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MASLA Newsletter

an electronic newsletter

January 2008

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Dear Members and Subscribers,

In a powerful position with the ability to shape the systems, tools and processes, landscape architects are being sought out for the knowledge and experience we possess. Many of you have expressed your intent to get involved in activities outside of work, in particular in MASLA. And a lot of members don't have time to commit to being on the board or on a committee. The mission of the American Society of Landscape Architects, which MASLA is charged with carrying out on a local level, is to promote the landscape architecture profession and advance the practice through advocacy, education, communication, and fellowship.

So, here is what you can do for MASLA, for landscape architecture, and for you: participate in the things that matter the most to you. Invigorate that passion through participation in your neighborhood, your city, your children's school or any other community group you feel a part of or with whom you want to share your voice. Landscape architects are a valuable resource in the developing the framework for the future of our communities.

We currently have two opportunities to contribute your knowledge. The first is a request for input on the Sustainable Sites Initiative draft, which has been a collaborative effort between ASLA, and many other groups including the U.S. Green Building Council who has committed to incorporate the document into the development of future LEED standards.

On a local level, the City of Minneapolis is updating their comprehensive plan and has partnered with MASLA to solicit input for the Urban Design section of the draft plan via wiki format. www.masla.org was chosen to host the

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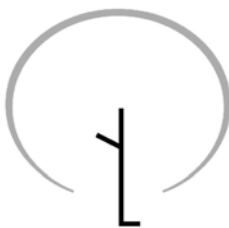


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pilot program due to the valuable knowledge that our membership holds. This will be posted through mid February and the city is excited to see the results.

And, don't forget the Awards Programs. The deadlines for the Chapter Awards and for ASLA are in February, so they are just around the corner.

Share your wisdom!
 Ellen C. Stewart, ASLA
 Past President, Minnesota Chapter

MASLA Related News and Events

Several Items for Review

MASLA Tests First-Ever Wiki Site for City's Comprehensive Plan



Minneapolis, MN, January 8, 2008. The Minnesota Chapter American Society of Landscape Architects (MASLA) is testing a Wiki for gathering input on The Minneapolis Plan for Sustainable Growth, the City's 2008 Comprehensive Plan. This pilot concept is intended for testing by area professionals in MASLA, plus The American Institute of Architects (AIA), the American Planning Association (APA), and the Urban Land Institute (ULI). MASLA has posted the Urban Design chapter of the plan on its website at www.masla.org/mn_resources/MplsComp.htm It is available for editing January 5-February 15, 2008.

"This pilot effort is a chance to help shape the future of the City of Minneapolis, and a fresh new way to gather public input," says David Motzenbecker, a landscape architect and Chair of the Minneapolis Planning Commission. "If we can get enough contributors and the input is well-thought out, there is the possibility that we would expand the Wiki formats to other planning forums."

By using the Wiki, anyone can actively edit the language of the Urban Design section of the Comprehensive Plan in real time, from any computer, whether they are in their office, in a coffee shop or home after dinner.

"We're very excited about this," says Joni Giese, President of MASLA. "It's a great alternative to meetings or email and a good complement to the traditional public input processes already in place. We especially appreciate the

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opportunity to make the Urban Design component of the Plan easily accessible for input by our members and other design professions."

Read the Full Press Release at [In the News](#)

January Open House at the Metropolitan Design Center: January 31, 5:30 - 8:30

MASLA members should be receiving an invitation to the Open House. The event will be held at the Metropolitan Design Center in Rapson Hall, 89 Church St., SE, Mpls 55455. See the website of the Design Center at <http://www.designcenter.umn.edu> for more information about their work as an interdisciplinary non-profit organization committed to making the metropolitan landscape more livable and sustainable. Also, come and meet the current graduate students who will be ending their firm tour at the Open House, and talk to your fellow landscape architects about plans for the year.

L.A.R.E. Multiple Choice Exam, March 11- 13th

Registration Deadline is February 11, 2008 Testing dates for specific sections:

Sections A and B - Mar. 11 and 12

Section D - March 12 and 13

Read more about the MC exam at CLARB.org

LARE Review Session Announcement

The annual LARE review session for 2008 will again be broken-up into two sessions. The first session will be Tuesday February 12th at Rapson Hall at the U of M in the evening from 6pm until 8pm, room to be determined. If interested in attending please contact, Chad Buran before Thursday February 7th. Review materials will be available for purchase. Please indicate if you want the review materials while registering. Cost for the review materials is to be determined. Current review materials are being reviewed and updated. This first review session will cover an introduction to the CLARB tests and will include a review of Multiple Choice Sections A, B, & D. Review for Graphics Sections C & E will be in April. Exact date will be announced on MASLA.org. If interested in attending please contact Chad Buran at: chad.buran@bonestroo.com

MASLA Conducted Continuing Education

On April 18th MASLA will host our first annual day-long program of continuing education. Feature presentations and panel discussions will take place prior to our Annual

Awards Banquet. With an increased focus on the sustainability, our inaugural year's topic is Native Plant Community Restoration. Experts will discuss seed source, seed mix design and plant selection, restoration design and layout, installation, and maintenance. Suppliers and vendors will be on site to discuss their services and products that will help us achieve our design goals. Landscape architects can earn up to 4 continuing education credits toward the 24 required by June 2008. This promises to be an exciting and informative event. Registration material and course syllabus to follow.

Sustainable Sites Initiative Draws Enthusiastic Media Response

January 11, 2008, is the deadline for initial feedback on this important project.

Since the launch of the Sustainable Sites Initiative in October 2007, dozens of positive articles have appeared about the program in general, environmental, and design publications, and thousands of individuals have visited the website to learn about sustainable landscape design. The goal of Sustainable Sites is to create the first-ever comprehensive voluntary rating system for sustainable site development of all sizes, with or without buildings.

In November, Sustainable Sites issued its first preliminary report offering more than 200 recommendations for developing sustainable landscapes. The report is the first of three and is available for comment by completing the Sustainable Sites questionnaire. Comments on the first draft are due on **January 11, 2008**, and landscape architecture professionals are strongly encouraged to participate.

Read more about this from [Sustainable Sites.org](http://SustainableSites.org)

Minnesota Green Expo: January 9-11 at the Minneapolis Convention Center

The Minnesota Nursery & Landscape Association has issued a special invitation for MASLA members to attend the 2008 Minnesota Green Expo and to receive the \$20 per person member discount. This is the premier green industry event for the 1600 member- businesses in MNLA, and it offers a wide range of educational programs, an expansive trade show and the chance to meet industry professionals from all over the country. MNLA has provided many classes and events specifically for landscape architects over the years and has been a continuing sponsor and supporter of MASLA. Please consider taking advantage of this opportunity and the chance to form a valuable partnership with MNLA members.

www.minnesotagreenexpo.com

Information from our Affiliated Organizations

See MASLA.org for News, Calendar of Events, and Other Resources

Architecture for Humanity January 21st Meeting, 6:30 at the U-Plan Office



Landscape architects are always needed for volunteer projects with the Minnesota Chapter of Architecture for Humanity. Work with other disciplines on both local and global efforts for environmental and social causes. The agenda for this meeting is to review the current plan and project list for the year. Sunny Reed of MSR Architects will be presenting a potential new project. Check out the website at www.afh-mn.org for contacts and more information. The U-Plan Office is located at 1956 University Ave., St. Paul, MN 55104.

Climate Change in Minnesota, by Mississippi National River and Recreation Area (NPS), Jan. 17th, 7pm

How will climate change affect Minnesota? How do scientists know what will change? Come hear Jeffrey Corney, Associate Director of the Cedar Creek Ecosystem Science Reserve, describe the changes Minnesota will experience and about the studies which are being done to help create these future climate models.

Cedar Creek Ecosystem Science Reserve is home to a rare meeting of three distinct ecosystems (prairie, deciduous forest, and boreal forest) making it an ideal location to observe how climate change will affect these different biomes.

Location: Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center

Read more at [Live the River website](#)

Global Observations in Times of Economic Turmoil, Jan. 23, 2008

Join the Sensible Land Use Coalition for this unique opportunity to hear the "view from the top" concerning global, national and regional economic conditions, including:

- A prognosis for the 2008 economy;
- Fallout from the sub-prime mortgage mess;
- The falling dollar and its impact on the real estate industry;

- Twin Cities real estate development forecast for 2008.
More information: sensibleland.org

2008 Legislative Preview Forum, Jan. 17, 8- 12pm

The Legislative Preview Policy Forum provides a valuable first look at the top environmental priorities for the upcoming legislative session, and gives audience members the opportunity to raise concerns or pose questions to legislative decision-makers. The Legislative Preview Forum is also a great chance to network with approximately 200 fellow attendees from business, government, and nonprofit sectors. The 2008 Legislative Preview Forum will feature three panels of bipartisan legislators: Legislative Leadership - Senate and House leaders highlight the major environmental issues under consideration in the upcoming session. Transportation and Transit - Key committee members speak about anticipated action on issues related to transportation and transit. Energy and Climate Change - Key committee members speak about anticipated action on issues related to energy and climate change. More from [Minnesota Environment Initiative](#).

Real: Artists and Landscapes

Minnesota History Center, St. Paul, MN
Celebrate the wide range of art produced by self-taught Minnesota artists and in the process discover how artists' from all backgrounds incorporate creativity and passion into their work. In this exhibit, Vance Gellert presents photographs of untrained artists in and around the landscape of Minnesota along with a special presentation of their art.

Closing: January 28, 2008

[MNHS Calendar](#)

Embrace Open Space Announcement

Join us for a discussion on: Conservation Ordinances and Incentives

Several local governments have adopted ordinances that create incentives to preserve open space and community character. We will see the wide variety of preferred incentives and methods and learn what is in place in different locales. Most importantly, we will have a discussion that allows you to ask questions and helps you define next steps and further information needs to protect and preserve our natural resources.

January 9, 2007, 9 - noon

North Mississippi Regional Park, Carl W. Kroening
Interpretive Center
4900 Mississippi Ct.
Minneapolis, MN 55430

Featuring

Overview of current conservation ordinances and incentives, Danny Nadeau

Edge Communities in Washington County, Richard Thompson - Planner TDKA

City of Chaska's performance-based ordinance, Paul Paige - Landscape Architect HKGi

Sherburne County, Jon Sevald - Sherburne County Planner Discussion

RSVP

No charge for attendance, but help our planning and RSVP to Abbey Lentner 651-999-5313 or abbey.lentner@tpl.org

Questions? Jenna Fletcher Program Coordinator - Embrace Open Space, 651-999-5306, jenna.fletcher@tpl.org

EMBRACE OPEN SPACE is a collaborative that serves as a catalyst for greater citizen and elected leadership to conserve and steward natural areas and parks, lakes and rivers in the eleven-county Twin Cities area.

[MASLA.org Your Resource](http://MASLA.org)**Working Nature into Land Use Decisions Workshop Series, January - March**

Minnesota Government Training

Services is offering three new land use planning workshops in 2008 from January 30 to March 27th. Watch for updates at:

www.mngts.org

Living Green Conference - Duluth, Feb. 2, 2008

The 16th Annual Living Green Conference is set for February 2, 2008 at noon at the First United Methodist Church in Duluth. There will be a keynote speaker, 11 workshops, organic food, and a variety of informational tables.

The keynote speaker will be Bob Krumenaker, Superintendent of Apostle Islands National Park. He will talk about droughts, flooding and the effect of global warming on Lake Superior.

For more information, visit:

[Living Green Conference](http://LivingGreenConference.org)

MNLA Day on the Hill - February 27, 2008

Join your fellow MNLA members for a for a fun and educational day of grassroots involvement that is critical for the defense of your interests at the State Capitol! Member involvement is needed every year to ensure that MNLA has open doors with state lawmakers when we need

to have their ears!
Read more, visit [MNLA Govt Affairs](#)

Transit for Livable Communities (TLC) Annual Conference, March 5-7

The Transit for Livable Communities organization announces their national convention with the theme "Regional Equity '08" to be held March 5-7, 2008 in New Orleans, LA

[TLC Calendar](#)

The Washington Post: *The End of Sprawl?* Dec. 30, 2007

An article about how rising gas prices will push our country toward more urban development patterns.

... "Increasing gas prices may not be enough to cause people to move, which is why demand for gas proves so inelastic in the short term, but it can influence where people choose to live when they are forced to relocate for other reasons. The evidence that this is already occurring is, at this point, still somewhat anecdotal, but it is very suggestive. As the New Urbanist News reported this fall, during the present downturn, accompanied as it has been by high gas prices, homes close to urban centers or that have convenient access to transit seem to be holding their value better than houses in car-dependent communities at the urban edge. A recent story in the Minneapolis Star Tribune blamed flagging growth in the Twin Cities' outer suburbs on rising gas prices. If prices at the pump continue to increase, as many analysts expect, the eventual recovery of demand for new housing may not be accompanied by a resumption of America's relentless march into the cornfields."

Full article: [The End of Sprawl?](#)

[MASLA.org Your Resource](#)

MASLA is the local Minnesota chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects, a professional organization that represents landscape architects nationwide. MASLA has over 300 members working in the private, public, and educational sectors. We are growing in numbers and in programs, and are currently planning and offering a variety of service projects, social events, networking opportunities, and continuing education sessions.

MASLA

Email: loons_ochs@comcast.net
Web: <http://www.masla.org>

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