



# Oklahoma Planner

## President's Notes

The state is preparing to celebrate its centennial in 2007. One way that every city can celebrate is to dedicate a "Centennial Grove." The Tree Bank is asking all municipalities in Oklahoma to celebrate 100 years of statehood with 100 living legacies. Since the first pioneers began cutting trees after venturing into Indian Territory over 150 years ago, over one-third of the original forest has been destroyed. According to Kurt Atkinson, Assistant Director of Oklahoma Forestry Services, approximately three to five million acres of Oklahoma woodlands have disappeared.

The Oklahoma Centennial Commission recently designated the "Centennial Grove" program as an official centennial initiative. During the five-year period (2002 to 2007) leading up to the November celebrations in 2007, Oklahoma communities from the northern plains to the southeastern swamps, from the Black Mesa area to the Ouachita Mountains

are invited to participate. This is an excellent opportunity to make a great effort to recognize past accomplishments and re-dedicate ourselves to the unlimited future with the living legacy a community grove of 100 trees creates. I encourage you to contact **The Tree Bank at 405-842-3320** and dedicate a Centennial Grove in your community. This program will certainly *make great communities happen* in Oklahoma.

On April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2003, the Division of Regional and City Planning faculty adopted comprehensively revised Goals and Objectives. The document is a product of a year-long effort to respond to two pressing needs of the division:

- 1) to coalesce and refocus after successfully hiring three new faculty members (out of only four total faculty) in three years, and
- 2) to address the Planning Accreditation

Board's critique of the existing goals and objectives.

The Goals and Objectives will guide RCPL's effort to attain full accreditation. The document also includes the program's mission and goals for long-range direction. As with all plans, it will be periodically reviewed and updated when appropriate. The faculty expressed a sincere appreciation for the assistance provided by the chapter and our members.

The future of Oklahoma Planning starts on the OU Campus. To solidify our future success, we each should offer to assist the planning faculty by speaking in a class, providing internship opportunities or offering community studies and plans for students to review.

I hope everyone has a wonderful summer and I hope to see you soon.

*Mike*

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### Upcoming Events:

- **Federal Highway Administration Pedestrian Workshop June 12 in Tulsa**
  - **OU Student Reception: Fall 2003 in Norman**
  - **OML/OKAPA Annual Conference: Fall 2003**
- See website for more details.

# TEA21 Reauthorization Initiative Needs Your Input

Federal surface transportation legislation undoubtedly has a profound impact on the nature of planning and the shape of communities. The innovations of ISTEA and TEA-21 fundamentally changed planning and improved the link between transportation and land use. This year's reauthorization presents APA and planners with a critical opportunity to use federal policy to empower local communities to build better, smarter futures.

Jason Jordan of our Washington Office recently sent around a call for some assistance for a new initiative that Congressman Earl Blumenauer is preparing. The initiative concerns what the Congressman calls "Orphan Highways." These are state highways that local communities have targeted for redevelopment or are an integral part of a community's redevelopment efforts. Often these would be small town main streets, but they could also easily be arterials linking communities, suburban corridors or other roadways that are significant to communities but that are not often in a strong competitive position for attention from state DOTs. Rep. Blumenauer wants to establish a new program to be adminis-

tered by FHWA to provide federal funds to local government, MPOs, and tribal governments to plan and implement strategies for rehabilitating, repairing or enhancing so-called "orphan" highways. There is strong linkage here to the promotion of context sensitive design and, to a lesser degree, Transit Oriented Development. Eligible uses would extend beyond the road itself to sidewalks, medians, signals, and signage.

As Rep. Blumenauer continues to craft his initiative, his staff has approached APA for assistance. In particular, we are looking for information on this subject from transportation planners and local officials. We are soliciting stories, ideas, examples, or data from Division members on this topic. Any input would be useful for shaping the legislation—concrete examples of how the program would benefit communities will strengthen the initiative.

APA has been actively engaged on the issue of TEA-21 reauthorization for more than a year and it will continue to be our top legislative priority. Our prescription for a healthy reauthorization is based on four principles: building on the

legacy of ISTEA, promoting planning innovation, advancing choice and sustainability, and ensuring equity.

Any response should be sent directly to Jason Jordan in our Washington office:

Jason Jordan  
Government Affairs Coordinator  
American Planning Association  
1776 Massachusetts Avenue, NW  
Suite 400  
Washington, D.C. 20036  
Phone (202) 872-0611 ext 1005  
Fax (202) 872-0643  
Mobile (202) 607-3762  
Email [jjordan@planning.org](mailto:jjordan@planning.org)

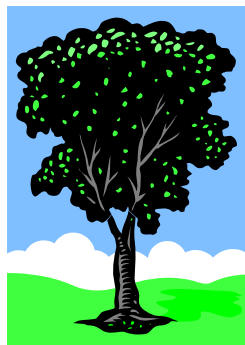
## Forestry Grants Available

The Urban Community Forestry Challenge cost-share grant program enables Oklahoma to participate in the President's Urban and Community Forestry Assistance Program. The objective of the program is to provide financial and technical assistance to improve the understanding of the benefits of urban trees, increase the amount of canopy cover, and provide the educational and technical guidance to plan, maintain, and improve Oklahoma's urban and community forests.

Urban and Community Forestry Grants are available to non-profit organizations, local government agencies, educational institutions and civic or neighborhood associations. They range from \$1,000 to \$20,000. Recipients are required to provide matching funds in cash, donations or in-kind contributions and services.

Applications must be submitted by 5pm, June 27, 2003, to the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture Forestry Services in Oklahoma City.

Applications may be downloaded from the Forestry Services link on the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture website [www.oda.state.ok.us](http://www.oda.state.ok.us) or you can contact the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture Food and Forestry, 2800 N Lincoln Blvd., Oklahoma City, OK, 73105, or call 405-522-6158 to obtain a grant application.



### Don't Miss Out!

If your APA member record does not reflect your current mailing or e-mail address, you're missing out on important membership benefits. Moved? Changed jobs? Switched to a new Internet service provider? Take a few minutes to check and update your membership profile. You can do it online.

Go to <http://www.planning.org/membersonly/memberdirectory.htm> Enter your APA member ID# (the 6-digit number in the upper left corner of your Planning magazine mailing label) and password. Click on the link to update your profile. This feature is not currently available for Division Only Members. Just send your information to: [AddressChange@planning.org](mailto:AddressChange@planning.org)

Changes made online will be reflected immediately; those made through the AddressChange address will take a week or so.

# Smart Growth Institute Formed

A new organization dedicated to promoting smart growth policies in cities and states across the nation will be headed by former Maryland Governor Parris N. Glendening and his former planning chief, Harriet Tregoning. Smart Growth Leadership Institute, an offshoot of the nonprofit advocacy group Smart Growth America (SGA), will provide training and consulting services to state and local officials who want to limit suburban sprawl.

As governor, Glendening created the nation's premier smart growth program by encouraging informed land use decisions at all levels of government. He has agreed to head the Smart Growth Leadership Institute as a resource for the thousands of elected officials who

are grappling with the policies, politics, and possibilities associated with urban growth challenges. In addition to his role as president of the Institute, Gov. Glendening will assume a seat on SGA's board of directors.

While Glendening will focus on development of the Institute's resources and programs, day-to-day operations will be in the hands of Harriet Tregoning, who is joining Smart Growth America as director of the Institute. Tregoning just completed her tenure as the nation's first state-level cabinet secretary for smart growth. In the 1990s she was the director for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, where she founded the national Smart Growth Network.

"Americans are becoming more aware of the destruction caused by sprawl, and more and more places are electing people who want to do something better," said Gov. Glendening. "This is an exciting time for us to help advance this national issue."

The Institute will be housed at Smart Growth America's headquarters in Washington, D.C. It is expected to offer training courses both in D.C. and elsewhere in the country. The Institute will also serve as a clearinghouse for best practices, case studies, and the exchange of ideas and strategies.

*The Town Paper*, Spring 2003, [www.TNDtownpaper.com](http://www.TNDtownpaper.com)

## Travel Survey

The U.S. Department of Transportation unveiled the 2001 National Household Travel Survey (NHTS). The survey shows how many Americans get around day-to-day, which underpins many discussions on transportation policy and issues. The first data release is available now on the NHTS website, where a free registration is required. Go to [nhts.ornl.gov](http://nhts.ornl.gov) for more information on the survey and access to the database.

## In New York...

A \$10.6 billion package of plans by Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg would convert much of Lower Manhattan into what *The New York Times* calls "an urban hamlet of housing, schools, libraries, and theaters, as well as other businesses." In contrast to the mostly huge and odd-shaped buildings that architects have proposed for the World Trade Center site, Bloomberg's overall vision offers many amenities for Lower Manhattan pedestrians and would create what the mayor calls "a live-and-work-community for the world."

## New Course Offered by AICP

The American Institute of Certified Planners has developed a digital course on development review. *Manager's Planning Guide to Improving the Development Review System* takes you step-by-step through the entire procedure. Each chapter in the printed manual is accompanied by an audio discussion on the companion CD-ROM that gives practical advice from experienced planning directors and city managers. Each of the six chapters is reinforced with these audio aids.

The audio is moderated by **Stuart Meek, FAICP**, and other speakers include **George Arimes, June Catalano, AICP, Richard Anderwald, AICP, and Terry Harris.**

This is the first product offered by AICP's new Planners Training Service (PTS). PTS provides high quality, intensive instruction on planning management, research and techniques, as well as policy issues affecting planning. The course consists of 6 hours of reading and 4 hours of audio discussion. AICP members can use this course for continuing professional development program credits (CPDP). CPDP: 10

**"Now more than ever, your ability to manage your resources efficiently and effectively is critical,"** Robert Mitchell, AICP, previous Region I AICP Commissioner.

The price is \$225, but APA and AICP members get reduced rates. APA members pay \$195 and AICP members pay \$175. For more information contact the Planners Book Service at [bookservice@planning.org](mailto:bookservice@planning.org) or (312) 786-6344.

The Twelfth Annual Conference of The Rocky Mountain Land Use Institute will be held on Thursday and Friday, October 16-17, 2003, at the Denver Marriott Southeast Hotel. Everyone on the APA mailing list will receive information in August. Please mark your calendars and watch [www.law.du.edu/rmlui](http://www.law.du.edu/rmlui) for the most up-to-date Conference information.

# Communities Profiled on the Web

The Oklahoma Department of Commerce's new web page at [www.odoc.state.ok.us](http://www.odoc.state.ok.us) is receiving widespread usage. Your community now has a new profile supported with entirely new and more sophisticated database technology. Many of you have found the traditional Community Profiles to be useful; however upkeep on the old format had become cost-prohibitive. The database supporting your new community profile allows continuous and affordable upkeep of all profiles in a less random manner by the Oklahoma Department of Commerce. Additionally, the new system allows a local editor, upon proper authorization, to go directly into his or her own profile and make changes to the narrative and other descriptive information using the Internet.

Community Profiles are used by site selection professionals, grant writers, potential new residents, and others researching and comparing American communities.

Oklahoma's new Community Profiles contain over 450 fields of data. About

one-third of those will be the responsibility of the local community. As of this writing, 31 communities have identified and authorized a local editor. The process requires minimal training. Initial data entry requires about four hours, once the information is gathered for entry. Most of the numbers which the local editor inputs are already known by community leaders. Local editors are able to enter facts such as the name and number of the largest employers, transportation features, special attractions, announcements, festivals and other quality of life attractions. Most entries are immediately published to the Internet version of the profile. No more waiting for someone else to enter your new contact names and numbers, for example. The majority of the information to be entered at the local level changes infrequently. Once the initial entry is complete, the new profiles will be easy for you to maintain and will provide a low cost, yet valuable publicity tool for your community.

Please help us portray your community in its best light. Accuracy and completeness speak volumes about the state-of-doing business in Oklahoma. Take a look at your new community profile. We know others are looking. If your community's profile looks incomplete, or if you see incorrect information, call Carlene Hill at the Oklahoma Department of Commerce at 405-815-5272, or by e-mail at [Carlene\\_Hill@odoc.state.ok.us](mailto:Carlene_Hill@odoc.state.ok.us). We will help you establish a local editor to complete the profile or make any needed corrections.

If your profile looks good, call and find out who the local editor is so you may thank them for their work. They are doing a task that is not particularly glamorous—one that has been added to their already busy workload—one that can make a difference to your community.

Oklahoma Department of Commerce,  
*Community Developer*, March 2003

## Pedestrian Workshop

INCOG has partnered with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to bring a pedestrian safety and walkable communities workshop to our area.

The workshop will be held Thursday, June 12th, at the Aaronson Auditorium at the Central Library, 400 Civic Center First Floor, in downtown Tulsa from 9am to 4pm. The workshop is free, however, you will need to provide for your own lunch. Some walking will be involved so please dress accordingly.

Class size is limited so make reservations as soon as possible. For more information go to <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/safety/roadshow/walk>.

## Sustainability in U.S. Cities

A recent RICS Foundation report explores issues relating to sustainable development and the built environment. Anindita Mitra, an architect and town planner based in Seattle, in *Painting the Town Green* looks at the use of urban sustainability indicators in the U.S.

Despite its popularity, the term "sustainable development" remains shrouded with a certain level of ambiguity and it frequently undergoes a fair amount of scrutiny. An exercise developed to help address this situation and to spread an awareness of sustainable development is the sustainable indicator program. Urban Sustainability Indicators (USIs) serve a number of purposes, but their primary role is to help measure whether progress is being made towards a desired sustainable state.

*Painting the Town Green* reviews

current literature on USI programs in the U.S. It explores whether USI programs, among the many tools available to U.S. communities, have contributed to the increased awareness of sustainable issues. It investigates past efforts and draws lessons and results that may be useful to future programs.

Details of this new report, including purchase options—both online and in hard copy—can be found at [www.rics-foundation.org/mitra](http://www.rics-foundation.org/mitra).

This builds on the earlier RICS Foundation report, *Red Man, Green Man: Performance Indicators for Urban Sustainability* which can be found at [www.rics-foundation.org/rmgm](http://www.rics-foundation.org/rmgm).

For more information see [www.rics-foundation.org](http://www.rics-foundation.org).

Taken from APA's *Environment, Natural Resources and Energy Division*, May 2003

## Oklahoma on the Map

The University of Oklahoma has launched a new website providing GIS data for the state. The Geo Information Systems department houses the Federal Geographic Data Committee's (FGDC) Geospatial Data Clearinghouse. The clearinghouse serves as our nation's storefront to the growing number of geographic information systems locally and around the globe.

Clearinghouses are expected to play increasingly important roles in matching the most sophisticated users with the best databases. When the FGDC registers a Clearinghouse node, it means the people behind the data have demonstrated and agreed to meet certain globally accepted standards.

We live, work and develop in places. Geographic (or geospatial) information

systems are powerful tools to help understand, develop and protect our places. Data resources are often the most expensive part of developing or using GIS. Oklahoma's data is more accessible to would-be developers and more easily shared among federal, state and local government agencies when the creator adheres to international standards. Proper security procedures assure the data is available when and where needed without jeopardizing public safety.

This seemingly small step improves Oklahoma's image. Prior to Geo Information Systems' registration, there was no working Oklahoma node on the FGDC Clearinghouse. By having an Oklahoma node on this site, we all benefit from an improved image.

Take a look at OU's Geo Information Systems at [www.geo.ou.edu](http://www.geo.ou.edu). You will find aerial photos, topo data, hydro data, tiger files, and others. All the information is available for download straight into a GIS software package. To learn more about the Clearinghouse go to [www.fgdc.gov](http://www.fgdc.gov) and select "Clearinghouse" on the left-hand menu panel.

Oklahoma would not have stood on the sidelines when the nation's highway infrastructure was being built. It's good to see Oklahoma listed among those actively building the geospatial infrastructure.



## Hopscotch Anyone?

Wachovia's new pocket park project, "The Green," features game boards embedded



bedded along the brick-paved pathway

through the park. Located in downtown Charlotte, NC, headquarters for the newly merged First Union and Wachovia Banks, the urban park is constructed over a parking garage and integrates ground-floor retail, office and residential development. The public art projects incorporate whimsical and fun interactive games centered on the themes of reading and literature as a complement to Wachovia's corporate commitment to public

education and early childhood literacy.

Nationally known public artist Carolyn Braaksma designed a hopscotch board with words that change with the addition or deletion of one letter. The games, sometimes riddles or word transformations, challenge the occasional visitor, spark the imagination of children and engage many a walker in the park.

*The Town Paper*, Spring 2003

The eGo's a great way to get to work or school. Because you never exert yourself on an eGo, you won't need a shower by the time you get there. And the eGo's cargo rack make it easy to carry a briefcase, laptop, books, whatever. You can take an eGo anywhere you would take a bike, which means in heavy city traffic, an eGo often takes less time than a car.

Answers to top 5 commuter questions:

- 25 mile range gets most people to work and back without needing to charge
- DOT compliant safety features allow you to safely ride on the streets and with traffic
- Park and secure your eGo just like a bike
- Plenty of cargo room for brief cases
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**OKLAHOMA CHAPTER OF THE  
AMERICAN PLANNING ASSOCIATION**

1612 N Broadway  
Shawnee, OK 74804

Phone: 405-214-0103  
Fax: 405-878-1587  
Sheila Southard  
SheSouthard@aol.com

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405-878-1665

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Sboettcher@incog.org  
918-584-7526

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Rrolison@cityofsapulpa.net  
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### **Board Of Directors**

Donna Sorrells  
Dsorrells@incog.org  
918-376-1543

Jim Coles  
jcoles@ci.tulsa.ok.us  
918-596-2600

### **Planning Official Development Officer**

Bob Wolfram, AICP  
Rwwolfram@ci.sand-springs.ok.us  
918-246-2573

### **Webmaster**

Nancy McNayr, AICP  
Nancy@mcnayr.net  
405-942-3391

### **OU Planning Faculty Liaison**

Richard Marshment, Ph.D., AICP  
Rmarshment@ou.edu  
405-325-2399