

New Jersey ASLA Today

Supporting landscape architects in their professional endeavors *Volume 8 • Issue 5 • May/June 2003*
including creating a sense of place and protecting natural systems through innovative planning and design.

www.njasla.org

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Assembly Passes A-706 and A-713

Recently the Assembly passed A-706 and A-713. These bills set in motion a cumbersome and unworkable process for any State (A-706) or any County (A-713) privatization services.

"The bills require that for every private contract for services over \$100,000 (except renewals or existing contracts) to be awarded by any State or County departments, agencies, commissions, authorities, etc., a review process must first be completed to assess the financial impact of privatizing any services. This review includes a cost-benefit analysis, the impact on current government employees, and an assessment of whether the agency has the capacity or could have the capacity to do the services in-house.

Additionally, once a governmental entity determines that the services should be privatized, the private company that is awarded a contract for services is required to, among other things, hire any displaced government workers as a result of privatization and pay ALL of their current workers equal compensation and benefits of state workers.

While some attempt at compromise language was put in the bill, those closest to this issue agree that the bill is still extremely harmful to the private sector and will, at best, make the process of privatizing state and county services long and cumbersome and, at worst, bring government services now handled by the private sector to a grinding halt."

These overreaching bills are part of a well-intentioned Assembly Democrats' bill "Fighting for Working Families" initiative. The package includes other bills that would require employers to notify working pregnant women about their right to disability benefits, impose tougher penalties for child labor law and minimum wage violations, and promote disclosure of corporate wrongdoing by "whistleblowers." Each bill passed by the slimmest of margins.

"yes" votes exactly the minimum number that is required for passage. Shockingly, of the legislators not voting, 10 were Republican. Texts of the two bills and a listing of your New Jersey Senate representative can be found at www.njleg.state.nj.us. There is still an opportunity to make changes or defeat the passage of these bills in the State Senate. It would be advantageous to those Landscape Architects and related Green Industry contractors that do work for state agencies to secure an exemption for planning and design projects and seasonal maintenance services. We urge you to contact your State Senator to express your concerns with this legislation.

!!!HELP WANTED!!!

We need your help!! We need your ideas your energy your enthusiasm your muscle and your commitment for many activities that just won't happen if you do not participate! The NJASLA executive committee cannot do anything without you!

Volunteers are needed in the following positions and committees:

Annual Meeting Committee

(Plan the program and make a great conference!)

Statehouse Breakfast Committee

(Let's make the first success an annual event!)

Fall Event Committee

(Continue our Autumn Green Industry Connection!)

Summer Thing Committee

(Celebrate summer with friends and colleagues!)

Legislative District Liaison

(Meet your legislator with our lobbyist to promote LA!)

Related Organizations Liaison

(Help NJASLA network with your interest group)

NJASLA Today Assistant Editor

Parks and Recreation Preservation Committee

(Help find ways to save our parks!)

Executive Committee:

Presidential Candidate
Secretary Candidate

Please contact our headquarters or any one of our listed Executive Committee by phone Email or letter

Get involved with NJASLA you'll be glad you did! ! ! !

Promote Parks Funding At The Federal Level

The House Interior Appropriations Subcommittee will be met recently to vote on the Interior Appropriations budget bill for FY (this is called a markup) ASLA made great progress on the Historic American Landscape Survey (HALS) and the Urban Parks and Recreation Recovery (UPARR) issue In the US House of Representatives representatives signed onto a letter of support for UPARR and representatives signed onto a letter of support for congressional funding of HALS But we still need some help! We need to contact members of the Interior Appropriations Subcommittee to reiterate our support for these two issues We are hearing that the budget is very tight this year and only contacts like yours will make the difference between funding or not funding these two programs Other organizations and their members will also be contacting these representatives for UPARR support but ASLA is the only organization advocating for congressional funding of HALS

George W Bush is presently the worst presidential advocate of parks and recreation on recent record We will notify you as these measures proceed or fail in the current political climate of the White House While New Jersey legislators are not directly involved these subcommittees it would no harm to let your representative and the committee members listed below just how important these issues are to the American public Let us know of your efforts!

Interior Appropriations Subcommittee members: Ask to speak with the staffer who handles Interior Appropriations Phone numbers are listed after the name

Charles H Taylor North Carolina (Chairman)
Norman Dicks Washington (Ranking Member)
Ralph Regula Ohio
John P Murtha Pennsylvania
Jim Kolbe Arizona
James P Moran Virginia
George R Nethercutt Jr Washington
Maurice D Hinchey New York
Zach Wamp Tennessee
John W Olver Massachusetts
John E Peterson Pennsylvania (Vice Chair)
Don Sherwood Pennsylvania
Ander Crenshaw Florida

2003 Call for Entries: National Award for Smart Growth Achievement

The U S Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is pleased to announce that applications are now being accepted for the National Award for Smart Growth Achievement This competition is open to local or state governments and other public sector entities that have successfully created smart growth

Smart growth is development that serves the economy the community and the environment Smart growth development approaches have clear environmental benefits including improved air and water quality greater preservation of critical habitat and open space and more clean up and re use of brownfield sites

Applications will be accepted in five categories:

-) Built Projects
-) Policies and Regulations
-) Community Outreach and Education
-) Public Schools
-) Overall Excellence in Smart Growth

Interested parties from urban suburban and rural areas are encouraged to submit applications for smart growth activities undertaken within the last five years Successful applicants will incorporate smart growth principles to create places that respect community culture and the environment foster economic development and promote a better quality of life for this and future generations

Applications are due on June Up to five winners will be recognized at a ceremony in Washington DC in November

For more details about the National Award for Smart Growth Achievement including an application packet visit: http://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/awards_.htm

Computer Administration of the L.A.R.E. To Begin in August

Landscape Architectural Students and Licensure Candidates Can Register Beginning May to Take Sections A and B

Vienna VA The Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Boards (CLARB) announces that for the first time sections of the Landscape Architect Registration Examination (L A R E) will be administered on computer The first computerized test will be given on August and will include multiple choice Section A (Legal and Administrative Aspects of Design) and Section B (Analytical Aspects of Practice) Examinees can register for the test online at the CLARB website (www.clarb.org) and can take the test at any of more than computer testing centers across the U S and Canada operated by the LaserGrade Computer Testing Company

CLARB President William P "Chip" Winslow III explains that landscape architectural registration boards made computerization of the L A R E a priority several years ago but barriers of cost and administration kept it from becoming a reality "Today with advancements in technology and the expanded development of computer based testing facilities we believe we have found a way to administer the multiple choice sections on computer at a reasonable cost to exam candidates and without passing more work onto the boards In fact candidates taking both sections in August should be pleased to learn that CLARB is passing substantial savings directly on to them "

Winslow says that while several sections of the examination are experience dependent (meaning candidates need practical experience to pass them) CLARB's data indicates that Sections A and B are less so drawing instead from the knowledge candidates have accumulated from school and some limited work experience While examinees still need to prepare for the test Winslow adds "Candidates are probably ready to take Sections A and B sooner than they think they are "

CLARB Director of Examinations James Penrod says that because CLARB will be handling registration administration and score reporting giving the computerized sections in August will not place additional administrative or financial burdens on registration boards "Nor will it force our member boards to change their procedures " he adds "It was clear that any proposed change to the L A R E administration process had to have the support of the registration boards At their March meeting CLARB members heartily endorsed it "

Penrod wants the landscape architectural community to know that candidate input helped shape the process being implemented this summer "Candidate concerns about travel cost infrequency of administration (Sections A and B have only been offered once a year in June) and the length of time to receive scores were heard loud and clear " Will computerized testing be a permanent fixture in landscape architecture? "Whether or not we can make computerized testing a permanent program depends on the turnout and response to this administration "

CLARB administered computerized testing offers a number of benefits to examinees:

Reduced costs The administration and registration fees for taking Sections A and B are less than the price typically charged for the paper and pencil test Also with more than testing centers available examinees' travel time and expenses including lost work time are significantly reduced

Less stress Taking the L A R E in portions allows examinees to concentrate their preparation on one or two sections at a time Computerized testing centers offer comfortable facilities and professional staff to guide each examinee through the process

Simpler registration Examinees can register and pay online in minutes Plus they can register as late as six days before the test

Faster results Examinees will receive scores in approximately two weeks instead of months For examinees applying for licensure CLARB will transmit scores once for free

Begin the licensure process sooner Recent and soon to be graduates could be eligible to take this August's exam and apply their knowledge while the material is still fresh Young professionals that start down the road to licensure show potential employers a strong commitment to professionalism and the profession of landscape architecture

Examinees will still need to meet all of the requirements in their state or province including experience requirements to take the remaining sections of the L A R E and to apply for licensure

Streamlined communication Taking the examination through CLARB ensures that examinees receive information on L A R E preparation material directly from the source

Aspiring landscape architects who are interested in taking the exam this August are encouraged to visit the CLARB website (www.clarb.org) after April to find out more about the August administration and to begin the registration process Because space in the testing centers will be limited examinees should register and select a test site as early as possible The deadline for registering is August

Created in the Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Boards (CLARB) is a non profit international association whose members are the U S states and territories and two Canadian provinces that license landscape architects As an organization of member boards CLARB's mission is to foster the public health safety and welfare related to the use and protection of the natural and built environment affected by the practice of landscape architecture

Landscape Architects Are Celebrating 143 Years of Professional Service

Landscape Architects are the stewards of the laws of nature

On a sound foundation of mathematics science environmental integrity and economics they design the structure of civilization with respect for the materials and forces of nature With vision resourcefulness and ingenuity they labor to increase the comfort wealth and safety of mankind within a fragile earth

They approach their problems with the vision of the pioneer the integrity of the scientist the accuracy of the mathematician the practicality of the businessman the resourcefulness of the inventor the sensitivity of the artist the knowledge of the naturalist and the foresight of the conservationist

They are the planners and the builders From dreams they build visions into enduring sustainable realities within the diverse ecosystems of our beleaguered planet

They are mankind's patternfinders humanizing an increasingly mechanized civilization They challenge artificial barriers to a feasible and necessary human and environmental ethic for commerce and progress in the context of a world of finite natural resources

They are the protagonists of quality and beauty in site design They increase value and safety reduce risk eliminate waste and introduce artistic form in the work place and the home

They investigate with open mind and get the facts before they make decisions They plan with thoroughness design with imagination and build with fidelity

To civilization's rich heritage from the labors of past generations of planners architects engineers and scientists landscape architects add their contributions They continue the work of bridging the gap that separates mankind's efforts from the health of the planet

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Creek Daylighting Sees a New Dawn, or Back to Nature

NJASLA Treasurer Jeff Tandul passes along this article that appeared in the June issue of the "Journal of Light Construction" in the segment entitled "Offcuts"

A "creek daylighting" initiative will be on the September primary ballot in Seattle Washington after voters signed a petition in favor of it according to the Seattle Times Designed to restore salmon habitat Initiative (the "Save Seattle Streams" initiative) would require developers to maintain a foot vegetated buffer on both sides of streams and to restore any streams that have been buried underground in culverts among other requirements Projected costs for the program vary drastically from million to more than billion depending on how broadly the measure is interpreted

This article indicates an important trend of increasing concern and awareness of preservation and enhancement of water resources As innovative environmental strategies often start on the West Coast and migrate eastward such trends and possible future legislation is yet another opportunity for Landscape Architects to lead the way on such projects

Position Available

Everland Shourds & Associates (www.esa-eng.com) a fast growing civil and environmental engineering firm is seeking a bright creative Landscape Architect who is looking for an exciting job opportunity The successful candidate must possess a degree in Landscape Architecture have a strong working knowledge of AutoCAD and a desire to work in an exciting fast paced environment Firm offers competitive salaries comprehensive benefits package (medical dental and vision coverage) and 401k program Send resume to Mark Shourds President at / (fax) or mshourds@esa-eng.com Everland Shourds & Associates located in Medford is a full service multi disciplinary firm providing civil and environmental engineering surveying landscape architecture and land planning services
EOE