

THE VANTAGE POINT



American Planning Association
Pennsylvania Chapter

Making Great Communities Happen

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2018 FARM BILL: What Does It Mean for Planners and Public Health

By Amy Verbofsky, Senior Planner,
Delaware Valley Regional Planning
Commission, Philadelphia, PA
Member of the Healthy Communities
in PA Task Force

WHAT IS THE FARM BILL?

The farm bill is a comprehensive, multi-year federal law that authorizes most federal policies governing food and agriculture. The most recent farm bill—The Agricultural Act of 2014 (P.L. 113-79), commonly referred to as the 2014 Farm Bill—has 12 titles that encompass a range of issues and programs including farm commodities and income supports, nutrition programs like the Supplementation Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), farmland and environmental conservation, crop insurance, and rural development. Nutrition programs constitute the majority of the farm bill, accounting for 80 percent of the funds historically and projected to be spent on farm bill programs. Farm commodity supports, crop insurance, and conservation programs comprise 8 percent, 7 percent, and 5 percent, respectively.¹

The 2014 Farm Bill, which was signed into law in February 2014, is set to expire on September 30, 2018. Since Congress

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2017 PA Chapter of APA

Award Winners

*The Best and Brightest recognized at the
Annual Awards Luncheon in State College!*

On October 24, 2017 the Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Planning Association (PA Chapter of APA) held its Annual Awards Luncheon in State College, PA where over 300 attendees celebrated the esteemed award winners of this year's highly competitive program.

The following awards were presented:

Daniel Burnham Award for a Comprehensive Plan
Comprehensive Plan for the
Preservation, Infill, and Redevelopment
of Lower Merion Township
Lower Merion Township
(Montgomery County)

The 2016 Lower Merion Comprehensive Plan is the township's fifth comprehensive plan and continues a long-standing commitment to innovative planning. The plan is both visionary and pragmatic. It is issues-based and solution-driven. The plan is dense and detailed, but with graphics, maps, and photographs that enable readers to understand the issues, planning concepts, and recommended solutions. The plan emphasizes the need for form-based revisions to land development codes to support Lower Merion's established patterns and original design intent. The plan is outstanding in the level and breadth of issues addressed, the number of individuals involved, and the dynamic approach taken to chart the course for the next 10 years.



Planning Excellence Award – Best Practice
Chester County's Commercial Landscapes Series
Chester County Planning Commission

Chester County's Commercial Landscapes Series presents an innovative approach to repurposing older office parks, shopping centers, transit stations, and brownfield sites in the county. Many sites have become underutilized or vacant. Commercial Landscapes addresses changing



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2017 PA Chapter of APA

Award Winners

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market trends affecting the viability of older commercial sites. With input from industry leaders, the final documents provide renderings to illustrate new visions for aging properties plus strategies and best practices for repurposing the sites, including zoning ordinance revisions and design services to be provided by the Chester County Planning Commission.

Planning Excellence Award – Best Practice

Pittsburgh Vacant Lot Toolkit

City of Pittsburgh, Department of City Planning



The Vacant Lot Toolkit addresses the complex issue of the reuse of over 28,000 vacant lots in the City of Pittsburgh. The vacant lots compromise the city's quality of life, property values, and the tax base. The toolkit puts particular focus on reuse for edible, flower, and rain gardens, as well as community art spaces and long term commercial reuse. The toolkit includes two parts: 1) a Policy Guide that promotes coordination among city departments and a more streamlined process for activating lots, and which resulted in a new adopt-a-lot program; and 2) a Vacant Lot Resource Guide that provides information for individuals and organizations including an easy-to-follow, step-by-step flow chart.

Planning Excellence Award – Plan Other Than a Comprehensive Plan

Community Greening Plan: A Green Stormwater Infrastructure Plan for Harrisburg

Capital Region Water



With the Community Greening Plan, Capital Region Water, the water infrastructure utility for the City of Harrisburg, committed to implementing green stormwater infrastructure throughout the city. Capital Region's unique plan is driven by the community. The plan staged "community greening parties" and engaged over a thousand residents from every neighborhood, many of whom became Community Ambassadors in leadership roles. The plan includes city-wide analysis of opportunities to implement green infrastructure and provides illustrations and guidance for incorporating green infrastructure in homes, neighborhoods, streets and alleys, schools, parks, and vacant lots.

Student Project

Capstone Seminar in Planning and Digital Governance

Graduate School of Public and International Affairs, University of Pittsburgh



Students in the Capstone Seminar at the Pitt Graduate School of Public and International Affairs outlined recommendations on how digital governance can benefit planning and intergovernmental cooperation among Pennsylvania municipalities. The students produced a high quality analysis and a straightforward and understandable presentation. Recommendations dealt with digitizing records, website design that promotes equity and accessibility, incentivizing technology investments, and training for local government officials.

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2017 PA Chapter of APA

Award Winners

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Suzanne Itzko accepting on behalf of Leslie Richards

Planning Achievement Award – Advancing Social Change and Diversity

Leslie Richards, Secretary, Pennsylvania Department of Transportation

Secretary Leslie Richards is the first female Secretary of PennDOT and one of only six women nationally who head their state transportation departments. She has used her current role, and prior role as a Montgomery County Commissioner, to advance diversity and social change. She has led many initiatives, including a program training PennDOT employees to recognize human trafficking; programs and workgroups to support diversity on the PennDOT work team; a series of town-hall events promoting Women in Transportation and Government; and “Plan W” which Richards created to increase the number of women on local government boards in Montgomery County. She is active in Habitat for Humanity and in local support for single mothers and women’s health issues, and she regularly speaks in Pennsylvania and nationally on the importance of diversity and gender inclusion in government and transportation.



Planning Leadership Award – Professional Planner

Dr. Whit Watts, Geography and Regional Planning Department, Indiana University of Pennsylvania

Dr. Whit Watts has significantly impacted planning in Pennsylvania via many citizens and professional planners who have benefitted from his commitment to people and places. He has guided hundreds of IUP students into productive and successful careers as planners and inspired them to values of community service and responsiveness. Under his leadership, the IUP Planning Student Organization was awarded Outstanding PSO by the American Planning Association in 2016. Because of his “community experience” approach to teaching, Dr. Watts and IUP students are routinely active in community planning projects. Whit is recognized for listening and working closely with communities, and for helping excite residents and officials into civic action.



Planning Leadership Award – Emerging Planner

Ryan T. Judge, Senior Planner, Delaware County Planning Department

In his short time as a professional planner, Ryan Judge has consistently shown strong leadership skills as well as initiative and innovation in his work. He is a highly-motivated individual worker, and also excels when working in a team environment. At Delaware County Planning, Ryan led development of the Planner’s Portfolio Series, short, easy-to-read graphic guides for various planning topics. He has also had extensive involvement in the county comprehensive plan and the Downtown Awakening program in which the planning department creates long-range vision plans for the county’s downtowns and Main Streets.

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2017 PA Chapter of APA

Award Winners

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Planning Leadership Award – Distinguished Service

Ronald K. Bednar, AICP

Ron Bednar has had an exemplary career as a professional planner, and has been a selfless volunteer for the American Planning Association at both the state and national level. In a 30-year career at the PA Department of Community and Economic Development and its predecessor the Department of Community Affairs, Ron supported hundreds of communities and planners as a patient teacher and advocate for planning. He shared his knowledge with the next generation serving as an adjunct instructor at Widener and Philadelphia Universities and a guest lecturer at Temple University. He served in leadership roles with the Southeast section and with the statewide board of the PA Chapter of APA, including serving as President of the State Chapter 2001-2003, where he implemented a number of organizational improvements. He was instrumental in bringing the national APA Conference to Philadelphia in 2007 for which he was one of three co-chairs. Ron has also been active in planning in his own community, serving on the boards of East Falls Development Corporation and East Falls Historical Society. Overall, Ron Bednar has been effective at growing participation in the affairs of the PA Chapter, and has been a strong and consistent voice for planning and the PA Chapter in the Commonwealth.



Certificate of Merit

Comprehensive Plan

Township of Pine Performance Workbook

Pine Township (Allegheny County)

Thanks TO THE MEMBERS of the

Awards Committee for the time and hard work they contributed to carefully review the awards submissions, and especially to Denny Puko for chairing the committee and presenting the Awards Program.

Denny Puko, Chair
Planner

PA Department of Community & Economic Development

Robert M. Behling
Chairman

South Heidelberg Township
Planning Commission

Graciela Cavicchia, AICP, PP
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Gannett Fleming, Inc.

Brian O'Leary, AICP

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Chester County Planning Commission

Brandi Rosselli, AICP

Manager, Planning Services
Mackin Engineering Company



INSIDER

*A Message from President **James Cowhey, AICP***

As we approach the end of another successful year of Chapter work I want to thank all of you for your support. In October, we completed a very well attended and well organized annual conference. Thanks to attendees, conference committee volunteers and sponsors for making the 2017 conference another great one. I'm grateful too to everyone at Shermer & Associates for providing the "back of house" support that makes our conferences so enjoyable and look so effortless. Everyone I've spoken with since the conference has had only positive things to say about how worthwhile and enjoyable it was. Not only is the conference a valuable professional development event, but it allows us to end the year on a positive financial footing. Well done!

We will start 2018 with another balanced budget and be able to continue and improve service deliver to you, our members. The Board of Directors will begin work on a new development plan for 2019-2022 that will provide the basis for our work program over the next four years. Members will have an opportunity to participate by sharing your thoughts about the Chapter and our future direction, so please look for emails and other messages asking for your engagement.

The membership recently voted to allow the current elected officers to serve another term. Vice-President Amy McKinney, Secretary Leah Eppinger, Treasurer Justin Dula, the entire Board of Directors and I are all looking forward to working on your behalf to improve the Pennsylvania Chapter.

I wish the best for the remainder of your 2017 and for a happy and productive 2018. Happy Holidays! ♦



Vantage Point 2018 Editorial Deadlines

Spring Issue: Feb. 9

Summer Issue: May 18

Fall Issue: Aug. 10

Winter 2018-19 Issue: Nov. 2



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vacant

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Contact information is available at www.planningpa.org under "About Us"

debates, updates, and reauthorizes the farm bill approximately every five years, discussions about the next farm bill are already happening, both in Congress and across the country.

WHAT DOES THE FARM BILL MEAN FOR PLANNERS AND PUBLIC HEALTH PROFESSIONALS?

Although it is commonly referred to as the farm bill, this law covers much more than just growing food. It impacts almost every American regardless of their distance to a farm, whether directly through nutrition programs like SNAP or indirectly through subsidies and crop insurance that support the farmers that produce our food. As the National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition notes, “the farm bill has a tremendous impact on farming livelihoods, how food is grown, and what kinds of foods are grown. This in turn affects the environment, local economies, and public health.”² Outlined below are some of the programs authorized by the 2014 Farm Bill that play a role in the well-being and quality of life of communities across Pennsylvania.

Nutrition Programs

Nutrition programs like SNAP and the Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) are important safety net programs that help millions of low-income Pennsylvanians dealing with issues of hunger and food insecurity. In August 2017, 1.85 million Pennsylvania residents received SNAP benefits. In FY16, the federal government allocated almost \$13 million to Pennsylvania under TEFAP, allowing the Commonwealth to provide food to food banks and community organizations across Pennsylvania, who then were able to distribute food to people in need. These programs not only help to alleviate hunger and food insecurity for many Pennsylvanians, but they also have a broader economic impact on communities. Studies have shown that every \$5 in SNAP benefits generates as much as \$9 in economic activity both throughout the food system (e.g. food production, farm jobs, and food retail) and beyond as SNAP participants are able to spend their earned income on nonfood purchases.³



Redeeming a Food Buck

Dave Tavani, The Food Trust

Farmers' Markets and Other Healthy Food Access Programs

The 2014 Farm Bill authorized a number of healthy food access programs that not only help provide low-income Americans with better access to fresh fruits and vegetables, but also support local farmers by growing their customer base and generating higher sales.

- **The Food Insecurity Nutrition Incentive (FINI) Program** incentivizes SNAP participants to buy fruits and vegetables. Since 2015, the USDA has awarded almost \$2 million in FINI grants to seven projects across Pennsylvania to fund projects like The Food Trust's Food Bucks program, which provides an additional \$2 coupon redeemable for fresh produce for each \$5 SNAP purchase.⁴
- **The Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program** provides low-income seniors with vouchers that can be exchanged for fresh fruits and vegetables at farmers' markets, roadside stands, and community supported agriculture programs. In 2015, 35,727 older Philadelphians received \$705,440 worth of SFMNP vouchers to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables.⁵
- **The Healthy Food Financing Initiative (HFFI)**, which was

modeled after the successful Pennsylvania Fresh Food Financing Initiative, provides one-time financing to food businesses like grocery stores, farmers' markets, and co-ops to increase access to healthy, affordable food in underserved communities. Although the 2014 Farm Bill authorized up to \$125 million in funding for HFFI, Congress has only appropriated \$1 million to date. The current HFFI program, which has largely been funded through other federal sources, awarded \$1.025 million to Pennsylvania communities between 2014 and 2016 for projects like the West Philadelphia Promise Zone Healthy Food Catering Enterprise, which received \$225,000 to provide fresh and healthy prepared meals for local elementary school students and offered 15 adults meaningful job experience.⁶

Environmental Conservation

Within Title II, the 2014 Farm Bill authorized a variety of conservation programs, including the **Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP)**, which provides funding for farmland and wetland preservation. Since 1996, the ACEP has provided Pennsylvania with more than \$33 million to preserve over 40,000 acres of farmland, helping to support local agricultural economies, conserve scenic open spaces, and maintain a

way of life for future generations.⁷ Other programs like the Regional Conservation Partnership Program, the Environmental Quality Incentive Program, and the Conservation Stewardship Program work with farmers to implement conservation practices, preserve wetlands, protect wildlife, and improve soil, water, and air quality.

Economic Development

Many of the programs authorized in the 2014 Farm Bill included a focus on growing economic opportunities for farmers and food business. Programs like the Farmers' Market and Local Food Promotion Program seek to do this by funding the development, expansion, and marketing of direct sales outlets like farmers' markets, community supported agriculture enterprises, and agritourism. The program also funds local and regional intermediary food businesses like food hubs, distributors, and processors that work to connect farmers to consumers. Since 2014, the Farmers' Market and Local Food Promotion Programs awarded 29 grants totaling over \$3 million to community organizations and businesses across Pennsylvania.⁸

The 2014 Farm Bill also mandated that \$63 million be made available over five years for the **Value-Added Producer Grant (VAPG) Program**, which provides grants to producers who want to expand their businesses through value-added products. In 2016, the USDA awarded almost \$2 million to 16 Pennsylvania producers through the VAPG program.

LEARN MORE

Although the programs mentioned above were authorized under the 2014 Farm Bill, there is no guarantee that Congress will reauthorize them or mandate funding to administer them in 2018. At the same time, new programs like the Urban Agriculture Bill of 2016 may be under consideration for inclusion in the 2018 Farm Bill. Although there are many unknowns, it is important to stay informed as the Farm Bill has the potential to affect all Pennsylvania communities.

If you are interested in learning more about the 2018 Farm Bill and its connection to planning and health, we encourage you to investigate some of the excellent resources listed below:

- Congressional Research Service's *What is the Farm Bill*
- APA Policy Guide on Community and Regional Food Planning
- Pittsburgh Food Policy Council's 2018 Farm Bill Guide
- Greater Philadelphia and the Farm Bill
- American Public Health Association Issue Brief: The Farm Bill and Public Health: A Primer for Public Health ♦

¹Renée Johnson and Jim Monke, "What is the Farm Bill?," *Congressional Research Service*, October 5, 2017, <https://fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/RS22131.pdf>.

²"What is the Farm Bill?," *National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition*, accessed November 1, 2017, <http://sustainableagriculture.net/our-work/campaigns/fbcampaign/what-is-the-farm-bill/>.

³"Economic Linkages," United States Department of Agriculture, Economic Research Service, last modified October 4, 2017, <https://www.ers.usda.gov/topics/food-nutrition-assistance/supplemental-nutrition-assistance-program-snap/economic-linkages/>.

⁴"FINI Grant Program," *United States Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service*, October 17, 2017, <https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/FINI-Grant-Program>.

⁵Marcia Slegal, "Produce Vouchers Now Available," *Philadelphia Corporation for Aging*, June 28, 2016, <http://www.pcacares.org/blog/produce-vouchers-available-july-11/>.

⁶"CED-HFFI Grant Awards FY 2014," *United States Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Community Services*, September 29, 2014, <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/ocs/resource/ced-hffi-grant-awards-fy-2014#people>.

⁷Bureau of Farmland Preservation, 2016 Annual Report, Act 149 of 1998, *Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture*, May 2017, <http://www.agriculture.pa.gov/Encourage/farmland/Documents/Final%20Copy%20Farmland%20Preservation%202016%20Annual%20Report.pdf>.

⁸"Value-Added Producer Grant," *United States Department of Agriculture*, accessed November 2, 2017, https://www.rd.usda.gov/files/RD_VAPG2016Chart.pdf.

PMPEI is Looking for New Instructors

Now in its 25th year of providing high quality, in-depth courses in planning and zoning, the PA Municipal Planning Education Institute (PMPEI) is the PA Chapter's major outreach to local planning commissioners, zoning hearing boards and zoning administrators, and elected officials.

If you would like to share your knowledge and experience with local officials consider becoming an Instructor in PMPEI's Planning and Zoning Course Program. A "Train-the-Trainer" class is scheduled for new instructors to teach the *PMPEI Course in Zoning Administration*. Train-the-Trainer prepares instructors to teach PMPEI's courses consistently throughout the Commonwealth.

The dates for the three-day intensive training program are Friday and Saturday, May 18 and 19, and Saturday, June 2, 2018, at the Centre Region Council of Governments building in State College, PA. The registration fee is \$150 and covers instruction, materials, all breaks, lunches, and a Friday night meal.

PMPEI instructors receive compensation for teaching, travel, plus meal and incidental expenses. Teaching assignments are made so instructors will be teaching at locations convenient to where they live.

Citizen and professional planners, and allied professionals, with a minimum of five years' experience in planning and zoning in Pennsylvania are eligible to become PMPEI Certified Instructors. If you are committed to planning education and would like to become an instructor contact Stan Lembeck, AICP, (814) 237-2382, or email slembeck34@gmail.com for an application, or more information about PMPEI and the training program. ♦

PDO^{corner}

by Susan Elks, AICP, Professional Development Officer

For those who were able to attend the annual conference in State College, there were many excellent sessions and networking opportunities. Congratulations to the conference committee for organizing a full agenda of high quality events, and thanks to the speakers who brought their perspectives to a wider audience. Keep in mind – every conference relies on our membership and allied professionals to bring a new or refreshed perspective. If there is a topic you think should be covered – can you cover it? If not, can you recruit someone who could? For 2018 and beyond, consider how you can participate in the conference and encourage others to participate.

If you weren't able to attend the annual conference, please note that there are a limited number of sessions that were recorded for later viewing. Recorded sessions address topics such as the replanting Lancaster, placemaking, or repurposing. These sessions are available on the chapter website at: <https://planningpa.org/past-presentations/2017-annual-conference/>. Many thanks to CNET with coordination from conference co-chair Jon Eich for recording these sessions and making them available. If you are looking for the slides from a session, many of those have been posted to this same webpage. Please note that there is no CM available for viewing these materials as distance education.

An initiative that was discussed in a recent PDO Corner, but that bears repeating, is the new APA student membership program. Any student can be a member of APA, their local chapter, and up to five divisions at no cost while seeking a degree in planning or an allied program. After receiving their degree, the students can transition into a two-year membership program that provides a discounted rate for dues. This program is a great way for students to better understand planning and potential careers in planning. Please encourage students and recent graduates to join and participate in APA. More information is available at planning.org/membership.

And finally, we are once again at the end of a CM reporting cycle. If the conference credits do not put you over the top in fulfilling your requirements (32 credits per reporting cycle, including 1.5 law and 1.5 ethics), here are some other options:

- APA Webcast Consortium: Free Friday webcasts on a variety of topics, www.ohioplanning.org (Professional Development/ Planning Webcast Series)
- APA: Free Tuesdays at APA and more distance education events, www.planning.org/cm/free

- APA-PA and partners: our calendar of events at www.planningpa.org/events or listing of CM at www.planningpa.org/for-planners/professional-planners/for-aicp-members/
- Other options:
 - A short term Planetizen subscription is a great idea to get caught up at a low cost (www.planetizen.com/courses)
 - Self-reporting of up to 8 credits per cycle for eligible training that was not conducted by an approved provider is an option
 - Self-reporting of pro bono work (including chapter and section volunteer time) is also eligible for self-reporting

The 2016 – 2017 reporting cycle ends December 31, with a grace period into 2018. Don't wait though! Get caught up, or even ahead, and carry up to 16 credits into the next reporting cycle. ♦

ELECTION RESULTS ANNOUNCED

PA Chapter of APA congratulates the following officers who were re-elected to the Chapter Board to serve from January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2019:

President
James Cowhey, AICP

Vice President
Amy McKinney

Secretary
Leah Eppinger, AICP

Treasurer
Justin Dula, AICP

Many thanks to these individuals for their continued willingness to serve the Chapter.

Growing Older — and Designing Smarter

By Laura Poskin



This is the first installment in a three-part series on designing age-friendly communities.

Communities should work for everyone.

Our parks and sidewalks should suit young moms and dads, as well as their kids, parents, grandparents and — as we live longer — great grandparents. Likewise, everyone should be able to enjoy environments that make a community feel like home and provide opportunities to learn, to make a difference, and to connect with friends, old and new.

But if we pause to look around, our cities and towns aren't built for us to fully engage with life throughout our lives. Crossing the street or finding a part-time job, for example, may be exponentially more difficult for an 82-year-old than a 28-year-old.

That's where the age-friendly movement comes in. Started by the World Health Organization and led by AARP in the United States, it inspires us to see this inequality as a social justice and sustainability issue, and rethink how to welcome every generation into the fold.

In Pennsylvania, our age demographics speak for themselves — and underscore the urgency for such change. According to the Pennsylvania Department of Aging, more than 55 percent of households in the commonwealth have someone age 60 or older living in them. In 2016, 2.9 million of Pennsylvania's 12.8 million residents were ages 60 and older,

and more than 300,000 were 85 and older. By 2020, the 60+ population is expected to increase by 25 percent, and the 85+ population is projected to increase by 20,000 people.

Meeting the needs of an older population comes with challenges, but the age-friendly movement understands this growth as an asset. Older people have career expertise, lived experience, and buying power. In fact, a study by Oxford Economics revealed Americans ages 50 and older spent \$3.0 trillion in 2012, accounting for 51 percent of all spending by people over age 25 — and that excludes healthcare dollars.

Investing in people of all ages and the communities they call home is not only right. It's smart.

Several forward-thinking communities across the state — Philadelphia, West Chester, Swarthmore, and my hometown of Pittsburgh — have joined the WHO and AARP Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities, which currently includes 189 member communities nationally and a total of 500 internationally. After officially entering the network, an application process that requires a letter of commitment from a jurisdiction's highest elected official, participating communities kick off a five-year cycle of planning, implementation, and evaluation.

The process in each age-friendly community looks different, which is purposeful. The network allows for flexibility, so local stakeholders — leaders across sectors, as well as residents of all ages — can decide what makes sense for them. Most communities do, however, build on WHO's framework of eight domains of livability, which represent aspects of the built environment and the social environment:

- Outdoor spaces & buildings
- Transportation
- Housing
- Social participation

- Respect & social inclusion
- Civic participation & employment
- Communication & information
- Community support & health services

This checklist explains each domain in more detail and provides recommendations for communities to consider. Promising practices and policies can be found in these case studies, too.

In Pittsburgh, we joined the WHO and AARP network in September 2015 and finalized our Age-Friendly Greater Pittsburgh Action Plan in September 2017, representing both the final step in our planning phase and the first step towards implementation. We're excited to get to work and, along with our partners from across the state, share our progress in the months ahead.



The majority of older Americans — 90 percent, in fact, according to AARP's Public Policy Institute — want to age in place. The age-friendly movement recognizes that "place" is more than a house or an apartment. It's a neighborhood. It's a routine, or the freedom to break from it. It's a sense of belonging. And we all deserve that. ♦

Laura Poskin is the project manager for Age-Friendly Greater Pittsburgh, an initiative of Southwestern Pennsylvania Partnership for Aging. She also serves as the co-chair of APA Pennsylvania's Healthy Aging Work Group.



APA-PA2017 *annual conference recap*

Experience. Adapt. Innovate.

Conference Photos by Pattie Guttenplan
(unless noted)



❖ 3 Mobile Workshops



❖ 3 main sessions and our State of the Chapter and Annual Awards luncheon

STATE COLLEGE 2017

❖ 42 credits including
Law and Ethics



❖ *The scholarship subcommittee raised just over \$2,000 this year, through a 50/50, a silent auction and a raffle*



2017 CONFERENCE *Committee*

The 2017 conference was successful due in large part to the tireless efforts of the local conference committee. Many thanks to the committee for their hard work!

Rachelle Abbott, AICP, STEP, Inc., Co-Chair

Jon Eich, AICP, Co-Chair

Tara Hitchens, AICP, East Lampeter Township, Co-Chair

Brad Kerstetter, Juniata County Planning Commission, Co-Chair

Michelle Brummer, AICP, Gannett Fleming

Austin Daily, Lycoming County Planning & Community Development

Leah Eppinger, AICP, Housing Authority of the County of Dauphin

Joiann Galiano, AICP, York County Planning Commission

Michelle Goddard, AICP, McCormick Taylor

Bill Gomes, AICP, Mifflin County Planning & Development

Karl Graybill, AICP, City of Lancaster

Cliff Kanz, AICP

Tom Krajewski, Lycoming County Planning & Community Development

Ed LeClear, AICP, State College Borough

Stan Lembeck, AICP, PMPEI

Betsy Logan, Penn Township

Jim May, AICP, Centre Regional Planning Agency

Trish Meek, AICP, Centre Regional Planning Agency

Jenny Picciano, AICP, Lycoming County Planning & Community Development

Terry Ruby, AICP, York County Planning Commission

Dawn Schilling, PE, AICP, McCormick Taylor

Cassandra Schmick, AICP, Logan Township

Lindsay Schoch, Ferguson Township

Pam Shellenberger, AICP, York County Planning Commission

Ray Stolinas, AICP, Ferguson Township

Jerry Walls, FAICP

Jenna Wargo, State College Borough

Brandon Williams, Derry Township



Experience. Adapt. Innovate.

Thank you! With deep appreciation, we thank the sponsors, exhibitors, and advertisers. Their support makes the conference possible. Thanks also goes to our student volunteers from Indiana University of Pennsylvania and West Chester University.

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4ward Planning

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GAI Consultants, Inc

Gannett Fleming

General Code

Herbert, Rowland & Grubic

Indiana University of Pennsylvania,
Department of Geography and
Regional Planning

Johnson, Mirmiran & Thompson

Keller Engineers

Looney Ricks Kiss

Mackin Engineering Company

Mobilitie

Nittany Engineering & Associates, LLC

Penn State World Campus

Pennsylvania Department of Community
& Economic Development

PMPEI

Temple University, Tyler School of Art,
Architecture & Environmental Design

US Census Bureau

Washington & Jefferson College, Center
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FRIEND

Central Section of the PA-APA

Southwest Section of the PA-APA



Photo credit Rachelle Abbott



APA's Ambassadors program promotes diversity, is fun, and earns you AICP CM credit – Application Window is Open!

By Maggie Rwakazina



(Image from APA Ambassador's blog: <https://planning.org/blog/blogpost/9135678/>)

October marked the opening of APA's application period for the 2018 [Ambassadors Program](#). This initiative has been created to reach future planners with diverse racial, ethnic, and cultural backgrounds. With recent national events, it is critical for the field of planning to grow more inclusive and diverse to continue to be relevant to communities of color and disadvantaged populations. It is also **increasingly important for individual planners to connect to young people** in these communities on a personal level to support just decisions and live up to the APA code of ethics.

Section A of the [AICP ethics code](#) describes the principals to which we aspire, including to “always be conscious of the rights of others” and “seek social justice by working to expand choice and opportunity for all persons, recognizing a special responsibility to plan for the needs of the disadvantaged and to promote racial and economic integration.” Planners have the responsibility to alter and oppose policies, institutions, and decisions that oppose such needs.

One of the best parts of this program is the flexibility. You can create and conduct any type of activity or follow one tested by other planners from the [APA Ambassador Blog Series](#).

As an APA Ambassador you will find the following opportunities and benefits:

- Play a critical role to help increase the racial and ethnic diversity of the planning field by engaging students; teach them about the planning professional and educational opportunities to pursue a career in planning.
- Earn up to 8 AICP credits (from the pro-bono and self-reporting category)
- Strengthen your professional planning skills in public speaking, communication, coordination, and public engagement.
- Maximize your valuable time in volunteer activities at a location of your choice, such as schools, community-based organizations, career fairs, or other locations where you think you will have an impact in reaching students.
- Connect to a national and local support network of past and fellow ambassadors to share examples, lessons learned, success stories, and materials.
- Give back to your community and bring resources into the region's urban neighborhoods.

- Engage with young people and community leaders in diverse communities face to face.

HOW TO APPLY

The application window is open October – December. If you are interested in applying to be an APA Ambassador in 2018, you can [apply here](#) by **December 31, 2017**.

The program starts in January and if selected, you have a one-year commitment to attend an orientation webinar, conduct two or more activities during the 2018 calendar year. You will also be asked to complete some follow up surveys and reports on your activity. Before applying, check out this guide for volunteers and the [APA Ambassadors Factsheet](#).

New this year is the option to register as a team or an individual. If you would like to lead a team or apply as part of group of other planners in our region, please contact Maggie Rwakazina at mrwakazina@tpceng.com.

Most volunteer work conducted for the Ambassadors program should qualify for the pro-bono credits toward maintaining your AICP certification. The pro-bono CM credits are within the self-reported category. You can claim up to 8 hours of self-reported CM's per cycle. Before you claim any pro-bono credit, view this short informational [presentation](#). ♦





welcome

New PA Chapter Members!

WE WELCOME THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS who joined the PA Chapter over the past few months. The PA Chapter membership includes nearly 2,500 planning officials, professional planners, and others who care about how Pennsylvania continues to grow the places where we live, work, and enjoy recreation. The Board and staff are available to answer any questions. Feel free to contact the Chapter Office at 717-671-4510. Board member contact information is available at www.planningpa.org under **About Us**.

Individual Members:

Ilana Ballreich, *Central Section*
Michelle Beiler, *Central Section*
William Ethridge, *Southeast Section*
Richard Fosbrink, *Southwest Section*
Kate Hess, *Central Section*
Amanda Lukas, *Southwest Section*
Shannon Ryan, *Southeast Section*
Jason Schunkewitz, *Southeast Section*
Dan Whaland, *Southeast Section*

Agency Members:

City of Williamsport, *Central Section*
Pennsylvania Downtown Center, *Central Section*
Pennsylvania Humanities Council, *Southeast Section*
South Hanover Township, *Central Section*

Penn State Extension **LAND USE** *Webinar Series*

By Peter Wulfhorst, AICP

PENN STATE EXTENSION will be conducting their sixth Land Use Webinar series starting in January 2018 and continuing until May 2018. The webinars will occur on the 2nd or 3rd Wednesday of each month from 12 noon – 1:15 pm. Recordings of the webinars will also be made available to registrants. The cost of the webinar series is \$40 for all 5 webinars and \$75 for all 5 webinars for those who want to get **CM credits** as well as **Professional Engineering credits**. In addition, we will be offering continuing credits for **Registered Landscape Architects** for \$45.

Registration information can be found at starting in early January at <https://extension.psu.edu/land-use-webinar>.

The Winter/Spring 2018 topics include the following:

- Pa One-Call and Planning: What is the role for communities and their officials?
- Community planning through the Heart and Soul process in Pennsylvania
- Sign Regulations that encourage outstanding design
- Parking as an Economic Driver: What Works?
- What makes a Good Community?

The dates are **January 17, February 21, March 14, April 11 & May 16**.

For registration information, please contact Extension Educator Peter Wulfhorst at 570-296-3400 or e-mail at ptw3@psu.edu





Central Section Update

By *Rachelle Abbott, AICP*

The next round of applications for the Professional Development Scholarship will close on February 1, 2018. If interested in applying for a scholarship, visit the APA-PA Chapter website www.planningpa.org for the overview and application. The scholarship is available for the **education and training of planners, public officials, and students in the Central Section**, including, but not limited to, **Section workshops, Chapter conferences, and AICP exam**. Scholarship amounts will be awarded based on eligibility, benefit to planning knowledge or career goals, and financial need, with a maximum award of \$500.00.

The APA – PA Central Section welcomes guests to our upcoming meetings. If you are interested in attending or have information to provide, please email the APA – PA Central Section Chair, Rachelle Abbott, AICP at raabbott@stepcorp.org.

Southeast Section Update

By *Justin Dula, AICP*

The Southeast Section is also holding its regular **events committee** meeting on Thursday, **December 7** at 5:45 PM - 7 PM at Michael Baker, 1818 Market Street, 31st Floor, Philadelphia, PA 19103 or via conference call. Please register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/apapase-events-committee-meeting-december-2017-registration-30264946269>

Southwest Section Update

By *Katie Stringent*

The Southwest Section is sponsoring a CM event - **Greenways, Trails and Lanes—Connecting Allegheny County Communities with Green Assets**. Preserving natural areas and creating bicycle/pedestrian connections is goal many of our planning efforts aim to achieve. Explore how the City of Pittsburgh and the Green Web (Allegheny County) are creating innovative open space networks, building green infrastructure, increasing economic development opportunities, and improving quality of life. Learn about the challenges and successes of creating policy, partnerships, and programming to gain insight to a practical approach to greenway visioning, development, and management at various scales.

Speakers: Caren Glotfelty, Josh Lippert, AJ Schwartz

When: December 6, 2017

Time: 1-3pm

Location: Marshall Township, 525 Pleasant Hill Road, Wexford, PA 15090. Take the second driveway around to the back of the building.

Cost: \$8.50

Register: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/workshop-greenways-trails-lanes-tickets-39851358486>

Credits: 2 CM credits approved

Refreshments: Water, coffee and cookies



News You Can Use



STEVE DECK TO SERVE AS TCRPC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Will Succeed Retiring Tim Reardon in January

TCRPC has named **Steven B. Deck, AICP**, (left) to serve as its executive director beginning in the new year.

A lifelong Harrisburg area resident with over 30 years of municipal planning experience, Deck most recently led the development of the Dauphin County Comprehensive Plan and

is currently developing the Long-Range Transportation Plan for the Harrisburg Area Transportation Study (HATS).

In addition to working as a planner for TCRPC for the past two years, Deck recently led the Byways Strategic Plan, On-Call Training and PennDOT Connects Support initiatives for Michael Baker International in Harrisburg. His previous experience includes planning and management positions with Parsons Brinckerhoff, Skelly and Loy, Gannett Fleming and the Cumberland County Conservation District.

Deck holds bachelor's and master's degrees in Geoenvironmental Studies from Shippensburg University and is certified by the American Institute of Certified Planners. ♦