketing housing costs as a clear sign of good intentions gone awry. Which side is right? Does Portland deserve the accolades it has received, or has hype overshadowed the real story? In *The Portland Edge*, leading urban scholars who have lived in and studied the region present a balanced look at Portland today, explaining current conditions in the context of the people and institutions that have been instrumental in shaping it. Contributors provide empirical data as well as critical insights and analyses, clarifying the ways in which policy and planning have made a difference in the Portland metropolitan region. Because of its iconic status and innovative approach to growth, Portland is an important case study for anyone concerned with land use and community development in the twenty-first century. *The Portland Edge* offers useful background and a vital overview of region, allowing others to draw lessons from its experience.

"With numerous photos, tables and figures, *The Portland Edge* is a text for urban livability."