# **DESIGN ON THE DELAWARE**

## Building a Better Burb:

Trends in New Community Planning



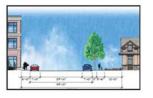


November 12, 2014

### Form Based Code Workshops









TCA was retained by the PA Department of Community and Economic Development and the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors (PSATS) in 2009 to conduct Form-Based Code (FBC) Workshops in six (6) places in Pennsylvania, including:



- 2. State College:
- 3. Bethlehem;
- 4. Media:
- 5. Greensburg; and
- 6. Cranberry Township.

Over 150 persons participated in all-day sessions focused on:

- FBC evolution and history;
- FBC examples:
- Measurements & Metrics:
- Definitions:
- Street Sections:
- Public Spaces:
- Building & Parking Placement;
- Code Amendments; and
- Code Enforcement.





The 6 FBC Workshops began by considering the oldest Code pertaining to Placemaking .... The Law of the Indies (1542)

112 - "The main plaza is to be the starting point for the town...The plaza should be square or rectangular. in which case it should have at least one and a half its width for length."

115 – "Around the plaza as well as along the four principal streets which begin there, there shall be portals...the eight streets running from the plaza at the four corners shall open on the plaza ... "

Places such as Santa Fe, N.M., Antigua, Guatemala, and Barcelona, Spain, and Lisbon, Portugal were built following the prescriptions of the The1542 I aw of the Indies.







#### Form Based Code (FBC) Ordinance Amendments Thomas Comitta Associates, Inc (TCA), Town Planners & Landscape Architects, have completed these FBC Ordinance Amendments, all of which are based on Article VII-A, Traditional Neighborhood Development, of the Pennyslvania Municipalities Planning Code (MPC). Media Borough, Delaware County, PA **TND-1** Overlay District · Adopted: 7-19-2007 · Focus on Building Positioning and Parking Positioning Identified Streetscape Enhancement standards www.ecode360.com/ME1269 Haverford Township, Delaware County, PA TND Overlay District Adopted: 4-13-2009 as part of Comprehensive Plan Update Focused on Infill Development & Redevelopment www.ecode360.com/HA0527 Springfield Township, Delaware County, PA **TND-3** Overlay District Legend Adopted: 3-22-2010 Existing Street Tree Focus on Baltimore Pike Corridor Established "Green Boulevard" requirements/standards ing Landscaped Street Edg www.springielddelco.org/ Complete%20Zoning%20Packet Existing and Proposed Side Exh Map.pdf Lititz Borough, Lancaster County, PA C - Commercial District · Adopted: 4-27-2010 Focused on Downtown · Won 2010 Envision Leadership Award of LCPC www.co.lancaster.pa.us/lititz/cwp/ browse.asp?a=725&PM= 1&lititzNav=|8134| Penn Township, Lancaster County, PA T-5 Mixed Use District · Adopted: 6-27-2011 Featured Transformation Sketches Won 2011 Envision Leadership Award of LCPC www.penn.co.lancaster.pa.us/ penn/cwp/view.asp?a=3&q=655518 Manheim Township, Lancaster County, PA T-6 Urban Transition District · Adopted: 12-14-2011 · Featured Transformation Sketches · Focused on Redevelopment Strategies www.manheimtownship.org/ DocumentCenterii.aspx?FID=143

The FBC has several important elements, including:

- Idealized Build-Out Plan;
- Design Standards in the Zoning Code;
- Design Standards in the Land Development Code; and
- Metrics that are Place-Based, typically from the locale.

### Traditional Neighborhood Development Overlay District

Baltimore Avenue, Media Borough - Delaware County, Pennsylvania





New Building, Sidewalk and Landscaping Consistent with Traditional Building Frontage.

After completing the Comprehensive Plan for the Borough of Media in 2005, the Borough hired TCA to assist in the implementation of its goal for improved function and appearance of the Baltimore Avenue Corridor. This autooriented thoroughfare displays both the best and worst characteristics of the Borough's traditional and suburban development. TCA and the Borough created a Traditional Neighborhood Development (TND) Overlay District ordinance that provides opportunities for context sensitive infill and redevelopment along the corridor.

Written and graphic design guidelines are incorporated into the Borough's Zoning and Subdivision and Land Development Ordinances, and focus on:

| • | Building Location     |   | Sidewalks        |
|---|-----------------------|---|------------------|
| • | Street Walls          | • | Street Lights    |
| • | Building Height       |   | Street Furniture |
|   | Building Design       |   | Gateways         |
| • | Parking Location      |   | Parking Location |
|   | Curbing and Curb Cuts |   | Signage          |

A vital component of the Design Guidelines is a Development Strategy depicting proposed locations of potential buildings, street trees, hedges, street lights, and benches. Borough Council unanimously adopted the Ordinance on July 19, 2007.





## The Media Borough TND Ordinance:

- celebrates existing contextsensitive buildings and Streetscapes; and
- prescribes new locations for infill buildings, and redevelopment sites.

New Suburban Form is informed by historic placemaking precedents, like those in Media, PA.

Actually, this initiative focused on the transformation of a Suburban Highway Character into a Town-Like Character.

Charlestown Township - Chester, Pennsylvania



Development Strategy Plan for TND Districts

The TND Districts of Charlestown Township are intended to:

- Comply with Article VII-A, Traditional Neighborhood Development, of the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code (MPC);
- Promote "Placemaking" to create a more functional and attractive Neighborhood Structure in the Devault area;
- Build Compact, Mixed-Use, Pedestrian-Oriented, and Sustainable Neighborhoods in the five (5) TND Districts (TND-1 through TND-5); and
- Require a Manual of Written & Graphic Design Guidelines to provide quality control in the construction
  of the TNDs.



Character Sketch for TND-2 Area



Example of Single-Family Detached Dwellings for TND-1 Area



1 of 2

Since 2008, when the Charlestown TND Ordinances were adopted 4 projects have been hatched including:

- Spring Oak;
- Pickering Crossing;
- Village at General Warren; and
- Village at Spring Oak.

Charlestown Township - Chester, Pennsylvania



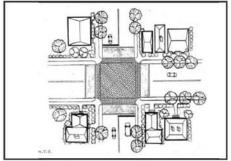


Linear Park at Eagleview, Exton, PA, in Claremont Neighborhood with Mixed Housing Types

fini-Parks at The Kentlands, Gaithersburg, MD

The Guiding Principles of the TND Ordinance focus on such Key Design Elements as:

- · Pedestrian-Friendly Neighborhoods;
- An Interconnected Street & Pathway Network;
- A Well-Defined Public Realm;
- Predictable Building Locations;
- · Context Sensitive Building Design; and
- A Diversity of Building and Housing Types.



Speed Table & Crosswalk at Sreet Intersection



Example of "Green Court" Lot for TND-1 Area

The Charlestown TND Districts, in and near Devault Village (ca. 1860), were identified:

- in the 2001 Comprehensive Plan; and
- after several Visioning Sessions with Community Stakeholders.

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Cranberry Township - Butler, Pennsylvania





Town Center, South Side Works

South Side Works Streetscape

The TND Districts in Cranberry Township are intended to:

- Comply with Article VII-A, Traditional Neighborhood Development of the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code;
- · Promote "Placemaking" to create a more functional and attractive Neighborhood Structure; and
- · Build Compact, Mixed-Use, Pedestrian-Oriented, and Sustainable Neighborhoods.



Buildings in Alignment: Summerset at Frick Park



Interconnected Street & Alley Network: Summerset at Frick Park

The Cranberry Township TND Districts, from 2008 through 2012 have included:

- TND Traditional Neighborhood Development;
- SEO Streetscape Enhancement Overlay District;
- COD Corridor Overlay District; and
- CCD Community Character Districts.

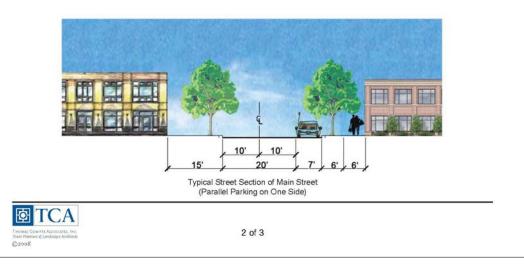


1 of 3



The proposed TND Street Network is intended to be guided by Street Sections for:

- · Boulevards, Avenues, Parkways;
- · Main Streets, with On-Street Parking;
- Neighborhood Streets; and
- Alleys & Service Lanes.



New Streets have been built to emulate the Streetscapes that were measured from precedents at:

- Sewickley Borough;
- Summerset at Frick Park;
- South Side Works; and
- Waterfront.

Cranberry Township - Butler, Pennsylvania





Summerset at Frick Park TND

Civic Green at Georgetown Square, Cranberry Township

The "Guiding Principles" of the TND Ordinance focus on such key design elements as:

- · Pedestrian-Friendly Neighborhood Patterns;
- · Predictable Building Locations;
- Public Gathering spaces;
- · A Well-Defined Public Realm; and
- Two-Story, Context Sensitive Building Design.



Well-Defined Crosswalks at Street Intersection, Easton Town Center, OH



Articulated Facade with Awnings, Rolliers, Mount Lebanon

To date, the TNDs built in Cranberry Township have included:

- BelleVue Commons;
- Park Place and;
- Cranberry Woods.

In addition, several Commercial establishments, such as Auto Zone and Sheetz, have followed the TND Codes.



New Auto Zone



New Sheetz



3 of 3

#### Lititiz Borough Form-Based Code Lititiz Borough, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania

The Borough of Lititz retained TCA to Amend both the Zoning Ordinance and the Subdivision & Land Development Ordinance. Both ordinances have Form-Based Code chapters focused on maintaining the traditional character of this Moravian settlement.

The Form-Based Code (FBC) Components of the Zoning Ordinance include Design Standards for: Streetscapes; Streets, Alleys, and Blocks; Public Space; Lot Types; Mixed-Use and Adaptive Re-Use; and Historic Resource Protection.

Lititz Borough is the "poster-child" of the compact, complete place to live, work, shop, and play. The Form-Based Code is intended to maintain the distinctive character of this great place.



Buildings in Alignment, Main Street, Downtown Lititz Build-To Line

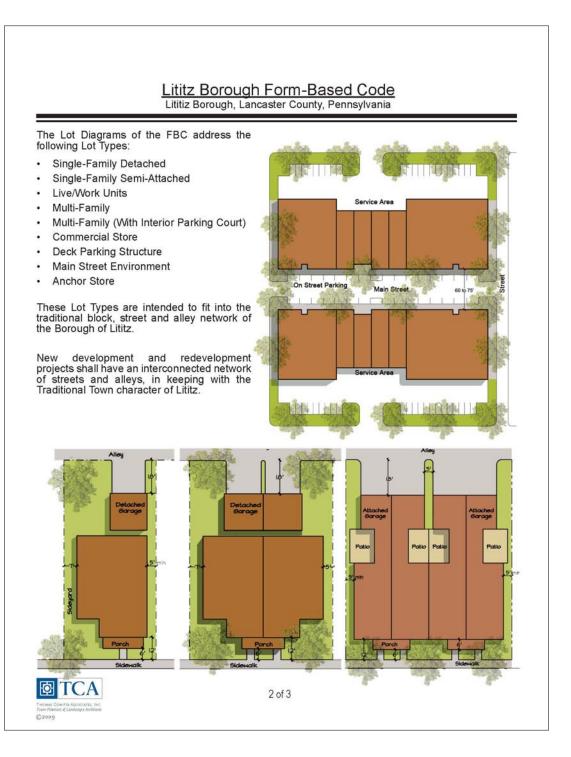


The Lititz Borough FBC won the Envision Leadership Award from the Lancaster County Planning Commission in 2011.

New development and redevelopment in Lititz Borough is required to:

- emulate the traditional fabric of this "Coolest Small Town in America" (ca. 2013); and
- continue the mixed-use character of the community.

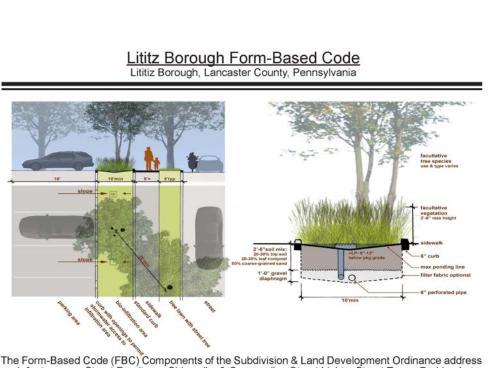
The Lititz Borough FBC is now being utilized to design "Warwick Woodlands", a new CCRC by Moravian Manor.



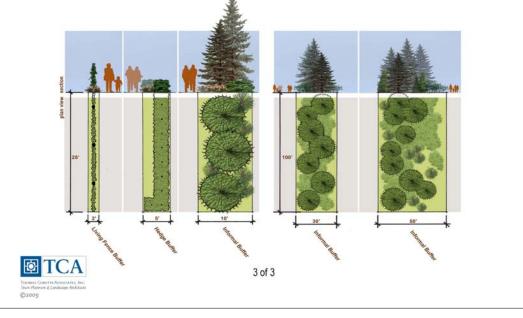
The Lititz Borough FBC also features Blocks & Lot Diagrams to clearly identify the preferred outcomes for:

- Lot Types;
- Setbacks/Build-To Lines;
- Parking Location;
- Alleys; and
- Main Street Environment.

These Block & Lot Diagrams are being used for the design of the new Warwick Woodlands CCRC.



The Form-Based Code (FBC) Components of the Subdivision & Land Development Ordinance address such features as: Street Furniture , Sidewalks & Crosswalks; Street Lights; Street Trees; Parking Lots; Landscape Buffers; Green Urbanism; Architectural Design; and Maintenance of Improvements.



The Lititz Borough FBC also features considerations for:

- green infrastructure;
- varied landscape buffers; and
- techniques to balance built and conserved lands.

#### **NEW DALEVILLE**

<u>A Traditional Neighborhood Development</u> Daleville, Pennsylvania (Town Planning and Design Services)



Proposed Dwellings Around Green Court.

TCA assisted Londonderry Township and Arcadia Land Company to prepare the TND Ordinance that was adopted in October 2003. The proposed neighborhood with 125 homes and 12,000 square feet of commercial use is an extension of the rural center of Daleville. This TND, located at the intersection of PA Routes 926 and 796 will have over 50% common open space.



New Daleville Site Plan.

The New Daleville TND will feature:

- · A compact, walkable, mixed-use community;
- A neighborhood commercial component adjoining active recreational areas;
- · A streetscape accented by front porches; and
- Green courts as a civic and neighborhood amenity.

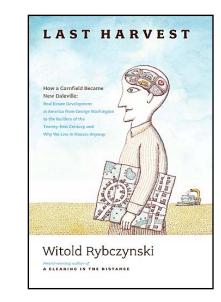


Detail of Site Plan Showing Street and Alley Network.



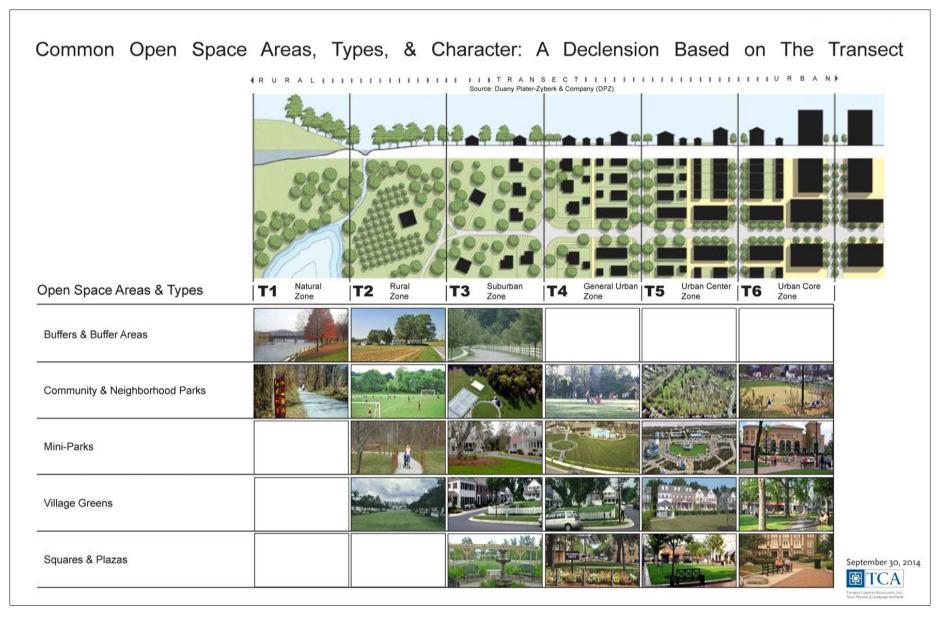
Proposed Mixed-Use Buildings in Neighborhood Center.

New Daleville, hatched from a cornfield, is memorialized in Witold Rybczynski's book titled *"Last Harvest"* ! (Scribner, 2007)

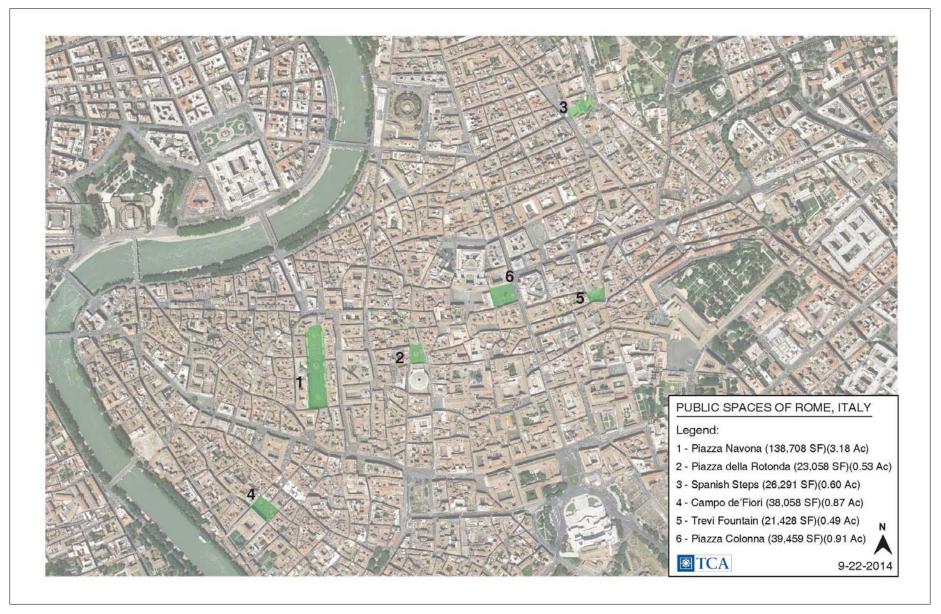


Last Harvest is a chronicle of the approval process during which Arcadia Land Co. and TCA collaborated to amend the Londonderry Township Ordinance, and obtain the approvals !!





Note: This diagram is intended to convey the notion of "Right Park in the Right Place", ranging from the Rural Landscape to the Urban Landscape.



Note: Most of these Public Spaces of Rome average 0.68 acres. However, most Conventional Suburban Ordinances have requirements for a 1.0 acre minimum Open Space area.