



Auburn Hills' Riverwalk Master Plan Receives Coveted Planning Excellence 2010 Award from Michigan Association of Planning

Riverwalk "a True Community Effort"

Media contacts: Barbara Fornasiero, EAFocus Communications; 248.651.7536 cell: 586.817.8414; barbara@eafocus.com; Stephanie Carroll, City of Auburn Hills; 248.364.6802; scarroll@auburnhills.org

Auburn Hills, MI—October 20, 2010—The City of Auburn Hills, a dynamic community committed to innovation and growth, received the Michigan Association of Planning's prestigious *Planning Excellence 2010* Award for the City's Riverwalk master plan. Ultimately, the plan envisions a Riverfront park system linked to the regional Clinton River Trail network and connected to the City's downtown core that will host a wide range of recreational and leisure activities for local residents and visitors. Additional goals of the master plan are to protect and improve water quality, encourage a healthy, walkable community and enhance the economy of the City.

Brian Marzolf, Director of Recreation for Auburn Hills, was formally presented with the award on October 20th at the Michigan Association of Planning's annual conference, Planning Michigan, which runs from October 20th to 23rd in Detroit. Mr. Marzolf says the Riverwalk Master Plan, which falls under the City's parks system, was a true community effort.

"The Riverwalk is shaping up to be a community success story. We obtained input from residents, business owners, elected officials, Oakland County planning professionals, various Auburn Hills departments, and other organizations that enjoy the benefits of the Clinton River and surrounding areas in a detailed planning process to ensure the Riverwalk's long-term success," explains Mr. Marzolf. "We anticipate the Riverwalk will become a big draw for advocates of parks, open spaces and healthy lifestyles."

Auburn Hills City Manager Pete Auger adds that the Riverwalk plan embraces environmental stewardship of the corridor that it serves.

"Auburn Hills is a leading municipality in green initiatives," affirms Mr. Auger. "The Riverwalk incorporates sustainable practices in landscaping and infrastructure that will educate the public about the history and ecology of the Clinton River, improve the environmental quality of the riverfront, and encourage additional river-focused recreation along the Clinton River trail network. I commend Brian Marzolf and Shawn Keenan, the City's Water Resources Coordinator for spearheading this project and doing such a fine job with it."

The City of Auburn Hills was assisted in the design of the Riverwalk Master Plan by the Ann Arbor office of Conservation Design Forum, a leader in the ecological design movement. Learn more at <http://www.cdfinc.com>.

About Auburn Hills

Auburn Hills is home to 20,000 residents and also serves as Michigan's global business address, with 40 international corporations from 32 countries housed here, including Chrysler Group LLC and Borg Warner headquarters. Auburn Hills' residents enjoy the amenities of city and suburban living with parks, a revitalized downtown district and a welcoming city complex with a library and community center. Additionally, the city has five colleges and universities, the award winning Palace of Auburn Hills entertainment complex and Great Lakes Crossing, one of the state's largest destination shopping centers, providing a variety of cultural, social and educational opportunities to residents, workers and visitors. Learn more at www.auburnhills.org.

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