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Announcements...

EPA Launches Web Forum on How to Best Protect America's Waters

Agency seeks public input on how agency can protect and improve the health of waters.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is seeking public input on how the agency can better protect and improve the health of our waters. For a two-week period ending on March 30, EPA is holding a Web discussion forum on how the nation can better manage some of the most significant water pollution problems facing our nation. The feedback received on the online forum will help shape the discussion at EPA's upcoming conference in April, Coming Together for Clean Water, where the agency will engage approximately 100 executive and local level water leaders on the agency's clean water agenda. EPA wants to receive input from water professionals, advocates, and anyone interested in water quality issues about best solutions—from planning, scientific tools, low impact development, to green infrastructure and beyond—in controlling water pollution and how resources can be better focused to improve these efforts. You can join the discussion at <http://blog.epa.gov/waterforum>.

MEPRD Long Range Plan - Request for Proposals

Metro East Park and Rec. Dist. seeking consultants to prepare Long Range Development Plan.

The Metro East Park and Recreation District (MEPRD) is soliciting proposals from qualified professional consultants to prepare a Long Range Development Plan. Interested parties may request a copy of the Request for Proposals (RFP), which contains submittal requirements, forms and other information necessary to furnish a responsive proposal to MEPRD by contacting Mrs. Rene' St. Peters at the offices of the Metro East Park and Recreation District, either by telephone at (618) 346-4905, or by written request to the address below. The RFP may also be downloaded from MEPRD's Web site at: www.meprd.org. Sealed proposals will be received by MEPRD at the address listed below until 3 PM local time, April 9. Metro East Park and Recreation District, 104 United Dr., Collinsville, Illinois 62234

Call for Applications for the Safe Routes to Schools Program in Missouri

The Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) is accepting applications for the Safe Routes to Schools (SRTS) Program. The SRTS program provides funding for safer bicycle and pedestrian accommodations for children in grades K-8. The program is designed to provide public awareness and outreach efforts and improve biking and walking conditions around schools. Project sponsors are eligible for 100% federal reimbursement through this program. Applications are currently being accepted by MoDOT and are due by April 15. Schools, state, city, or county agencies may apply for funding to conduct non-infrastructure activities in their schools and communities. More information is available by calling 1-800-800-2358 or at www.modot.mo.gov/safety/saferoutestoschool.htm.

Funding Opportunity for Transportation for Elderly Persons and Persons with Disabilities - Mo.

East-West Gateway Council of Governments is accepting applications for Section 5310 funding. The Section 5310 program provides funding to provide transportation services to meet the special needs of the elderly and persons with disabilities where public transportation services are unavailable, insufficient or inappropriate. The capital assistance program provides 80 percent Federal funding upon a 20 percent local match. The Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) administers the program statewide with urban sub-allocations in Missouri and has limited funds to purchase vehicles and/or accessibility equipment (lifts and restraints, no ramps). Based on population, the St. Louis area receives an allocation of approximately \$685,000 annually at 80 percent funding. The deadline for receipt of application materials is 5 PM., Friday, April 16, 2010. Applications must be sent to: East West Gateway Council of Governments, One Memorial Drive, Suite 1600, St. Louis, MO 63102, attn: Rachael Pawlak. Applications are available on the East-West Gateway Web site: www.ewgateway.org.

Conferences and Events...

March 24: Northside Regeneration - Breakfast Club Event with Paul McKee

FOCUS St. Louis will hold a Breakfast Club event: Northside Regeneration, March 24, from 7:30 - 9 AM. The proposed regeneration project in the north side of the city of St. Louis is generating both excitement as well as some controversy. Hear from the leader of the project himself, Paul McKee, chairman and CEO of McEagle. Hear about his bold vision and plans for financing; then get some of your questions answered. The event will be held at Franklin School Apartments, 814 N. 19th Street at Delmar. The cost is \$15 for nonmembers; \$12 for FOCUS members. A continental breakfast is included. RSVP to (314) 622-1250, ext. 112 or gingerh@focus-stl.org.

March 25: Land Value Taxation the Topic at ASA Luncheon

Everyone is welcome to attend the monthly luncheon of the American Statistical Association, St. Louis Chapter to be held on Thursday, Mar. 25. This month's speaker will be Andrew Theising, associate professor of political science at Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville. Land Value Taxation (a tax on property and location, not property improvements or usage) is considered by some to be the solution to revitalizing urban cores. The SIUE Institute for Urban Research has examined Land Value Taxation and how it would affect East St. Louis; Dr. Theising will share results from the study. The luncheon will be held at noon at the Mosaic Restaurant, 1010 Washington Avenue, 63101 in downtown St. Louis. There is no charge to attend; those in attendance will order lunch off the menu at their own expense. The menu may be seen at www.mosaictapas.com/Mosaic-Downtown.cfm?menu=lunch. No RSVP is necessary.

March 25 - 26: Illinois State Section American Planning Association Conference

The City of Carbondale will be hosting the American Planning Association Illinois State Section 2010 Spring Conference on March 25 & 26. The conference will offer a variety of planning related topics and will include a presentation by Tom Henderson of the Illinois Tax Increment Association. For conference details and registration information, go to www.ilapa.org/ISS/2010%20Registration%20Form.pdf.

March 26: Creating Vibrant and Connected Communities - Forum at Richmond Heights

Great Rivers Greenway with support from Trailnet is sponsoring the "Creating Vibrant and Connected Communities" Forum on Friday, March 26, from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM at the Heights in Richmond Heights. This forum will present the economic, political and health benefits of bicycle and pedestrian facilities in your community and how local initiatives can help you implement them. In the afternoon technical session, learn about designing bicycle facilities according to the latest guidance. This is a kick-off event for the St. Louis Regional Bicycle Master Plan (www.stlbikeplan.com) and the Livable St. Louis Network from Trailnet in cooperation with St. Louis University. The program includes a morning session featuring panel discussion with Mayor Darwin Hindman of Columbia, Mo. and others on the benefits of bicycle and pedestrian facilities, a keynote address from nationally recognized bike/ped advocate Charles Gandy over complimentary lunch, and afternoon technical workshop on designing bike facilities with PDHs available for engineers. Go to <http://www.greatrivers.info/Events/Events.aspx> for detailed event information and how to RSVP.

March 27: Confluence Trash Bash Event

Help to clean our Great Rivers by removing trash and debris from select sites throughout The Confluence. Missouri River Relief, one of the program partners, will take some volunteers by boat to pre-determined sites along the Mississippi River to pick up trash. Volunteers will also be working with Stream Teams at Maline Creek, Cold Water Creek, Watkins Creek and Creve Coeur Creek. Sixty municipalities in St. Louis and St. Louis County are also joining the effort. A group of artists will be sifting through the trash collected and turning it into art that will be on exhibit at the end of the Bash at the Old Chain of Rocks Bridge. The Confluence Trash Bash and Mission: Clean Stream, based in St. Charles County, are two clean up events that will be going on simultaneously throughout the region. To volunteer for the Confluence Trash Bash, visit <http://confluencetrashbash.wufoo.com/forms/2nd-annual-confluence-trash-bash-registration> to volunteer for Mission: Clean Stream in St. Charles County, visit www.greenwaynetwork.org/events.php?id=224. Individuals, civic groups or youth organizations, and

individuals are welcome – no experience required. Volunteers should wear sturdy shoes. The Trash Bash will end with lunch and prizes at both the Old Chain of Rocks Bridge and at Creve Coeur Park. For more information on the Trash Bash and other Confluence Partnership events, visit <http://www.confluencegreenway.org/m-events.php>.

March 29: Annual St. Louis APA Planning Workshop

The St. Louis Metropolitan Section - American Planning Association will hold its annual Planning Workshop at Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center on March 29. The conference will focus on issues facing suburbs, with take-home lessons applicable to all types of communities. June Williamson, RA, LEED AP, associate professor of architecture at the City College of New York/CUNY and co-author of *Retrofitting Suburbia: Urban Design Solutions for Redesigning Suburbs* will lead the conference. Open to the public. Workshop details, including a detailed description of the many sessions featuring local topics, are available at www.mo-apa.org/mc/community/eventdetails.do?eventId=252012. Online registration is available from this site.

March 31: Using Smart Growth Strategies to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions Webcast

This webcast on Wed., March 31, from 1 - 3 PM CT, will provide an introduction to federal programs and resources related to smart growth. It will discuss how smart growth strategies can help communities use energy more efficiently, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and provide other environmental, economic, and social benefits. Two communities will showcase how they successfully developed and implemented programs that integrate smart growth policies into community design. Register for this webcast at <https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/803751010>.

April 8: Jane and Whitney Harris Lecture

The Whitney R. Harris World Ecology Center at the University of Missouri-St. Louis presents the 2010 Jane and Whitney Harris Lecture. Dr. David Inouye (University of Maryland) will talk on: What is the future of Rocky Mountain wildflowers and their pollinators? Shoenberg Auditorium, Ridgway Center, Missouri Botanical Garden, April 8 at 7:30 PM. The event is free and open to the public. Further information at: <http://hwec.umsl.edu/about/events.html>.

April 16: Building Communities: Sharing Strategies to Secure Grant Funding

This workshop will provide local government decision makers and community groups the opportunity to learn more about strategies for continuous proposal development and working collaboratively to ensure success. The workshop will address funding opportunities that address critical regional issues such as hazard mitigation, energy conservation, and infrastructure. The workshop will be held at National Shrine of Our Lady of Snows, 442 South Demazenod Drive, Belleville, Ill. from 9 AM - 3 PM. Register for this Continuous Proposal Building Workshop at <https://webs.extension.uiuc.edu/registration/?RegistrationID=4386>. The cost is \$35.

April 22: Using Context Sensitive Solutions to Improve Transportation - Webcast

This National Dialog workshop webcast will provide transportation agency employees and managers, government decision makers, community groups and future transportation professionals the opportunity to learn more about Context Sensitive Solutions (CSS) and how it can improve transportation processes and outcomes. CSS is an approach to the process and outcomes of transportation decision making. Key aspects of CSS include: Addressing a purpose and need that is agreed to by a full range of stakeholders; open, honest, early and continuous communication with stakeholders and meaningful opportunities for stakeholders to shape outcomes; and a flexible approach to design that preserves and enhances natural and community resources. To learn more about this free webcast and to register, go to <http://cssnationaldialog.org/schedule.asp>.

Conferences and Events Further Out

April 19 - 23: 2010 Exploring Innovation in Community Development Week - The Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis announces its 2010 Exploring Innovation in Community Development Week. The highlight of the week will be the kickoff on April 20 of a series of public policy discussions titled "New

Voices, Fresh Ideas: The Future of Community Development.” See event information at www.exploringinnovation.org.

April 22: Operational Technology Issues for NPOs - Nonprofit Management & Leadership Program course at UM-St. Louis: This three-hour session is specifically designed for small and medium-sized non-profits who are struggling to make technology pay off. Topics will include: hardware and software, data management, security, trends and pricing and how to bring everything together in an effective technology strategy. For more information, including course descriptions and details, call (314) 516-6713 or visit www.umsi.edu/npmi and click on "Noncredit Courses."

June 7-11: 2010 Fundraising Institute - The Nonprofit Management & Leadership Program at UM-St. Louis will offer seven workshops over five days. Topics include: Fundraising 101, Creating and Managing an Annual Development Fund, Effective Grant Prospecting, Successful Grant Writing, Winning Federal Grants, Selecting Fundraising Software, and Technological Tools for Marketing and Fundraising. Participants can enroll in one or more courses with discounts for early and multiple registrations. For more information, including course descriptions and details, call (314) 516-6713 or visit www.umsi.edu/npmi.

What's in the News...

In regional news...

Edwardsville, Already a "Cool City," Goes After Greenhouse Gasses and Pollution Emissions

The city of Edwardsville city council on March 9 voted to become a full member of Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI), a membership association of local governments committed to advancing climate protection and sustainable development. By becoming a member, the council agreed to pay a \$600 membership fee and pledge "to take a leadership role in promoting public awareness about the causes and impacts of climate change." Read the full *Edwardsville Intelligencer* article at <http://sustainstl.org/edwardsville-joins-iclei>.

Source: *Sustainable St. Louis eNewsletter*, March 2010

In national news...

Preparing For Mandatory Greenhouse Gas Reporting

"If you weren't watching the Environmental Protection Agency last year, you've missed one of the most exciting turnarounds of a federal agency in a very long while. Like a long-dormant volcano that has suddenly erupted, the EPA sprang back to life on global warming. Within the next 18 months, state and local government executives will be feeling the heat from these changes."

Read about some of the changes local governments will be facing and the considerations that governments should think about now in an article written by Gerry DeSeve and Robert Fryer for *Governing* at www.governing.com/column/preparing-mandatory-greenhouse-gas-reporting.

Source: *Governing*, March 17, 2010

Online Resources...

Guides for Green Streets and Great Streets

EPA recently released a seven-page Green Streets guide, which offers a quick look at ways to incorporate green infrastructure into residential streets, commercial streets, arterial streets and alleys. A green street uses a natural systems approach to reduce stormwater flow, improve water quality, reduce urban heating, enhance pedestrian safety, reduce carbon footprints and beautify neighborhoods. Examples of green street features include vegetated curb extensions, sidewalk planters, landscaped medians, vegetated

swales, permeable paving and street trees. The guide provides an overview of different strategies that can be used in transportation rights-of-way at the local or neighborhood scale. The Green Streets guide is online at www.epa.gov/npdes/pubs/gi_arra_green_streets.pdf.

Another great resource for ideas and examples of how to improve streetscapes and make them more functional is East-West Gateway's St. Louis Great Streets Initiative Web site at www.ewgateway.org/GreatStreets/greatstreets.htm. This site offers a web-based digital design resource guide called Digital Design Guide. This guide contains practical information on how to incorporate Great Streets principles into various settings such as small town downtowns, urban main streets, commercial services corridors and office employment areas. This site also showcases several local projects that are using these principles to create Great Streets.

Jobs...

Transportation Manager of Corridor Studies

East-West Gateway Council of Governments

East-West Gateway Council of Governments is seeking a senior level professional to manage the corridor studies section of the transportation department. This position will be responsible for overseeing, coordinating and managing all corridor studies conducted by the Council, including light rail and trolley planning studies; managing the Council's Great Streets Initiative and the project development/selection process; and participating in state and regional transportation corridor planning projects sponsored by other agencies. Must have strong analytical and planning skills, a background in transportation engineering and planning, and a thorough knowledge of urban and regional transportation planning and be able to present technical information to a wide variety of audiences. Requires a bachelor's degree in civil, transportation, or environmental engineering or urban and regional planning and 7 years of directly related experience. Council offers a competitive benefit package. The full job posting is available at www.ewgateway.org/AboutUs/JobAds/jobads.htm#TransMgr. Applicants should mail a resume and letter of interest to East-West Gateway Council of Governments, Attn: Human Resources, One Memorial Drive, Ste. 1600, St. Louis, MO 63102. EEOC/AA

Stormwater Intern

City of Wentzville

This position is responsible for assessing roughly 150+ community neighborhoods and stormwater facilities (such as detention basins, storm drain pipes, etc.) for stormwater pollution. This job includes moderate field work to collect data, assess condition, and photographically document residential properties with a high degree of accuracy. The internship culminates with the production of a plan to help the City prioritize pollution prevention efforts, marketing, and specific projects for residential areas that present a higher potential for creating water pollution. Salary is \$10 per hour. Application deadline is March 31. Go to www.wentzvillemo.org to view the full job description and information on how to apply. EOE

Engineering Intern

City of Wentzville

This position is responsible for collection of street pavement data and street light data. This includes pavement inventory data collection (surface type, length, width, curb type, storm system, etc.), pavement condition assessment of concrete and asphalt pavement as assigned by the City Engineer, and street light inventory (type, GPS location, etc.). No previous knowledge of MicroPAVER is required. The work will include extensive field work to collect data. Salary is \$12 per hour. Application deadline is Mar. 31. Go to www.wentzvillemo.org to view the full job description and information on how to apply. EOE

City Administrator

Vandalia, Ill.

The City of Vandalia, Illinois, (pop. 6,975) is a historic south-central Illinois community located 60 miles east of St. Louis on I-70. The successful candidate must hold a bachelor's degree in public administration,

business administration, or closely related field (master's degree preferred) and three years of responsible management experience in municipal government. An equivalent combination of education and experience may be considered. Residency in corporate limits of Vandalia is required within one year. Salary and benefits will be DOQ. The full job posting is online at www.vandaliaillinois.com/jobopenings.html. Forward cover letter, resume, salary history, and five references to: Mayor Ricky J. Gottman, City of Vandalia, 431 W. Gallatin St., Vandalia, IL 62471. EOE.

Planning and Development Administrator

Madison County, Ill.

Madison County, IL is accepting applications for the position of Planning and Development Administrator. The Planning and Development Administrator is responsible for the operation and administration of the County's Planning and Development Department including: land use planning, storm water management, solid waste management, and code enforcement. The minimum qualifications required are a bachelor's degree in city planning or public administration, or a related field, and at least six years progressively responsible management experience. A master's and AICP are preferred. Madison County residency is required within six months of hire. The County offers an excellent compensation package. The full job description along with submittal requirements may be found at www.co.madison.il.us or may be obtained by contacting the Madison County Board Office at (618) 296-4341. EOE

Long Range Transportation Planner

East-West Gateway Council of Governments

The East-West Gateway Council of Governments has an opening for a position as a Transportation Planner. This professional position reports to the Senior Manager of Planning and Programming and has responsibility for assisting in the development of the region's Long Range Transportation Plan. The successful candidate for this position will have graduated from an accredited four-year college or university, with major course work in transportation planning, urban and regional planning, public policy, civil engineering, or in a directly related field and will have one (1) years of directly related professional experience or an equivalent combination of directly related education and professional experience. Starting salary will be based upon qualifications and experience. View the full job posting at www.ewgateway.org/AboutUs/JobAds/jobads.htm#TransPlanner. Applicants should submit a resume and letter of interest to East-West Gateway Council of Governments, Attn: Human Resources, One Memorial Drive, Ste. 1600, St. Louis, MO 63102. EOE/AA

Grants...

Grants to Support Arts and Literacy for Children and Youth

Through its 2010 Store Grant program, Target will provide direct support to K-12 schools and other nonprofit organizations that foster a love of reading and provide art experiences. In the Early Childhood Reading category, Target will fund programs that foster a love of reading and encourage young children, preschool through third grade, to read together with their families. In the Art and Culture in Schools category, Target will fund in-school arts programs that enhance student's classroom curriculum by bringing arts and cultural experiences such as in-school performances, artist-in-residency programs, and workshops to schools. To be eligible, an applicant organization must be federally tax-exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, a school, a library, or a public agency. Grants in the amount of \$2,000 each will be made for programs taking place between September 1, 2010, and August 1, 2011. Application deadline is April 30. Go to <http://sites.target.com/site/en/company/page.jsp?contentId=WCMP04-031767> for complete program guidelines and application instructions.

Grants for School-Based Running Programs

The ING Run For Something Better program, in partnership with the National Association for Sport and Physical Education, seeks to increase physical activity in students and help fight childhood obesity nationwide through the creation of school-based running programs. The School Awards program will provide a minimum of fifty grants of \$2,000 each to U.S. public schools that desire to establish a school-based running program or expand an existing one. Awards are available to programs that target

grades four through eight in public elementary or middle schools. For more information, go to http://www.orangelaces.com/site/index/get_your_school_involved.

Economic Development Assistance Programs

The Economic Development Administration (EDA), Department of Commerce, solicits applications for the following programs under PWEDA: (i) **Public Works**; (ii) **Planning**; (iii) **Local Technical Assistance**; and (iv) **Economic Adjustment Assistance**. EDA will provide Public Works investments to support the construction or rehabilitation of essential public infrastructure and facilities necessary to generate or retain private sector jobs and investments, attract private sector capital, and promote regional competitiveness, including investments that expand and upgrade infrastructure to attract new industry, support technology-led development, accelerate new business development, and enhance the ability of regions to capitalize on opportunities presented by free trade. The Planning Program helps support planning organizations, including District Organizations and Indian Tribes, in the development, implementation, revision or replacement of comprehensive economic development strategies (CEDs), and for related short-term planning investments and State plans designed to create and retain higher-skill, higher-wage jobs, particularly for the unemployed and underemployed in the nation's most economically distressed regions. The Local Technical Assistance Program helps fill the knowledge and information gaps that may prevent leaders in the public and nonprofit sectors in economically distressed regions from making optimal decisions on local economic development issues. The Economic Adjustment Assistance Program provides a wide range of technical, planning and infrastructure assistance in regions experiencing adverse economic changes that may occur suddenly or over time. This program is designed to respond flexibly to pressing economic recovery issues and is well suited to help address challenges faced by U.S. communities and regions. Applications are accepted on a continuing basis and processed as received. The application deadline is Sept. 30. Among the eligible applicants: county, city, and special district governments; nonprofits; public and state institutions of higher education and private institutions of higher education. The full announcement is at www.eda.gov/PDF/FY09-EDAP-FFO-FINAL.pdf.

Quotes...

"It sounds like a psychological survey. I've never heard of such a thing."

Robert Baizer, a lawyer and Oakland voter reacting to the city's new "ranked-choice" voting system -- a system that could produce a winner who may have been the second or third choice for many voters. The system is used in San Francisco (see a demo at <http://www.sfelections.org/demo>) and a few other cities.

Source: *San Francisco Chronicle and Governing*

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<http://www.ewgateway.org/library/newsletters/newsletters.htm>