

An engaged university becomes sympathetically and productively involved with the communities and citizens of Michigan. It must put its critical resources (knowledge and expertise) to work on the problems that Michigan communities face. Concurrently, it must enrich students' experiences by bringing research and engagement into the curriculum and offering practical opportunities for students to prepare for the world they will enter. The test of engagement includes: responsiveness, respect for partners, academic neutrality, accessibility, integration, coordination, and resource partnerships.

MSU, an engaged university, focuses on transforming and strengthening MSU's outreach partnerships by:

- Matching MSU strengths with Michigan issues and concerns such as the environment.
- Developing better and more consistent ways to link MSU expertise with local organizations that can address opportunities and implement change in Michigan communities.

Within the arena of environmental design, MSU-Extension, MSU-Outreach and Engagement, the School of Planning, Design and Construction, and Landscape Architecture major have jointly developed the Small Town Design Initiative (STDI) and Community Design Initiative (CDI) to address physical design issues facing Michigan's communities. This community-university partnership is an exciting and unique opportunity to define and address environmental challenges and improve the quality of life in Michigan's cities and small towns.



Contact

Warren J. Rauhe, Director
Small Town Design Initiative and
Community Design Initiative
School of Planning,
Design and Construction
Michigan State University
101 Human Ecology
East Lansing, MI 48824-1030
Phone: (517) 432-0704
Fax: (517) 432-8108
E-mail: rauhe@msu.edu
Web: www.spdc.msu.edu/LA/smalltowns

STDI / CDI Partners



MSU-Extension



MSU-Outreach and Engagement

School of Planning, Design and Construction

Landscape Architecture



Images Courtesy of Landscape Architecture Students

Small Town Design Initiative

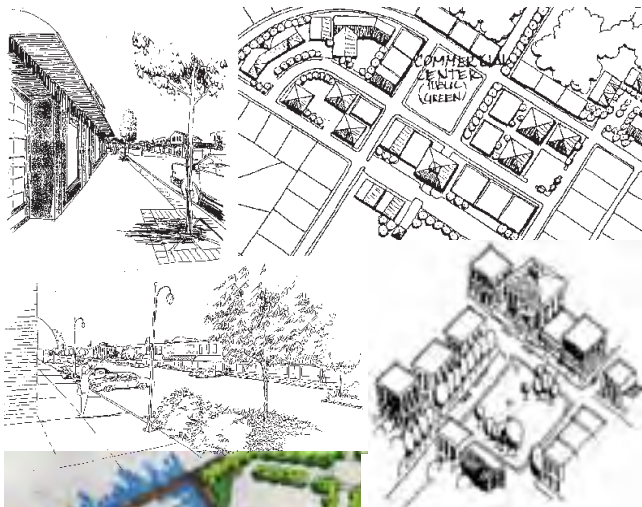
STDI CDI

Community Design Initiative



"Putting Knowledge to Work for
Michigan's Communities"





Marina

Downtown Commercial

Park



What is the goal of the Small Town Initiative / Community Design Initiative?

A “go-to” source for Michigan’s cities and small communities for physical environmental design assistance in community development and land use.



What does STDI consider to be a “small town” in Michigan?

Assistance is primarily for Michigan communities ranging in population from 500 to 15,000.

What does CDI consider to be a “city” in Michigan?

Assistance is primarily for Michigan communities with populations above 15,000.

Who can apply for assistance?

Political jurisdictions that fall within the small town or city population range including townships and charter townships as well as municipalities. Not-for-Profit organizations and local citizen groups are also eligible as long as their service region falls within the population range.

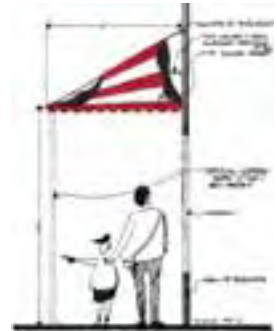


What are the program objectives?

Work with communities to develop environmental design ideas for local issues and opportunities. Consensus building. Idea generation. Attack a challenging environmental concern. Act as a bridge between communities and consulting design professionals. Provide for in-community student learning. Creative and scholarly work outlet.

What are some example projects that the Small Town Design Initiative or the Community Design Initiative could address?

We seek projects relating to the imaging/visioning umbrella of physical environmental design. Examples could include downtown streetscapes, parks, bikeways and trails, open space systems, industrial/commercial development, beautification, land use, signs, agricultural land preservation, ecosystem management, and residential development.



How do we get STDI / CDI to work in our community?

Communities wishing to receive Small Town or Community Design Initiative assistance must complete an application package. Applications will be evaluated by the STDI / CDI. Evaluation criteria include: project meets STDI/CDI goals, community meets the STDI or CDI population range and political jurisdiction/not-for-profit/local citizen group standing, broad-based community involvement and support, clear community objectives, quality of base materials (maps, data, etc.), and financial commitment.

Are there any deadlines for STDI / CDI assistance applications?

Yes, complete applications are due March 15th and September 15th. Projects will be approved by May 15th and November 15th, respectively.



Are there any costs for assistance?

It is anticipated that each STDI / CDI project will involve limited costs that communities would have to support. For each individual project, a specific scope of work and fixed cost would be developed and agreed to prior to any work being initiated.

