

Gravitating to the Water

"The water is a magnet," says C. Douglas Coolman, principal with **EDSA** (Fort Lauderdale, FL), a planning and landscape architecture firm involved with waterfront development. "People gravitate to the water's edge. Waterfront development happens as communities reevaluate the importance of quality of life issues. Municipalities have an obligation, not only to the people who live along the water but to all of the constituents, to give people an opportunity to enjoy the waterfront. Redevelopment makes sense."

Redeveloping waterfront property has multiple benefits – it can revitalize a sluggish downtown, attract new business opportunities, and build community relations. It's about aesthetics and quality of life, as well as creating an incentive to invest private dollars for the economic well being of the community. "The nature of redevelopment is changing," says Mike Kimmel, deputy director of the **Louisville Waterfront Development Corporation** (Louisville, KY). "This is an economic engine that drives a lot of growth in terms of renovating abandoned warehouses and things of that nature that have been wasting space in downtown areas. People who work downtown become familiar with waterfront parks when they visit them at lunch. And then they come back in the evening with

their kids."

Here are a couple of examples of successful waterfront development projects:

- o The city of Columbus, Georgia, designed a 10-mile riverwalk that connects the downtown area to the Chattahoochee River. The scenic waterfront walk leads to parks along the river, water fountains, congregation points, and

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amphitheaters and has been very popular with the public. "It's absolutely gorgeous," says Sam Phlegar, vice president with Applied Technology & Management. "It's built high on the banks of the Chattahoochee River, and the architects put in a lot of overlooks.

Kids like it because they can rollerblade on it, and runners like it because they can start at one end and go back for a solid 20-mile run."

ATM has worked with the city for several years planning and permitting a 400-slip marina. The riverwalk will be extended along the edge of the marina basin and continue into Ft. Benning. In addition to the marina, the Oxbow Meadows area is envisioned to include a significant infantry museum, municipal golf →

HELPFUL WEB SITES

International Marina Institute (IMI)
www.imimarina.org

IMI is a marina trade organization that addresses various marina topics on a national and international basis. The IMI web site offers information about research, legislation, and environmental issues affecting the marina industry.

Boat Owner's World
www.boatowners.com

Boat Owner's World provides links to dozens of web sites related to the marine industry, including marinas, sailing, port authorities, and financial services.

Boating Industry Online
www.boatbiz.com

Boating Industry Online is managed by National Trade Publications, Inc. The company publishes trade magazines, including *Boating Industry International*, *Cleaning & Maintenance Management*, and *Water Technology*.

Boating on the Web
www.boatingontheweb.com

Boating on the Web provides information about marinas across the country, boat manufacturers, and boat shows, as well as links to other web sites.

Boating Online
www.boatingmag.com

This web site is the online version of *Boating Magazine*. It offers industry information, feature articles, and a calendar of industry events.

Boating & Sailing - By the Sea
www.by-the-sea.com

By-The-Sea offers information for boaters including listings of boats for sale, information about marinas, boat builders and dealers, feature articles and stories, and message boards.



Applied Technology & Management, Inc. (ATM) is an environmental, coastal, and water resources engineering firm. Our experienced staff has grown to over 70 professionals with a common goal - to forge long-term relationships with our clients.

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The Waterfront

A bi-monthly publication of Applied Technology & Management, Inc.

course, environmental learning centers, and other mixed-use commercial developments.

- o The Louisville Waterfront Development Corporation is in the process of creating the second phase of Waterfront Park along the Ohio River. The park hosted hundreds of events in its first full season of use in 1999, with an estimated total attendance of more than a million people. Work is currently in progress for Phase II of the project, which will add approximately 35 acres to the park, including another children's play area with water play, a pedestrian connection to Southern Indiana across the old Big Four railroad bridge, a small café, a rowing facility for school and community rowing groups, and an informal amphitheater. And waterborne visitors can use day docking facilities and cruise along the Ohio River to other destinations.

"One of the things we did that was very



successful was to create a great green space," says Kimmel. "We titled the land two blocks away from the river so you still have a good river view, even through the elevated

expressway." In order to slow down vehicle traffic around the waterfront, the city redirected the busy River Road around the park and added four additional turns. "It slows down traffic to give pedestrians an easier path across the road to get into

the park from the downtown area."

Waterfronts can provide one of the best opportunities for community enhancement, and being in tune with public interest is key. "You need to give people a reason to come down to the water," Coolman says. "You have to create some type of attraction - a promenade or a stage, or a park or playground to bring the kids, or just an open space. All urban areas need open green space, and green space on the water is probably much more valuable. o

Don't Miss a **BIG** Opportunity

The US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) recently announced a total of \$9 million in state grants to help improve docking facilities for transient, non-trailerable boats along the navigable waterways of the United States.

The grants are the first awarded under the Boating Infrastructure Grant (BIG) program authorized by the Sportfishing and Boating Partnership Act of 1998 and funded by excise taxes on motorboat fuel.

"The BIG program represents a big push in the improvement of recreational boating and fishing opportunities," says Marshall Jones, Acting USFWS Director. "It strengthens community ties to the water's edge by enhancing access to recreational, historic, cultural, natural and scenic resources for millions of boat owners.

Program funds are distributed each year over a four-year period. Awards for the first two of four cycles are complete. The third round of applications is now closed (September 2001). There is one remaining cycle with application receipt currently planned for August/September 2002.

For more information about the BIG program, visit www.boatus.com/gov/big.htm.

CALENDAR

October 3-6, 2001

BoatBuilding 2001
Tampa, FL

For more information, call Jennifer Thompson at (312) 946-6226.

October 3-6, 2001

Boston International In-Water Boat Show
Boston, MA

For more information, call (978) 777-4439.

October 21-24, 2001

International Marina Institute (IMI)
National Marina Conference & Trade Show
Fort Lauderdale, FL

For more information, visit www.imimarina.org.

October 25-29, 2001

Fort Lauderdale International Boat Show
Fort Lauderdale, FL

For more information, call (800) 940-7642 or e-mail ftlboatshow@aol.com.