

March/April 2011 APA-KY Newsletter

KENTUCKY PLANNER



American Planning Association
Kentucky Chapter
Making Great Communities Happen

A Publication of the Kentucky Chapter of the American Planning Association

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MARCH / APRIL 2011 e-newsletter

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New Year, New Format

The Kentucky Planner, the newsletter published by the Kentucky Chapter of the American Planning Association, is now distributed by email.

Please bear with us as we work the bugs out. I think that you will be pleased with the new format. I hope to deliver an e-newsletter every other month. Look for it in your inbox within the first week of months of March, May, July, September, and November. A print version, including the annual report, election results, and other numbers and content will be mailed once a year sometime in January. If you have articles that you would like to submit, please contact the Newsletter Editor about two weeks prior to delivery of the e-newsletter. The deadline for the print newsletter is still to be determined. We are open to comments and suggestions regarding this new format.

- Nicholas Seivers, AICP, Newsletter Editor, nickseivers@yahoo.com

The distribution list for the e-newsletter originates from APA membership information. If you know of someone who has not received this e-newsletter, please ask them to visit www.planning.org and update their My APA membership profile. (Of course, forwarding is always encouraged.)

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Planning Around Kentucky: APA-KY Regions



The Kentucky Planner would like to publish contributions about Planning, Design, and Development from all around the Commonwealth. Take the opportunity to brag on your town or county in the Kentucky Planner. Use this space to tell us about a new policy that could serve as an example to other communities. Not every ordinance, development proposal, or implementation strategy goes smoothly the first time around, we would like to hear about those too.

The map above represents the *Proposed* APA-KY Regions Map. This map will be introduced in the President's Message in the final print newsletter of 2010. The boundaries will be a topic of discussion at the APA-KY Spring Conference at Dale Hollow State Park. The Kentucky Planner is interested in focusing on one APA-KY Region in each e-newsletter. Who is going to get us started?

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Events

Get Set for 2011 Conferences!

Amy Williams, AICP, Secretary & Events Co-Chair, awilliams@hntb.com

Spring Conference at a Glance:

Dale Hollow State Park Resort

- Wednesday, May 25 – Evening Reception
- Thursday, May 26 – Exciting sessions, chapter development lunch, and evening reception
- Friday, May 27 – Exciting sessions and awards luncheon.

Dale Hollow State Park Resort: The Spring Conference is just around the corner! It will be held May 25th to May 27th, 2011 at Dale Hollow State Park Resort. An exciting program has been compiled that ranges from sustainability planning to zoning to historic planning to trail and recreation planning, plus much more! This conference offers something for all attendees including CM credits for AICP members, HB 55 hours and multiple networking events! Both law and ethics sessions will also be offered for CM credit.

The conference will open Wednesday evening with a reception at the state park. Sessions will be held Thursday, May 26th and Friday, May 28th. In addition, the program includes a Thursday evening reception, the annual chapter meeting during lunch on Thursday and the annual awards luncheon on Friday. The preliminary program and registration forms will be available next week online at www.kapa.org; programs will also be mailed to all APA-KY members.

Early conference registration ends on May 6th. Hotel rooms at the state park lodge can also be reserved under the group rate starting at \$79.95 per night (plus tax) until April 22nd. To reserve a room, call the state park at 1-800-325-2282 and tell them you are with KAPA. Room reservations after April 22nd will be subject to availability and increased rates, so make your room reservation early!

Fall Conference Save the Date

Covington, Kentucky: Make sure to also save the date for the fall conference at the Embassy Suites in Covington. The conference will be held September 14-16, 2011. More information about this conference and the call for presentations will be available online at www.kapa.org this summer.

For more information on upcoming KAPA conferences, visit the programs and special events page at www.kapa.org or contact Amy Williams, AICP at awilliams@hntb.com or Felicia Harper at feliciaharper@yahoo.com.

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Health and the Built Environment

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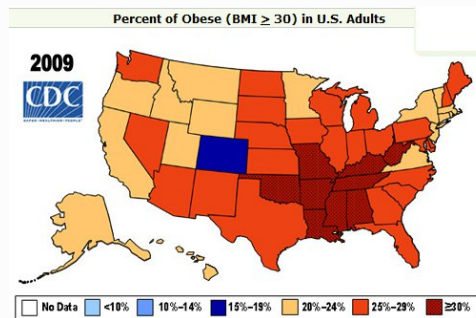
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APA-KY March/April 2011 e-newsletter

The Urban Design Studio hosted a night about Health and the Built Environment, in their 15th of a continuing series of lectures to reveal the reciprocating connection between quality-of-life and urban design at Glassworks in Louisville, Kentucky. The night's discussion centered around the A problem was identified, an analytical tool was introduced, and policy and design examples were given. Hint: There is a solution to the health concerns associated with the obesity problem, the solution found in non-vehicular forms of travel. If the link isn't clear to decision makers, well there's a tool for that.

Links to statistics and other resources are provided at the end of this article.

Ernest Hutton, FAICP Assoc AIA, Principal Hutton Associates, Inc., began the conversation by emphasizing the scale of a health concern apparent to most of us: obesity in the U.S. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) compiled maps from 1985 to 2009 to illustrate the increasing numbers of U.S. Adults who are increasing their Body Mass Index (BMI). In 2009, 31.5 % of adults in Kentucky had a BMI equal or greater than 30; in other words, **over 30% of adults in this state were obese** (see the CDC website for definitions and methodology). This is a statistical category, in which Kentucky is among the leaders.



CDC website | See the U.S. BMI trend from 1985 to 2009 [here](http://www.cdc.gov)

Other health problems have been linked to obesity. A number of health problems have been linked to the built environment. The CDC website is a good resource. There are other online sources of information. This article intends to introduce a problem, an analytical tool, and examples of design solutions. Work with specialists to identify problems and solutions, specific to your community.

Jimmy Dills, MUP MPH, Health Impact Assessment Coordinator at the Nashville/Davidson County Metro Health Department and University of Louisville Masters in Urban Planning alum, briefed the audience on a framework for bringing public health into the built environment decision-making process. This framework, called health impact assessment (HIA), sets out how to apply national health statistics (from the CDC or other sources), gather data on local health indicators, bring stakeholders and decision makers together to identify health implications related to their fields of practice, and prospectively examine a project based on health

Questions, Comments,
Concerns...
Would you like to be more
involved?
email: mail@kapa.org



Mission Statement

APA-KY shall promote planning throughout the Commonwealth to enhance the quality of life in for all Kentuckians.

Goals

Provide and support educational opportunities in Planning for Professional Planners, Students, Elected Officials and Citizen Planners.

Encourage membership involvement in Chapter activities, retention of existing members, and the addition of new members.

Network with other organizations in an effort to foster support for APA-KY goals and objectives.

Promote social equity and diversity within the profession and through community planning efforts and practices.

Increase citizen awareness and understanding regarding the role and value of planning in community and regional development.

Promote effective planning through legislative efforts.

implications. HIA is a tool used to engage decision-makers and communities on health issues and influence the discourse on these topics. For example, pedestrian amenities may not initially be a priority for a given housing development, but if an HIA can demonstrate the benefits to community health of including this type of infrastructure, then there is a stronger argument for investing it up front.

In Nashville, Jimmy is working with the Metro Transit Authority (MTA) on an HIA of employer-sponsored transit passes. The goal of this project is to describe and highlight health benefits associated with transit use (increased physical activity, improved air quality, and decreased injury risk to name a few) using local data being collected on transit users and input from a variety of stakeholders. During the HIA process they are engaging with the decision-makers, in this case the top employers in the County, to address their concerns about the MTA fare-sharing program. The hope is that the stakeholder input can be synthesized with new local data (as well as existing evidence on the subject from other sources) to add a health argument to MTA's pitch for their program, which already includes financial, traffic, and sustainability benefits as arguments for providing transit passes to employees. The Health Department is excited about this opportunity to partner with the MTA on this [HIA](#) as a way **to influence policy change to encourage active and healthy lifestyles**.

This video [here](#) (includes narration and interviews) was used earlier at an HIA Workshop with Mr. Dills to illustrate the connection between sidewalks and safety on an arterial that could be found in any community.

Scott Correll, AICP, Pedestrian Planner Charlotte Department of Transportation, provided examples of the complete streets program in Charlotte, NC. Examples of their work included building facilities appropriate and relating to the scale and transit orientation of Charlotte's light rail line. Charlotte began a program to introduce connections – bike and pedestrian facilities – to 100s of miles of low-intensity single-use districts in the city. The city-county transportation department has constructed many lane-miles of bike and pedestrian facilities, where once none were thought integral to a desirable place, throughout the city. A plan in place to build more.

Finally, Tom Low, AIA, Director DPZ Charlotte, explained how the quality of the environment – convenience and attractiveness – affects decisions to walk. The design of the pedestrian facilities must be inviting. There, of course, must be a place to walk to, so then a mixture of uses in close proximity should be introduced.

Mr. Low presented a selection of DPZ graphics to illustrate suburban retrofit concepts with viable pedestrian environments. [Charlotte Sprawl Repair](#). (soundtrack with movie)

Health Departments are interested in reducing incidents of preventable diseases by creating environments, through urban design, that are conducive to healthy behaviors. If walking is easy and pleasant, if places to work, shop, and recreate are nearby, trips happen. Added non-vehicular trips go a long way towards prevention. We could all use a few more steps to our every day trips. Planners have more allies in planning places.

In Louisville, a Communities Putting Prevention to Work (CPPW) grant has provided an opportunity for the Louisville Metro Department of Public Health and Wellness to develop a new approach for reviewing health impacts of upcoming policies and changes to the built environment. The grant is from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Rather than conduct a Health Impact Assessment on a specific project,

Louisville's health department and the Louisville Metro Department of Planning and Design Services have been working with local transportation and housing agencies, home builders, developers and academics to create a development checklist. This tool would screen new proposals and policies against a list of health impacts before they are approved as a way to provide information and build awareness of health impacts among decision makers.

For instance, if a new residential subdivision were proposed, it would be reviewed for its bicycle and pedestrian paths or trails, proximity to health food outlets, connection to activity centers like libraries and stores, and other conditions that promote a healthier lifestyle. The tool is expected to be finalized and tested in the coming months and put into use by the end of the year.

To complement and enhance the use of the checklist, the University of Louisville will be offering a certification program in Health and the Built Environment for metro government employees beginning in June 2011. The following year, the university will begin offering a dual masters degree in Public Health and Urban Planning.

More information about the 18 strategies in Louisville's CPPW grant is available [here](#)

Readers are invited to share their experiences with the policy & design programs related to Health and the Built Environment. How many Planning Documents include connections to wellness? How many communities have partnerships between health and safety departments AND the planning department? The Kentucky Planner will revisit this issue in about 18 months. Have your stories ready.

Links:

[Urban Design Studio](#)

CDC Overweight and Obesity page (+ [data and Statistics](#))

Nashville/Davidson County Metro Health Department [Easy Ride Program](#)

Charlotte Department of Transportation [Urban Street Design Guidelines](#)

New York City [Active Design Guidelines](#)

DPZ Charlotte | [Civic by Design](#)

Louisville Metro Health and Public Wellness Department [Putting Prevention to Work](#)

National Association of County and City Health Officials Land Use and Community Design [Checklist](#)

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Minnesota Transportation, Pedestrian, and Bicycle Plans [Checklist](#)

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Calendar of Events

march

3/1 Deadline for Presentations for the APA-KY Spring Conference

april

4/9-4/12 APA National Conference

Boston, MA

CM | Opportunities Available

4/15 Deadline for May/June e-newsletter

4/15 APA-KY Executive Committee Meeting

4/15 APA-KY Executive Committee Meeting

Location TBD 12:00pm

may

5/1 APA-KY May/June e-newsletter

5/25- 5/27 APA-KY Spring Conference

Dale Hollow State Park

CM | Opportunities Available

5/26 APA-KY Executive Committee Meeting

Dale Hollow State Park 5:00pm

june

6/15 Deadline for July/August e-newsletter

july

7/1 APA-KY July/August e-newsletter

7/15 APA-KY Executive Committee Meeting

Louisville TBD 12:00pm

august

8/15 Deadline for September/October e-newsletter

september

9/14-9/16 APA-KY Fall Conference

Embassy Suites Covington, KY

CM | Opportunities Available

october National Planning Month

10/15 Deadline for November/December e-newsletter

november

11/4 APA-KY Executive Committee Meeting

Location TBD 12:00pm

december

TBD Deadline for submittals for the Annual Report Print Newsletter

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Roland Street Choker, Charlotte, NC. A connection was desired between existing suburban neighborhoods and a park, but without cut-through traffic. The connection was made by removing a single home, thus limiting the roadway width.

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