Dear Healthy Community Design News Subscribers,

It’s the perfect time for your doctor to get out his prescription pad and prescribe a dose of outdoor activity for you, your friends and family: The National Park Service will waive admission fees on 17 selected dates throughout 2011 to encourage all Americans to make a New Year’s resolution to visit a national park this year “and nurture a healthy lifestyle.” More information is available at http://www.nps.gov/findapark/feefreeparks.htm.

If your doctor needs a prescription pad (and perhaps education on the health benefits of prescribing spending more time outdoors), check out the National Environmental Educational Foundation’s Children and Nature Initiative at http://www.neefusa.org/health/children_nature.htm. The link features prescription pads, PowerPoint training presentations for health care providers, and patient brochures.

Are you attending the annual New Partners for Smart Growth conference in Charlotte February 3-5? Stop by CDC’s Healthy Community Design exhibit booth and say hello. Until next time - keep up the great work!

--Charles Green, CGreen1@cdc.gov, www.cdc.gov/healthyplaces

A great leader’s courage to fulfill his vision comes from passion, not position.  
---John C. Maxwell

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Senior Planner / Economic Development Specialist for Station Area Planning, Somerville, MA (1/31/2011 closing date)

Bikeway/Pedestrian Coordinator, Memphis, TN (no closing date)

Program Associate, Los Angeles, CA (no closing date)

Senior Communications Associate, New York, NY (no closing date)

Director, Oakland CA, Oakland, CA (no closing date)

**Conferences February/March 2011**
February 3-5, 2011, New Partners for Smart Growth Conference
Charlotte, North Carolina
http://www.newpartners.org/

February 6-9, 2011, U.S. Play Coalition: The Conference on the Value of Play
Clemson, South Carolina
http://usplaycoalition.clemson.edu/conf2011.php

February 22-24, 2011, Active Living Research Annual Conference
San Diego, CA
http://www.activelivingresearch.org/conference/2011

March 14-15, 2011, Greenprints Conference and Tradeshow
Atlanta, Georgia
http://www.greenprints.org/

**Training Opportunities**

What Healthy Communities Need from their Transportation Networks: APHA Four-Part Webinar Series. January 18, February 15, March 15, April 5.
https://cc.readytalk.com/cc/schedule/display.do?udc=4ozeg2azyaa

Thru January 2011, Environmental and Policy Change for Healthy Aging Online Conference Series
http://www.prc-han.org/

http://www.smartgrowthschool.com/registration.html

2011 Built Environment Assessment Training (BEAT-Plus) Institute, June 26-July 1, 2011
http://www.med.upenn.edu/beat/ (application deadline January 21, 2011)

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**Funding and Award Opportunities**

2011 National Wetlands Awards (Deadline January 15, 2011)
http://www.nationalwetlandsawards.org/
The National Wetlands Awards Program celebrates individuals who have demonstrated extraordinary dedication, innovation, or excellence in wetlands conservation. Awards are offered in six categories: conservation and restoration; education and outreach; landowner stewardship; science research; state, tribal, and local program development; and wetland community leader.

**Call for Papers, Proposals and Abstracts**

4th International Resilience in Urban Design Conference Call for Abstracts (Deadline April 29, 2011)


The theme for 2011 conference (to be held on the Gold Coast, Queensland, Australia) is Resilience in Urban Design through measures such as supported interconnectivity, appropriate densification within urban footprints, multiple transit modes and walkability, socially inclusive design, economic resilience, and adaptive built environments. Abstracts will be considered for keynote, concurrent session and workshop presentations.

**News**

Turning Failed Commercial Properties into Parks (Miller-McCune, December 28, 2010)


Turning foreclosed commercial properties into park networks could put people to work, raise real estate values and promote wise redevelopment.

Recovery Act Support Brings Jobs to Greenville, SC; Electric bus rolls off assembly line into transit service (Fast Lane, Department of Transportation Blog, December 22, 2010)


In December, the world’s first battery-powered electric bus--fully chargeable in only 10 minutes--rolled off the new assembly line at Proterra, Inc.’s expanded manufacturing facility in Greenville. A second assembly line will begin in 2011. Foothill Transit, serving the San Gabriel Valley in Los Angeles County, is using a $6.6 million Recovery Act grant to put Proterra’s new Ecoliner into service, the first transit agency in the country to do so.


Last summer in Chicago, Walgreens, the drugstore chain founded in that city more than 100 years ago, started selling an expanded selection of food, including fresh fruits and vegetables, at 10 locations selected because they were in food deserts. The experiment in creating these “food oases” is intriguing because it involves a well-known retail brand not typically associated with groceries.

No Such Thing as Free Parking: The First Nationwide Count of Parking Spaces Demonstrates their High Environmental Cost (Inside Science News Service, December 1, 2010)
Civil engineers at the University of California, Berkeley recently published the first comprehensive estimate of parking spaces in America and found that the energy use and materials associated with creating hundreds of millions of parking spaces has a significant environmental impact.

**Journal Articles and Reports**

http://www.springerlink.com/content/xtq06270p27r1v0h/  

The study suggests that people who live in “walkable” neighborhoods are more involved in their communities, more trusting and have a higher quality of life. Interviews in 20 New Hampshire neighborhoods found sizable benefits to living in places where many activities can be reached on foot.

http://www.nber.org/papers/w15436  

Researchers examined the effect of changes in population density-urban sprawl between 1970 and 2000 on BMI and obesity of residents in metropolitan areas in the U.S. They address the possible endogeneity of population density by using a two-step instrumental variables approach. They exploited the plausibly exogenous variation in population density caused by the expansion of the U.S. Interstate Highway System, which largely followed the original 1947 plan for the Interstate Highway System. Researchers found a negative association between population density and obesity, and estimates are robust across a wide range of specifications. Estimates indicate that if the average metropolitan area had not experienced the decline in the proportion of population living in dense areas over the last 30 years, the rate of obesity would have been reduced by approximately 13%.

**Opinion**

Want a Safe Place to Raise Kids? Look to the Cities by Carla Saulter (Grist, December 27, 2010)  

“Cities might be enriching and green and beneficial for kids in all kinds of ways. But what most parents want to know is, are they safe?.... The ultimate measure of safety, of course, is whether you're able to stay alive from one day to the next. By this standard, cities are safer than many suburbs -- at least, according to a University of Virginia study.”

Fixing Broken Sidewalks by Donald Shoup (Access, Number 36, Spring 2010)  
http://www.uctc.net/access/36/access36_FixingBrokenSidewalks.shtml
The author advocates a point-of-sale program that requires homeowners to fix broken sidewalks on their property before selling their house: “Walkable cities need good sidewalks, and requiring sidewalk repairs at sale will help put cities back on their feet.”

**A Municipal Planner’s Call to Arms (and Legs, Hearts and Lungs) by Amanda Thompson** *(Placemakers, November 16, 2010)*


“I’d like to suggest that if there was such a thing as designer malpractice we would be in a lot of trouble right now. We have created a land use and transportation system that actually prevents a healthy lifestyle.... We are not cogs in a machine made to follow a manual with a goal at the top that says “move more cars faster and then store them.” We are professionals that have the sacred responsibility and opportunity for creating healthy places.”

**Book Review**

**CLIMATOPOLIS: How Our Cities Will Thrive in the Hotter Future (reviewed by David Satherwaite, My American Scientist January-February 2011)**

http://www.americanscientist.org/bookshelf/pub/a-fantasy-future

“Climatopolis meets some of the criteria for a good popular nonfiction book: It’s readable, humorous and filled with interesting vignettes. Unfortunately, it fails on the most important criterion: a good knowledge of the topic under discussion.”

**Urbanism in the Age of Climate Change by Peter Calthorpe (reviewed by Neil Peirce, Citiwire, December 29, 2010)**

http://citiwire.net/post/2465/

“What we need to do, Calthorpe contends, is to expand urbanism’s historic qualities of compactness and civic connectedness to the metropolitan scale, the citistate regions of our time. Rather than the old model of a city/suburb schism, we need to see regions as interconnected, interdependent networks of places. Neighborhood becomes the metaphor of choice here. Just as a neighborhood needs a vital center, its crossroads, the citistate needs a strong center city that’s its cultural heart, its center of trade, and symbol to the greater world.”

**Job Openings**

**North Carolina Department of Transportation**

- **Transportation Program Director, Bicycle & Pedestrian Transportation Division, Raleigh, NC (1/24/2010 closing date)**
  http://osp.its.state.nc.us/positiondetail.asp?vacancykey=4219-60029754&printit=no

**City of Somerville, MA**

- **Senior Planner / Economic Development Specialist for Station Area Planning (1/31/2011 closing date)**
Memphis Metropolitan Planning Association and City of Memphis

- Bikeway/Pedestrian Coordinator, Memphis, TN (no closing date)
  [Link](https://ebusiness.memphistn.gov/OA_HTML/OA.jsp?akRegionCode=IRC_VIS_VAC_DISPLAY_PAGE&akRegionApplicationId=800&OASF=IRC_VIS_VAC_DISPLAY&OAHP=IRC_EXT_VISITOR_APPLICATION&transactionid=1928115287&retainAM=N&addBreadCrumb=RP&psvid=10428&p_spid=9818&oapc=6&oas=KpRJby9aPcKx4CGHCeAcOA)

PolicyLink

- **Program Associate** (Los Angeles, CA - no closing date)
- **Senior Communications Associate -- Promise Neighborhoods Institute** (New York, NY - no closing date)
- **Director -- Promise Neighborhoods Institute** (Oakland, CA - no closing date)

Training Opportunities

What Healthy Communities Need from their Transportation Networks: APHA Four-Part Webinar Series. January 18, February 15, March 15, April 5.
[Link](https://cc.readytalk.com/cc/schedule/display.do?udc=4ozeg2azyaax)

Through a diversity of expert speakers, this innovative, FREE, four-part webinar series by the American Public Health Association (APHA) explores the intersections between health and transportation, and highlights state and local programs that leverage opportunities in transportation that benefit health, and explains what the future may hold for the federal surface transportation authorization.

Thru January 2011, Environmental and Policy Change for Healthy Aging Online Conference Series
[Link](http://www.prc-han.org/)

The initiative includes four online modules between September 2010 and January 2011. Each module begins with a pre-recorded presentation that introduces key concepts for the module topic. The presentation is followed in two weeks by an interactive webinar. Two days following the webinar, the module offers an optional moderated online conversation. Modules include discussions of public spaces and an integrated approach to walking, biking, driving and passenger transport.

[Link](http://www.smartgrowthschool.com/registration.html)

This course immerses students in the current practice of Smart Growth. Students will receive hands-on training in urban field work and analysis. At the end of the course, they will have a basic
background in all aspects of Smart Growth, including design, coding, legal, public process, and implementation.

2011 Built Environment Assessment Training (BEAT-Plus) Institute, June 26-July 1, 2011
http://www.med.upenn.edu/beat/ (application deadline January 21, 2011)

The week-long institute is designed to train investigators and practitioners tangible skills that can be used to measure many of the aspects of the built environment that are believed to have an effect on health

New and Notable Resources


This report highlights community benefits and potential brownfield redevelopment opportunities to create more vibrant, healthy, safe, and sustainable communities. Specifically, the report highlights the potential use of brownfields for agriculture and food systems, arts and culture, housing and mixed uses, and other community and civic uses such as greenspace, schools, and health care facilities.


The Web site is a global platform to celebrate people’s action to sustainably manage the world’s forests. The United Nations General Assembly declared 2011 as the International Year of Forests to raise awareness on sustainable management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests. The Web site has information regarding events being organized throughout the International Year as well as interactive web tools and resources to promote dialogue on forests.

Honest disagreement is often a good sign of progress.
---Mahatma Gandhi

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