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## **Downtown Warren Named One of 15 Great Places in America by the American Planning Association**

*APA's Annual List Recognizes 15 Great Neighborhoods, Streets, and Public Spaces*

**Washington, DC**— The American Planning Association (APA) today named Downtown Warren in Warren, Rhode Island, as one of five Great Neighborhoods on the organization's annual [Great Places in America](#) list, which marks the kick-off of APA's National Community Planning Month's celebration.

As part of National Community Planning Month, APA's Great Places in America program recognizes streets, neighborhoods, and public spaces in the United States demonstrating exceptional character, quality, and planning—attributes that enrich communities, facilitate economic growth, and inspire others around the country. The Great Neighborhoods, Great Streets, and Great Public Spaces of 2016 are places that are unique and exemplary in their amenities and infrastructure, cultural identity, and use of sustainable and innovative practices.

"The neighborhoods on this year's list are a testament to the critical role of planning in creating more dynamic, equitable, economically healthy communities," said Carol Rhea, FAICP, president of APA. "Through careful thought, foresight, innovation, and cooperation, this year's designees are building better places to live, work, play, and visit while setting an example for other neighborhoods nationwide. We congratulate them on their efforts and this worthy distinction."

The eco-haven of Downtown Warren is ideal for bikers and foodies alike. The tiny downtown area and its highly involved community have set the green standard for active living, while local foods have set the stage for a story of urban renewal.

"Warren is very excited about this designation," said Joseph DePasquale, Town Council President. "This will help us get the word out on what we already know: Warren is a New England gem. Our diverse community is committed to preserving what we have and continuing to make it better. Come see us; we like to share!"

In addition to Downtown Warren, APA also recognized the following neighborhoods this year:

- Downtown Santa Ana - Santa Ana, California
- Midtown Atlanta - Atlanta, Georgia
- Old Louisville - Louisville, Kentucky
- Nob Hill - Albuquerque, New Mexico

Since launching the Great Places in America program in 2007, APA has recognized 260 neighborhoods, streets, and public spaces around the country. Places are selected annually and represent the gold standard in terms of having a true sense of place, cultural and historical interest, community involvement, and a vision for the future.

For the third year, members of the public can suggest their favorite public space, neighborhood, or street to earn a "People's Choice" designation. During the first half of October, individuals can offer

suggestions via APA's social media channels using the hashtag #APAgreatplaces. APA will select five finalists that the public can vote on via APA's website. The "People's Choice" winner is announced in early November 2016.

For more information about these neighborhoods, as well as APA's Great Public Spaces and Streets for 2016 and previous years, visit [www.planning.org/greatplaces](http://www.planning.org/greatplaces).

You can also find more information on National Community Planning Month by visiting [www.planning.org/ncpm](http://www.planning.org/ncpm).

The Great Places in America announcement launches APA's National Community Planning Month celebration. The month of October is a time to highlight the ways in which good planning creates communities of lasting value for all. For more about National Community Planning Month, visit [www.planning.org/ncpm](http://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. For more information, visit [www.planning.org](http://www.planning.org).*

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