



For Publication or Use after 12:01 a.m. Wednesday, Oct. 13, 2010

Contacts:

Susan S. Harding, City of Frederick, Tel. 301.600.1385, sharding@cityoffrederick.com
Denny Johnson, APA, Tel. 202.349.1006, djohnson@planning.org

**American Planning Association Designates Downtown
Frederick One of the Top 10 Great Neighborhoods for 2010**
Noted for historic architecture, engaged citizens, progressivism

Frederick, MD – The American Planning Association (APA) today announced the designation of downtown Frederick as one of 10 Great Neighborhoods for 2010 under the organization’s Great Places in America program. APA Great Places exemplify exceptional character and highlight the role planners and planning play in creating communities of lasting value.

The neighborhood was selected by APA for its treasure trove of historic properties from the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries – which form one of the largest contiguous historic districts on the East Coast – along with its on-going planning, progressive government and engaged citizens.

“This is a great honor to the citizens of Frederick that have rallied to ensure that Downtown Frederick is a vibrant destination that combines old and new and remains a great place to work, live and play,” said Frederick Mayor Randy McClement.

Through Great Places in America, APA recognizes unique and authentic characteristics found in three essential components of all communities – streets, neighborhoods, and public spaces. APA Great Places offer better choices for where and how people work and live, and are defined by many things including planning, architectural styles, accessibility and community involvement.

Since APA began Great Places in America in 2007, 40 neighborhoods, 40 streets and 30 public spaces have been designated in 47 states and the District of Columbia.

“We’re very excited to name downtown Frederick as one of this year’s Great Neighborhoods,” said APA Chief Executive Officer Paul Farmer, FAICP. “Rather than retreating from economic changes and natural hazards, including a 100-year flood, former Mayor Ronald Young used planning to steer a course for downtown Frederick in the 1970s and 1980s. Today downtown continues to prosper as a result of its past and present planning,” he added.



With stores leaving downtown for surrounding shopping malls in the 1970s, Frederick deflected urban renewal efforts by producing a development plan in 1970 that envisioned the downtown as the area's economic engine.

Six years later, when downtown Frederick was devastated by a flood, the Carroll Creek Commission was formed to plan and develop Carroll Creek Linear Park. The park not only is designed for recreation and entertainment, but it also accommodates flood waters so downtown Frederick is no longer threatened by 100-year floods.

Added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1973, adaptive reuse is the rule downtown with its iconic, clustered building spires. Strategically placed public art – cascading fountains, cast iron trees, imaginative murals and the renowned trompe l'oeil Community Bridge – intrigues passersby.

Today 5,000 residents live downtown in single-family homes, townhouses, condos and apartments. Elementary, middle and high schools are within walking distance of where families live. Six hundred businesses, including specialty foods stores, boutiques, banks, home-furnishing, antique shops, and more than 40 restaurants, are located here – realizing the vision and plans four decades ago to make downtown Frederick the region's economic engine.

The nine other APA 2010 Great Neighborhoods are: Back Bay in Boston, MA; Historic Ninth Street Hill in Lafayette, IN; Lower Downtown in Denver, CO; The Paseo in Oklahoma City, OK; Cathedral Historic District in Sioux Falls, SD; Frank Lloyd Wright Historic Neighborhood in Oak Park, IL; Historic John S. Park Neighborhood in Las Vegas, NV; Hyde Park in Cincinnati, OH; and Riverside Avondale in Jacksonville, FL.

For more information about these neighborhoods, as well as APA's top 10 Great Streets, top 10 Great Public Spaces, and designations between 2007 and 2009, visit www.planning.org/greatplaces.

This year's Great Places in America are being celebrated as part of APA's National Community Planning Month during October; for more about the special month, visit www.planning.org/ncpm.

The American Planning Association is an independent, not-for-profit educational organization that provides leadership in the development of vital communities. APA and its professional institute, the American Institute of Certified Planners, are dedicated to advancing the art, science and profession of good planning -- physical, economic and social -- so as to create communities that offer better choices for where and how people work and live. Members of APA help create communities of lasting value and encourage civic leaders, business interests and citizens to play a meaningful role in creating communities that enrich people's lives. APA has offices in Washington, D.C., and Chicago, Ill. For more information, visit www.planning.org.