Seven Asset Based Community Development
Principles for Institutions

1. Don't get in the way.

2. Don't get in front.

3. Every system has some primary functions and citizen/taxpayers expect that primary function to be performed, i.e.
   • Plow the snow
   • Pick up the trash
   • Maintain the peace
   • Teach children to stop, drop and roll
   • Etc.

4. Know your neighborhoods.

5. Think partnerships..."We can do this, but you can do ________.

6. If we can't address the problem, who do we know who can?
   THE THREE PRIMARY QUESTIONS:
   • What can we do to support neighbors? (What they can do themselves)
   • What help can we offer? (What can citizens do with a little help)...small grants and loan programs
   • What must we as the keepers of the commons do? (What is our responsibility in supporting community?)

7. Measures of successful systems are those that create and recreate citizens/associations as producers of their future.

   Fundamental Question: Will this intervention enhance or inhibit the natural association of citizens in the community?