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**GROSSE POINTE WOODS EARNS  
'REDEVELOPMENT READY' STATUS**

*City earns certification after streamlining processes*

**GROSSE POINTE WOODS** – The Michigan Suburbs Alliance has awarded the City of Grosse Pointe Woods certification as “redevelopment ready,” recognizing its efforts to establish a business-friendly redevelopment climate through participation in the Redevelopment Ready Communities (RRC) program.

“Grosse Pointe Woods has always been a leader in redevelopment, but achieving RRC certification makes its commitment to being redevelopment ready official,” said Melanie Piana, Associate Director of the Suburbs Alliance. “Its proactive efforts to prioritize early public engagement, continuing education opportunities for city officials and staff, and streamlined review processes make it shine as a prime location to undertake redevelopment projects.”

The RRC program encompasses a multi-step certification process, through which cities can receive technical assistance from professional planning consultants at no charge. An RRC consultant evaluates the cities’ redevelopment processes to produce a score and evaluation report against which cities are measured to achieve certification.

Overall, the program aims to help cities clarify their goals for development, engage the community in the visioning process, and implement efficient, open redevelopment processes – ultimately, making them more attractive to developers and potential investors.

“As a developer, knowing a city has a vision, a plan and community support for redevelopment is half the battle,” said Jason Horton, Executive Vice President of REDICO, Inc. “Grosse Pointe Wood’s commitment to establishing transparent, consistent and timely processes and ability to continuously evolve its processes are what truly make it a Redevelopment Ready Community.”



Grosse Pointe Woods joined the RRC program in May 2006. To achieve certification, the city implemented various reforms to its redevelopment strategy and processes:

- Created sketches illustrating acceptable building materials and architectural façade treatments for new projects that will be added to the city’s design guidelines or zoning ordinance to better inform applicants. The design sketches are the result of technical planning assistance provided by the Redevelopment Ready Communities program.
- Integrated a strong public engagement component into redevelopment processes. The city is working with potential investors to engage residents early in the project planning in order to determine the community’s vision for redevelopment and mitigate opposition to site plan application approvals.
- Added the master plan, zoning ordinance, city maps, community profile and similar tools for development to the city’s website.
- Began reporting information on economic development efforts within the community in the city newsletter.
- Began implementation of the BS&A Equalizer program, a permit tracking software tool. Through this system, all departments will be able to access information on assessing, taxation, zoning, permitting activity and other important subjects and provide this information to potential investors and residents.

Developed to address the alarming trend of disinvestment threatening built-out cities across the state, the RRC program is built upon a set of best practices developed by a committee of local developers, realtors, planners, state and local government officials, and university professors with the help national experts on redevelopment. The best practices were tested during a 2005 pilot program that produced five “redevelopment ready” communities: Eastpointe, Hazel Park, River Rouge, Southfield and Ypsilanti. The best practices were updated based on their experiences. The City of Lincoln Park earned certification last month.

The Suburbs Alliance presented the RRC award to Grosse Pointe Woods at the City Council meeting yesterday.

“We think it is clearly of value to communities of our size and residential type to indicate to developers that we’re willing to assist in a quick and timely fashion,” said Mark Wollenweber, Grosse Pointe Woods City Administrator.

Visit [www.suburbsalliance.org](http://www.suburbsalliance.org) for more information on Grosse Pointe Woods’ path to redevelopment readiness and the Redevelopment Ready Communities program and Best Practices. Visit <http://www.ci.grosse-pointe-woods.mi.us/> for information on redevelopment opportunities in the city of Grosse Pointe Woods.



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