



American Planning Association  
**Georgia Chapter**

*Making Great Communities Happen*

# Functional Areas of Practice

## AICP EXAM REVIEW

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Georgia Tech Student Center



# Areas of Practice

- Community development
- Comprehensive or long range planning
- Development regulation or administration
- Economic development and revitalization
- Economic analysis and forecasting
- Education, institutional
- military facilities planning
- Energy policy
- Food systems planning
- Growth management
- Hazard mitigation and disaster planning
- Historic preservation
- HousingInfrastructure
- Labor force and employment
- Land use
- Natural resources and the environment
- Parks, open space, and recreation
- Planning law
- Policy planning
- Public services
- Social and health services
- Transportation
- Urban design

# Resources

- ICMA Green Book – “Practice of Local Government Planning” and “Management of Local Planning”.
- PAS Report – Glossary of Zoning, Development and Planning Terms
- APA – 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Lists
  - Top Planning Stories in the U.S. and Worldwide
  - Major Planning and Environmental Law Court Cases
  - Best Attended Conference Sessions
  - Outstanding *Planning* Articles
  - Planners Press Bestsellers
  - APA Achievements
  - Top National Planning Award Winners
  - 25 Planning Terms Coined Since 1978
  - Individuals Who Influenced Planning Before 1978
  - Most Significant Planning Laws
  - The Best of JAPA

<http://www.planning.org/25anniversary/lists.htm>



# Community Development

- Administer CDBG funds
- Economic development
- Community or neighborhood planning
- Housing programs
- City oriented



# Comprehensive or Long Range Planning

- Comprehensive plans
- Forecasts
- Transportation planning
- Capital Improvement Program/Impact Fees
- Special planning studies
- Undertake regulatory changes



# Development Regulation or Administration

- Site plans
- Rezoning applications and reports
- Variances
- Subdivision plats
- Zoning questions
- Special code administration
- Regulatory changes



# Economic Development and Revitalization

- Main street programs
- TADs or CIDs
- Development authorities
- CDBG
- Business parks
- Redevelopment



# Economic Analysis and Forecasting

- Fiscal impact analysis
- Cost of service studies
- Forecasts
- Market analysis
- Demographic analysis





# Education, Institutional or Military Facilities Planning

- Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC)
- University or campus planning
- Hospital planning
- Entertainment venues



# Energy Policy

- State or federal energy plans
- Climate Action Plans
- Energy utilities
- Clean technology, fuel or vehicles



# Food Systems Planning

- Locally grown food sources
- Organic farms
- Farmers markets
- Food transport
- Farmland protection



# Growth Management

- State critical area protection
- Comprehensive planning
- Growth boundaries
- Infrastructure planning and finance
- Focus on managing land supply
- Environmental protection



# Hazard Mitigation and Disaster Planning

- Evacuation planning
- Flood Insurance
- Emergency Management Plans
- Local Recovery Plans



# Historic Preservation

- Historic district management
- Historic property surveys
- Historic property designations
- Historic property redevelopment
- Adaptive reuse



# Housing Planning

- Housing planning
- Housing studies or code changes
- Senior housing
- Jobs/housing match



# Infrastructure

- Infrastructure planning
- New project management
- Infrastructure maintenance
- Permitting





# Labor Force and Employment

- Job training
- Industry or sector planning
- New business location
- Office or industrial park development



# Land Use

- Zoning law
- Zoning management
- Comprehensive planning
- Land use studies
- Rural land protection



# Natural Resources and Environment

- Non-governmental advocacy
- Environmental Impact Statements (EIS)
- Floodplain, stream or river corridors
- Coastal area protection



# Parks, Open Space and Recreation

- Greenspace Acquisition
- Green Infrastructure Planning
- New Park Design
- Public Health and Fitness
- Active Living



# Planning Law

- Zoning Litigation
- Permitting
- Legal Agreements
- Annexations
- Local, State and Federal Rules
- Property Ownership and Due Diligence



# Policy Planning

- Non-Governmental Advocacy
- Governmental Policy Studies
- Planning Administration
- Public Issue Analysis



# Public Services

- Cost of Services
- Service Area Planning
- New Service Development
- Government Administration or Budgeting



# Social and Health Services

- Housing and Homeless
- Job Training
- Public Health
- Senior Services





# Transportation Planning

- Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs)
- Modeling
- New transportation facilities
- Transit service planning



# Urban Design

- Community design code
- Context Sensitive Design (CSD)
- Smart Code or Form Codes
- New Project Design or Redevelopment



# Issues for Planners

- **Water availability**
- **Transportation choices and congestion**
- **Funding for everything**
- **Impacts of growth on environment and health**
- **Livable communities/New urbanism**
- **Housing costs, locations and choices**
- **Farmland protection**
- **Energy/Climate Change**
- **Green development**
- **Infill/Redevelopment**

# How Does Planning Improve?

- Focus on housing and managing land
- Focus on protecting the environment
- Education and training – models for change
- More progressive planning and regulatory tools
- Focus on public investments
- Redevelopment tools and incentives
- State and local leadership
- Carrots and sticks