

WESTERN CENTRAL CHAPTER NEWSLETTER



American Planning Association
Western Central Chapter
Making Great Communities Happen

A Publication of the Western Central Chapter of the American Planning Association

montana • wyoming • south dakota • north dakota



Winter 09/10

Accessibility of State and Local Government Websites to People with Disabilities

by U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division, Disability Rights Section

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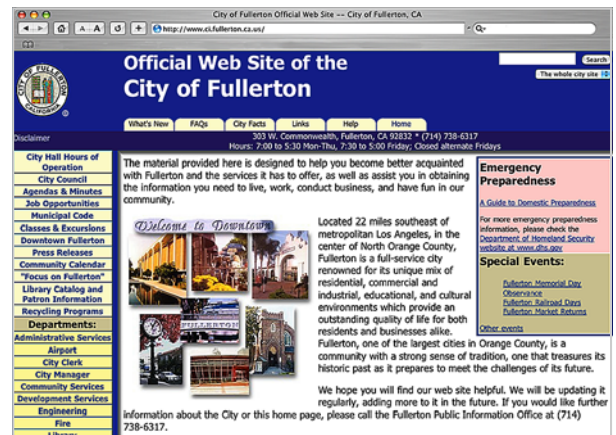
The Internet is dramatically changing the way that American government serves the public. Taking advantage of new technology, many State and local governments are using the web to offer citizens a host of services including:

- ◆ corresponding online with local officials;
- ◆ providing information about government services;
- ◆ renewing library books or driver's licenses;
- ◆ providing tax information and accepting tax returns; and
- ◆ applying for jobs or benefits.

These government websites are important because they:

- ◆ allow programs and services to be offered in a more dynamic, interactive way, increasing citizen participation;
- ◆ increase convenience and speed in obtaining information or services;
- ◆ reduce costs in providing programs and information about government services;
- ◆ reduce the amount of paperwork; and
- ◆ expand the possibilities of reaching new sectors of the community or offering new programs.

When government is constantly being asked to do more with less, the Internet is playing a vital role in allowing government to better serve all of its citizens. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and, if the government entities receive Federal funding, the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, generally require that State and local governments provide qualified individuals with disabilities equal access to their programs, services, or activities, unless doing



Local government websites provide important information and services to citizens.

Newsletter Information

This newsletter is published by the Western Central Chapter of the American Planning Association. Circulation is to the APA members of the Western Central Chapter (WCC). The WCC Executive Committee welcomes submission of original articles, editorial letters, and any other information of interest to both professional and citizen planners. Submissions should be made to the newsletter editor:

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2010 WCC Newsletter Schedule

- Spring – March 29
 (submittal deadline is March 12)
- Summer - June 28
 (submittal deadline is June 14)
- Fall - September 27
 (submittal deadline is September 13)
- Winter - December 27
 (submittal deadline is December 13)

Address/Email Changes

If your mailing or email address has changed, please contact the American Planning Association at the address below. You can also edit your information online at <https://www.planning.org/myprofile/>.

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President's Message by April D. Getchius, AICP

Dear Western Central Chapter Members:

Well, welcome to 2010 and a very happy New Year!! Doesn't seem possible that we are ten years into the millennium and lots of challenges to be had! I wish you the best in your planning efforts for the New Year.

The Chapter completed elections and Mr. Neil Putnam was elected as Vice-President and I was re-elected as President. I want to thank you for the opportunity to serve another term!! We have lots of ideas on our plates that we will share with you as they are brought forward, but our most prominent objective is to bring the best of APA to our chapter members. If you have ideas on how the chapter can serve you better, please feel free to share these with any of the board members.

Like many of you, our community has essentially frozen travel. You'll be getting messages to register for the National Planning Conference April 10 through April 13 in New Orleans. The conference, in response to requests from the membership, has been shortened this year. If you need travel assistance and have never attended the National Conference, please remember that the **Western Central Chapter has initiated a scholarship program for travel costs.** It can help ease the cost of the National Conference. New Orleans is a great city on so many levels and I am sure the conference program will be outstanding. WCC scholarship information can be found at the Chapter's website: www.wccapa.org/scholarship.php. APA conference information is available on line at APA's website: www.planning.org.

APA has also announced its award winners for 2010. Check them out on the APA website to see what others across the country are doing that is considered the best of the best!

Our chapter membership continues to be influential at the national level. Past Chapter President Andy Epple, AICP is President of the Chapter Presidents Council and serves as an advisor to the APA Board. Joanne Garnett, FAICP has been appointed to a blue ribbon committee to evaluate the relationship between the Board and the Chapter on financial matters. I was honored to serve on the AICP nominating committee for upcoming elections.

Both APA and AICP will be holding elections this Spring. I think the slate of candidates is a wonderful group of highly qualified and dedicated people. Make sure to vote when the time comes!

As always, please don't hesitate to contact me if we can be of assistance or if you have ideas on chapter services.

Best Wishes,

April D. Getchius

April D. Getchius, AICP
Chapter President



April out of the office.

"We have lots of ideas on our plates that we will share with you as they are brought forward, but our most prominent objective is to bring the best of APA to our chapter."

Accessibility of State and Local Government Websites *continued from page 1*

so would fundamentally alter the nature of their programs, services, or activities or would impose an undue burden. One way to help meet these requirements is to ensure that government websites have accessible features for people with disabilities, using the simple steps described in this document. An agency with an inaccessible website may also meet its legal obligations by providing an alternative accessible way for citizens to use the programs or services, such as a staffed telephone information line. These alternatives, however, are unlikely to provide an equal degree of access in terms of hours of operation and the range of options and programs available. For example, job announcements and application forms, if posted on an accessible website, would be available to people with disabilities 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

“When accessible features are built into web pages, websites are more convenient and more available to everyone – including users with disabilities. Web designers can follow techniques developed by private and government organizations to make even complex web pages usable by everyone including people with disabilities.”



Online Barriers Faced By People with Disabilities

Many people with disabilities use “assistive technology” to enable them to use computers and access the Internet. Blind people who cannot see computer monitors may use screen readers – devices that speak the text that would normally appear on a monitor. People who have difficulty using a computer mouse can use voice recognition

software to control their computers with verbal commands. People with other types of disabilities may use still other kinds of assistive technology. New and innovative assistive technologies are being introduced every day. Poorly designed websites can create unnecessary barriers for people with disabilities, just as poorly designed buildings prevent some from entering. Designers may not realize how simple features built into a web page will assist someone who, for instance, cannot see a computer monitor or use a mouse. One example of a barrier would be a photograph of a Mayor on a town website with no text identifying it. Because screen readers cannot interpret images unless there is text associated with it, a blind person would have no way of knowing whether the image is an unidentified photo or logo, artwork, a link to another page, or something else. Simply adding a line of simple hidden computer code to label the photograph “Photograph of Mayor Jane Smith” will allow the blind user to make sense of the image.

Accessible Design Benefits Everyone

When accessible features are built into web pages, websites are more convenient and more available to everyone – including users with disabilities. Web designers can follow techniques developed by private and government organizations to make even complex web pages usable by everyone including people with disabilities. For most websites, implementing accessibility features is not difficult and will seldom change the layout or appearance of web pages. These techniques also make web pages more usable both by people using older computers and by people using the latest technologies (such as personal digital assistants, handheld computers, or web-enabled cellular phones). With the rapid changes in the Internet and in assistive technologies used by people with disabilities to access computers, private and government organizations have worked

Accessibility of State and Local Government Websites *continued from page 4*

to establish flexible guidelines for accessible web pages that permit innovation to continue.

Resources for Web Developers

To make web pages accessible, the web developer needs to know about web page features that can make a web page less accessible or more accessible. Information about such features is easily available and many software developers are adding tools to web development software to make it easier to make web pages accessible. Two important resources provide guidance for web developers designing accessible web pages. One is the Section 508 Standards, which Federal agencies must follow for their own new web pages. To learn more about the Section 508 Standards:

- ◆ The Access Board maintains information on its website at www.access-board.gov and has a useful guide for web developers at www.access-board.gov/sec508/guide/1194.22.htm;
- ◆ The Department of Justice has information about accessible web page design in an April 2000 report to the President. This report is available at www.usdoj.gov/crt/508/report/content.htm; and
- ◆ The General Services Administration hosts an online course for web developers interested in accessible web design. This program was developed in conjunction with the Access Board, the Department of Justice, and the Department of Education and provides an interactive demonstration of how to build accessible web pages. This course is available at www.section508.gov, which also provides information about the Federal government's initiative to make its electronic and information technology accessible to people with disabilities.

A more comprehensive resource is the **Web Content Accessibility Guidelines** developed by the Web Accessibility Initiative. These guidelines help designers make web pages as accessible as possible to the widest range of users, including users with disabilities. The Web Accessibility Initiative is a subgroup of the World Wide Web Consortium — the same organization that standardizes the programming language followed by all web developers.

- ◆ Information for web developers interested in making their web pages as accessible as possible, including the current version of the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (and associated checklists), can be found at www.w3c.org/WAI/Resources; and
- ◆ Information about the Web Accessibility Initiative can be found at www.w3c.org/WAI.

On page 9 is a voluntary action plan for making websites accessible.

“To make web pages accessible, the web developer needs to know about web page features that can make a web page less accessible or more accessible. Information about such features is easily available and many software developers are adding tools to web development software to make it easier to make web pages accessible.”

JOB CORNER

Looking for a job? Several online planning job listings are free to search. Here are just a few:

American Planning Association: <http://www.planning.org/jobs/search/>

Planetizen: <http://www.planetizen.com/jobs>

USA.gov: [http://www.usa.gov/Citizen/Topics/Work for the Government.shtml](http://www.usa.gov/Citizen/Topics/Work%20for%20the%20Government.shtml)

Montana Association of Planners: <http://www.montanaplanners.org/jobs.htm>

If interested in posting a job listing in the WCC Newsletter, please contact the [newsletter editor](#) by the [submittal deadline](#) (as shown on page 2).



Land Banks Help Stabilize Properties by U.S. HUD's Office of Policy Development & Research

Created by Congress through the Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008, the Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) is helping communities address the costs of the current foreclosure crisis. The program provides nearly \$4 billion to every state and some localities with high foreclosure rates to acquire property, demolish or rehabilitate abandoned properties, or offer downpayment and closing cost assistance to low- and moderate-income buyers. Land bank development is another authorized — and increasingly popular — use of NSP funds. Land banks can be a valuable tool for mitigating the negative effects of vacant and tax-foreclosed properties, in that they provide a means of assembling, managing, and promoting reinvestment in delinquent properties and neighborhoods.



Overview

The main objective of land banks is to return vacant, abandoned, and tax-delinquent properties to productive reuse. The methods used vary by jurisdiction and are based on state authorizing legislation. Some land banks, such as the one in Cleveland, Ohio, are located within a city or county government, whereas others, such as the Fulton County/City of Atlanta Land Bank

Authority (LBA) and the Genesee County Land Bank in Flint, Michigan, operate as nonprofit entities.

State foreclosure laws and land bank governance determine how a land bank takes ownership of properties. Generally, land banks acquire tax-foreclosed properties through a sheriff sale or other judicial foreclosure process. Atlanta and Genesee County also receive properties through donation. Because they have limited resources, land banks must set priorities for property acquisition and disposition. Land banks evaluate acquisitions based on property location within a targeted area or on revitalization goals. Subsequent dispositions may be linked to a larger revitalization strategy, affordable housing goals, or other considerations. For-profit and nonprofit developers or individuals may purchase banked properties. Potential buyers generally must meet specific requirements to ensure a property's productive reuse and redevelopment. Land banks also have the ability to abate property taxes and clear outstanding liens; these are powerful tools that can be used to enhance property marketability and reuse.

Dealing With the Rise in Residential Foreclosures

Established land banks in Atlanta, Cleveland, and Genesee County are adapting their business models to better address the rapid escalation in residential foreclosures and to prevent further

Land Banks *continued from page 6*

neighborhood decline."The rise in foreclosures has accelerated our activity," comments Evelyn Sternad, land bank manager for the city of Cleveland. Established in the early 1970s as one of the country's first land banks, Cleveland's model concentrates on acquiring vacant and abandoned industrial, commercial, and residential land. The land bank takes ownership of foreclosed properties that are clear of structures. This requires close coordination with city inspectors to identify properties with structures slated for demolition, city planners to identify potential reuse, and the city's finance office to acquire a property and then clear taxes and liens from the parcel. "Currently, we are seeing increased demand for side- and adjacent-lot acquisition," says Sternad. Driving much of this demand are homeowners located in older neighborhoods with small lots who want to expand their property by purchasing an adjoining lot.

Before the rise in foreclosures, the main focus of Atlanta's LBA was helping to facilitate affordable housing by removing property encumbrances and selling lien-cleared properties to community development corporations. "Now we're developing partnerships with banks to help us predict how future interest rate resets and foreclosures in Alt-A and no-doc loans will affect our inventory and costs," says Barry Jones, interim director for LBA. He expects that current foreclosure activity will increase the authority's inventory from 125 to 500 parcels. Banks are increasingly looking to the authority to take ownership of real estate owned (REO) assets. By donating the property to the authority, a bank can move a foreclosed property off its books, thereby reducing its tax liability. Once in the land bank's inventory, REO assets can more easily be tracked and maintained to prevent further decline." Our involvement with REOs also helps prevent predatory investors from flipping properties, and ensures that properties are returned to the tax rolls as the market improves," notes Jones.

Michigan law enables the Genesee County Land Bank to play an active role in neighborhood revitalization. In addition to acquisition and disposition duties, the land bank undertakes redevelopment of commercial, residential, and vacant properties. "Our method is intended to reverse the downward trajectory of a particular property," says Dan Kildee, Genesee County treasurer and chairperson for the Genesee County Land Bank Board. Stemming decline starts with removing the property from the market and securing it through board-up or demolition. Deliberate investment then guides planning for property reuse, possible improvement, and, ultimately, disposition.

Arresting the Slide

Land banking serves as an interim or stopgap strategy in managing residential foreclosures and their effects on neighborhoods. Successful use of the tool often depends on coordination with local planning efforts. When developing a land bank, Kildee suggests that it's important for a community to have reasonable expectations for what a land bank can achieve, develop a

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ANNOUNCING APA MONTHLY WEBCASTS

No cost to APA members
CM 1.5 each webcast
1 pm - 2:30 pm EST

2010 Sessions

Historic Preservation Part I
February 5th

The Future of
Transportation
February 12th

Talking the Property Rights
Blues
February 19th

Historic Preservation Part II
February 26th

Regulating Electronic Signs
March 5th

MyFace, Spacebook,
Linking, Twitter...What?
March 12th

The ABC's of RFP's and
RFQ's
March 19th

The Americans with
Disabilities and Fair
Housing Act: Implications
for Local and State
Government Planners
March 26th

Using Form Based
Regulations to Sustain
Neighborhood Character
April 2nd

The American Housing
Survey
April 9th

For more information, and
the entire list of webinar
topics planned for 2010,
go to <http://www.utah-apa.org/webcasts.htm>

WCC ELECTION RESULTS

Western Central Chapter members had an opportunity to vote for the President and Vice-President positions of the Executive Committee. Current President April Getchius and Vice-President Neil Putnam were voted to retain their positions. Congratulations to April and Neil! And thank you to those WCC members who voted by mail ballot and online.



Land Banks continued from page 7

predictable and transparent acquisition and disposition process, and link any land use decisions to "a rational and publicly approved plan."

More information on land bank development can be found in the report, Land Bank Authorities: A Guide for the Creation and Operation of Land Banks by Frank Alexander, at www.lisc.org/content/publications/detail/793/. Additional information on Genesee County's Land Bank is available at www.thelandbank.org. HUD provides an overview of eligible uses under the Neighborhood Stabilization Program at www.hud.gov/offices/cpd/communitydevelopment/programs/neighborhoodspg/.

This article was originally produced in **ResearchWorks** (Volume 6 Number 5 - May 2009), the official newsletter of **U.S. HUD's Office of Policy Development & Research**. ResearchWorks includes new publication announcements, relevant case studies, and success stories highlighting the efforts of those who care about housing, and who work to make it more affordable, more accessible, more energy and resource efficient, and above all, more readily available. Our stated intent is to create a bridge between the research and practitioner communities. ResearchWorks articles can be found at www.huduser.org.

Where in the world? by Allyson C. Bristor, AICP



A sunset picture taken in the summer of 2009. *Hint: Last year's APA conference was located here.*

Submit your world pictures to the newsletter editor: abristor@bozeman.net. It's a great way to brag about vacations!

EDUCATION & CM CREDIT OPPORTUNITIES

Accessibility of State and Local Governments
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Voluntary Action Plan for Accessible Websites

- **Establish a policy that your web pages will be accessible** and create a process for implementation.
- **Ensure that all new and modified web pages and content are accessible:**
 - Check the HTML¹ of all new web pages. Make sure that accessible elements are used, including alt tags, long descriptions, and captions, as needed.
 - If images are used, including photos, graphics, scanned images, or image maps, make sure to include alt tags and/or long descriptions for each.
 - If you use online forms and tables, make those elements accessible.
 - When posting documents on the website, always provide them in HTML or a text-based format (even if you are also providing them in another format, such as Portable Document Format (PDF)).
- **Develop a plan for making your existing web content more accessible.** Describe your plan on an accessible web page. Encourage input on improvements, including which pages should be given high priority for change. Let citizens know about the standards or guidelines that are being used. Consider making the more popular web pages a priority.
- **Ensure that in-house staff and contractors responsible for web page and content development are properly trained.**
- **Provide a way for visitors to request accessible information or services by posting a telephone number or E-mail address on your home page.** Establish procedures to assure a quick response to users with disabilities who are trying to obtain information or services in this way.
- **Periodically enlist disability groups to test your pages for ease of use;** use this information to increase accessibility.

¹ Web pages are written using a language called HTML (or “hypertext markup language”). HTML is a “markup language” that tells a computer program (called a “browser”) how information will appear or will be arranged on a computer screen. HTML tags are specific instructions understood by a web browser or screen reader.

The Department of Justice provides technical assistance to help State and local governments understand and comply with the ADA. An important source of ADA information is the Department’s ADA Home Page on the World Wide Web. This extensive website provides access to ADA regulations; all Department ADA technical assistance materials, including newly released publications; proposed changes in the ADA regulations; and access to Freedom of Information Act materials, including technical assistance letters. The website also provides links to other Federal agencies with ADA responsibilities. Article produced in June 2003. Reproduction of this document is encouraged. **ADA Home Page -- www.ada.gov.**

Wednesday Webinars

Planetizen is now offering **live one-hour webinars** every Wednesday! These informative sessions will introduce planners, designers and developers to new technologies and skills that will help expand knowledge of the field.

Each webinar will take place on **Wednesdays at 12 p.m. Mountain/2 p.m. Eastern**. The cost is just \$49.95. All Webinar Wednesday sessions have been approved to provide AICP CM credits. For more information on courses currently available, click [here](#).

Podcasts

APA is offering several podcasts about a range of planning topics. They are **free to download** and obtain CM credits! An easy way to remember this great resource is by subscribing to the podcasts through iTunes.





State Director & Western Planner Updates

Montana by Jeff Bollman, AICP

MAP Annual Conference: The 2010 Conference will be held in Missoula on September 22-24 at the Holiday Inn Downtown at the Park. Additional information will be posted on the MAP website www.montanaplanners.org as it becomes available.

MAP Membership Renewal: Membership renewal forms were sent out at the beginning of January. Some members received them via email, while some got them the normal snail mail route. This was the first time that the renewal forms were emailed, so some minor issues were worked out. If you did not get a renewal form, they are also available on the [MAP website](#).

Wyoming by Joanne Garnett, FAICP

WYOPASS just held its elections, and the results are in:

- Brandon Cammarata (City of Cheyenne) – Vice President
- Ray Price (Fremont County) – Treasurer
- Charles Bloom (City of Laramie) – At-Large

They join board members Kathy Patceg (President), Mark Reid (Past President), Megan Lehman (Secretary), and Jeff Noffsinger (At-Large). Many thanks to departing board member Sandy Pederson, who served two terms on the board and helped create our scholarship program for conference attendance.

WYOPASS has a tradition of providing a free workshop every spring, and this year is no exception. It will be held in Thermopolis, Wyoming at the Day’s Inn, beginning with the opening reception on Thursday evening, April 22 and lasting until mid-afternoon on Friday, April 23. The workshop is typically geared toward offering practical and hand’s on training for planning commissioners, as well as sessions for practicing planners. It’s a great way to meet our colleagues around the state over education, training, and the hot springs of Thermopolis! Watch the [WYOPASS web site](#) for details.

Speaking of which, WYOPASS has a new look to its web site: www.wyopass.org. Many thanks to Brandon Cammarata for his efforts to making it really pop! If you have an item that you would like to have posted, please get online and let him know.

The Fall Conference will be held in Jackson from October 6-8, 2010. Jeff Noffsinger and his crew are hard at work on it, and given that setting and their efforts, there is no doubt that this will be an excellent one to attend. Stay tuned for more details in future columns!

South Dakota by Neil Putnam

The South Dakota Planners Association is looking forward to a successful year in 2010. Soon SDPA will be launching a new website which will significantly improve our association communication and outreach. We are in planning stages of the SDPA Annual Planning and Zoning Conference which will be October 28, 29, 2010 in Pierre, South Dakota. You may check the [website](#) for details as they develop. SDPA is pleased to announce that renowned land use attorney and planner, Dwight Merriman FAICP will be our guest presenter. We are working with our local government attorneys association and we are sure to have many credits for the AICP

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Where in the world? answer:

Minneapolis, MN.

Minneapolis is the largest city in the U.S. state of Minnesota and is the county seat of Hennepin County. The city lies on both banks of the Mississippi River, just north of the river's confluence with the Minnesota River, and adjoins Saint Paul, the state's capital. Known as the *Twin Cities*, these two form the core of Minneapolis-St. Paul.

Information obtained from Wikipedia.

State Director & Western Planner Updates *continued from page 10*

planners. The South Dakota Planners Association wishes everyone a very prosperous New Year.

North Dakota by Stephen E. Miller, AICP

No update this issue.

Western Planner by Amber Vogt

The Western Planner is winding down from a very successful 2009 Western Planner Conference in Spearfish. We surpassed our goals, and were able to log all of the CM credits. The WCC's contribution of \$2000 towards a Keynote Speaker was a huge success and we heard great feedback about Rick Harrison.

Two of the five articles listed below have already been published in the WP, so yes now I am a published writer:

“Featured Planner: Michele Reinhart from Montana;”

Planning Commissioner's Corner, “The 4 Basic Questions and the Survival Kit for Planning Boards,” Amber A. Vogt, Lawrence County, South Dakota;

Planner's Toolbox, “The Value of Digital Parcels,” Mike McMahon, City of Box Elder, South Dakota and Jenny Sorensen, Four Front Design Inc., Rapid City, South Dakota;

Planning Commissioner's Corner, “Too Many Traffic Lights and Stop Signs,” Bob Meyer, City of Spearfish Planning Commissioner.

I will be attending the 2010 Winter Western Planner Board Meeting in January, in Vancouver, WA. I have bought my own plane ticket and have received approval from WCC to get reimbursement for rooms and food. I will have more information for you at the next update!

AICP Certification Corner *by Pepper McClenahan, AICP*

There Is Still Time!

Still need certification maintenance hours for the 2008-2009 reporting period? As they say down under, no worries mate! A four month grace period began on January 1, 2010. That means you have four more months to get your required CMs. If you have questions about the grace period, feel free to email questions to me.

Many free courses are being offered to help with both the 2008-2009 reporting period and for those starting fresh for the 2010-2011 reporting period. Remember that you can carry over a maximum of 16 credit hours from one reporting cycle to the next. You don't have to be an AICP to attend these courses! The courses are open to all members. For free courses (and CMs) visit:



AICP Certification Corner *continued from page 11*

www.planning.org/cm/free

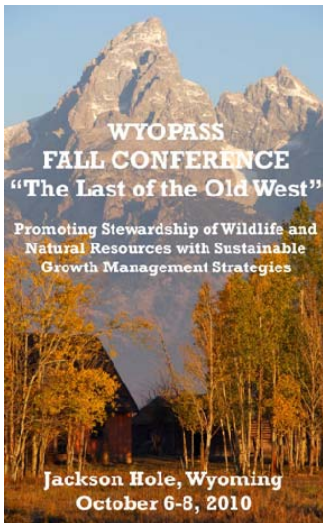
www.utah-apa.org

For those looking for a fresh challenge, consider obtaining an Advanced Specialty Certification (ASC). There are two available, AICP Certified Transportation Planner and AICP Certified Environmental Planner. More ASCs are under consideration by APA. For more information visit: www.planning.org/asc.

Considering sitting for your AICP Exam? The Western Central Chapter has a Reduced Fee Scholarships available for either the May or November 2010 exams. If you are interested, give me a call and we'll get the ball rolling.

Pepper McClenahan, AICP
Chapter Professional Development Officer

Conference Opportunities



The Rocky Mountain Land Use Institute 19th Annual Land Use Conference: "The New American Landscape"

Denver, Colorado

March 4 & 5, 2010

<http://www.law.du.edu/index.php/rmlui>

Building Education Conference

Gran Tree Inn in Bozeman, Montana

March 29 - April 1, 2010

<http://mt.gov/dli/bsd/bc/ed.asp>

Popular Culture Association Conference

Renaissance Hotel in St. Louis, Missouri

March 31 - April 3, 2010

<http://www.pcaaca.org/conference/national.php>

Intermountain GIS Conference

Bozeman, Montana

April 19-22, 2010

Wyopass Spring Workshop

April 22 - 23, 2010

Thermopolis, Wyoming

<http://www.wyopass.org/Conferences.aspx>

APA National Conference

New Orleans Convention Center

New Orleans, Louisiana

April 10 - 13, 2010

<http://www.planning.org/conference/>

Design Review for Officials

May 26, 2010

4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. ET

<http://www.planning.org/audioconference/series/design.htm>

South Dakota Planners Annual Planning & Zoning Conference

Ramkota Inn in Pierre, South Dakota

October 27 & 28, 2010

Contact: [Neil Putnam](#) for more information

National Preservation Conference

Austin, Texas

October 27 - 30, 2010

<http://www.preservationnation.org/resources/training/>

Conference Opportunities continued from page 12



April 28-29, 2010

For more information on the entire Plain Green conference, go to <http://www.plaingreen.org>

Wednesday, April 28, 2010 at the Washington Pavilion of Arts & Science in Sioux Falls

The South Dakota Planners Association and the Sioux Falls Green Project have combined resources to bring **Randall Arendt** to Sioux Falls for the **Plain Green Conference on April 28th**. This full day workshop will include a 1/2 day hands-on workshop on conservation subdivision design and a 1/2 day workshop on commercial corridor design. Both sessions are affordable and will be certified for AICP—CM credits. So, mark April 28th on your calendar!



Biography

Randall Arendt is a landscape planner, site designer, author, and lecturer. His books include *Rural by Design*, *Conservation Design for Subdivisions*, *Growing Greener*, *Crossroads*, *Hamlet*, *Village*, *Town*, and *Envisioning Better Communities*.

He has conducted workshops in 47 states and has designed conservation subdivisions in 21 states. His codes have helped individual townships preserve over 2000 acres, and one county (Hanover, in Virginia) to preserve more than 5000 acres.

Degrees: BA from Wesleyan University (magna cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa) and M. Phil. from the University of Edinburgh (in Urban Design and Regional Planning) He is an elected Fellow of the Royal Town Planning Institute in London.

8:30 AM-Noon Protecting Open Space Networks through Conservation Design & Traditional Neighborhoods

This session describes a practical and highly effective regulatory approach enabling municipalities to preserve resources and protect interconnected networks of permanent conservation lands, in a virtually cost-free way avoiding contentious down-zoning and "takings" issues.

The program begins by illustrating conservation design example at various densities and price-points, followed by a hands-on design exercise demonstrating how straight-forward this approach is. Participants will learn exactly how conservation subdivisions are designed, mastering a proven four-step design process, through a participatory hands-on design exercise, where the learning curve rises steeply.

The session ends with a detailed discussion explaining how plans and ordinances can be updated to include practical, effective language to implement this approach. Participants will learn precisely what aspects of the municipal regulatory process need to be changed and what legal wording is needed, in Comprehensive Plans, Subdivision Regulations, and Zoning Ordinances. Emphasis will be placed on creating a more productive PROCESS, including site analyses, site walks, concept plans, and a design methodology grounded in land conservation objectives. Model ordinance language will be provided, upon request, to all participants, in electronic form.

1:30 PM-4:00 PM Transforming Highway Commercial Strips into Mixed-Use Corridors

This session illustrates best practices from successful projects around the country where practical, proven techniques were used to

redevelop dysfunctional highway strips into vibrant mixed-use corridors, creating opportunities for new land-use patterns conducive to public transit ridership, economic development, and a variety of housing price-points.

This workshop addresses:

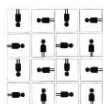
- Integrating mass transit.
- Creating connections among internal streets, parking, and walkways, facilitating safe circulation/linkages.
- Establishing height standards, encouraging vertical integration of compatible mixed uses.
- Providing opportunities for workforce and market-rate housing.
- Managing stormwater for groundwater infiltration/recharge.
- Calming traffic with landscaped medians, roundabouts.
- Planting shade trees extensively along highways and within development areas for improved aesthetics, air quality and heat-island reduction.
- Setting maximum building setbacks.
- Designing around natural and historic features.
- Requiring that outdoor lighting respect dark-sky principles.

This session shows how to blend the twin disciplines of Conservation Design and New Urbanism, and includes the Fundamentals of Form-Based Zoning and Low Impact Development strategies to reduce the negative effects of new construction, particularly involving stormwater infiltration. An optional hands-on design exercise is also offered, providing participants an opportunity to apply lessons learned to a specific situation.

Register Online

Go to the Plain Green Conference website to register for one or both of the sessions: <http://plaingreen10.eventbrite.com/?ref=elink>
\$45 for one session ; \$75 for both sessions

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PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR CITY OF BOZEMAN, MONTANA

The City is recruiting for a Director of Planning and Community Development whose skill set matches the City's core values of integrity, leadership, service and teamwork.

The ideal candidate will possess at least a BS/BA in Urban Planning, Public Administration, or a closely related field and will be an accomplished planning professional with extensive related leadership and management experience. The preferred candidate should also possess an AICP certification.

The Director of Planning and Community Development provides leadership and directs the operations and activities of the City Planning Department. The Director is hired by and reports to the City Manager.

Bozeman is a dynamic and growing community. Bozeman is located in southwestern Montana and is the county seat of Gallatin County, the fastest growing county in the state. The City of Bozeman is a full-service city government providing top-quality services from 12 City Departments. The TY 2010 Total Annual (all funds) Operating Budget for the City is \$77.6 million. The City has approximately 340 employees.

For additional information, visit the City's Website at www.bozeman.net. The Department of Planning and Community Development (DPCD) is responsible for administering the City's long range planning, current planning, and community development programs. The current annual operating budget is \$784,287 with 10 staff members.

The starting salary will be market competitive depending upon the experience and qualifications plus benefits. Brochure at www.mercergroupinc.com.

To apply, complete a City of Bozeman Employment Application, complete the City of Bozeman's Employment Application Supplemental Questions (see www.bozeman.net), and immediately return completed materials with a cover letter and resume to **James L. Mercer, President/CEO, The Mercer Group, Inc., 551 W. Cordova Road, #726, Santa Fe, NM 87505. Voice: 505-466-9500; Fax: 505-466-1274. E-Mail: jmerc@mercergroupinc.com; Website: www.mercergroupinc.com.**

First review of application materials will occur on March 5, 2010. See www.mercergroupinc.com for information on application materials.

The City of Bozeman is an Equal Opportunity Employer. The City of Bozeman does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, creed, sex, age, marital status, national origin, political ideas or disability in employment or the provision of services.

