

AICP Exam Prep

Spring 2012

Functional Areas of Practice

FYI...

Technical Help: Use the question box on your Gotowebinar menu or
call 1-800-263-6317

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All attendees will be muted, please submit questions using the question
box and we will respond as time permits

The session will begin at 9:00 AM EST

AICP Exam Prep

Spring 2012

Functional Areas of Practice



American Planning Association
Pennsylvania Chapter

Making Great Communities Happen

Professional
Development
Committee

Exam Prep Chapters:

Illinois

Maryland

North Carolina

Pennsylvania



Today's Agenda

❖ Functional Areas of Practice – 25%

There is considerable overlap between the test content areas of functional, spatial, and plan making. When studying in one area, consider its implications in the other test content area. For example, think about the spatial planning perspective of natural resources, or consider the plan making perspective of growth management.

Always keep public participation, social justice, and ethics in the back of your mind when reviewing scenario or process/approach questions.

Functional Areas of Practice – 25%

- ❖ Community development
- ❖ Comprehensive or long range planning
- ❖ Development regulation or administration
- ❖ Economic development and revitalization
- ❖ Economic analysis and forecasting
- ❖ Educational, institutional, or military facilities planning
- ❖ Energy policy
- ❖ Food system planning
- ❖ Growth management
- ❖ Hazard mitigation and disaster planning
- ❖ Historic preservation
- ❖ Housing
- ❖ Infrastructure
- ❖ Labor force or employment
- ❖ Land use
- ❖ Natural resources and the environment
- ❖ Parks, open space, and recreation
- ❖ Planning law (not addressing today)
- ❖ Policy planning
- ❖ Public services
- ❖ Social and health services
- ❖ Transportation
- ❖ Urban design

Understand the history, legislative background, terminology, and implementation tools for these topics – and how to plan for them!

Functional Areas of Practice

Comprehensive Planning vs Policy Planning

Comprehensive Planning

- ❖ Geographic Scope
- ❖ Longer Time Frames
- ❖ Substantive (Topical) Scope

Policy Planning

- ❖ Development and Review
- ❖ Short Time Frames
- ❖ Specific Topic (or closely related topics)

Functional Areas of Practice

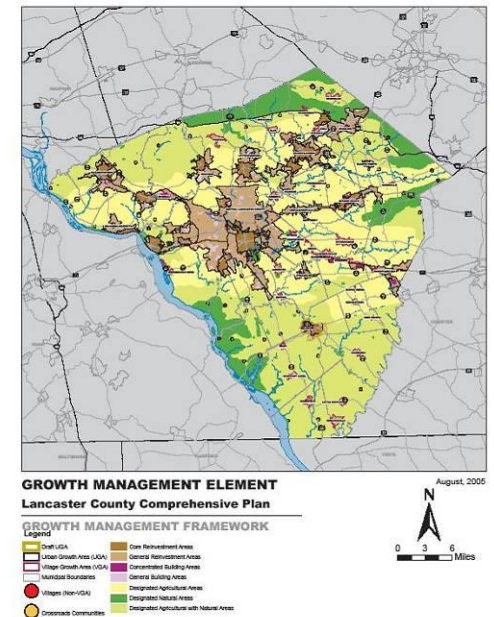
Land Use

- ❖ Zoning ordinances (Euclidean, Cumulative, Noncumulative, Form-based, Performance, Spot)
- ❖ SLDO
- ❖ Exactions (dedication of land, construction or installation of infrastructure, or fees to finance these improvements - fees in lieu of or impact fees)
- ❖ Types of development (TOD, mixed-use, brownfield, greenfield, infill, leapfrog, homogeneous)
- ❖ APA Policy Guides: Smart Growth, Agricultural Lands Preservation, Sustainability

Functional Areas of Practice

Growth Management

- ❖ Methodologies and Techniques
- ❖ Annexation and ETJ
- ❖ Community Identity
- ❖ APA Policy Guides: Impact Fees, Smart Growth, Sustainability



Functional Areas of Practice

Community Development

- ❖ Economic, social, and infrastructure components
- ❖ Main Street Models
- ❖ Housing and Urban Development
- ❖ Grassroots Success
- ❖ APA Policy Guides: Public Redevelopment, Neighborhood Collaborative Planning



Functional Areas of Practice

Urban Design

- ❖ Major Traditions of Urban Design (Monumental City Design, Garden Suburb and Garden Cities, Modernism, Megastructure)
- ❖ Social Aspects of Urban Design
- ❖ Neotraditional Movement/New Urbanism
- ❖ People and places are critical – 1929 *Regional Plan for New York City and Its Environs* and its explanation of the neighborhood unit concept by Clarence Perry for example



Kennedy & Montgomery Streetscape Concept

Functional Areas of Practice

Sample Question

Which of the following are characteristics of New Urbanism:

- I. Higher Density and Mixing of Uses
- II. Variety of Housing Choices and Grid Street Patterns
- III. Economies of Scale and Euclidean Zoning
- IV. Pedestrian Scale and Multi-Modal Transportation Systems

- A. I and IV only
- B. I, II, and IV only
- C. I, III, and IV only
- D. All of the Above

Answer: B. Note the question format, you will see this on the exam.

Source: Planning Institute of Colorado.

Functional Areas of Practice Housing

- ❖ New York City
- ❖ Federal Involvements
- ❖ State and Local Government Roles
- ❖ The “Rural Slum” Phenomenon
- ❖ Senior, Affordable, Multi-Family, Mixed Use Housing...issues and opportunities
- ❖ APA Policy Guides: Housing, Factory Built Housing, Community Residences, and Homelessness



*Keep in mind the exam has not
been updated since 2008*

Energy Policy

- ❖ Energy Policies (National, State, and Local)
- ❖ Fossil fuels versus Renewables
- ❖ APA Policy Guides: Energy, Climate Change

*What are the implications of the different energy sources?
Infrastructure required? Land use? Transmission lines?
Pollution? Wildlife impact?*

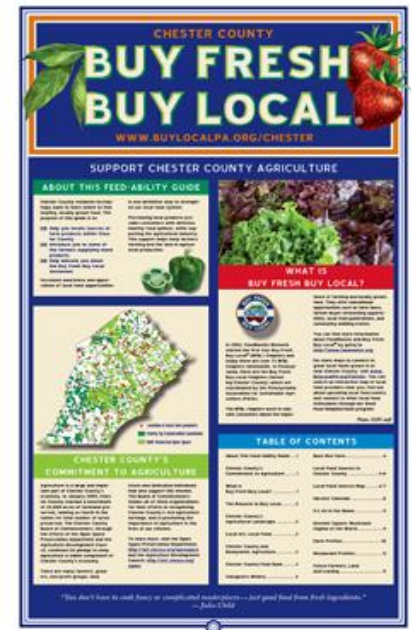
Functional Areas of Practice

Break for Questions

Functional Areas of Practice

Food System Planning

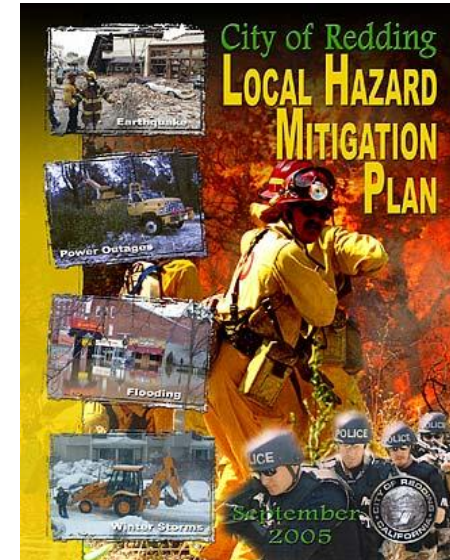
- ❖ What is the food system? What is a foodshed?
- ❖ Implications on land use as well as: public health, energy, pollution, economic development, labor force
- ❖ APA Policy Guides: Food Planning and Agricultural Lands Preservation



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Hazard Mitigation & Disaster Planning

- ❖ Prepare, Respond, Recover
- ❖ Agency coordination
- ❖ Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000
- ❖ APA Policy Guide: Security



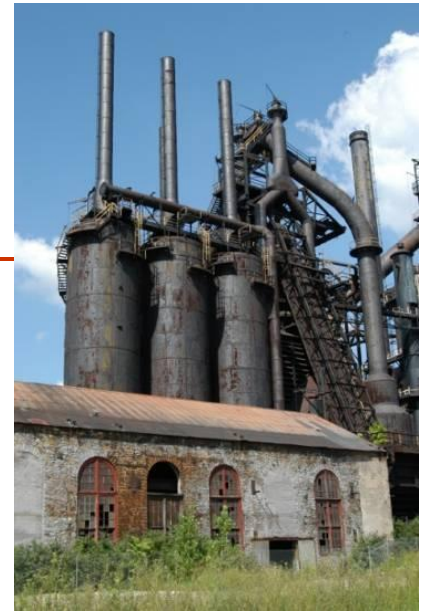
The language of disaster planning and response:

National Incident Management System (NIMS)
Incident Command System (ICS)
National Response Framework (NRF)
National Response Plan (NRP)
Emergency Support Function (ESF)

Functional Areas of Practice

Historic Preservation

- ❖ National Historic Preservation Act (1966) – National Register of Historic Places, Section 106 process, State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)
- ❖ Tax Reform Act of 1986
- ❖ Local preservation efforts
- ❖ APA Policy Guide: Historic & Cultural Resources



Link back to:

First historic preservation efforts
(commission: New Orleans 1921,
ordinance: Charleston 1931)
Case law (Penn Central v New York,
1978 for example)



Functional Areas of Practice

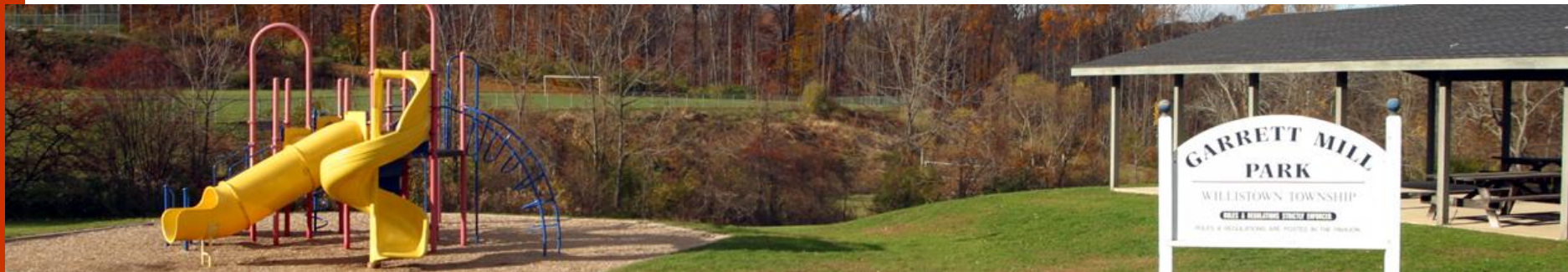
Parks, Recreation, and Open Space

- ❖ Inventory of Facilities and Needs
 - Types of parks: community, neighborhood, pocket, tot lots, gardens, greenways
- ❖ Consider costs versus benefits, active versus passive recreation, public versus private open space, what the community's demographics call for, linkages, etc.

Link back to:

Case law (Overton Park v Volpe, 1971 for example)

Legislation (Section 4(f) of the Dept of Transportation Act)



Functional Areas of Practice

Natural Resources & Environment

- ❖ 1960s/70s legislation: NEPA, Clean Air, Clean Water, ESA, RCRA, CERCLA; EPA established
- ❖ The entire spectrum of natural resources: ground and surface water, wetlands, forests, endangered species, coastal areas, floodplains...

HOW DOES PLANNING DIFFER BY RESOURCE TYPE?



- ❖ APA Policy Guides: Waste Management, Water Resources, Wetlands, Endangered Species and Habitat Management

Link back to:

Case law (TVA v Hill, 1978; Rapanos v US, 2006 as examples)

People & books (Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring*, Ian McHarg's *Design with Nature*)

Functional Areas of Practice

Sample Question

An urban municipality has received grant funding to restore riparian buffers in order to improve the untreated water quality of the municipality's public water, which is drawn partially from surface waters. Which of the following steps is not necessary to get the project underway?

- A. Research existing databases for information on water quality within the source waters' watershed.
- B. Determine ownership of parcels along all surface waters within the municipality.
- C. Review aerial photography to assess conditions adjacent to waterways within the source waters' watershed.
- D. Research the most effective riparian buffer restoration methods for water quality improvement (such as differing buffer widths and vegetation type).
- E. Contact adjacent municipalities that contain any of the source waters' watershed.

Answer: B. This exact step is not needed. Determining ownership for certain parcels in the source watershed will likely be needed later in the process.

Functional Areas of Practice

Sample Question

Between 1986 and 1997, which of the following activity accounts for the highest percentage of wetlands losses?

- A. Silvicultural
- B. Urban development
- C. Rural development
- D. Agriculture

Answer: B. The percentages are 23%, 30%, 21%, and 26%, from the 2002 APA Policy Guide on Wetlands.

Source: Colorado PDO.

Functional Areas of Practice Infrastructure

- ❖ Pipes (water, sewer, gas, etc.)
- ❖ Wires (electricity, communications, etc.)
- ❖ Trash (collection, disposal, reuse)



Consider demand, types of systems, funding to construct and maintain, and contamination potential

Functional Areas of Practice Infrastructure



- ❖ Transportation (cars, buses, trains, planes, pedestrian, bicycle)
 - Think multi-modal!
 - Consider the energy and growth management implications
 - Consider the spatial planning – who plans for what areas?
 - APA Policy Guide: Surface Transportation



Functional Areas of Practice

Sample Question

Which of the following is not true about a Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)?

- A. They are federally mandated for urbanized areas with a population over 250,000.
- B. They channel federal funds for transportation projects.
- C. They maintain a long-range transportation plan for a region.
- D. Their decision-making committees can be comprised of a mix of local, state, and federal representatives.

Answer: A. UZA population requirement is 50,000.

Functional Areas of Practice

Institutional Facilities

- ❖ Schools (primary, secondary, and tertiary)
- ❖ Correctional institutions
- ❖ Military installations (including Base Closure and Reuse – BRAC)



Consider impacts on education levels, labor force skill sets, employment, income levels, stability (or lack) of the labor force, demographics, etc.

Functional Areas of Practice

Economic Development

- ❖ Business Attraction and Retention
- ❖ Work Force Attraction and Retention
- ❖ Quantitative Functions
- ❖ Revitalization
- ❖ Tools: Business Improvement District (BID), business incubators, Tax Increment Financing (TIF)



Functional Areas of Practice

Economic Analysis & Forecasts

- ❖ Always question the data
- ❖ Economic Base Analyses
- ❖ Fiscal Impact Analyses
- ❖ Know Location Quotient (LQ), Floor Area Ratio (FAR), economic base multiplier
- ❖ Know differences in terminology: neighborhood shopping center versus a community or regional shopping center

Functional Areas of Practice

Sample Question

The total area of permitted floor space expressed as a proportion of the site is known as the:

- A. Gross Leasable Area
- B. Location Quotient
- C. Floor Area Ratio
- D. NAICS

Answer: C.

Functional Areas of Practice

Labor Force and Employment

- ❖ Data Sources for Analysis
- ❖ Skills of the Community
- ❖ Workforce Characteristics

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Social and Health Services

- ❖ Federal and State Programs and Funds
- ❖ Local or Local-Regional Administration
- ❖ Health Systems Planning
- ❖ APA Policy Guides: Child Care and Homelessness
- ❖ Estimating and serving needs (health, social, mobility, recreation...)
 - *Libraries*
 - *Schools*
 - *Medical facilities*
 - *Childcare facilities*
 - *Grocery stores*
 - *Senior living facilities*
 - *Sidewalks and paths*
 - *Safe routes to school*
 - *Parks and playgrounds*
 - *Secure bicycle lanes*

Interrelatedness of these needs and areas of transportation, environment, neighborhood planning, etc.

Study Resources:

Comprehensive Study Sources

❖ PA Chapter PDC Study Notes

(www.planningpa.org, then Career Center and AICP Exam)

❖ PLAN 310 Planetizen AICP Exam Preparation Course (\$159)

❖ APA AICP Exam Prep 2.0 (\$195)

These generally review all topics noted in the APA outline of test content

Planetizen and APA both include practice exams

Planetizen is more interactive

Practice exams are critical, but don't memorize the specific questions – use them to understand your grasp of the topic

Real questions are likely to require a mix of professional judgment and technical knowledge

Study Resources: APA Policy Guides



- ❖ “For a majority of Americans, transportation and housing costs combine to exceed 50% of household income.”
2010 Policy Guide on Surface Transportation
- ❖ “About 75 percent of the electricity used in the country goes toward heating, cooling, and lighting buildings.”
2008 Policy Guide on Planning and Climate Change
- ❖ “The rate of jobs growth in the fringe counties of metropolitan areas is over twice that of the central counties of metropolitan areas.”
2006 Policy Guide on Housing

<http://www.planning.org/policy/guides/>



American Planning Association
Pennsylvania Chapter

Making Great Communities Happen

Questions?

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Next Week: Public Participation and Social Justice

Registration: PA Chapter - www.planningpa.org/events

Archived Presentations: Utah Chapter - <http://www.utah-apa.org/webcast-archive>

Exam Prep Chapters:

Illinois

Maryland

North Carolina

Pennsylvania

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www.chesco.org/planning*

