

SimCity Tips for Success

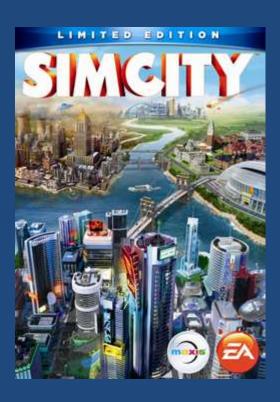
Jean Eason

Regional Coordinator www.dfwfuturecity.org



Agenda

- Before you start
 - Downloading SimCity
 - -Using "Offline" mode
 - -Whitewater Valley Region
- Starting your city
 - -Tips for success
 - Avoiding rookie mistakes
- As your city grows
 - Addressing problems
- Additional comments



Origin and SimCity

Getting Started



Downloading SimCity

- 1. Receive the SimCity download codes from FC National
 - Complete the two-part registration
- 2. Download Origin (EA's gaming platform)
 - www.origin.com
 - Download and install Origin
 - Create an Origin account
- 3. Download SimCity
 - From "My Games" tab
 - Redeem your SimCity product code
- See detailed instructions at http://futurecity.org/all-resources



Downloading SimCity – additional notes

- One Origin account and SimCity download per computer (recommended)
 - -However, you can use the same Origin ID on more than one computer
 - The SimCity download is associated with the Origin account
 - · If you go to a second (or third) computer and sign-in with the same Origin account
 - SimCity will automatically download to that computer



Offline Mode

- Log into Origin
- Origin menu select "Go Offline"
- My Games tab start SimCity
 - -Should start in the "Single Player" mode

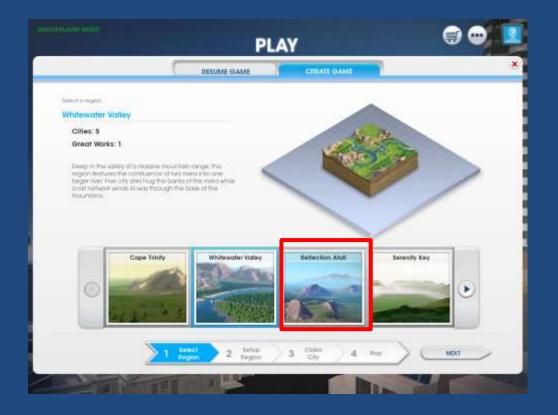


- Logging in to more than one computer with the same Origin account
 - More than one computer can log into the same Origin account if they "go offline"
 - Must wait some undetermined length of time before attempting the second or third log in with the same account



Whitewater Valley Region

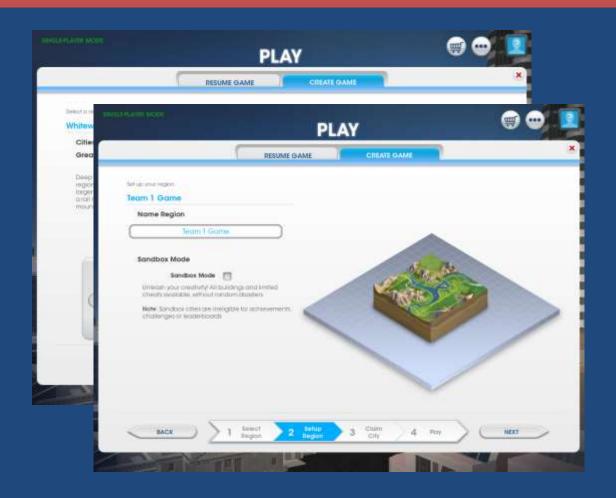
- You must use the Whitewater Valley region for your city
 - -Give your Region a unique name
 - Do not use Sandbox mode





Whitewater Valley Region

- You must use the Whitewater
 Valley region for your city
 - -Give your Region a unique name
 - Do not use Sandbox mode
- Select any of the five city sites in the region
 - Recommendation: select one of the level sites
 - Notice the available natural resources for each site, particularly water and wind





Note on teams sharing computers

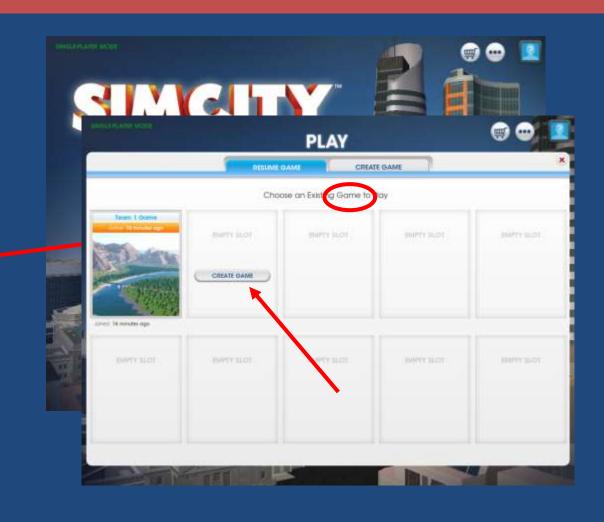
- Teams can share a computer and an Origin account
 - Each team should create its ownGame (Region)
 - -Select "Play" not Resume





Note on teams sharing computers

- Teams can share a computer and an Origin account
 - Each team should create its ownGame (Region)
 - Select "Play" not Resume
 - "Create Game"
 - Continue with
 - Select the Whitewater Valley region
 - Give your region a unique name
 - Select your city site
- Each time a team logs in, make sure they select "Play" (not Resume)
 - Select the correct Game to play





Sharing computers continued

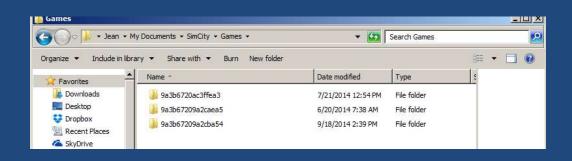
- Anyone logging in on the computer and Origin will be able to access any Game.
 - Make sure teams are playing the correct game
 - Make backup copies of games (just in case)
- Games are stored locally on the hard drive
 - -Teams must use the same computer each time to find and continue their game



Where the games are stored

- Games are stored locally
 - PC: Documents\SimCity\Games
 - Mac: Documents/SimCityMedia/Games
- In the Games Folder
 - Folder with long alphanumeric name
 - SimCity creates this folder for to store offline games
 - DO NOT RENAME THIS FOLDER
 - This folder is unique for each Origin account
 - So > 1 Origin acct means > 1 folder
 - You need to know which one goes with which Origin ID

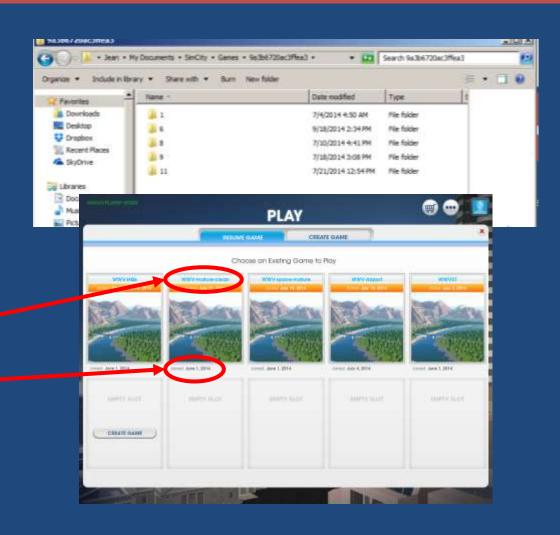






Where the games are stored (cont'd)

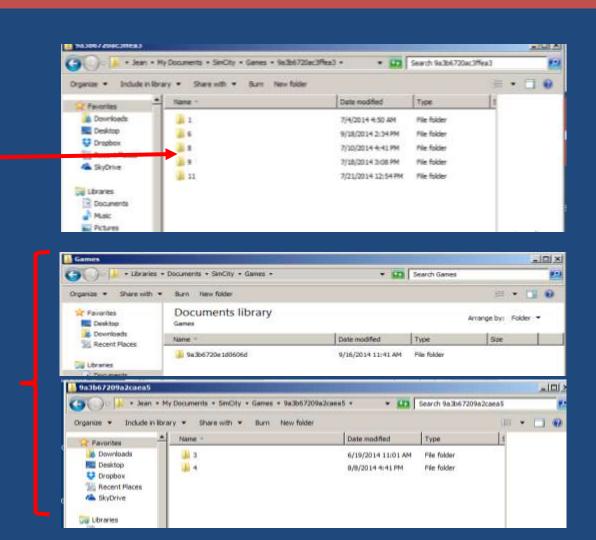
- In each alphanumeric folder
 - Numbered (integer) folders
 - Each one is a stored Game
- When you submit the file for judging
 - Need to know which game corresponds to which numbered folder
 - Use date/time stamp to identify the correct folder
 - -Zip (compress) the entire folder
 - Upload zip file to the Team Center
 - Make note of:
 - Game (Region) name
 - Last date played
 - City name (should be FC team name)
 - Population of city





Transfer game to another computer

- In each alphanumeric folder
 - Numbered (integer) folders
 - Each one is a stored Game
- Need to know which game corresponds to which numbered folder
 - Copy the numbered Game folder to a flashdrive
- On destination computer
 - Transfer the folder from the flashdrive to the alphanumeric folder
 - With the other numbered Game folders



Starting Your City

Tips for Success



Start with a Plan

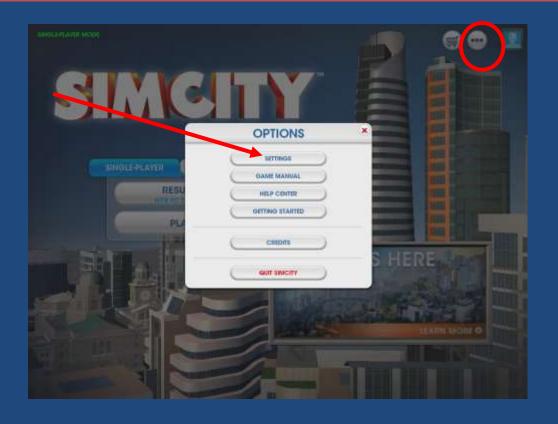
- Before you Play ... Plan
 - Decide where your city is located
 - Geography, terrain, climate
 - Special city features
 - Decide on a basic city layout
 - Transportation networks
 - Roads and public transportation
 - Downtown, major business districts
 - Residential and industrial zones
 - Decide how urban farming will fit into your city design and function
 - Decide on other city features and services





Setting up SimCity

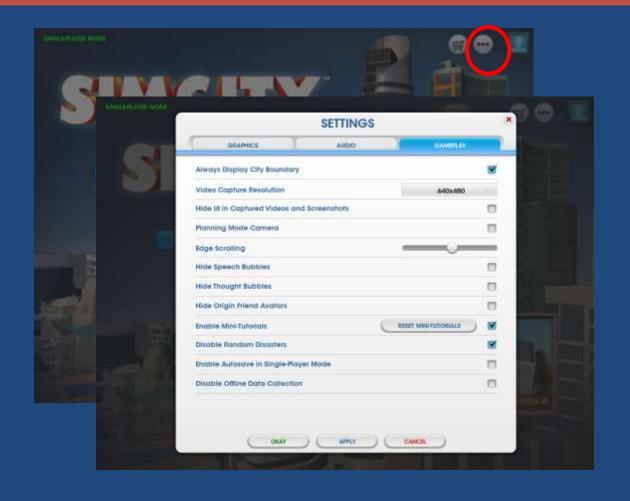
- Settings
 - Under the Options menu
 - -Gameplay tab





Setting up SimCity

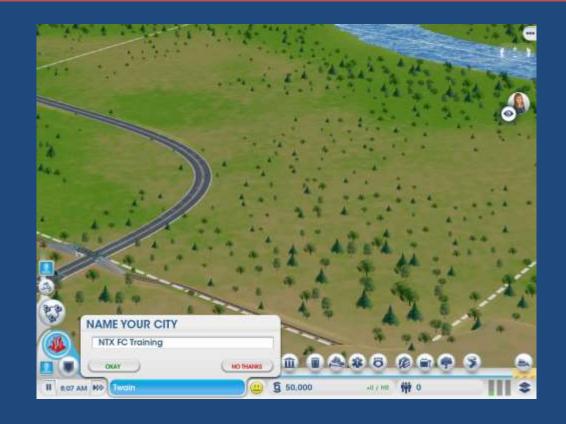
- Settings
 - Under the Options menu
 - -Gameplay tab
- Turn off Random Disasters
- Turn off Auto-save?
 - Turn off if you want to test strategies
 - Turn off if you want to play with disasters
 - Quit without Save to recover your original city
 - But remember to periodically save your city





Testing your city plan with SimCity

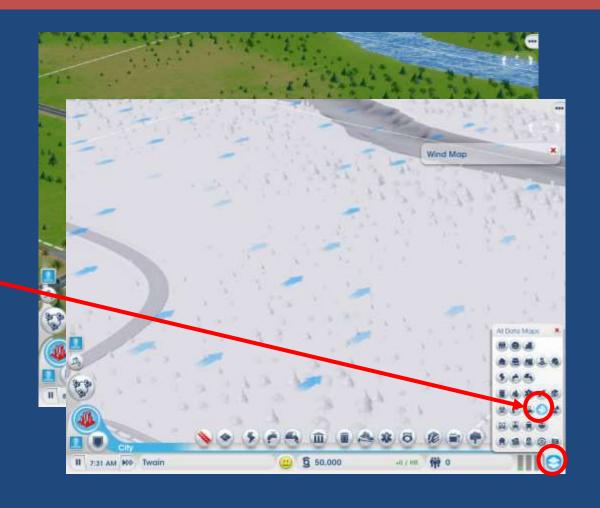
- 1. Rename your city
 - Give a unique name
 - This will be your FC Team name





Testing your city plan with SimCity

- 1. Rename your city
 - Give a unique name
 - This will be your FC Team name
- 2. Check the Wind map
 - Click on Data Maps
 - Click on Wind map
 - You want to place polluting industry and utilities where the wind blows the pollution out of town





SimCity – start your city

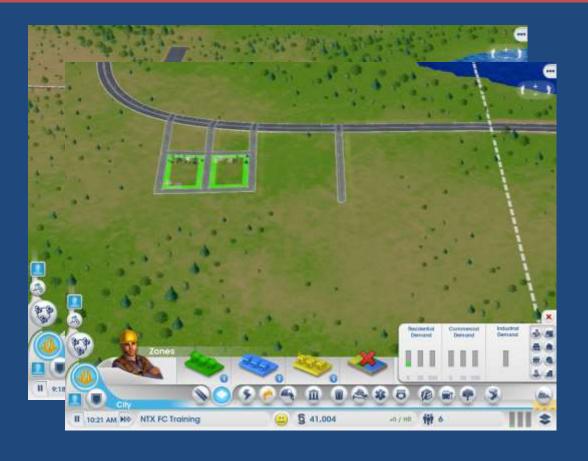
- 3. Start with roads
 - -Connect to the regional highway
 - Use the lowest density to start





SimCity – start your city

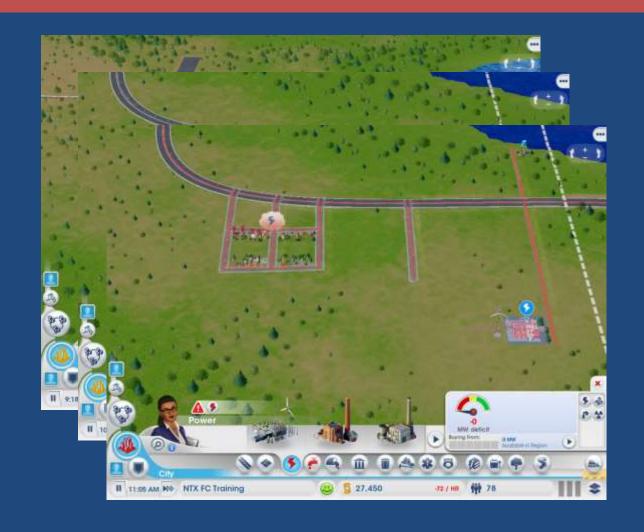
- 3. Start with roads
 - Connect to the regional highway
 - Use the lowest density to start
- 4. Zone Residential
 - -Sims will move in and build houses





SimCity – start your city

- 3. Start with roads
 - Connect to the regional highway
 - -Use the lowest density to start
- 4. Zone Residential
 - -Sims will move in and build houses
- 5. Add water and power
 - Add dirt road
 - Place water tower where there is good water supply
 - Place wind power plant
- Utility services are built into road system





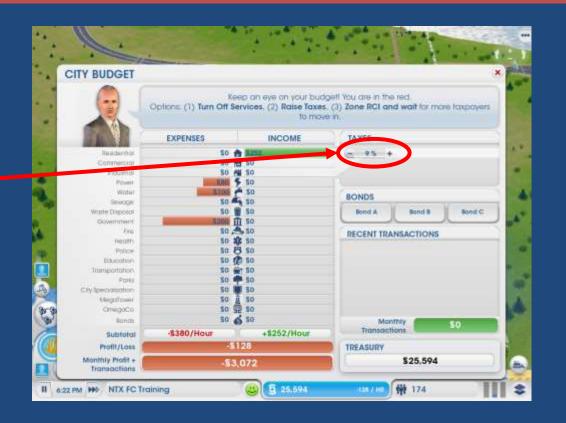
Add infrastructure, let it grow

- Add roads, zones
- Turn up the simulation speed to llama (#2)
- Sit back and watch the town develop and the treasury grow
 - -When zones are fully built up, add more roads and zones or
 - -When building stalls because a service (police, fire, health clinic) is needed, add the service
 - -Then sit back and watch some more
- Be patient don't build faster than your treasury can afford



Keep an eye on (and money in) the Treasury

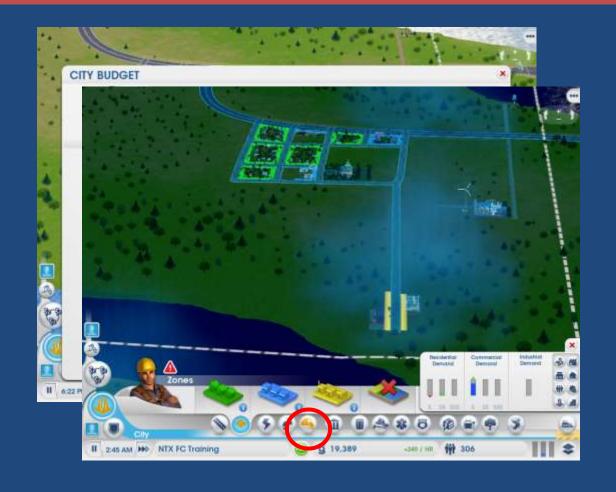
- Budget
 - Income from taxes
 - Expenses from roads, municipal building, utilities, services
 - Increase tax rate to 10%





Keep an eye on (and money in) the Treasury

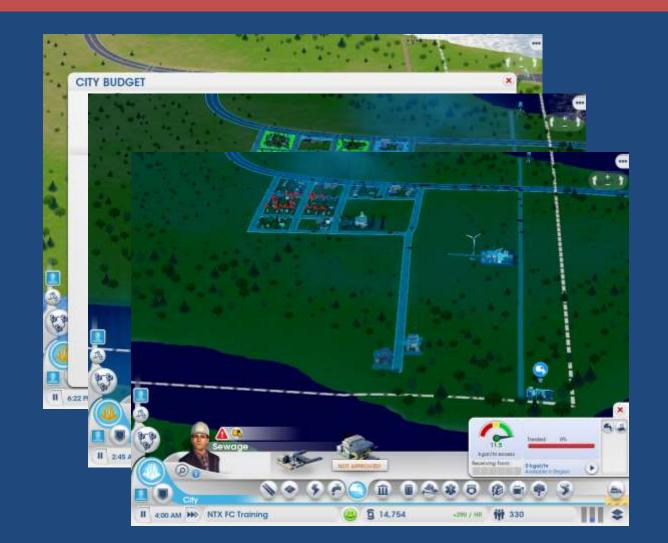
- Budget
 - Income from taxes
 - Expenses from roads, municipal building, utilities, services
 - Increase tax rate to 10%
- Add utilities, services as they become necessary
 - 1. Power
 - 2. Water
 - 3. Sewage
 - 4. Trash





Keep an eye on (and money in) the Treasury

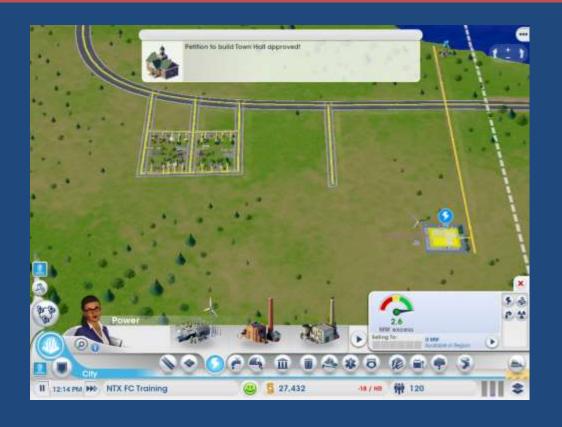
- Budget
 - Income from taxes
 - Expenses from roads, municipal building, utilities, services
 - Increase tax rate to 10%
- Add utilities, services as they become necessary
 - 1. Power
 - 2. Water
 - 3. Sewage
 - 4. Trash
 - Choose the smallest, least expensive option





Your town is born

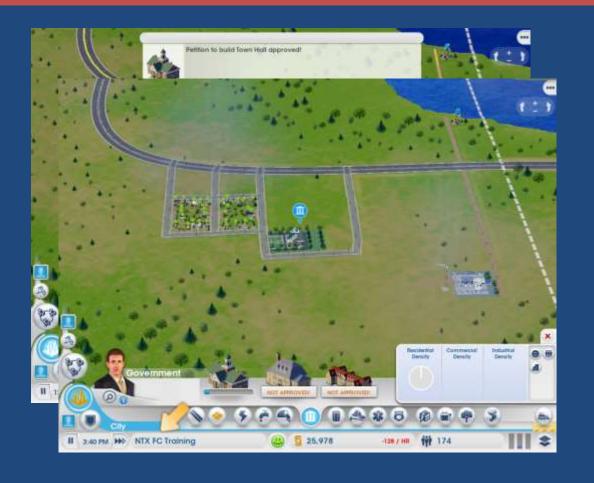
- Earning a town hall
 - -100 residents





Your town is born

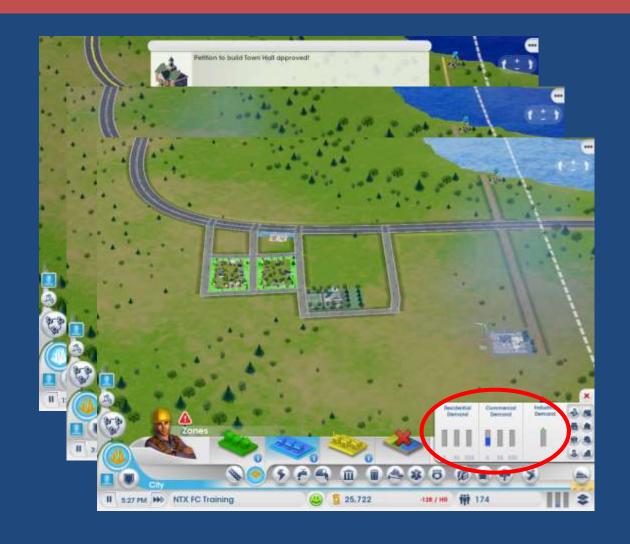
- Earning a town hall
 - -100 residents
- Place it where you planned for the downtown area
 - Give it room to expand





Your town is born

- Earning a town hall
 - 100 residents
- Place it where you planned for the downtown area
 - Give it room to expand
- Continue to zone commercial and industrial
 - Sims will need shops and places to work
 - Watch the RCI demand
 - Scatter commercial throughout residential areas
 - Place industry where pollution blows out of town





City growth and RCI demand

- Zone ratios R:C:I
 - Manual recommends 2:1:1
 - Jean recommends 6:2:1
 - Add commercial every few blocks
- Consult the RCI demand meter
 - -But use your own judgment





City growth and RCI demand

- Zone ratios R:C:I
 - Manual recommends 2:1:1
 - Jean recommends 6:2:1
 - Add commercial every few blocks
- Consult the RCI demand meter
 - But use your own judgment
- Add services when necessary
 - Police, Fire, Health, Education services cost §15-20,000 each
 - Satisfy the most urgent needs first
 - Add only the smallest, least expensive option
 - Leave space for expansion of service





Education is important

- Add a school as soon as you can afford to
- Educated Sims
 - Commit fewer crimes, including arson
 - Are healthier
 - -Use less power, water
 - Produce less trash
- Along with the school, add school bus stops





From town to city

- 5000 population
 - Town hall upgrades to City hall
 - Add city hall department
- City hall upgrades
 - Population milestones
 - Add department with each upgrade
 - Utilities
 - Education
 - Transportation
 - Safety
 - Finance
 - Tourism
 - Each department unlocks advanced options



Growing and Expanding

Your city matures



Add infrastructure, let it grow

- Add infrastructure
 - -Roads and zones
 - Utilities and services, schools, transportation
- Sit back and watch development
- Keep an eye on the budget and the treasury
- When building slows, add more infrastructure
- Be patient don't build faster than your treasury can afford



Density

- City is growing space becomes limited
- Roads dictate building density
 - Happiness or Profitability is the stimulus for increasing density
- Buildings automatically increase if roads accommodate it
- If happiness/profitability drop
 - Buildings will not downsize
 - Buildings will become abandoned, and eventually fall to rubble





Upgrading (editing) utilities and services

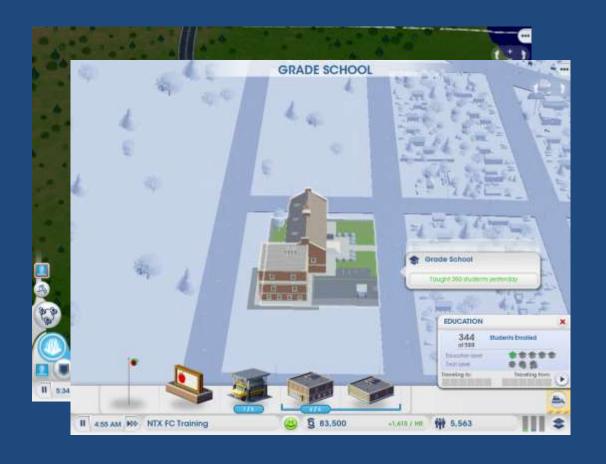
- Build on before you add new facilities
 - It's cheaper to upgrade
- Click on utility or service building
 - -Opens detailed information view
 - -Click on "edit" button
 - Possible additions to facility/service





Upgrading (editing) utilities and services

- Build on before you add new facilities
 - -It's cheaper to upgrade
- Click on utility or service building
 - Opens detailed information view
 - -Click on "edit" button
 - Possible additions to facility/service
- Education (for example)
 - Add classrooms
 - Add school buses
- Edit to downgrade or eliminate excess capacity or service





Wealth levels

- Low wealth
 - Low education, low tech
 - Fewer demands
 - Tolerates pollution, crime
 - Uses public transportation
- Medium wealth
 - Mid-level education, mid-tech
 - Less tolerant of problems
 - Uses public transportation
- High wealth
 - Educated, high tech, management
 - Demands well run city, amenities
 - Intolerant of problems





YIMBY and NIMBY

- Buildings that boost development, satisfaction, wealth levels
 - Services: health, police, fire, schools, transportation
 - -City hall, mayor's house, mansion
 - -Parks
 - Different ones influence different wealth levels
 - Tourist attractions
- Distribute these throughout residential areas

- Buildings that lower satisfaction, wealth levels
 - Polluting utilities
 - Coal, Gas power plants
 - Sewage outlet pipes and treatment plants
 - Polluting industry
 - Low tech industry
 - Most specialization industries
 - Abandoned buildings and rubble
- Place these away from nice residential areas



Transportation

- As the city grows, so does the traffic
 - Use the "Roads" tool to check traffic flow
- Increase road density
 - Accommodate more traffic





Transportation

- As the city grows, so does the traffic
 - Use the "Roads" tool to check traffic flow
- Increase road density
 - Accommodate more traffic
- Add public transit
 - Shuttle bus and bus stops
 - Every 2-4 blocks
 - From residential (med & low wealth)
 - To business & industrial jobs
 - Monitor wait times
 - · Add stops and buses as needed



SimCity In Depth

Understanding how things work and addressing problems



Utilities – Power

- Wind and solar
 - Clean, green, sustainable but not very efficient
 - Good for town to small city
 - Requires a lot of land-space
- Coal and oil
 - Dirty, but efficient
 - Requires natural resources
- Nuclear
 - Clean, not sustainable
 - Efficient, but expensive
 - Requires a highly educated (hightech) workforce and lots of water resources

- Buildings without power will be quickly abandoned
- Deductions for outsourcing power
- Advanced generation options available through university research programs





Utilities – Water

- Water towers
 - Inexpensive
 - -Good for towns, small cities
- Water pumping station *
 - Efficient
 - Expand with additional pump modules
 - Filtration pumps remove pollution
 - Replace basic pump modules with filtration pumps

- Buildings without water will quickly become abandoned
- Place pumps away from polluters
 - Pumping polluted water will make all the Sims sick
 - Filtration pumps will clean up polluted water
- Deductions for outsourcing water



^{*} Water pumping stations available with city Utilities Department



Utilities – Sewage

- Sewage outflow pipe
 - -Inexpensive
 - -Good for town, small city
 - Sewage become ground pollution
 - Place them on the edge of town
- Sewage treatment plant *
 - Removes sewage and returns clean water to water table
 - -Expensive, efficient
 - Expand with additional tanks

- Notes
 - Outflow pipes move sewage, but don't eliminate it
 - Untreated sewage becomes ground pollution
 - Can contaminate the water table
 - Make Sims sick and unhappy
 - Deductions for outsourcing sewage

* Sewage treatment plants available with city Utilities Department



Utilities – Trash

- Garbage dump
 - Trucks collect garbage, deliver to dump
 - Garbage dumps becomes ground pollution
 - Incinerator burns garbage, produces air pollution
- Recycling center *
 - Reduces garbage
 - Convert trash to usable and sellable products: plastic, metal, alloy

- Notes
 - Uncollected garbage makes Sims sick and unhappy
 - Educated Sims recycle more
 - Deduction for outsourcing trash

* Recycling plants available with city Utilities Department





Education – precollege

- Grade school and high school *
 - School buses transport students
 - Expand with additional classrooms, buses
- Public library
 - Available to all Sims
 - Slight boost in education level



- All schools increase education level and tech level
 - You don't need all types
- Schools increase medium wealth land values
- Educated Sims
 - · Commit fewer crimes, are healthier
 - Use less power, water, and generate less trash
- Traffic congestion keeps buses from getting students to schools
 - Building density strains school bus networks
- Schools have greater capacity than their bus networks
 - As population density increases, you may have to add more, smaller schools
- * High schools available with city Education Department



Education – college

- Community college *
 - Public transit transports students
 - Increases tech-level
- University *
 - Very expensive, lots of land-space
 - Upgrade with specialized schools/colleges, research projects
 - Upgrades available for student population milestones



- Colleges and universities are necessary for high-tech industry
 - Locate schools close to industry for max affect
- Universities and research projects are necessary to unlock advanced utility and service facilities
 - Specific schools/colleges can complete specific research
 - It is unusual to have more than 2 schools/colleges in one city

^{*} Colleges, universities available with city Education Department



Transportation – Roads

- Hierarchy
 - Dirt road
 - Streets: low, medium, high density
 - Street density dictates building density
 - Avenues: medium, high density, streetcar avenue
 - Require more land than streets
 - · Can't simply upgrade a street to an avenue
 - Use to connect to regional highway



- Intersections slow down traffic
 - Minimize the number
 - Traffic lights are better than stop signs for traffic flow
- Increase road density will allow increase in building and population density
 - Increased population means more traffic
- Congestion leads to many (not so obvious) problems
 - Slow response times for first-responders
 - · Ineffective school bus networks
 - Sims not getting to work or shopping or parks
- Increase road density without increasing building density
 - Dezone the area
 - Then upgrade road density
- Traffic does not increase air pollution



Transportation – Public transit (roads)

- Buses: shuttle and municipal *
 - Bus stations and stops
 - Municipal bus travels regionally
- Park & ride lot
 - Bus stop with attached parking lot
 - Place along commuter routes, highway into/out of city
- Streetcars *
 - Require high-density streetcar avenue
 - Streetcar station and stops
 - Transport hundreds of passengers

- Interconnect your transit networks
 - Sims will walk 1-2 blocks to the next stop
- Place stops so that Sims get from home to work, shopping, parks & recreation
- Only low, medium wealth Sims will use buses, streetcars
 - No need for stops in high-wealth areas



^{*} Municipal buses and streetcars available with city Transportation Department



Transportation – Public transit (other)

- Passenger trains *
 - Add to regional rail connection
 - Connect to the road network
 - Basic and high-speed rail stations
- Ferries *
 - Place terminal along shoreline
 - Connect to road network
 - Expand with a cruise ship dock
 - Medium and high wealth tourists
- Planes *
 - Municipal airport
 - Expensive
 - Requires a lot of land-space
 - Carries medium and high wealth passengers
 - Expand with passenger and cargo terminals and additional runways

Notes

- Interconnect your transit networks
 - Add bus stops near airports, train stations and ferry docks
- Only low, medium wealth Sims will use trains, ferries
- Medium, high wealth tourists will use cruise ships and planes
- Trains, ferries and planes can also transport freight

* Trains, ferries and planes available with city Transportation Department





Services – Fire

- Fire station (small)
 - Good for mid-size city
 - Expand
 - Additional trucks (up to 4)
 - Fire alarm (cuts response time from 12 to 6 minutes)
- Large fire station *
 - Expand
 - Additional trucks
 - Dispatch tower (cuts response time from 6 to 3 minutes)
 - Hazmat fire capability **
 - Helipad ***
 - Fire marshal's office (helps prevent fires)



- Large fire station costs 4x small station
 - Consider placing 2-3 small stations around the city
- Hazmat capability is needed if you have large amount of high-tech
 - Small fire station cannot put out hazmat fires
 - · Fires will jump to adjacent buildings
- Educated Sims cause fewer fires
- High crime rates (arson) mean more fires
- Fire increases injuries
- Traffic congestion slows fire response
- * Large fire station available with city Safety Department
- ** Hazmat capability available through university research project
- *** Helipad available with airport



Services – Police

- Police station (small)
 - Good for mid-size city
 - Expand
 - Additional patrol cars (up to 8)
 - Jail cells
- Police precinct *
 - Expand
 - Additional patrol cars
 - Dispatch tower (cuts response time)
 - Detective force **
 - Helipad ***
 - · Crime prevention center
 - * Police precinct available with city Safety Department
 - ** Detective capability available through university research project
 - *** Helipad available with airport

- Police precinct costs 4x small station
 - Consider placing 2-3 small stations around the city
- Detectives investigate and catch criminals at-large
- Unemployment increases crime rates
- Crime lowers land value, decreases happiness
- Criminal who gets away with a crime, ramps up his activity and commits more serious crimes





Services – Health

- Health clinic (small)
 - Good for mid-size city
 - Expand
 - Additional ambulances
 - Patient rooms
- Hospital *
 - Expand
 - Additional ambulances & patient rooms
 - Emergence center
 - Surgical center **
 - Diagnostic lab ***
 - Wellness center (prevent disease, injury)
 - * Hospital available with city Safety Department
 - ** Surgery available through university research project
 - *** Diagnostic lab available with university science school

- Hospital costs 4-5x small clinic
 - Consider placing 2-3 clinics around the city
- Diagnostic lab and surgery center reduce recovery times
- Emergency center increases the life-span of injured Sims
- Air & ground pollution increase germs, disease
- Sick, injured Sims don't work or shop





Parks & recreation (and land value)

- Hierarchy
 - -Basic parks
 - Does not increase land value
 - -Sports parks
 - Increases medium-wealth land value
 - Nature parks
 - Increases medium-wealth land value
 - Trees help reduce pollution
 - Plazas and formal parks
 - Increase high-wealth land value

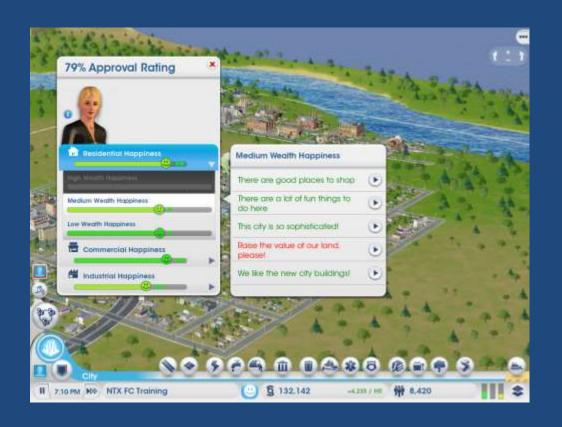


- Parks increase happiness
- Homeless hang out in parks
 - Complaints from medium and highwealth Sims
- Parks (and trees) can help reduce pollution
 - However, Sims visiting polluted parks will get sick
- Placing sports and nature parks in low-wealth neighborhoods will raise land value
 - Low-wealth Sims will leave
 - Unfilled low-wealth jobs



City management

- Mayor rating
 - Synopsis of Sim satisfaction
 - Residential, commercial, industrial
 - All wealth-levels
 - Note the tense of the verbs





City management Budgets and the treasury

- Income
 - Taxes
 - Selling on the global market
 - Recovered recycled materials
 - Specialization output
 - Successful missions, rewards
- Expenses
 - Infrastructure
 - City operations
 - Buying on the global market
- Addressing problems
 - Loans
 - Take out a loan for upgrades and improvements
 - Lower operating cost of underutilized services
 - Close or eliminate unnecessary facilities
 - Watch the budget panel





City management Population, employment, happiness

- Sims need jobs
 - Unemployed low-wealth become homeless
 - Unemployed high-wealth move out
- Sims like to shop, spend money
 - Shops by wealth-level
 - Freight to supply shops
- Sims also like parks and amusements
- Additional population data
 - Students and school capacity
 - Workers commuting in/out
 - Homeless and tourists





Trading on the global market

- Buy resources
 - -Oil, coal for power plants
- Sell resources
 - Plastic, metal and alloy from recycling plant
- Trucks deliver to/from depot
- Storage lots hold freight
- Specializations (mining, drilling, electronics) require trade depot
- Upgrade to trade port

- Notes
 - Playing offline means prices are fixed
 - You won't be able to "play the market"





Missions & rewards

- Be selective
 - Don't accept every challenge
 - Weigh the tradeoffs
 - You don't get points (rubric) for accomplishing missions
- Recommended missions
 - Increase population
 - Up to about 100,000 (small metropolis)
 - Fireworks fun
 - With a small city
 - -Block party
 - · With a small city





City specializations – It's all about tradeoffs

- Mining & Metals coal, ore
 - Mines, smelting
 - Limited resources
- Drilling oil
 - Wells, refineries
 - Limited resources
- Electronics
 - Processor, consumer electronics factories
 - Requires high-tech workforce
- Gambling
 - Casinos, shows
 - Brings in huge numbers of tourists
- Tourism
 - Tourist attractions, expos, stadiums

- Tradeoffs
 - Don't need specialization for rubric
 - Successful specializations add income stream to treasury
 - Mining, drilling, electronics
 - Increase pollution
 - Increase risk of fires (hazmat fires)
 - Increase injuries
 - Decrease land value
 - Electronics
 - Require most (all) of high-tech workforce
 - Gambling, tourism
 - Increase demand for public transit
 - Airports, buses
 - Increase crime





Great works Another exercise in tradeoffs

- Arcology
 - Houses a huge number of Sims who commute to cities for work, school, shopping, recreation
- International airport
 - Brings in tourists
 - Ships freight in/out of region
- Solar farm
 - Supplies cheap, clean, green power to all cities in region
- Space center
 - Brings in tourists
 - Acts as an advanced education facility

- Tradeoffs
 - Rubric does not reward you for Great Works
 - Great Works are a region-wide cooperative undertaking
 - Hard to achieve with just one city
 - Require large amount of resources, investment
 - Solar farm
 - Outsourcing power is not allowed
 - International Airport
 - Increases crime region-wide
 - Arcology
 - Benefit ???
 - Space center
 - Doesn't work in Whitewater Valley?

Additional Comments



General comments

- Rubric is designed to test city planning decision-making
 - Not about how well you play the game
- City should be stand-alone and self-sufficient
 - No outsourcing of utilities, services
- Don't use cheat codes
 - -Honor statement



Region play

- Teams only need to develop ONE city
 - You can develop more than one
 - -Judges will score only one
- Cities interact within the region
 - -Workers and shoppers move between cities
 - So do criminals
 - -Services (police, fire, health) respond region-wide
 - -Freight moves between cities
 - -City department in one city opens up all options in all cities
 - -University research in one city opens up options for all cities



Rubric

- Designed to reward good city planning not good game play
 - City planning
 - How well is the city planned, is there a plan?
 - Land values bias toward high land values
 - Basic services and requirements
 - Are services available throughout the city
 - · Are the services effective
 - Tradeoffs
 - Pollution control and polluters
 - · Health and education
 - Parks
 - City management
 - Budget
 - Mayor performance
 - Sim satisfaction, happiness

Questions?

Download SimCity Tips from Team Center resources page