

CONSERVATION DISTRICT

**What Does Designation as a Conservation District Mean?**

The Commission may recommend conservation district designation for a neighborhood or area which has a distinct historic character but does not qualify for local historic district status due to loss of integrity or incompatible new development.

**Benefits of Conservation District Designation**

The greatest benefit is to conserve remaining character and ensure compatibility of new construction in a conservation district.

A Certificate of Appropriateness will be required for the following activities: the demolition, construction, or moving of a building, accessory building, or structure, or any addition to an existing building, accessory building, or structure subject to view from a public way.

**Process for Applying for Conservation District Designation**

A recommendation for establishing a conservation district may be initiated from either the Commission or owners of property in fee simple wishing to establish a conservation district. It may take up to three (3) months for the nomination process to be completed once an application is submitted. The Commission may establish in its rules the criteria to be met before it considers a petition.

The steps necessary to initiate the nomination are:

1. Contact Historic Preservation staff in the Community Development Division to determine if the property or properties meets the criteria found in Section 151.030 (D) of Fort Wayne's "Historic Preservation and Protection Ordinance" and get more information and forms. Throughout this process, professional assistance is available through the HPC staff.
2. Return the completed application form to HPC staff.
3. The application, if complete and accurate, will be presented to the Historic Preservation Commission for review and approval.
4. Nominations approved by the HPC are forwarded to the Fort Wayne Common Council for final approval.

Designation as a Conservation District does not preclude future designation as a local historic district provided sufficient integrity is restored to meet the criteria for local historic designation.