



Citizen Planner Program

A land use training and certification program for volunteer land use decision makers

Overview

The Citizen Planner Program is a non-credit course series leading to an optional certificate of competency awarded by MSUE. The course is a series of up to twelve modules, each delivered in two-hour evening sessions.



Citizen Planner Training



2001 Kent County Citizen Planner Certificate Awardees (23 total)

Earning the certificate involves the successful completion of six core courses and the performance of 30 hours of community-oriented service in land use planning or related activities.

Why Citizen Planner?

Local Planning Commissioners and Zoning Boards of Appeals are often called upon to make important decisions to guide the growth and development of their communities.

Issues surrounding land use planning and regulation, and the tools and techniques available within Michigan to address them, have become increasingly complex.



Content

The first six core sessions provide a basic skill set and are required for certification. The first two sessions are offered through a partnership with Michigan Society of Planning (MSP).

The Comprehensive Plan and The Zoning Ordinance

- The Comprehensive Plan is a Guide
- The Comprehensive Plan is adopted by the Planning Commission
- The Comprehensive Plan shows how land is to be used in the future
- The Zoning Ordinance is a Law
- The Zoning Ordinance is adopted by the Legislative Body
- The Zoning Ordinance shows how land is regulated today

"The effectiveness of the course was ... not only from the clearness of the course content but the talents of the instructors."

-Don Howard, DVM, PhD Benzie County Commissioner
Citizen Planner Participant



A development site visit

Following the completion of core sessions, participants may choose to continue training with locally selected "hot topics."

Core course topics include:

- Basics of Planning and Zoning (PI & PII)
- Legal Foundations
- Plan Implementation
- Innovative Tools
- Participation and Effective Meetings

Partners

- Michigan Society of Planning
- MI Farmland and Community Alliance
- People and Land
- Sponsors of Pilot
 - MSUE Grand Traverse County
 - MSU North Region
 - Traverse City Area Chamber of Commerce
 - Rotary Charities of Traverse City
 - Grand Traverse County

Instructors

Instructors for this course include members of MSU Extension staff, practicing planners, attorneys, university faculty, government officials, developers and other leaders involved in the local planning process.

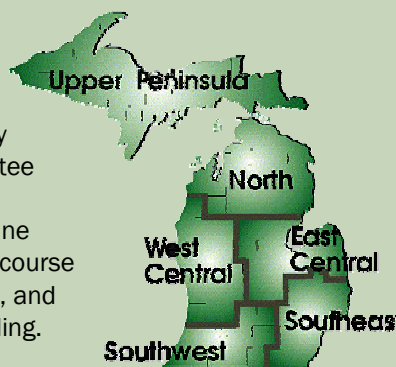


Instructor field training during a Citizen Planner session

Delivery

The Program is delivered at the local level by on-site instructors in conjunction with county MSU Extension offices.

A local advisory committee helps determine issues, course content, and scheduling.



MSU Extension Regions for Program Delivery in Michigan

For More Info Contact:

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