



## NEWS RELEASE From Mayor Dean DePiero

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### PARMA GETS READY FOR ITS CLOSE-UP

**(Parma)** – The city of Parma is one of only ten cities chosen by a national urban design team studying key components in planning and building for the future. In all, ten cities were selected out of nearly 50 competing for the program.

Members of the Center for Communities by Design and city officials will tour Parma on Wednesday as part of the 2008 Sustainable Design Assessment Team (SDAT) project.

“We’re excited to have been selected for this review by planning experts from outside the area,” says Parma Mayor Dean DePiero. “The number one recommendation in 2007 from Parma’s Blue Ribbon Commission was the need for a master plan. We will have taken a giant leap towards reaching that goal once this expert analysis is finalized.”

The SDAT program brings together architects and other professionals from across the country. They collectively provide a roadmap for communities seeking to improve their sustainability. Residents, city government, local agencies and other civic groups have a voice in deciding what it will take to meet environmental, economic and social equity and other needs. Implementing and financing the recommendations is up to each individual city.

“We take a holistic approach,” says architect Joel Mills, Design Assistance Program Manager. “Our aim is helping to meet or improve a community’s specific needs without having a negative impact on future generations visualizing and implementing their own agenda for sustainability.”

The SDAT group will return to Parma in late October with additional team members whose expertise ranges from urban design to green space design, and from transportation planning to economic development and several other specialized fields. The fall visit will conclude with a town hall meeting – a dynamic power point presentation on its recommendations for Parma, visualizing in detail the city’s potential for the future.

Other cities chosen by the Center for Communities Design include Detroit, Forth Worth, New Orleans and Tampa.

Wednesday’s tour will leave Parma City Hall at 10:30 a.m. The city’s south side will be viewed. The group toured Parma’s north side on Tuesday.

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