Healthy Community Design News

June 2016

Dear Healthy Community Design News Subscribers,

CDC’s Healthy Community Design Initiative and The National Park Service Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program and have a new tool to help communities create parks and trails that promote physical activity, reduce stress, and provide environmental benefits. The Parks, Trails, and Health Workbook: A Tool for Planners, Parks and Recreational Professionals, and Health Practitioners is a quick guide for incorporating public health considerations in the development and improvement of a park or trail. This tool can help start collaborative discussions about the health benefits of parks and trails and prepare for a health impact assessment (HIA). The tool includes information to help users find health data and learn about completed HIAs that included parks, trails, or greenways. It also includes case studies that pilot its use in Whatcom County, Washington, and a Mescalero Apache tribal area in New Mexico.

Due to budget constraints, CDC’s National Center for Environmental Health has begun scaling back several activities related to its Healthy Community Design Initiative (HCDI). As a result, this will be the last issue of HCDI’s Healthy Community Design News. 2009-2016 issues are archived on Georgia Tech’s Built Environment Public Health Clearinghouse Web site at http://www.bephc.gatech.edu/cdcs-healthy-community-design-news-archived-newsletters. Thank you for being a loyal subscriber, especially those of you who have suggested articles and given me such positive feedback. We hope that the Healthy Community Design News has made a positive difference in your work and in your lives.

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“The groundwork of all happiness is health.”
—Leigh Hunt
Upcoming Meetings and Conferences

June 8-11, 2016, Congress for the New Urbanism 24
Detroit, MI
http://www.cnu.org/cnu24

June 13-15, 2016, International Conference on Transport & Health
San Jose, CA

August 14-17, 2016, Institute of Transportation Engineers Annual Meeting
Anaheim, CA
http://www.ite.org/

September 12-15, 2016, Pro Walk Pro Bike Pro Place
Vancouver, BC, Canada
http://walkbikeplaces.org/

October 4-27, 2016, Urban Land Institute Fall Meeting
Dallas, TX
http://fall.uli.org/

October 12-14, 2016, Green Urbanism
Rome, Italy
https://www.ierek.com/events/international-conference-green-urbanism/

October 21-24, 2016, American Society of Landscape Architects Annual Meeting & Expo
New Orleans, LA
http://www.asla.org/annualmeetingandexpo.aspx

Assistance Opportunity

NPS: Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance (deadline June 30, 2016)
https://www.nps.gov/orgs/rtca/whatwedo.htm

National Park Service community assistance specialists will provide free assistance to chosen applicants to help
- Create new nearby parks or greenways;
- Plan trails and greenways, conserve landscapes, build water trails, and restore rivers;
- Manage a visioning, planning, and design process to guide a community's future;
- Plan and facilitate public engagement;
- Build partnerships that support project success;
• Provide opportunities for youth to enjoy outdoor recreation and learn to become conservation stewards; and
• Develop tourism plans.

Call for Papers/Proposals/Applications/Nominations

Call for Proposals: New Partners for Smart Growth 2017 (deadline June 30, 2016)
https://www.newpartners.org/cfsp/

Call for Papers: Special Issue: Understanding Governance at the Nexus of Transportation and Environmental Health (abstract submission deadline August 1, 2016)

The *Journal of Case Studies in Transportation Policy* is seeking contributions for a special issue on the intersection of transportation and environmental health governance. It is seeking papers that examine this topic and analyze it from a subnational, national, and transnational perspective. This issue is slated for publication in 2018.

Workshops

Exploring Data and Metrics of Value at the Intersection of Health Care and Transportation (June 6-7, 2016, Washington, DC)
http://nationalacademies.org/hmd/activities/publichealth/transitandhealthcare.aspx

“The Health and Medicine Division and the Transportation Research Board, program divisions of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, will jointly conduct a two-day workshop intended to examine community level data relating to building partnerships between health and transportation providers, including identifying data from health care providers, existing measures, and other information relevant to measuring the value of the relationship and partnerships between public transit services and health care and to calculate the return on investment.”

Job and Fellowship Openings

Program Associate, Convergence Partnership - (Oakland or New York City), PolicyLink (open until filled)
http://www.policylink.org/about/careers

The Alliance for Biking & Walking Job Board contains job listings related to biking and walking.
http://www.bikewalkalliance.org/resources/job-board

Opinions from Around the World
Breaking Down Walls to Opportunity: Where Health & Transportation Collide, by Dr. Kamillah Wood (Fast Lane May 6, 2016)


“[Department of Transportation] Secretary Foxx’s ‘Bridging the Divide: Connecting People to Opportunity’ presentation and Ladders of Opportunity agenda is a call to action for decision-makers, practitioners and community leaders to be invigorated around the potential for transportation policy and infrastructure to be beacons for social change, economic mobility and improved health.”

Wear Patterns: How What’s Missing Can Help Us See Data Better, by Lena Groeger (ProPublica, April 27, 2016)

https://www.propublica.org/article/wear-patterns-how-whats-missing-can-help-us-see-data-better

Data appearing as a real world byproduct of use or wear can have healthy community design uses. For example, “Leftover snow could provide urban designers, transportation engineers and pedestrian activists with important data to make real world public safety decisions. It could also inspire more creative and less costly ways to build better and safer streets.”

Breaking Down Barriers—Parks and Recreation Connecting with Public Health by Richard J. Dolesh (FHWA's Fostering Livable Communities Newsletter, April 2016. Reprinted with permission from the National Recreation and Park Association and Parks & Recreation magazine)


“Public health agencies and other health providers have begun to promote the notion of ‘Health in All Policies (HiAP)’... HiAP points to nontraditional health partners such as parks, planning, housing and transportation, as being vital partners in the effort to change policies and environments that promote health. The challenge is that all sectors must work together to improve underlying conditions that affect health and reduce disparities that now exist.”

News

The Rich Live Longer Everywhere. For the Poor, Geography Matters (New York Times, April 11, 2016)


“...[I]n sweeping new research, lies an optimistic message: The right mix of steps to improve habits and public health could help people live longer, regardless of how much money they make.”

New Blueprint Spreads the Gospel of Overnight Bike Lanes (NextCity, April 18, 2016)

https://nextcity.org/daily/entry/cities-tactical-urbanism-speed-up-change-peopleforbikes

“The quick-build [bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure] trend grew out of small-scale tactical urbanism projects where activists would block off a street or paint their own bike lane or
create a protected bike lane with cheap plastic bollards. It was a way to demonstrate to glacially paced bureaucracies that change could be fast and easy.”

EPA Announces Installation of Park Benches with Solar-Powered Air Monitors in Five Cities (Environmental Protection Agency, April 21, 2016)

https://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/bd4379a92ceceeeac8525735900400c27/90b62425985f4685257e2e0066ad961OpenDocument

EPA has installed “…five Village Green solar-powered air monitoring stations, fitted into park benches that will measure common air pollutants and weather conditions. The project puts science into the hands of citizens, allowing them to access local air quality information from the benches through on-site displays and a mobile-friendly website.” Go to https://www.epa.gov/air-research/village-green-project to read more about the Village Green Project.

Administrator McCarthy Announces $55.2 Million to Assess and Clean Up Contaminated Sites, Promote Economic Redevelopment Nationwide (Environmental Protection Agency, May 20, 2016)

https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/administrator-mccarthy-announces-552-million-assess-and-clean-contaminated-sites-0

EPA’s Brownfields Program announced the investment of $55.2 million into 131 communities across the U.S. Recipients will receive approximately $200,000 - $820,000 in funding toward EPA cooperative agreements. The Assessment, Revolving Loan Fund and Cleanup (ARC) grants go to communities that are underserved and economically disadvantaged, including neighborhoods where environmental cleanup and new jobs are most needed.

Journal Articles


Conclusions: “Higher levels of green vegetation were associated with decreased mortality. Policies to increase vegetation may provide opportunities for physical activity, reduce harmful exposures, increase social engagement, and improve mental health. While planting vegetation may mitigate effects of climate change, evidence of an association between vegetation and lower mortality rates suggests it also might be used to improve health.”


This study used longitudinal data from the RESIDential Environments Project to examine the relationship between perceptions of crime-related safety and leisure time spent walking in a Perth, Australia neighborhood. The findings indicate that community social and physical environmental interventions that foster residents' feelings of safety are likely to increase recreational walking. Also, safety perceptions appeared to influence recreational walking, rather than transport-related walking.

http://ac.els-cdn.com/S1353829216300247/1-s2.0-S1353829216300247-main.pdf?_tid=a96d5da2-1884-11e6-8c7c-00000aab0f26&acdnat=1463087054_853c1cc8a49254f86f2e89afede69535

“In this paper, we examine how economic, social and political forces impact on non-communicable diseases (NCDs) in Khayelitsha (a predominantly low income area in Cape Town, South Africa) through their shaping of the built environment. The paper draws on literature reviews and ethnographic fieldwork undertaken in Khayelitsha. The three main pathways through which the built environment of the area impacts on NCDs are through a complex food environment in which it is difficult to achieve food security, an environment that is not conducive to safe physical activity, and high levels of depression and stress (linked to, amongst other factors, poverty, crime and fear of crime). All of these factors are at least partially linked to the isolated, segregated and monofunctional nature of Khayelitsha. The paper highlights that in order to effectively address urban health challenges, we need to understand how economic, social and political forces impact on NCDs through the way they shape built environments.”

New and Notable Reports/Resources


“Developed collaboratively with city transportation departments, bike share experts, planners, outreach specialists, system operators, and equipment vendors from a variety of North American cities,... the Guide provides concrete options for communities looking to increase mobility options and improve street safety in their neighborhoods. This key reference tool can be used to enhance the community engagement and outreach efforts that are essential to the planning of any bike share system.”

“A fit, healthy body -- that is the best fashion statement.”
— Jess Scott
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