



## Thank you for participating in the 2017 Community Planning Academy!

The academy was developed in 2016 around the following goals:

1. Educate residents about the role Planning plays in building communities.
2. Empower residents to effectively participate in future Planning processes.
3. Build relationships between staff, participants, and neighborhoods.

### What can you expect?

The academy is intended to empower participants with the knowledge necessary to be engaged and involved in future planning processes. You can expect to learn when and how you can be effectively involved in processes such as Community Planning and Rezoning. Classes will cover the following topics:

1. Introduction to Planning: What is Planning and why is it important? Brief history of Planning profession.
2. Community Planning: What is it and why is it important? How to be effectively involved in the process.
3. Transportation: Our transportation legacy and key policy changes. Importance of integrating land use and transportation.
4. Zoning & Rezoning: What is zoning and why is it important? How to be effectively involved in the rezoning process.
5. Urban Design: What is urban design and top 10 urban design elements to create a great place.
6. Community Character: What is historic preservation? How to protect community character.

### What is Planning?

Planning is essentially about creating great places!

It is the process where the public and private sectors and community members consider and evaluate different alternatives for the built environment. The objective of the planning process is to develop a framework for the built environment that will create equitable, healthy, efficient and comfortable places for present and future generations.

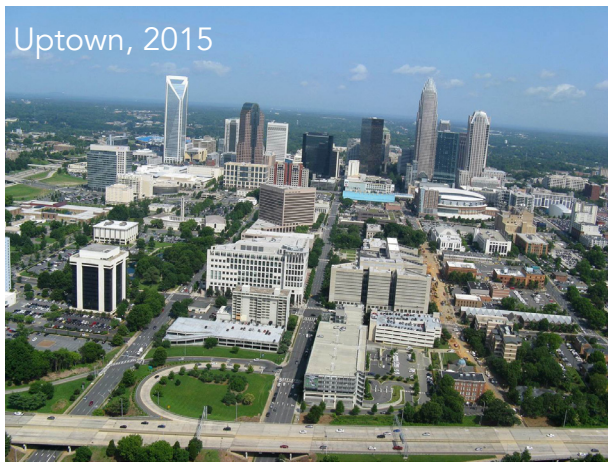


*Above: Planning influences the form and function of the built environment. It influences what types of land uses (for example, residential, office or retail land uses) are allowed in a place; how people travel to and through a place; and how a place is designed.*

## Why is Planning important?

Planning is important because it:

- Provides a framework for future growth;
- Prepares a city for challenges and helps manage risks;
- Maximizes resources and optimizes impacts;
- Protects the environment;
- Impacts and stimulates the economy;
- Creates dynamic and interesting places;
- Provides options for residents.



## Planning Framework

The planning framework is organized into two operations. The first action of planning is to define a set of policies or guidelines for future growth. The second action of planning is to apply land development regulations or laws to new development or redevelopment in order to implement the vision of the adopted policies.

POLICY	REGULATION
Vision for future	Tool to implement vision
Community Participation	Staff Administration
Community Plans	Zoning, Subdivision, Tree Ordinances
Guidance	Law

The Community Planning and Zoning & Rezoning classes will provide more information about planning policies and regulations.

## History of Planning

### EARLY URBAN PLANNING

Civilizations have been organizing and planning spaces since ancient times. For the academy's purposes, however, it's more helpful to understand how the Planning profession has evolved since the Industrial Revolution.

The Industrial Revolution (1820 - 1870) was a period of time in which Europe and America's predominately agrarian and rural societies were transformed by new technologies, such as the steam engine, into more industrial and urban societies.

However, as industrialization and immigration converged in America the living conditions in urban cities became overcrowded and unsanitary. Therefore, in the early 1890s a number of social and health reforms as well as Utopian planning movements, such as the City Beautiful and Garden City Movements, emerged in an effort to improve living conditions.

### EARLY 20th CENTURY URBAN PLANNING

The mass production of the automobile and both World Wars played an important role in influencing the next era of Planning.

In the early 1900s, Ford produced what is regarded as the first affordable automobile and opened travel to the common middle-class American. As a result, the automobile allowed





*Above: Early urban planning practices emerged in an effort to improve the overcrowded and unsanitary living conditions that occurred as a result of the Industrial Revolution.*

settlement patterns to evolve away from the compact, traditional town grid pattern to a more spread out, suburban curvilinear pattern.

World War I (1914 - 1918) and subsequent Great Depression (1929 - 1939) propelled planners away from former Utopian movements to a more utilitarian and functional direction. For example, Planning during the Great Depression years was often referred to as the City Humane Movement due to its focus on social and economic issues and efforts to alleviate the problems of unemployment, poverty, and urban plight that arose due to the depression. Many of the national efforts centered around large public work projects in an attempt to put people back to work.



*Above: In the early 20th century, planning practices were aimed at alleviating social and economic issues. For example, the Tennessee Valley Authority was established to provide services such as flood control, electricity and economic development to a distressed region. The Norris Dam (1933-1936) was the first major project for the TVA.*

After World War II (1939 - 1945), returning servicemen took advantage of the G.I. bill and other programs to buy new cars and homes. The demand for new cars and housing led to the construction of sprawling suburban communities like Levittown, NY built specifically to accommodate post-WWII era returning veterans and their families. The builders were guaranteed by the Veterans Administration and the Federal Housing Association that qualified veterans could receive housing for a fraction of rental costs, so homes were mass produced into thousands of identical suburban homes.



*Above: Levittown, NY is one of many suburban developments built after WWII for returning veterans and their families. Home production was modeled in an assembly line manner and thousands of identical homes were produced easily and quickly.*

### LATE 20TH CENTURY URBAN PLANNING

The migration of Americans from cities to suburbs played another important role in influencing the history of Planning.

Due to the migration of Americans from cities to suburbs, inner cities experienced disinvestment and were considered by some to be distressed.



In response to the disinvestment and the continued need for additional housing due to a growing population (Baby Boomers), the government passed the Housing Act of 1949 which provided several provisions. The provision which had the biggest impact on the built environment provided federal financing for “slum” clearance associated with urban renewal projects.

Urban renewal involves the relocation of businesses and residents and demolition of buildings. Then through the power of eminent domain (government purchase of property for public purpose) cities purchase private property for city-initiated development projects such as high-density residential projects or capital improvements such as expressways. Urban Renewal, previously known as Urban Redevelopment, had mixed impacts on communities.

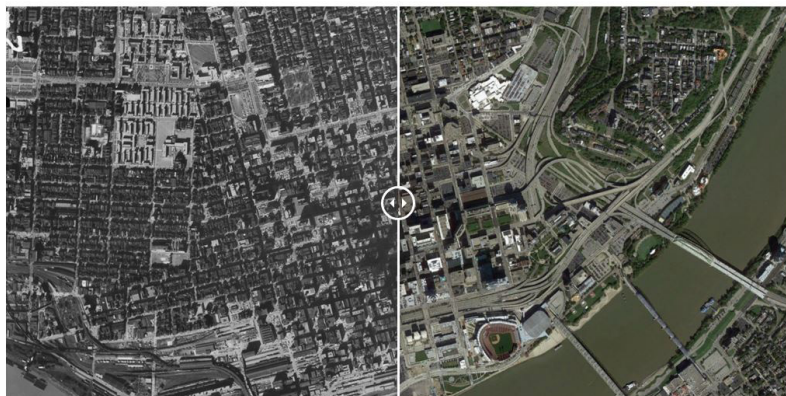
In some cases, urban renewal was successful in revitalizing communities. For example in Pittsburgh, a large section of downtown was transformed into a vibrant area with parks, office buildings and sports arena, now known as the Golden Triangle. In other instances, however, urban renewal destroyed entire communities such as Brooklyn Village in Charlotte. Brooklyn Village, located in Second Ward, was demolished and eventually replaced with a park and government campus.

The next significant event to influence the history of Planning and the nation’s built environment occurred in the 1970s when a handful of new federal legislation was passed, all of which were aimed at protecting our environment.

The Environmental Protection Agency (est. 1970) was established in order to protect both human health and the environment. A primary goal of the agency is to help clean up communities that are disproportionately affected by pollution and advance sustainable development nationwide. The EPA is responsible for enforcing the following regulations and federal funding may be withheld from states or metropolitan areas that are not compliant.

- Clean Air Act - regulates air pollution
- National Environmental Policy Act - requires all federal agencies prepare environmental assessments and/or environmental impact statements to evaluate the potential impacts or affects of the project on communities and environments.
- Endangered Species Act - protects habitats of animals and plant species that are threatened or endangered.

After decades of suburban growth, the New Urbanism movement emerged in the 1980s to promote more walkable, mixed use communities. The movement advocated that neighborhoods should be diverse in use and population; communities should be designed for the pedestrian, transit, and car; and that accessible public spaces and context-appropriate development are essential.



*Above Left: Cincinnati 1955, Above Right: Cincinnati 2013  
Urban renewal projects demolished large sections of established neighborhoods in order to construct super streets or expressways.*



*Above: Seaside, FL, a master-planned community, is one of the first cities in America designed on the principles of New Urbanism. The town features a mix of uses organized around a network of walkable streets.*