



Indiana Planning Association: Hoosier Planning Award Winner 2005 The Carmel Urban Design Initiative

CARMEL, INDIANA



Urban Design Field Study Tours

CLIENT:

The City of Carmel, Indiana
Department of Community Services
Michael Hollibaugh, Director
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SERVICE AREA(S):

Municipal Policy + Education

TIMEFRAME:

December 2004 - May 2008

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The Carmel Urban Design Initiative has been developed as a multi-phase, multi-year effort to address the need to rethink traditional suburban land-use and development models in favor of those that utilize resources in a more efficient and effective manner. Initial phases began with classroom-like teaching and lecture activities, which showcased and discussed best practices in urban planning and design. These sessions were open to the public, but focus and invitation was made towards the City of Carmel Councils, Boards, and Commissions. In addition to classroom teaching, several multi-day field study tours were orchestrated to give participants a hands-on experience. It is believed that through this education, City leaders and the general public "raised the bar" of their design and planning knowledge and therefore were better prepared to plan for their community.

Throughout this project, EDEN has been the lead project facilitator and educator, working with the City of Carmel Department of Community Services.

RESULTS:

The Carmel Urban Design Initiative has been a catalyst in making the City of Carmel, Indiana a national model for suburban communities striving to create their own unique character. As a result of the project, City leaders have been more informed about what other competing cities are doing, what Carmel can do to make itself more competitive, and what land use and planning techniques will assist Carmel in being the best and most competitive community it can be in the future. Because of the initiative, the City has fully embraced the concepts of new urbanism and sustainable development.



Sustainability Discussions & Site Visits



Planning Workshops & Speakers



Historic Site Visits & Lectures