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July 2012 APA-KY Newsletter

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## Planning in America: Perceptions and Priorities



July  
2012 e-newsletter

### In this issue....

Planning in America:  
Perception and Priorities

Regional Watershed and  
Stormwater Planning

### Results from APA's 2012 National Poll

With the U.S. economy struggling, Americans believe community planners should play a major role in helping the nation get back on its feet, according to a national poll released by APA on June 14, 2012.

Two-thirds of Americans believe their community needs more planning to promote economic recovery.

The poll found that Americans want planners to focus most on creating jobs — followed by safety, schools, protecting neighborhoods, and water quality.

"Not only do Americans strongly believe community planning is critical to jump starting our nation's

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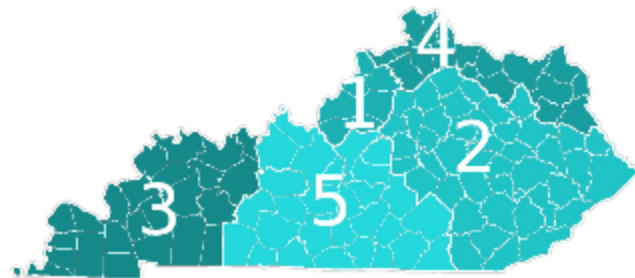
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economy," said APA Chief Executive Officer Paul Farmer, FAICP, "but a majority want to be personally involved with community planning efforts, whether they live in a city, a suburb, a small town, or rural America."

See the key findings [here](#).

## APA-KY Regions

It's official, stay tuned for more  
information



APA-KY Regional Format: Region 1 - Louisville (Aida Copic), Region 2 -  
Lexington & Eastern Kentucky (Joshua Karrick), Region 3 - Western  
Kentucky (Brian R Howard), Region 4 - Northern Kentucky (Peter J Klear),  
Region 5 - South Central Kentucky (Adam King)

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#### URBANE PLANNING

by Robert A. Jones, AICP



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## Regional Watershed and Stormwater Planning

Article first published in the June 2011 edition of the Small Town and Rural Planning newsletter, a publication of the Small Town and Rural Planning Division (STaR) of the American Planning Association  
<http://www.planning.org/divisions/smalltown/>. Reprinted with permission.

by Suzi Van Etten, Sustainable Communities Program Manager,  
Audubon International

We all knew this day would come: regulating Stormwater runoff. As the federal government issues a mandate to create Stormwater management policies for small municipalities and regions holding a Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit not covered by Phase I permits, more and more municipalities are asking "how do we do this?" Smaller towns, especially, are wondering how to afford addressing all six minimum control

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How to address addressing all six minimum control measures.

The newest regulations were brought about because polluted storm water runoff is often transported to municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4s) and ultimately discharged into local rivers and streams without treatment. A MS4 is defined as a conveyance or system of conveyances, including roads with drainage systems, municipal streets and highways, catch basins, curbs, sluice-ways, gutters, ditches, man-made channels, storm drains and related appurtenances which meet all of the following criteria:

- Owned by a state, city, town, village, or other public entity that discharges to waters of the U.S.;
- Designed or used to collect or convey stormwater (including storm drains, pipes, ditches, etc.);
- Not a combined sewer; and
- Not part of a Publicly Owned Treatment Works (sewage treatment plant)

### Increasing development and Increasing infrastructure issues

The mandate from the EPA to address Stormwater, however, probably wasn't the first time small towns and rural areas thought about Stormwater and infrastructure. As new construction takes a toll on aged Stormwater systems, former low-maintenance sites, like cemeteries,

[gk4.com](http://gk4.com)

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Urban Collage

systems, former low maintenance sites, like cemeteries or older neighborhoods have to help municipalities address Stormwater management. Even if your small town hasn't had a whole lot of new construction or new home development, this past year's weather has reminded us that storm events can create costly water quantity and quality problems.

Stormwater Management programs for local governments are costly: the need for technical expertise, staff time, inspections, and enforcement. So how do you make improvements and implement Best Management Practices in small towns and rural areas?

The operator of a regulated small MS4 must include in its permit application its chosen Best Management Practices (BMPs) and measurable goals for each minimum control measure. To help identify the most appropriate BMPs, the EPA issued a Menu of BMPs to serve as guidance (<http://cfpub.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater/menuofbmps>).

Best Management Practices target educational practices, pollution prevention and, maintenance procedures, general good housekeeping practices, and other management practices to prevent or reduce the discharge of pollutants directly or indirectly to Stormwater, receiving waters, or Stormwater conveyance systems. Best management practices also includes and encourages on-site treatment practices, operating

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## 2012 APA-KY Executive Committee

### President

Louise Allen AICP

procedures, and practices to control site runoff, spillage or leaks, sludge or water disposal, or drainage from raw materials storage. The first step in addressing Stormwater management is to know what "management" looks like.

Many times the terminology (even 'Best Management Practices') associated with Stormwater management throws off the thinking process. "Green Infrastructure," for instance, is one of those new terminologies in the discussion about Stormwater management. The EPA defines it as "an approach to wet weather management that is cost-effective, sustainable, and environmentally friendly. Green Infrastructure management approaches and technologies infiltrate, evapotranspire, capture and reuse stormwater to maintain or restore natural hydrologies."

But, what is Green Infrastructure, essentially? What small towns and rural areas have in abundance: naturalized areas, native landscape gardens, forests, floodplains and wetlands. And, how does a small town implement green infrastructure practices like rain gardens, porous pavements, green roofs, infiltration planters, trees and tree boxes, and rainwater harvesting for non-potable uses such as toilet flushing and landscape irrigation? By engaging residents to help in their yards, neighborhoods, businesses, and shared areas like schools, parks, and churches.

Source: Kapa, 2017.

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## Case Studies



With grant money, the Town of Williamston, NC built demonstrations of small bioretention cells, or rain gardens, in high visibility locations like this one, adjacent to the high school front entrance. Signage helped to sell the idea to others.

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Naturalized Areas or Bioretention Areas function as soil and plant-based filtration devices that remove pollutants through a variety of physical, biological, and chemical treatment processes. The reduction of pollutant loads to receiving waters is necessary for achieving regulatory water quality goals. Bioretention cells have been built here to catch and filter runoff (also called "surface water") from adjacent streets.



### Student Representative

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Questions, Comments,  
Concerns...

Would you like to be more  
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### Mission Statement

APA-KY shall promote planning  
throughout the Commonwealth to



Bioswales are swaled drainage courses with gently sloped sides (less than six percent) and filled with vegetation, compost and/or riprap. Depending upon the geometry of land available, a bioswale may have a meandering or almost straight channel alignment.

These systems are linear, with length and width dimensions much greater than the more typical 2:1 applied to bioretention cells for high pollutant runoff areas like parking lots.

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### Tip: Create Small Models

Education is the first minimum control measure identified by the EPA for all MS4 permit holders. Identifying how

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

your small town is already using green infrastructure and best management practices (who, where, how) is the simplest, most effective way to provide a demonstration of Stormwater management that will jump start citizen education and engagement. For instance, highlighting a local garden club's work outside the Town library as "Stormwater Management" or erecting sign in a median that reads "no mow zones: saving the town money!" will get people talking.

And did you know having a local elementary school plant a garden using native plants next to the school's parking lot is considered a "bio-retention cell?" Also known as a rain garden, this simple, low-cost educational project is an example of the first step in Stormwater Management in small towns and rural areas: breaking down the vocabulary and providing an education (see photos and caption in this article).

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## Did You Know?

There are a lot of good resources out there, including the fact sheet "**Do Your Local Codes Allow Low Impact Design?**" by the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MA.), found online [here](#), and the Six MS4 Program Elements "**Minimum Control Measures**" by the Environmental Protection Agency, found online [here](#) .

through legislative efforts.

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#### Newsletter editor

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### Newsletter Submissions

The Kentucky Planner publishes an e-newsletter in the first week of the months March, May, July, September, and November. At the first of the year, the Kentucky Planner prints an Annual Report. Contributions are encouraged. Material may be edited for content or space. Please send articles, letters, comments, certification maintenance events, announcements, pictures, and links to the editor, at [nickseivers@yahoo.com](mailto:nickseivers@yahoo.com).

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### e-newsletter distribution list

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### Tip: Cross Check Your Policies

An important low cost step for small towns and rural areas to address Stormwater is to do your homework and cross-check your local codes. We all know that trees, especially mature trees, and buffers or vegetation next to streams, ponds, or lakes, help to combat erosion and soak up excess water. But does your town mandate the removal of buffers? Or perhaps not address them at all? At Audubon International, we request all of our members maintain a minimum of 25 feet worth of buffer or vegetation with water features to filter the water runoff, soak up excess water runoff, and provide wildlife habitat. Do your codes and regulations match what science is trying to tell you?

Simply checking your town codes against tool kits or fact sheets listing "Low Impact Design" codes created for green building and smart growth will help your town begin to identify codes that are out of date or nonexistent (see examples listed below).

Simple modifications to local codes can encourage builders and property owners to apply low impact techniques, while also ensuring high quality development, adequate access, and public safety.

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## Cheat Sheet: A Few Ideas for Revised Codes and Ordinances

Outdated local codes and regulations may prohibit the use of green infrastructure techniques or may discourage developers by requiring special permits or variances. Modifications to local codes can encourage builders and property owners to apply such techniques, while ensuring high quality development, adequate access, and public safety. The following are examples of ways you might consider to update your community's codes and ordinances.

### Parking Requirements

- Permit use of permeable paving for parking stalls and spillover parking areas.
- Do not require more than 3 off-street parking spaces per 1,000 square feet of gross floor area in professional office buildings.
- Do not require more than 4.5 off-street parking spaces per 1,000 square feet gross floor area of shopping centers.
- Do not require more than 2 off-street parking spaces per single family home.
- Establish parking maximums.
- Establish formulas for the utilization of shared parking for uses with different peak demand periods (e.g., office peak demand period 9am – 5pm; housing peak demand period 6pm – 8am.)

Allow reduction of parking requirements if shared parking is proposed. Provide model shared parking agreements that can be included as deed restrictions or permit requirements.

- Allow reduced parking for homes and businesses near major transit stops.
- Permit stall width of 9 feet or less for a standard parking space.
- Permit stall length of 18 feet or less for a standard parking space.

### **Street Cross Sections**

- Permit a minimum pavement width of 18-22 feet on low-traffic local streets in residential neighborhoods. Allow narrower pavement widths along sections of roadway where there are no houses, buildings, or intersections, and where on-street parking is not anticipated. It is especially important to involve public works officials and emergency response officials in this discussion.
- Permit the use of "open section" roadways with roadside swales. Do not require the use of conventional curbs for the full length of all streets in residential neighborhoods. Where curbs are deemed necessary to protect the roadway edge, allow the use of perforated curbs (that allow runoff to flow into swales) or "invisible curbs" (flush with the road surface).
- Establish criteria for the design of roadside swales to ensure adequate stormwater treatment and conveyance capacity.
- Permit placement of utilities under the paved

- Permit placement of utilities under the paved section of the right of way or immediately adjacent to the road edge (so that the land adjacent to the roadway can be used for swales).
- Permit use of permeable paving for road shoulders/parking lanes in residential neighborhoods, with use of conventional paving for travel lanes only.
- Permit the use of permeable paving for sidewalks.

*Source: Audubon International Sustainable Community Program Guide, 2010*

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### **Tip: Adjust the Fees to Offset the Costs**

Let's not sugarcoat it: implementing Best Management Practices for Stormwater control is going to cost money at some point. Whether the cost is for more staff time or combatting residential flooding problems, funding a Stormwater management program is not free.

Stormwater management has historically been supported by a range of funding methods and mechanisms that reflect a mix of federal, state, and local programs. While the focus of many municipal funding solutions is on service fees, other stormwater program funding mechanisms include general revenue appropriations; plan review, development inspection, and special user

fees; special assessments; bonding for capital improvements; in-lieu of construction fees; capitalization recovery fees; impact fees; developer extension/latecomer fees; and federal and state funding opportunities such as grants, loans, and cooperative programs.

The resources worth looking into come from the federal government through the EPA, TEA-21, USDA and Fish and Wildlife Services or State Revolving Loan funds.

### **Summing Up: The Power of Partnerships**

You will find, however, that dedicating time and resources into getting creative through regional or local agencies like Soil and Water Conservation Districts, watershed groups, cooperative extension agencies, or active not for profits. For instance, a tip I learned a while back working with watershed groups in Southwestern Virginia was that the VADOT requires road work that disturbs a waterway to be "offset." We regularly used this caveat to get road crews to help provide the manpower and equipment for streambank erosion projects and riparian habitat restoration projects.

Watershed organizations are a great resource to incorporate into the process; they have the staff,

resources, and research, as well as education programs, volunteer networks, and associated data for the regional nonpoint pollution already compiled.

Whatever the specific needs and tailored solutions to wrestle with stormwater management issues in your small or rural community, a common theme rises from the lessons and cases of communities that have already implemented effective programs. Namely, these communities have used this “problem” to create new benefits, cost reductions, and new partnerships in their community. Planners have a purview over the community—its assets and challenges—to drive a change process and build a coalition to effectively address MS4 requirements and the intentions they hold.

*Suzi Van Etten is the Manager of Audubon International's Sustainable Communities Program. She works with local and regional governments, private developments, resort destinations, and a multitude of stakeholders to engage communities in a comprehensive planning process based in the principles of sustainability. She received her MS in Environmental Policy from Bard College, and BS from West Virginia University. Mrs. Van Etten, originally from Kentucky, has expertise in community planning, environmental policy and law, water conservation and quality, alternative energy, open space protection, and environmental risk and management.*



## Exchanging Ideas, Expanding Possibilities:

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### The 2012 OKI Regional Planning Conference

September 20–21, 2012 | Greater Columbus Convention Center | Columbus, Ohio

by Christine Palmer

*The mutual love affair between people and their place is one of the most powerful influences in our lives, yet rarely thought of in terms of a relationship. As cities begin thinking of themselves as engaged in a relationship with their citizens, and citizens begin to consider their emotional connections with their places, we open up new possibilities in community, social and economic development by including the most powerful of motivators--the human heart--in our toolkit of city-making. — Peter Kageyama, "For the Love of Cities: The Love Affair Between People and their Places," Creative Cities Productions, 2011*  
– Conference Keynote Speaker

The 2012 Ohio Kentucky Indiana Regional Planning Conference, September 20-21 in Columbus will provide

planners across the region with tools and case studies demonstrating how to facilitate and nurture the relationship between communities and their residents, visitors, and businesses to produce the elements that result in an exceptional quality of life.

Planners are facing unprecedented challenges with reduced budgets and resources, ever-increasing demands by leaders to attract and retain the coveted “creative class,” all while suffering ideological attacks on the foundational principles of the planning profession. This year’s conference keynote speaker, Peter Kageyama, community development expert and co-founder/producer of the Creative Cities Summit, urges planners to resiliently reshape their messages and create partnerships with the private sector and untapped resources such as community health organizations and public art foundations, in order to meet these challenges.

The sessions slated for this year’s conference highlight essential planning topics such as healthy communities, planning for arts and culture, bicycle advocacy and infrastructure, and sustainable zoning strategies. Sessions also involve training and case studies illustrating critical implementation tools, including economic development and fiscal sustainability, special improvement districts, and strategies for bringing conceptual visions to life. Special roundtable discussions will allow attendees to exchange ideas on emerging planning issues, discuss community engagement and outreach strategies, and develop the skills needed for

outreach strategies, and develop the skills needed for planners to take on leadership roles in their communities.

A special track of sessions and mobile workshops highlights the vision and leadership responsible for the exciting development and redevelopment taking place in Columbus in honor of the city's 200th anniversary. You also have the option to arrive in Columbus a day early to attend a full-day Professional Development Workshop and receive in-depth training on the importance of placemaking as a vital economic growth strategy at "The Economics of Place: Putting Place to Work," hosted by the Columbus Section of APA Ohio and featuring Charles Marohn, PE, AICP, Executive Director of Strong Towns.

Register now for the 2012 OKI Regional Planning Conference in Columbus, Ohio to exchange ideas with your colleagues from across the Midwest to expand the possibilities for the communities we serve.

A reminder to planning directors and administrators – please don't forget to forward the conference information on to your planning commissioners and board members who may be interested in furthering their knowledge and skills.

*A special thanks to our sponsors who are making this event possible! Interested in sponsoring or exhibiting at*

event providers interested in sponsoring or exhibiting at the 2012 OKI Regional Planning Conference? Contact Betsy Pandora at [oki2012sponsorship@gmail.com](mailto:oki2012sponsorship@gmail.com).

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2012

september

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Columbus, Ohio

21 Park(ing) Day, Lexington and Louisville, Kentucky

october

National Planning Month

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