

# Environmental Design Group Reduces Training Time by up to 90 Percent with ProductivityNOW



## Tallmadge High School Athletic Complex –

The athletic facilities on the Tallmadge High School Campus include a 3,500-seat capacity stadium; an eight-lane all-weather track; long jump; pole vault; high jump and a 7,500-square-foot field house.

## The Organization

Since 1984, the professionals at **Environmental Design Group** (EDG) have been shaping the future of Ohio through civil engineering, landscape architecture, planning, surveying, environmental sciences, and construction administration services. By integrating engineering science and design, EDG strives to preserve the natural environment, make the best use of natural resources, provide safe and effective infrastructure, and balance natural and built structures with the human aesthetic.



## The Challenge

EDG's core values of Collaboration, Quality, Integrity, Trust, Sustainability, and Family have helped them build a large base of employees that have been with the company for many years. People enjoy working with each other, feel free to ask questions, and are happy to help coworkers by sharing knowledge. For many years, this collaborative approach is how the engineers at EDG learned about the functionality and workflows of Autodesk AutoCAD software, a tool they all use on a regular basis.

"This practice of engineers working with coworkers to learn about the software was fine with a small group of engineers who worked in close proximity to each other," said Hunter Durbin, Associate Project Manager, EDG. "As the teams grew and people started working remotely, we needed a better way to ensure everyone knew how to use the software efficiently."

## The Solution

Based on a recommendation from one of their senior designers, EDG contacted IMAGINiT to discuss Autodesk AutoCAD training courses. After learning about EDG's needs, the IMAGINiT account manager suggested that, instead of moving ahead with in-person or online training classes, EDG consider a subscription to ProductivityNOW, IMAGINiT's professional development platform that houses eLearning resources for CAD and BIM professionals of all levels to learn how to optimize their use of Autodesk software.

"ProductivityNOW made a lot of sense for EDG," said Hunter. "All our engineers had different skill levels, and therefore needed to learn different information. Plus, we all learn at different speeds, so the ability for everyone to go through material quickly or revisit lessons seemed to be especially helpful and is what they needed."



## Cuyahoga County Towpath Trail; The Mounds –

The Ohio and Erie Canal Towpath Trail extends through Cleveland's Tremont neighborhood and connects to The Mounds, a series of landscape features that increase visibility to downtown Cleveland, historic neighborhoods and the industrial flats.

To ensure ProductivityNOW was the right solution, the IMAGINiT account manager recommended that EDG try the software with a free two-week trial and then determine next steps.

## The Results

During the two-week free trial period, Hunter completed all the AutoCAD training for 2D drafting and for Civil 3D software.

"ProductivityNOW was amazingly useful," said Hunter. "In addition to learning how to use the software, I gained a strong understanding of the tools and settings, so I was better able to use AutoCAD as a holistic product. I immediately noticed that I was working much more efficiently."

Based on Hunter's recommendation, EDG subscribed to ProductivityNOW for their design team, and an IMAGINiT representative came to their office and delivered training. Today, all 42 of their AutoCAD users at EDG have access to the platform. "Of course, people still ask each other questions," said Hunter. "But we now have a formal training process in place that has eliminated most of the ad-hoc lessons, freeing up people's time to focus on projects and increasing productivity."

EDG uses ProductivityNOW to:

- 1. Assess AutoCAD skills of applicants and new hires** by having them complete ProductivityNOW knowledge assessments
- 2. Fill in knowledge gaps** by assigning individual learning paths
- 3. Ensure courses are completed as expected** by using the administrative tools within ProductivityNOW
- 4. Increase consistency across teams**, some of which had developed their own ways of completing certain actions
- 5. Focus training time on areas needed**, reducing the time spent on training by 50 to 90%, based on each individuals' experience, as users do not spend time on topics they already understand
- 6. Provide ongoing access to training material**, so people can revisit resources or complete additional courses to build their professional knowledge even further



**Lakewood Solstice Steps** – The Lakewood Park Solstice Steps allow access and lakefront visibility through the stunning steps that wrap the northwest corner of the park along Lake Erie.

To help the EDG team learn about all the resources available in ProductivityNOW, an IMAGINiT customer success manager leads monthly calls to share features and answer questions.

ProductivityNOW users at EDG appreciate its ease of use so much that they have requested that all company training materials be uploaded to the platform, so Hunter is in the process of putting together custom content that covers EDG-specific standards, workflows, procedures, and more.

"ProductivityNOW has made a big difference to our company," said Hunter. "The 24/7 access to self-paced training courses has made it easy for AutoCAD users to gain the skills they need to become more efficient, keep projects moving along smoothly, and deliver better results to clients."

**Contact us today to discover how IMAGINiT can help you increase the return on your Autodesk software investment.**

### Solutions Beyond Software

IMAGINiT Technologies, a division of Rand Worldwide, helps architects and engineers become more proficient in the use of 3D technologies to design, develop and manage complex engineering projects faster and more cost-effectively.