



# GEORGIA PLANNER

Newsletter of the Georgia Planning Association, A Chapter of the American Planning Association  
JUNE 2003

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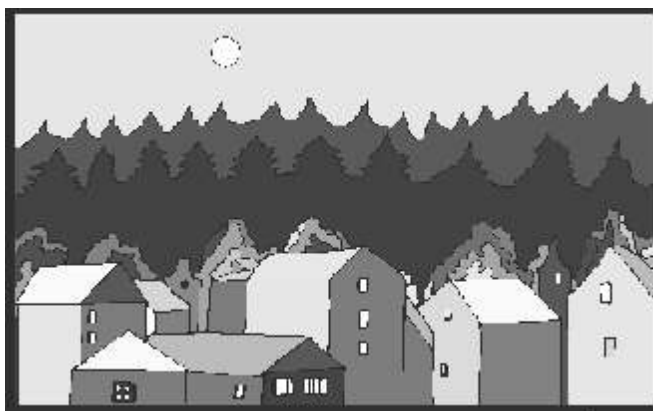
## Goodbye, Cannon v. Coweta County: New rules on Manufactured Home Regulation

by  
Frank E. Jenkins, III

Since 1990 Cannon v. Coweta County, 260 Ga. 56, 389 S.E.2d 329 (1990) has been the veritable albatross hung round the neck of all Georgia land use planners. It was poorly written, perhaps deliberately so, and created more uncertainty about manufactured home regulation than was even previously the case. A common question after Cannon was: May zoning ordinances exclude manufactured homes from any zoning district? But we had no clear answer from that unfortunate decision; to

recommend exclusion of manufactured homes from a zoning district was to take some risk that it would not sustain a challenge in court.

But, glory, those days are behind us. On March 10, 2003, we got our manna from heaven in the form of King v. City of Bainbridge, Ga., 577 S.E.2d 772 (2003). In this case the Supreme Court sounded, once and for all, the death knell for Cannon. And what an end it was; Cannon was roundly overruled. No longer is it the law in Georgia.



*Continued on Page 6*

*Mark your calendar now!*

## Georgia Planning Association Annual Conference

**October 22 - 24, 2003**

Marriott Riverfront - Savannah, Georgia



### Highlights:

Sessions begin Wednesday afternoon and end Friday at Noon - watch for further announcements of pre- and post-conference activities

- Over thirty workshops and training sessions, including sessions on transportation, historic preservation, urban design, environmental resource management, and more
- AICP exam information and session on ethics
- Informative speakers
- Mobile workshops to a variety of locations
- Annual GPA awards presentation
- Exhibitors
- FUN EVENTS!

Full schedule will be in the August *Georgia Planner*

Make hotel reservations now: Rooms are \$140/night for single or double - call the hotel directly at (912) 233-7722 and mention the Georgia Planning Association conference.

For more information, contact York Phillips, AICP, at [yphillips@glynncounty.org](mailto:yphillips@glynncounty.org).

***Inside: GPA Awards Program  
Application Form***

*From the President...*

Carl Vinson Institute of Government (CVIOG) including a request for our financial support for CVIOG to develop a training curriculum for planning officials. This initiative follows a series of meetings to explore means of coordinating and expanding Planning Commissioner training by the Georgia DCA in consultation with representatives of GPA, ARC and the University of Georgia's CVIOG. Our Board discussed this issue passionately because Planning Commissioner training is a priority for GPA. Out of this discussion, I think four points emerged to frame our position on this proposal: As the organization representing practicing planners in Georgia, GPA is vitally interested in the training of Planners and Planning Commissioners. We feel strongly that there is a great need for well-designed and well-presented education for Planning Commissioners, elected officials and citizen-planners. We will seek to have an active voice in designing the curriculum and delivery system for educating these groups in Georgia.

Because of the great needs across our state, Planning Commissioner education is a daunting task that will require the combined efforts of GPA, DCA, the RDC's, and the state's universities (including Georgia Tech). We need to work together with these partners in a balanced, coordinated team approach that uses the contributions of all interested agencies and organizations in a way that best fits their unique capabilities and makes the sum of the parts greater than the whole. This is not only in the best interests of our agencies, but, more importantly, in the best interests of Planning Commissioners who desperately need and want the training.

GPA supports a system for certification of Planning Official education, featuring a formal process for issuing certificates and tracking continuing credits/transcripts for training. This offers participants a sense of continuing engagement with the training system and achievement of gradually increased levels of proficiency. Having a certification process provides participants with motivation and tangible rewards for their attendance at multiple sessions, preparing homework, and taking time away from paid employment.

While coordination with other agencies is continuing over the long term, in the short term the show must go on! GPA must devote our primary energies and limited financial capacity in this calendar year to presenting a fall session of Community Planning Institute in order to ensure that this program can serve the immediate training needs of Planning Commissioners in Georgia.

After noting these findings, the Georgia Planning Association voted in its May meeting to support the following actions: to appoint David Sutton and Tom Sills to move expeditiously to create a fall 2003 offering of the GPA Community Planning Institute; to reaffirm GPA's desire to continue a dialog for coordinated curriculum planning jointly with DCA, ARC, RDC's and CVIOG and seek expanded training opportunities for Planning Commissioners; and to study the need for a regional delivery system for a standard curriculum of Planning Commissioner training on a statewide basis.



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## GPA Program News

by: York L. Phillips, AICP, VP for Programs -  
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## PLANS FOR FALL CONFERENCE SHAPING UP



Plans for the Annual Conference October 22 - 24, 2003 at the Riverfront Marriott in Savannah are beginning to take shape.

This conference will offer an expanded lineup of sessions, with tracks devoted to Transportation, Historic Preservation, Urban Design and other topics. In addition, there will be sessions on the AICP Exam, ethics, and a variety of general interest subjects. The location of the conference in Savannah offers the opportunity for interesting mobile workshops and exciting entertainment events.

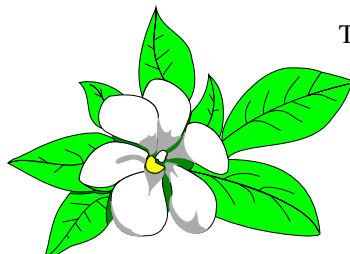
See the "Mark Your Calendar" notice prominently displayed elsewhere in this issue. A more detailed program and registration information will be emailed in July and will appear in the August Georgia Planner.

For more information, contact York Phillips, AICP, GPA Vice President for Programs at yphillips@glynncounty.org.

BOARD APPROVES DATES AND  
LOCATIONS FOR 2004  
CONFERENCES

The GPA Board of Directors has approved the sites and dates for the 2004 Spring and Fall conferences. Early approval helps pave the way for more detailed program planning.

The Spring Conference will be held in Macon on March 18 - 19, 2004. Plan to stay around for Macon's Cherry Blossom Festival!



The Fall Conference will be held October 13 - 15, 2004 at the Brasstown Valley Resort.

SPRING CONFERENCE IN  
ATHENS A SUCCESS

GPA's Spring Conference was held in Athens on April 17 and 18, 2003. Over 100 planners attended eleven sessions on a variety of topics.

SEARCH UNDERWAY FOR 2005  
MEETING SITES

A search is underway to identify sites for the 2005 conferences. Currently, we are reviewing proposals from Rome, Stone Mountain, and Athens. Other proposals are welcome. The site selection process for these conferences should be wrapped up at the 2003 Fall Conference. Target dates for the 2005 conferences are: Spring - late March to mid-April; Fall - late September OR late October. These dates have been selected to avoid conflicts with major holidays and the annual APA Conference.

# Transportation Committee Gets Wheels

*By Mary Huffstetler and Timothy Preece*

GPA's newest committee is putting things in motion for transportation planners. The Transportation Committee was formed to provide a home for transportation planners, promote the transportation planning profession, and encourage professional development. And, the Committee is already beginning to have an impact.

One of the committee's first actions was to develop a list of professionals interested in being involved. As of this writing, approximately 35 persons have expressed interest in being involved in the Transportation Committee! Next, the Committee began a web-based e-group to facilitate communication. A Yahoo! e-group (gpa\_transpo) has been created to allow transportation planners to share information and ideas. The Committee also assisted GPA's Programs Committee in identifying informative speakers on current topics for the 2003 Spring Conference held in Athens in April. Their contribution helped to make the spring conference a success!

The idea for a Transportation Committee within GPA grew from many practicing planners who saw the need to further the transportation planning profession within the context of existing professional organizations. Special thanks are owed to Elizabeth Sanford, Roger Henze, Jane Hayse, Faye DiMassimo, Dania G. Aponte and others for helping to push the idea from concept to reality.

The Committee is currently working with the Programs Committee on programs for the Fall Conference, and some great ideas are in the works! In the future, the Committee will be seeking opportunities to promote and provide professional development, utilize the resources of the national APA Transportation Planning Division, and provide coordination with other professional organizations.

To join the committee's e-group, go to [http://groups.yahoo.com/group/gpa\\_transpo/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/gpa_transpo/). For additional information or to offer suggestions for Committee activities, contact Mary Huffstetler, Committee Chair, at 404-249-7550 or Tim Preece, Committee Vice Chair, at 404-478-8674.



## Quality Growth Advisory Clinic Offered at GMA Convention

The Georgia Quality Growth Partnership will offer a Quality Growth Advisory Clinic at the Georgia Municipal Association's Annual Conference in June. A panel of experts in quality growth implementation will be available during the conference for one-on-one consultation about local quality growth initiatives.

The panel, coordinated by DCA's Office of Quality Growth, will include individuals with a broad range of expertise, including: real estate development and finance, city planning, urban design, historic preservation, architecture, resource conservation, transportation and housing.

GMA conference attendees will be invited to sign up for appointments for the Quality Growth Advisory Clinic. During the appointment, local officials may ask questions related to quality growth, seek the panel's advice about specific plans or ordinances, or request specific technical assistance on quality growth issues.

*[Editor's note: Many GPA members are donating their time to this event, which may be repeated at future conferences around the state. Crissy Marlowe is organizing the clinic contact her at [cmarlowe@dca.state.ga.us](mailto:cmarlowe@dca.state.ga.us) for information on getting involved. Check out [gmanet.com](http://gmanet.com) for more on the clinic.]*



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WORKING TO BETTER OUR COMMUNIT[ES AND ENVIRONMENT

*Goodbye, Cannon v. Coweta County, Continued from Page 1*

In City of Bainbridge, King, a resident of the city, was sued for placing her manufactured home in the R-2 zoning district from which such homes were excluded under the zoning ordinance. In her defense of the action against her, she challenged the zoning ordinance in a two-pronged attack. One was under the National Manufactured Housing and Safety Standards Act of 1974, 42 U.S.C. §§ 5401-5426. King contended that the fact that manufactured homes were excluded from the R-2 district, while modular homes (Department of Community Affairs homes) were permitted, evinced a regulatory scheme in violation of the national act. The second attack relied on Cannon. King asserted that the exclusion of manufactured homes from the R-2 district exceeded the police power of the city as otherwise limited by Cannon; thus the ordinance according to her challenge was unconstitutional.

The Supreme Court's response was a sweeping rejection of both challenges. In upholding the city's zoning ordinance, the court concluded that the ordinance did not violate the HUD Act, nor was it an unconstitutional exercise of the city's police power. But, of significance to those of us who practice in the planning and zoning field are the rules laid down by the court which now guide us in crafting zoning ordinances. Those rules are as follows:

Cannon is dead and gone.

Local governments may draw a distinction in their zoning ordinances between manufactured homes (HUD homes) and modular homes (DCA homes). As was the case in City of Bainbridge, a zoning ordinance may exclude manufactured homes in a zoning district, but permit modular homes in the same district. A reasonable extension under the same rationale would also permit local governments to exclude modular homes from a residential zoning district.

The City of Bainbridge's zoning ordinance excluded manufactured homes from all zoning districts, except manufactured home parks and subdivisions. Since this zoning ordinance was approved by the court, local governments may also adopt the same restrictions or similar variations with reasonable assurance that they will be upheld if challenged in court.

The purpose for excluding manufactured homes is still important, however. Without a purpose, a restriction in a zoning ordinance is arbitrary and unreasonable, and thus unconstitutional. In City of Bainbridge, the court found the zoning ordinance valid and constitutional because the restrictions were designed to regulate the quality of housing and advance general safety concerns. Other reasons may also be used and many of those are enumerated in this decision. The reasons don't have to be stated in the zoning ordinance, but it is a better practice to develop acceptable reasons when preparing the record prior to adopting a zoning ordinance. The best place to put the basis for manufactured home restrictions is in the comprehensive land use plan.

In conclusion, this article is not intended to suggest rampant or broadscale exclusion of manufactured homes. But it is to show that flexibility in placement of manufactured homes is now largely up to the discretion of the local government. A careful and reasoned approach to restrictions on manufactured homes best serves the community, as manufactured homes should be permitted in every community.

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## Blueprints Partners News & Notes

*By Bill Ross the younger*

In April, GPA members participated in the Blueprints Partners' Rockdale County workshop. This project has focused on the redevelopment of existing commercial strip centers, as well as the future development of an adjacent residential area. Stakeholders, including elected officials, appointed staff, and local property owners, convened to participate in a visioning process for the area. For more information on this project, please contact Brad Calvert at the Georgia Conservancy. He is available at 404-876-2900, extension 31.

Blueprint Partner technical assistance projects are continuing in the following locations:

- **Middle Chattahoochee Watershed** - An educational effort, involving the local elected officials and appointed staff, is underway.
- **Macon** - An examination of possible National Heritage Area designation is underway for a portion of the Ocmulgee River east of the city.
- **Sandfly** - Following the visit with Homepark residents (and prior Blueprints participants) the stakeholders have begun to plan for a community design workshop. This process is being coordinated out of the Georgia Conservancy's Coastal Office; contact Patty McIntosh at 912-447-5910 for details.

### Comings and Goings

Following a strategic planning process last year, the Blueprint Partners adopted the following mission statement: Blueprints for Successful Communities teaches Georgians to achieve successful communities by creating sound conservation and growth strategies, and building consensus for action at the local, county, regional and state levels. In order to strengthen its technical expertise in local governance issues, the Blueprints Partners have recently added the Association of County Commissioners of Georgia and the Georgia Municipal Association to the group. In addition to these two groups, Southface Energy Institute has also joined the group, providing more experience and expertise in the areas of conservation and sustainability. Unfortunately, one of the original Partners has left the group. The Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation will be taking a hiatus from the Partnership in order to focus more intently on their group's own activities and projects. We look forward to welcoming them back.

*GPA's representatives on the Blueprints Partners Steering Committee are Inga Kennedy and Bill Ross ty. Inga can be contacted at [inga@bellsouth.net](mailto:inga@bellsouth.net); Bill can be reached at [theyounger@planross.com](mailto:theyounger@planross.com). The Blueprints Partners are: The American Institute of Architects, the American Council of Engineering Companies of Georgia, the American Society of Landscape Architects, the Association of County Commissioners of Georgia, the Atlanta Neighborhood Development Partnership, the Institute of Transportation Engineers, the Georgia Conservancy, Georgia Tech, the Georgia Municipal Association, the Georgia Planning Association, the Greater Atlanta Homebuilders Association, the National Association of Industrial and Office Properties, Southface Energy Institute, and the Urban Land Institute.*



# Call for Nominations for GPA Board Positions

*By: Jerry Weitz, Chair  
Nominations & Elections Committee*

Elections for positions on the Board of Directors will take place early in August-September by mail ballot, with results announced at the annual membership meeting (fall conference in October in Savannah). Each person elected to the board serves a two-year term, beginning with the fall conference (membership meeting and installation of officers). We are now accepting nominations for the following board positions (all elected except as shown):

Vice President for Programs	District 1 Director (Rome/Dalton area)
Vice President for Chapter Services	District 2 Director (Athens/Gainesville area)
Secretary	District 3 Director (Atlanta area)
Treasurer	District 4 Director (LaGrange area)
AICP Director at Large (2 positions)	District 5 Director (Macon area)
Non-AICP Director at Large (3 positions)	District 6 Director (Augusta area)
Planning Official (at large) (2 positions) (new)	District 7 Director (Columbus area)
Professional Development Officer (appointed)	District 8 Director (Albany/Valdosta area)
Planning Officials Development Officer (appointed)	District 9 Director (Waycross area)
Chair, Legislative Committee (appointed)	District 10 Director (Savannah/coastal area)

All board members must be 18 years old and shall be APA members except planning officials, who may be chapter-only members. Per last year's bylaws amendments, we added two new positions on the board for planning officials, who can be elected or appointed officials with responsibilities in planning. District directors must have their APA membership address of record within the substate district he or she represents. At-large AICP Directors must be members of AICP. Members of the Nominations and Elections Committee are not eligible for nomination.

Our bylaws require that at minimum the following positions must be competitive (i.e., two or more nominations for each position): VP Programs; VP Chapter Services; and Planning Officials (at least three candidates for the two positions). It is the committee's intent that all positions should be competitive elections if interest exists and more than one nomination is received.

Once nominated, the committee will contact you for a statement which will be published in the newsletter or mailed with the ballot. Additional nominations may be made by written petition containing signatures of 10 or more members. In case of a tie vote, a runoff election is administered at the annual meeting.

In addition, members should take note that there are three appointed board positions: Professional Development Officer (who must be an AICP member), Planning Officials Development Officer, and Chair of the Legislative Committee. These are one-year appointments with reappointment possible. The appointments are initiated by the President and confirmed by the new Board of Directors during its first meeting.

Responsibilities for each of these positions are described in the association's bylaws, which are available via GPA's web page at <http://www.georgiaplanning.org/membership.htm>. In addition, board members are expected to attend meetings of the board (2-3 per year) and play an active role in one or more committees. Board meetings are held in different parts of the state, often in Macon. Travel is required, and board members are not reimbursed for travel expenses.

If you are interested in a district director's position but you don't know for sure which district you are in, consult the map of GPA substate districts in the online membership directory sorted by district, on GPA's web page at: [http://www.georgiaplanning.org/stuff/9\\_11\\_gpa\\_bydistrict.PDF](http://www.georgiaplanning.org/stuff/9_11_gpa_bydistrict.PDF).

If interested in any of these elected or appointed board positions, or if you have questions about responsibilities, procedures, etc., please send a brief statement of interest or your questions to Jerry Weitz at [Jerryweitz@aol.com](mailto:Jerryweitz@aol.com).



## New Urban Design Committee Kicks Off!

Urban design is a hot topic. The media touts “smart growth,” “traditional neighborhood design,” “transit oriented development,” and “new urbanism” as magic bullets to vanquish urban and suburban ills. But how simple is it to really answer the question, “What is urban design?” And, how can GPA members, who care passionately about the state of our cities, towns, and hamlets, get involved in understanding, supporting and practicing excellent urban design?

Please join GPA's new Urban Design Committee! The kick-off meeting on May 16th attracted GPA members from local and regional government, education, and private practice. We jointly established a mission to:

- Reach out to affiliated design disciplines involved in building our cities: Developers, Architects, Landscape Architects, Transportation Engineers, and Civil Engineers. We invite them to get involved in GPA.
- Further the urban design dialogue between planners and other design professionals by actively soliciting their attendance at GPA's annual conference and other Chapter events.
- Establish urban design as the theme for GPA's fall conference in Savannah this year, and develop urban design programs for subsequent conferences. Possible activities may include half-day urban design charrettes, program sessions by the DCA Resource team, and case study presentations.

Are you ready to participate? Please email Paul Soudi: [psoudi@bellsouth.net](mailto:psoudi@bellsouth.net).




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## DCA Workshop Series on the Updated Minimum Planning Standards for Local Comprehensive Planning

DCA is launching a series of day-long workshops around the state on the requirements of the recently updated Minimum Planning Standards and Procedures for local governments. The objective of the workshops is to provide local governments the information and tools they need in order to meet these new standards once they become effective on January 1, 2004. A key new tool for preparing comprehensive plans - the Georgia PlanBuilder - will be featured as well. Local governments and planning consultants are being specifically invited to these workshops, but others interested in the comprehensive planning requirements are welcome to register.

The summer workshops will be held on July 9 in Athens and on July 16 in Baxley. Another workshop will be held in the fall at a location in southwest Georgia, and more workshops are planned for 2004. Both workshop schedules and locations are based on the schedule for adoption of major plan updates by local governments between 2004-2008. Every effort is being made to insure that each local government has an opportunity to learn about the new standards in time to inform their plan update process. Regional Development Center staff are also involved in this educational effort, serving both as faculty and promoters of the workshops in their regions.

For more information about this workshop series, please contact Stuart Dorfman at 404-679-3108 or [sdorfman@dca.state.ga.us](mailto:sdorfman@dca.state.ga.us).

# JUST WAIT 'TILL YOU SEE PIEDMONT PARK !

JOIN US FOR OUR NEXT PLANNER'S LUNCHEON AND YOU WILL !!!

Magnolia Hall - Piedmont Park  
Friday, June 20, 2003  
11:00am to 1:00pm

More than 2 million people visit Piedmont Park - one of Atlanta's "greatest assets" - every year. We have all shared in the varied experiences offered by the Park and each of us has dreamed of enhancements that could someday realize the Park's full potential. Thanks to the vision and hard work of the Piedmont Park Conservancy, that "someday" is now ! Since 1989, more than 16 million dollars of renovation and improvements have been implemented under the direction of the Conservancy. An additional 9 - 10 million dollars worth of improvements are scheduled to complete key aspects of the original Olmstead master plan within the next 5 to 7 years.

Our next Planner's Luncheon will allow you to see the Park first hand in all its glory. Join us for a brief overview of the Park and the ongoing work of the Conservancy followed by walking tours featuring completed and ongoing renovation projects. Tours will be conducted by Conservancy board and staff members with a wealth of knowledge, history and enthusiasm to share with you.

ATLANTA'S PIEDMONT PARK. JUST WAIT 'TILL YOU SEE IT !

The cost for this event is expected to be between \$10 to \$15 per person. To reserve your space, please RSVP to [elinton@co.douglas.ga.us](mailto:elinton@co.douglas.ga.us) by Monday, June 16, 2003.

Your Planner's Luncheon Chair,

Eric Linton



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## PRESS RELEASE

### AUGUSTA ENGINEERS RECEIVE STATEWIDE HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARD

The Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation presented an award for outstanding achievement to Tom Robertson, partner of Cranston, Robertson & Whitehurst, P.C. and of Firehouse Partners, LLLP of Augusta, at the Trust's Annual Meeting in Milledgeville on Saturday, March 29, 2003. The award for *Excellence in Rehabilitation* cites the partnership's work in renovating the Kessell Bakery Building at the corner of Fifth and Ellis Streets in downtown Augusta.

Inside its historic trappings, the two-story building houses the high-tech land surveying, structural engineering and accounting departments of the firm of Cranston, Robertson & Whitehurst, P.C. It also includes two loft apartments, that have been fully occupied since before the rehabilitation work was completed in 2001.

Originally built about 1915, the brick building housed a succession of bakeries, including the Kessell Bakery, which claimed to be the first producer of wrapped bread in Augusta. The baker and his family lived upstairs. Later, the Colonial Baking Company began out its Augusta operations in the structure. By the 1990's, however, water damage and decay had become the main tenants. When the principals of Cranston, Robertson & Whitehurst, P.C. considered buying and rehabilitating the building, officials of the Augusta Housing and Neighborhood Development Department called the project, "a poster child for the elimination of slum and blight."

The Kessell Bakery Building forms a companion to the firm's main office located in the historic Old Engine Company One No. 1 building, across the street.

**For further information contact Jim Cranford or Tom Robertson (706) 722-1588.**



**Before**



**After**



# GEORGIA PLANNER

Newsletter of the Georgia Planning Association, A Chapter of the American Planning Association  
2161 Peachtree Road, NE Suite 806 • Atlanta, Georgia 30309

A P A ... M a k i n g G r e a t C o m m u n i t i e s H a p p e n



***Change of Address:*** The Georgia Chapter does not maintain address lists. All lists are maintained at the national office and are mailed to the local chapters each month. If you have moved, e-mail: [addresschange@planning.org](mailto:addresschange@planning.org), go to Member Login at [www.planning.org](http://www.planning.org), or write to:

Membership Department  
APA National Headquarters  
122 South Michigan, Suite 1600  
Chicago, Illinois 60603-6107

***Membership Information:*** If you are interested in joining GPA or the American Planning Association, contact the national headquarters at the address above or call (312) 431-9100.

***Submission:*** The Georgia Planning Association welcomes articles, letters to the editor, photos of planning events or state happenings, calendar listings, job notices, planners on the move, etc. We are always interested in publishing items you think may be of interest to others throughout the state. Graphics are especially welcome. Articles may be edited for space. Articles printed in any issue of The Georgia Planner are not the expressed opinion of the Chapter.

***Deadline:*** The deadline for the next issue is June 31, 2003.  
Send Items for the newsletter to:

William F. Ross  
ROSS+ associates  
2161 Peachtree Road, NE Suite 806  
Atlanta, Georgia 30309  
[GPAnews@planross.com](mailto:GPAnews@planross.com)





Georgia Planning Association

2003 GPA AWARDS PROGRAM

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Use a separate form for each nomination (Projects may be nominated for more than one category).
2. Projects should be in progress by July 2, 2002. Eligible comprehensive plans are those adopted between September 1, 2002 and May 31, 2003.
3. Nominees must either reside or practice in Georgia. Projects or primary contributor(s) must be located in Georgia. Both GPA members and the public are invited to submit nominations.
4. Nominations for local government projects must be submitted by the affected local government.
5. Applications must be returned to GPA by Wednesday, July 31, 2003. Plan documents, publications, photographs, slides, maps and any other supporting documentation to be considered by the judges in making above awards must be submitted at the same time.
6. Provide a one-page summary to explain why the nomination should win the award, and how it relates to the evaluation criteria.
7. If you have any questions, contact Larry Vanden Bosch, Chairperson, GPA Awards Committee at 706-272-2300 or email: dceds@ngrdc.org
8. Address applications and supporting materials to:  
Attn: GPA Awards  
c/o Larry Vanden Bosch  
North Georgia Regional Development Center  
503 West Waugh Street,  
Dalton, GA. 30720

Recipients will be announced at the Awards Program at the Georgia Planning Association's Fall Conference on October 22-24, 2003, in Savannah.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

The GPA awards program is intended to recognizing individuals, studies, processes and projects that demonstrate an exceptional level of excellence, and to recognize persons who have made outstanding contributions to the field of planning. An unbiased jury of professional planners will be responsible for selecting award recipients. The following general criteria will be used to evaluate each project nominated and the work of individuals nominated.

**Innovation** - Originality of concept or appreciable refinement of existing techniques or procedures.

**Transferability** - Potential application in other areas or to other projects.

**Quality** - Excellence of thought, analysis, writing, graphics and character of presentation.

**Implementation - Effectiveness:** Proposals either carried out or show promise of doing so.

**Comprehensiveness** - Planning principles observed, especially their effects on other public objectives.

CRITERIA FOR INDIVIDUAL CATEGORIES

1. **OUTSTANDING PLANNING PROJECTS AWARDS**  
**A. Outstanding Planning Document**  
This category will be awarded to acknowledge the best planning document. In nominating such plans, the following will be included: comprehensive plans, solid waste management plans, site/area plans, transportation plans, parks plans, and other planning documents.  
**B. Outstanding Plan Implementation**  
This category of nomination is aimed at awarding the successful implementation of a plan. For example, the realization of a historic district preservation plan, the implementation of a fiscal management plan, and/or the achievement of a community vision would all fall under this category.  
**C. Outstanding Student Project**  
This award is given in recognition of an outstanding paper or project by a student or class of students of city planning, urban studies or related discipline.
2. **OUTSTANDING PLANNING PROCESS AWARDS**  
**A. Innovative and Effective Planning Process**  
This award is intended to recognize a distinguished planning activity that demonstrates distinction and exceptional planning character. The category included citizen participation, dispute resolution, interagency coordination, financing, etc.  
**B. Media Involvement**  
This award will be used to acknowledge the successful use of media coverage to support public education efforts for a planning project. It will recognize the outstanding individual or media program that has informed and educated the public.  
**C. Educational Tool**  
This award is given for a creative educational project/program or tool that promotes planning. It will recognize a program, project or tool that makes a significant contribution to the planning process.

- **OUTSTANDING HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROJECT AWARD**  
**A. Creative and Innovative Historic Preservation Project**  
This award is not for a particular building, but for a planning document associated with a project, historic district, or planning process. Examples include planning process reports, design guidelines, feasibility reports, historic structure reports and preservation plans.
4. **OUTSTANDING PLANNING AWARD FOR SPECIAL COMMUNITY INITIATIVE**
    - **Creative Use of the Planning Process to Address a Need Outside the Normal Sphere of Planning**  
This award is intended for an initiative that illustrates how a community or jurisdiction used the planning process to address a need outside the normal sphere of planning. Emphasis is placed on the success of planning in a non-traditional settings. The award seeks to recognize projects that expand public understanding of planners and the planning process. Eligible projects include, but not limited to, efforts aimed at community policing or drug prevention; neighborhood outreach

initiatives or community-based capacity building; programs designed for specialized population; public art or cultural efforts; or initiatives for youth.

5. **PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENT IN PLANNING AWARDS**  
**A. Distinguished Achievement in Planning**  
This award is given to a professional planner who has promoted good planning practices and rendered outstanding technical assistance to Georgia communities from 2001-2002. The individual should demonstrate work of a high level of excellence and effectiveness through distinctive practice, writing or teaching.
  6. **DISTINGUISHED LEADERSHIP AWARD FOR AN ELECTED OFFICIAL**  
**A. Distinguished Leadership Award**  
This award is presented to an individual elected to public office for a significant contribution to planning. The individual should demonstrate effectiveness in formulating ideas and policies that further the cause of planning. The individual should also show within what sphere of influence his or her effectiveness has been realized.
1. **OUTSTANDING PLANNING PROJECT AWARDS**  
G Outstanding Planning Document  
G Outstanding Plan Implementation
    - Outstanding Student Paper or Project by a Class of Students
  2. **OUTSTANDING PLANNING PROCESS AWARDS**  
G Innovative and Effective Planning Process  
G Media Involvement
    - Educational Project/Program or Tool
  3. **OUTSTANDING HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROJECT AWARD**
    - Creative and Innovative Historic Preservation Project
  4. **OUTSTANDING PLANNING AWARD FOR SPECIAL COMMUNITY INITIATIVE**
    - Creative Use of the Planning Process to Address a Need Outside the Normal Sphere of Planning
  5. **PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENT IN PLANNING AWARD**  
G Distinguished Achievement in Planning
  6. **DISTINGUISHED LEADERSHIP AWARD FOR AN ELECTED OFFICIAL**
    - Distinguished Leadership Award for an Elected Official  
Explain why this nomination should win the award in this category and how it relates to the evaluation criteria (*Attach Additional sheets as needed*).

GPA AWARD APPLICATION FORM

AWARD CATEGORIES

1. Nominee: \_\_\_\_\_
2. Phone: \_\_\_\_\_
3. Project Name: \_\_\_\_\_
4. Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
*(Do not complete items 5-8 if this a nomination for Distinguished Achievement in Planning or Leadership)*
5. Nominator: \_\_\_\_\_
6. Phone: \_\_\_\_\_
7. Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. Signature of Nominator: \_\_\_\_\_