



Editorial

International greenway planning: an introduction

1. Introduction

This greenway issue was compiled as the first of three special issues on greenways around the world to be published by *Landscape and Urban Planning*. These issues are in response to the spectacular growth of greenway planning in the United States and Canada. The editors also discovered that similar types of planning activities have occurred globally, often under different names. For example, Jongman (1995) of The Netherlands has been involved in planning “ecological networks” in Europe; Ong (2001) wrote about “biodiversity corridors” that he proposed for the Philippines. A Bulgarian architect, Yoveva (1998) proposed a “green system” for the capital city of Sofia, employing greenway type corridors. Similarly Tan (2001) of Singapore refers to its greenway network simply as “urban greening”.

The editors of this special issue have embraced the concept of “greenway planning,” because no other planning concept has captured the imagination of the general public in the United States and Canada. Greenway planning has been embraced by governmental agencies, non-governmental organizations and academics but, perhaps, most importantly, by the local citizens of small towns, rural areas, and urban areas.

2. The evolution of greenways and a definition

Interestingly, the majority of early efforts in landscape planning proposed by visionary landscape architects and planners would now be called greenways today. Many greenway planners credit Frederick Law Olmsted as the founder of the greenway movement (Little, 1990). Olmsted’s Boston Park System, or

“Emerald Necklace” is often referenced as the first significant greenway in the United States (Fábos et al., 1968; also see the paper by Fábos in this issue).

Perhaps the most important changes since Olmsted’s Boston Park System, has been the change of how greenways are defined today. Olmsted’s Park System, was primarily for recreation use. Today’s greenways have at least three major functions or definitions. First, greenways are: ecologically significant corridors and natural systems; second, recreational greenways, where users find a network of trails and water link land and water-based recreational sites and areas; third, greenways which provide historical heritage and cultural values. Greenways are often multi-purpose corridors providing all three functions and benefits (Fábos, 1995).

Perhaps, the most important single event which triggered the modern greenway movement in the United States was Charles Little’s seminal book, entitled *Greenway Planning for America*, published in 1990. However, because of the relative history of the term greenway, subsequent literature about greenways is extremely limited, including books by Flink and Searns (1993) and Smith and Hellmund (1993). Therefore, there is a need to increase the literature and scholarly inquiry about greenways.

A previous special issue of *Landscape and Urban Planning* (Ahern, 1995), edited by one of the current editors, Fábos and Ahern, was the first special issue devoted to greenways. This special issue of 26 papers was dominated by authors from the United States and Canada, because the majority of greenway activity at that time was occurring in North America. Only three individuals or groups from Europe were included in this special issue (T. Turner of UK, G.V. Tzoloua, Bulgaria and F. Burel et al. of France). This greenway

special issue was reprinted in the form of a book a year later under the title, *Greenways: The Beginning of an International Movement* (Fábos and Ahern, 1996).

Since the publication of our greenway book in 1996, the editors discovered significant interest in greenways around the world, hence the need to expand the coverage of international greenway planning. For example, in Europe planners in two countries organized greenway conferences in recent years. In Italy, Alessandro Toccolini, a professor of rural landscape planning organized a series of greenway and related lectures during May of 1998 at the University of Milan. In Portugal, Joao Reis Machado, a planner, organized an international greenway seminar in Coimbra, in 2001 that included speakers from Europe and the United States. The European Council of Landscape Architects Educators (ECLAS) conference held in Budapest Hungary in September, 2002 included a half a dozen speakers who addressed greenways and related planning issues.

A notable international conference in Asia which featured several speakers talking on greenway type planning was at the 38th IFLA World Congress in Singapore during June 2001. Two of the keynote speakers and 15 other speakers were talking about greenways or on related topics. In the United States, two international greenway conferences were organized by the Rails-To-Trails Conservancy (RTC). These conferences, which were attended by the editors, presented a unique opportunity to recruit authors for a special issue on international greenway planning.

3. Special issue goal and contents

The goal of this special issue of *Landscape and Urban Planning* is to highlight recent trends in greenway planning around the world, as well as to expand the literature about greenway planning. Furthermore, this special issue will explore how landscape architects and planners from different countries have approached greenway planning and to understand how greenways have been tailored to each countries unique geographical, cultural, and political circumstances.

To reach this goal, we invited over 30 landscape architects and planners from five continents to contribute manuscripts for this effort. The participants were chosen because of their leadership roles in greenway planning in their respective countries and the majority

were landscape architects. The world-wide distribution of authors is much expanded from the previous special issue in 1995. Not surprisingly, North America is expected to yield the largest number of papers with approximately 10 papers, depending on how many papers make it through the review and revision process. The European greenway planners are also well represented with two papers in the first, and four papers are promised for each of the second and the third special issues. Asia, the largest continent, is represented by seven authors. Greenway planning in Africa, Oceania and South America is very limited. Each of these continents are represented only by one author.

This special issue covers the first 10 papers that were completed. Future special issues of *Landscape and Urban Planning* will include the remaining 15 or so papers that are now in the review and revision stages. The manuscripts presented in this special issue represent the work of authors from four continents, including six from North America (Arendt, Erickson, Fábos, Gobster and Westphal, Ryan and Hansel, and Conine et al.), two from Europe (Andresen et al. and Jongman et al.), one from Asia (Asakakawa et al. from Japan), and one from Oceania (Mugavin). Subsequent special issues will have an even more international focus with fewer papers from North America.

4. Themes of special issue

The papers in this special issue cover several key themes in greenway planning and fall into five general categories: (1) public perceptions' of greenway corridors particularly along rivers; (2) case studies comparing historical and modern greenway planning at the metropolitan scale; (3) greenways networks for land preservation at the community scale; (4) historical and cultural greenways; and (5) large-scale greenway planning at the regional, national and international scale.

Since greenways often encompass both government-owned land and private land, implementation of greenway plans must rely on understanding the public's perceptions of greenways and involve the public throughout the planning process. Three paper in this special issue focus on public perceptions' of greenways. Paul Gobster and Lynne M. Westphal, research social scientists from the United States Forest Service, in their paper, "The Human Dimensions of

Urban Greenways: Planning for Recreation and Related Experiences,” describe a long-term study of the public’s perceptions of the Chicago River greenway corridor that runs through a cross-section of one of the largest metropolitan areas in the United States. Of particular note is these researchers use of multiple qualitative research methodologies including interviews and participant drawn images of the river to ascertain public perceptions and visions for this urban river.

Across the globe in Sapporo, Japan; Prof. Soichiro Asakawa of Hokkaido University led a team of researchers on a study of public perceptions of urban stream corridors in this metropolitan area’s greenway system. While more quantitative in its approach, this study also found that the type and maintenance of streamside vegetation along with the type of river channel had a significant impact on public perceptions. Moreover, different types of greenway users, recreationalists, for example, had different perceptions of these corridors.

One of the co-editors of this special issue, Robert Ryan and Juliet T. Hansel studied landowner’s attitudes toward recreation and greenway development along the Connecticut River in the Hartford (CT, USA) metropolitan area. In particular, this study looked at the increasing demand for recreation use of private farmland in the high density northeastern United States and interviewed landowners’ about their acceptance and concerns for expansion of trails and other recreation use of their farm and floodplain forest land.

The metropolitan scale greenway is also the focus of the next two papers by Donna Erickson and Damien Mugavin. Both of these authors take a historical perspective to trace the development of greenway and greenspace systems as part of the growth of selected metropolitan areas in their respective continents. Erickson compares historic and contemporary greenways in Milwaukee (WI, USA) and Ottawa (Ontario, Canada). These in-depth case studies show park systems, which today might be termed greenways, as integral to the development of each city, while more consciously planned greenway networks are part of more recent metropolitan regional planning efforts. Mugavin traces the development of the quintessential example of Australian greenways, Adelaide’s River Torrens Linear Park and relates it to the colonial settlement of the city. The importance of river corridors

as natural greenway corridors is one theme that unites these greenway case studies. The other theme is using greenways as a proactive strategy for protecting natural and cultural resources before urbanization occurs, as discussed by Ahern (1995) in the first special issue of this journal devoted to greenways.

Two other papers in this issue by Randall Arendt and Ashley Conine, Wei-Ning Xiang, and others follow this theme of using greenway networks as a planning strategy at the community or local scale. Arendt (1996, 1999), well known for his many books on conservation and community planning details an approach to creating greenway corridors as part of conservation-oriented subdivision design in the eastern United States. He gives a step-by-step approach that planners can use to develop greenway networks at the local scale by encouraging private real-estate developers to cluster residential development and dedicate the remainder of their private land as conservation or park land. He gives examples of how local governments have used community-wide greenway plans to coordinate private real-estate developments. By relying heavily on the private sector, Arendt’s strategy for greenway implementation maximizes the benefits for the local community with a minimal amount of public investment, which is especially important for local governments that have limited financial resources.

Conine, Xiang and others, describes proactive greenway planning efforts in a rapidly urbanizing small town near Charlotte, NC, USA. By striving to have greenways achieve multiple benefits for the community, including recreation, environmental protection, and alternative transportation; these landscape architects and planners were able to develop a finely-tuned landscape assessment model using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to identify potential greenway corridors before development had occurred. This “classic” suitability model is well documented for future greenway planners and illustrates the trade-offs that are necessary when identifying a multi-purpose greenway corridor.

In addition to community planning, greenways can be used for proactive planning of threatened historic and cultural resources as illustrated by a study from Portugal by Teresa Andresen and others. The Duoro river valley is famous as the Port wine growing region in northern Portugal. Andresen and her colleagues

describe the designation of this region as a UNESCO World Heritage area and illustrate how greenway planning strategies can be used as part of the cultural protection of the historic vineyards, terraces, and structures of the region.

The remaining two papers in this special issue increase the scale of inquiry to national and regional scale greenway planning. Rob Jongman (The Netherlands) along with Mark Kulvik (Estonia) and Ib Kristiansen (Denmark) compare “European Ecological Networks and Greenways” in 15 countries across Europe. This detailed study looks at the public policy, legislation, and natural resource plans that strive to protect ecologically significant resources in each of these countries. The unique cultural heritage of each country plays a significant role in historic land uses and attitudes toward nature, which in turn influences the planning and implementation efforts for nature protection.

Finally, one of the co-editors of this special issue, Julius G. Fábos outlines the history of greenway planning in the United States and describes two of his recent greenway plans at the national scale of the continental United States and regional scale of the six state New England region. Using his definition of greenways as multi-purpose greenways (Fábos, 1995), these studies identify significant corridors for nature protection, recreation, and historic/cultural preservation. Each of these case studies illustrate the importance of developing a vision plan to guide future planning efforts as well as outlines a clear methodology for greenway planning that can be used at multiple geographic scales.

In summary, this special issue of *Landscape and Urban Planning* devoted to international greenway planning showcases a range of planning approaches, methods, and projects from many different countries and regions. Our initial review of subsequent papers suggested that the greenway movement has expanded to other regions of the world since the first special issue, volume 33, in 1995, including Asia. Furthermore, greenway planning has become more integrated into public policy and government planning efforts. While in some countries such as the United States, Canada, and Great Britain, local non-profit groups led by local citizens have spurred the greenway movement, in other countries, such as those described by Jongman and co-workers in their paper, greenways have been

promulgated by regional and national governments. Future special issues will focus on these different approaches to greenway planning from Asia, Europe, Africa, and the Americas.

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