

ARKANSAS PLANNER



American Planning Association
Arkansas Chapter

Making Great Communities Happen

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MAY 2016

The Value of Parks and Open Space

Dave Roberts, Landscape Architect, Director of Planning, Crafton Tull & Associates

As Americans, we view parks as an amenity that we may or may not be lucky enough to live near. We often find ourselves driving to the nearest park or loading our bikes to ride greenways that are located miles from our homes, across town or further.



Why do our cities have so few parks – what happened to the common open spaces? The answer to that question may not shock us when we look at how American cities were planned, developed and built, in post World War II developments, when the cost of land dictated that parks were relegated to the portions of the development deemed unbuildable. Open space was left open because it was not profitable.

So how did we, as Americans, adopt this way of thinking? As Arkansans, we see land around us in abundant quantity and think that lack of open space is not our problem. Not here in the Natural State – there is plenty of open space.....right?

At the turn of the 20th Century, the majority of Americans lived in rural areas and small towns, relatively close to the land. At the beginning of the 21st century, 85 percent of us were living in cities and metropolitan areas. Each year that number increases.

Prominent park designers of the 19th century like Landscape Architect Frederick Law Olmsted gave us parks on a grand scale like New York's Central Park and San Francisco's Golden Gate Park. They didn't view parks as simply the left over space, an afterthought, as a city grew and expanded. According to William Rogers, President of the Trust for Public Land, "In the view of these park visionaries, parks

were not 'amenities.' They were necessities, providing recreation, inspiration, and essential respite from the city's glare and bustle. And the visionaries were particularly concerned that parks were available to all the city's residents – especially those who did not have the resources to escape to the countryside."

If we are to learn lessons from these early park planners, should we not set aside parks in today's cities for all to enjoy before the land is fully developed?

Green Infrastructure Leads

According to the August 2011 Planning magazine, "...the best community design begins by

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2 PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Danielle Shasteen, AICP
President,
APA AR Chapter

Dear APA AR Chapter Members,

In April, it was my privilege to travel to Phoenix for the American Planning Association's National Planning Conference. I attended several informative sessions and Chapter Presidents Council and leadership meetings. I was pleasantly surprised by Phoenix. The city and region is experiencing a grand transformation, going from having the reputation of being one of the least sustainable cities, to embracing alternative energy and water conservation measures. The Arizona Chapter succeeded in hosting an impressive conference

and festive opening reception! One of the conferences highlights was experiencing Taliesin West with Dianne Morrison, Chapter Vice President. Taliesin West was Frank Lloyd Wright's winter home, now home to the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation and the Frank Lloyd Wright School of Architecture. Very impressive!

Locally, the Chapter is full of activity:

- **Elections:** It's election time! I encourage you to become involved in chapter leadership in either an elected position or appointed position. Details on page 5.
- **Planning Commissioner Training "Planning 201":** The next Planning Commissioner training is scheduled for Tuesday, June 28th in Bentonville. Details on page 6.
- **Planning Commissioner Training "Planning 301":** Scheduled for September 28th in Ft. Smith. Details to come.
- **Fall Conference:** Mark your calendars for September 29th & 30th in Ft. Smith! The

conference planning committee is already hard at work on the fall conference. If you have ideas for conference themes, sessions, or keynote speakers, please contact Dianne Morrison. We encourage and truly appreciate your input!

- **Website Overhaul:** Our website continues to be a work in progress. Implemented changes include online registration and an events calendar. We are slowly, but surely working on incorporating the membership database, which will offer enhanced resources including a discussion forum, easier payment for state-only members, and other member-only resources.

I enjoyed seeing familiar and new faces at the spring conference in Conway and I hope to see many of you again at upcoming trainings and the fall conference. If you ever need anything, please don't hesitate to contact me via e-mail or phone, (479) 271-3122. It is my privilege to serve you as Chapter President.

Thank you!

Danielle

*Taliesin West, home to the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation
and the Frank Lloyd Wright School of Architecture*



2016
APA AR
Fall Conference

.....
SEPT
29 & 30
.....

FORT SMITH, AR

Creekmore
Community
Center



save
the
dates

PDO REPORT

AICP Exam. Some of you may be interested in becoming certified in 2016. APA is in the process of updating the AICP exam. As such, you might consider the upcoming testing window before major updates are implemented. The next exam window is in November 2016.

Applications to sit for the exam will be taken through June 30th. The Chapter participates in a reduced exam fee scholarship program to allow one member per year to pay

a substantially reduced fee amount for the exam and application. If you are interested in taking advantage of this opportunity or have questions about the exam, contact me at jpwalden@garverusa.com.



Below are specifics on the program:

- First time AICP applicants: \$145 (combined \$70 application and \$75 exam fee)
- Previously approved AICP applicants: \$75 (exam fee only)

Applicants submit a written explanation of financial hardship (including financial hardship caused by a budget cutback in a firm or agency), which necessitates the

request.

- Members of minority groups are given preference.
- The applicant selected will be otherwise unlikely to take the exam without the reduced fee.
- The applicant's employer will not subsidize the exam fee.

Webcasts. The Arkansas Chapter is responsible for hosting a webcast from time to time in order to continue to provide our membership with free access to all the webcasts.

Anyone interested in putting on a webcast, please send topic and session information to jpwalden@garverusa.com. If you change your email or need reminders sent to an alternative

email, let me know.

CM Credits. Our Chapter members continue to outperform national averages in completion of CM requirements and almost all of our chapter's certified planner's in the last reporting cycle maintained their certification

Congrats everyone! Let's keep up the work and always remember to keep logging CMs!

APA AR MEMBERSHIP

139 National Members
86 Arkansas-only Members
225 Total Members

Welcome New Members!

- Jennifer Bonner, City of Bella Vista
- Ryan Williams, Student
- Jimmy Pritchett, City of North Little Rock
- Tim Reavis, City of North Little Rock
- Jennifer Wood, El Dorado Chamber of Commerce
- Jeff Runder, Metroplan
- Jason Lyon, City of Conway
- Phillip Patterson, AICP, City of Siloam Springs
- Luke Tia, Frontier MPO
- Keegan Stanton, Missouri State Univ. Student

APA AR Officers

President - Danielle Shasteen, AICP
dshasteen@bentonvillear.com

Vice President - Dianne Morrison, AICP
dmorrison@wapdd.org

Treasurer - Walter Malone, AICP
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Secretary - Julie Luther, AICP
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Membership Chair - Kelsey Kreher
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Nominations Chair - Dana Carney
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Legislative Chair - VACANT

Professional Development Officer
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jpwalden@garverusa.com

Communications Chair - Shelli Kerr, AICP
skerr@bentonvillear.com

Lay Planner Representative - Carol Short
cwshort@bullshoals.net

Member at Large - Jolie Busby
jabusby@ualr.edu



Robert Voyles Receives Bill Bonner Award

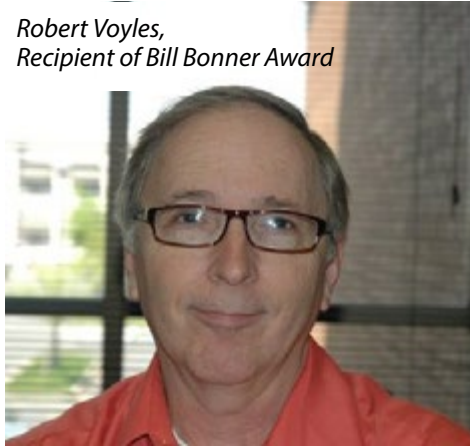
Robert Voyles, AICP, is the recipient of the Bill Bonner Award. Robert was presented with the award at the Chapter's spring conference in Conway, Arkansas on March 10.

The Bill Bonner Award is presented to an individual who has made a significant contribution to planning in Arkansas over a period of time. Bill was considered to be "Mr. Planning" in Arkansas for thirty years between the 1960's and the 1980's.

In 2015, Robert retired from the City of North Little Rock where he was the Planning Director for nearly thirty years. Prior to his tenure at North Little Rock, he was a transportation planner with Metroplan and a planner with the Memphis & Shelby County Planning Department.

As North Little Rock's Planning Director, he coordinated what seemed like every aspect of the Planning Department and was directly involved in the redevelopment and transformation

Robert Voyles,
Recipient of Bill Bonner Award



of the city and community. From planning and zoning, annexations, transportation improvement projects, trail grants, signs, trees, real estate assembly, and everything in between, he handled it.

Robert was a frequent presenter at Planning Commission trainings and served at length on the Arkansas Chapter of the APA Executive Committee.

The Arkansas Chapter of the American Planning Association is proud of Robert and what he has accomplished for planning in Arkansas.

Dr. John Gaber Recognized by Planning Accreditation Board

Congratulations to Dr. John Gaber, Ph.D., AICP, who won the 2015 Planning Accreditation Board (PAB) Outstanding Site Visitor Award! Dr. Gaber is the Planning Minor Co-Chair and Professor at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville.

PAB is part of the Associate of Collegiate Schools of Planning and is responsible for the accreditation process for accredited planning degree programs in the US. Two Site Visitors are recognized annually, one educator and one practitioner, for their outstanding contributions to the PAB's mission of ensuring the high quality of planning education. Site Visitors who have participated in at least three Site Visits are eligible for nomination.

Each spring, PAB asks program administrators and colleagues for nominations. PAB then selects the winners. The educator award is presented during the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning (ACSP) conference in the fall and the practitioner award is presented during the American Planning Association (APA) conference in the spring.

Join a Division or Interest Group Today!

Did you know APA has 21 divisions and 5 interest groups?

Divisions. Choose from among [21 divisions](#) and join a community of professionals with shared interests. Areas range from city, regional, rural, federal, and international planning to environmental, hazard mitigation, housing, and transportation planning to many more topics. Dues are only \$25 a year!

Interest Groups. There are five interest groups, which are volunteer led and have no dues or membership requirements:

[Food Systems Planning](#)

[Arts & Planning](#)

[Healthy Communities](#)

[Public Schools](#)

[Tribal Planning](#)



Call for Arkansas Chapter Leadership Nominations

Chapter leadership is a great way to serve APA and the planning profession, expand your network, and meet new colleagues. Did you know that if you are an AICP member, serving as a chapter leader is eligible for CM credit?

If you are interested in serving on the Arkansas Chapter Executive Committee, nominations need to be submitted to National through the [Nominations Portal](#). Please include a position statement of no more than 600 words. National will then transmit the list of nominations received back to the Chapter's Nominating Committee

for slating of the candidates. The firm deadline is Friday, June 3, 2016. All positions are up for election this year and include: President-Elect (1 year as President-Elect followed by 2 years as President), Vice-President (2 year term), Treasurer (2 year term), and Secretary (2 year term).

For the first time, the Chapter is participating in the Consolidated Election Cycle through APA. APA will be sending reminders via Interact to the Arkansas Chapter membership to vote electronically. Reminders will also be sent from the Chapter.

Please direct all questions to Dana Carney, Nominations Chair, at dcarney@littlerock.org.

2016 Election Timeline

June 3, 2016

Deadline to submit nominee names, bios, and position statements

July 5, 2016

Final slate determined, including any petition candidates and their bios and position statements

August 5, 2016

Online voting begins

September 8, 2016

Online voting ends

Mid-September

2016 election results announced

January 1, 2017

Newly elected chapter leaders take office

Nominations for Arkansas 2015 Planning Awards Now Being Accepted

The Arkansas Chapter of the American Planning Association presents awards each year to persons or projects that are worthy of recognition. Awards are announced and presented at the Fall Conference.

If you know of projects in Arkansas that you feel are worthy of an award, or if you feel that a planner or citizen should be recognized for his or her efforts, please be sure to submit a nomination. Category descriptions and nomination details are on the website at www.arkansasapa.org. The deadline for nominations is July 30, 2016.

An unbiased jury of professional planners will select award recipients. The following criteria are used to evaluate each individual and project nominated: innovation, transferability, quality, implementation, and comprehensiveness.

Award Categories

- Citizen Planner
- Bill Bonner Award
- Professional Planner
- Achievement in Technology
- Unique Contribution to Planning
- Achievement in Media or Journalism
- Achievement in Plan Implementation
- Achievement in Urban Development or Design
- Achievement in Comprehensive Plan Development

Planning Student? Recent Graduate? APA needs your help!

The Student Representatives Council Executive Committee is launching a series of surveys to students and recent graduates. The goal is to receive feedback about APA and how the leadership team can better play a role in advocating for student programming. This is a substantial part of their new strategic plan.

Help APA's national student leadership team make programming and engagement better for you. Student and recent graduates, please take a moment to fill out this [survey](#) by May 30th and let your thoughts be heard!

Certified Arkansas Planning Official Program

The Arkansas Chapter of the American Planning Association (APA AR), through the Arkansas Public Administration Consortium (APAC), sponsors and offers a Certified Arkansas Planning Official (CARPO) certification program to Arkansas citizen planners and

appointed/elected officials who serve on Planning Commissions and Boards of Adjustment.

The purpose of the CARPO program is to provide both new and experienced citizen planners and planning officials with the foundational knowledge necessary to fulfill the duties of a planning official. The training to achieve CARPO designation focuses on assisting planning officials in an



effort to better serve their communities through improved decision making, ethical leadership, risk management, improved relationships with city officials, skilled meeting management, and overall good governance.

Participants in the CARPO program complete three training workshops and a home study assignment. Successful graduates of the program are then recognized as a Certified Arkansas Planning Official.

Congratulations to Arkansas Chapter member Carol Short! Carol is the FIRST in the state to successfully complete all requirements of the CARPO program. She received her certificate at the APAC graduation ceremony held on May 17, 2016 at the Arkansas Governor's Mansion. Congratulations Carol!



Carol Short recognized as Certified Arkansas Planning Official

For more information about the CARPO program, please contact Jolie Busby, (501) 569-8469, jabusby@ualr.edu.

Planning Commission Training

Sponsored by
Arkansas Public Administration Consortium
Arkansas Chapter of the American Planning Association
Arkansas Municipal League
UALR Institute of Government

June 28, 2016

Bentonville Public Library
Bentonville, AR
405 S. Main St.
8:30 am - 4:00 pm

Registration Fee \$95

Includes Lunch

Advanced Training Topics for Planning Commissioners

This training provides appointed officials with the essential skills and knowledge necessary to fulfill your responsibilities as a planning official.



Training Agenda:

- Meeting Management
- Rules of Order
- State Statutes
- Application Review
- Subdivision Review
- Learn about NEW Certification Program for Planning Commissioners

Register online: www.ualr.edu/apac

Seating is limited - Register today!

For more information please call APAC at 501-569-3090
or email jabusby@ualr.edu



Partnering4Health: SOPHE's Nutrition Toolkit

by Aliza Norcross - Project Associate, Planning and Community Health Center



In September 2014, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) launched a multi-year initiative to prevent and control chronic disease at the community level. Named the National Implementation and Dissemination for Chronic Disease Prevention — or Partnering4Health — five organizations are working with selected chapters and affiliates to strengthen health in their communities.

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A member of the Partnering4Health project, Plan4Health is collaborating with the American Heart Association (AHA), National WIC Association (NWA), Directors of Health

Promotion and Education (DHPE), and Society for Public Health Education (SOPHE) to support 97 coalitions across the country.

Summary

As a partner in the National Implementation & Dissemination for Chronic Disease Project, the Society for Public Health Education (SOPHE) created a nutrition toolkit for use by public health professionals, health educators, community-based organizations or local residents committed to improving the food environment in their communities.

The “Increasing Access to Healthy Food Community Toolkit” provides the framework for creating a successful healthy foods access plan from start to finish.

The toolkit includes examples of inspiring success stories from other communities, guidance on how to first form a team, conduct a community food assessment, and establish project objectives. It also includes strategies for developing affordable transportation options to local healthy food providers.

Challenge

The sheer number and complexity of tasks required to create a local healthy eating program can be daunting. SOPHE's nutrition toolkit is a guide to help communities work toward increasing access to healthy foods in their community.

SOPHE's nutrition toolkit gives step-by-step instructions applicable to public health professionals and educators, community-based organizations, and community residents passionate about improving access to healthy food and beverage options in their communities or neighborhoods.

The nutrition toolkit provides guidelines for planning interventions to improve access to healthy food and beverage options. Included are ideas for community activities, helpful tools and relevant resources, and practical insights into successful community programs.

Results

SOPHE's nutrition toolkit will support community efforts such as:

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The Value of Parks and Open Space *(continued from page 1)*

identifying the green infrastructure first, and carefully interweaving a more modern grid-like street network into the greenway fabric to achieve the best of both worlds.”

Urban planning that respects environmental ecosystems by melding nature with an architectural order creates balance. The most livable communities tend to be ones that can balance conservationism with urbanism. Livable often translates to sustainable – for both nature and humans, which leads to a better quality of life for all.

Trails and paths become connections between the grid and nature, intertwining each other, linking residential and commercial areas to the environment via greenways. The greenways become the life blood of the community. Having an address near or on any of these greenways becomes more valuable in more ways than just economics. Recreational opportunities, as well as alternate

transportation options, are the result of this balance.

Community Benefits of Open Space

There are numerous ways to define the importance of parks and open space in a community. The Trust for Public Land suggests:

- *Attract Investment:* Parks and open space create a high quality of life that attracts tax-paying businesses and residents to communities.
- *Revitalize Cities:* Urban parks, gardens and recreational open space stimulate commercial growth and promote inner-city revitalization.
- *Boost Tourism:* Open space boosts local economics by attracting tourists and support outdoor recreation (especially in Arkansas).
- *Prevent Flood Damage:* Floodplain protection offers a cost-effective alternative

to expensive flood-control methods.

- *Protect Farms and Ranches:* Protecting agricultural lands safeguards the future of farming economies and communities.
- *Promote Sustainable Developments:* Open space preservation helps communities prevent the higher costs of unplanned development.
- *Safeguard the Environment:* Open space conservation is often the cheapest way to safeguard drinking water, clean the air and achieve other environmental goals.

Another important bi-product of the community park is what a park or open space can mean to a family. Parks can offer a variety of passive and active recreational options. In this day of raising childhood obesity rates and chronic health issues for all ages, parks present accessible options for family activity that not only promotes exercise to improve physical and mental health but also increases the possibility of families interacting with each other. The social benefits of parks is not something that can be measured or quantified but is none the less important. Furthermore, a sense of community is born from a social exchange between families as they network at the local park or pass each other on the greenway. Parks have the ability to act as ties that bind a community together.



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Clarksville Creates Partnership to Save Historic Armory

In Clarksville, Johnson County, Arkansas, the city Planning and Zoning Commission has joined with the Johnson County Historical Society and Preserve Arkansas in a grass roots campaign to save the endangered Clarksville Armory (309 N. College, Clarksville) from

demolition. It is also known as The Sonny Alston Youth Center being used as a multipurpose facility and is home to the national award winning Clarksville Boxing Club.

Details about their effort are on their website at: www.SaveOurArmory.org



Mark Hodge, Executive Director of the Johnson County Historic Society, marks the armory as "This Place Matters."

CONTINUED...

Parks & Open Space

(cont. from pg. 8)

Lost and Found

As our communities grow and our cities take on new shapes, we must strive to find and preserve the open space in and around the grid. Not only to find it, but to make conscience plans with it as the important puzzle piece to which all other pieces connect. Once open space is lost to development and connections are lost to adjacent open space, options for linking parks via greenways, trails and bike paths are difficult, if not impossible, in the future. It is easier, and more profitable, to do it the right way first than to try to bring nature back into the grid after the open space is lost. Plan to find ways to integrate the grid with the green – our community's health depends on it.

Nutrition Toolkit

(cont. from pg. 7)

- Wichita Falls, Texas — The ¡Por Vida! restaurant recognition program helps adults and children make healthier food choices by identifying menu items that meet nutritional guidelines. ¡Por Vida! has received local television and newspaper coverage.
- Richmond City, Virginia — Richmond's Healthy District's Healthy Corner Store Initiative is increasing community access to fresh, affordable and locally grown produce by partnering with neighborhood corner stores located in urban food deserts in Richmond.



Sustainable Success

SOPHE's nutrition toolkit is a resource and tool to assist communities' efforts to improve healthy food and beverage options in their community or neighborhood.

The more communities using resources like the nutrition toolkit, the better we will be able to reduce the effects of chronic illness among our citizens.

Story content from the Society for Public Health Education.