

## PRESS RELEASE

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Ogden City Honored by Congress for the New Urbanism, Utah Chapter



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### Ogden City Honored by Congress for the New Urbanism, Utah Chapter

**OGDEN, UT** – Ogden City’s Community Development team is being recognized by Congress for the New Urbanism (CNU) for decades of effort in rethinking and improving the city’s ten-acre blocks. During the Salt Lake City CNU gathering in 2013, much was said about the problems posed by the traditional ten-acre block layout, but little was said to acknowledge the success that Ogden was experiencing. On Thursday, November 7, CNU will present The Block Award titled “Rethinking Ogden’s Ten-Acre Blocks: A 30 Year Pursuit” to Ogden City to recognize development accomplishments that pre-date CNU as an organization.

New Urbanism is a planning and development approach based on the principles of how cities and towns had been built for the last several centuries: walkable blocks and streets, housing and shopping in close proximity, and accessible public spaces. New Urbanism focuses on human-scaled urban design.

In the late 1980s, as New Urbanism first became recognized across the US as a better way of building communities. Ogden was struggling with how to curb the decline of quality of neighborhoods, particularly east of downtown. Confronting this challenge, the city recognized that largely underutilized spaces at the center of traditional ten-acre blocks were a key place to start. The Ogden Redevelopment Agency began acquiring key parcels, mainly at the centers of these blocks, and began adding midblock streets to better utilize the space while creating more room for parking and making the neighborhoods walkable.

In three decades, Ogden has strategically completed such improvements in developments such as Lorin Farr (Van Buren to Harrison 22<sup>nd</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup>), Legacy Park (Madison to Monroe, 23<sup>rd</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup>), Riverbend (Lincoln to Washington, 18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup>), Oak Den (Quincy to Jackson, 23<sup>rd</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup>) and most recently, Stone Hill Homes (Adams to Jefferson, 21<sup>st</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup>). A steady, iterative campaign to rethink and redevelop Ogden’s ten-acre blocks in the pattern of its traditional grid street system has accelerated over the past decade within the city. Overall, nearly 400 homes have been built or remodeled.

“In the beginning, the introduction of new streets and homes in older, disinvested neighborhoods was considered somewhat risky and expensive,” said Ward Ogden, the 36-year veteran Director of Ogden’s Community Development Division. “Because the developments are so popular, we have a lottery system in place to award the sale of a home to interested buyers. We’re very proud of these developments and the improved quality of life that residents experience in our downtown core because of them.”

Tickets and information about the event can be found at [cnuutah.org](http://cnuutah.org).

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