

3RD ANNUAL NATURAL CONNECTIONS SUMMIT 2008

LOCALLY GREEN,
REGIONALLY CONNECTED

Thursday, September 25, 2008
THE PINNACLE CENTER
HUDSONVILLE, MI

wm-alliance.org

PROTECTING GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

Protecting the integrity of our Green Infrastructure helps us sustain natural resources and the picturesque and vibrant quality of life we enjoy in West Michigan. It also attracts and retains people and businesses and bolsters our economy.

WHY YOU SHOULD ATTEND

Local and state government officials, planners, educators, conservation organizations, businesses, and individuals will experience collaborative methods, how to implement "best practices", and the application of tools for Green Infrastructure.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: KAREN FIREHOCK

Ms. Firehock has over 20 years of experience in environmental planning and natural resources management. She is the director and co-founder of the Non-profit Green Infrastructure Center (CIC) located in Charlottesville, VA. The CIC helps communities develop strategies for protecting and conserving their ecological and cultural assets through environmentally-sensitive decisions, lifestyles, and planning.

Karen has authored numerous publications including, *Green Infrastructure Curriculum Guide* (2007), *Local Watershed Management Planning, A Community Water Quality Approach*, (2003), *A Stream Corridor Protection Strategy for Local Governments*, UVA (2002).



Karen also served for seven years as a Senior Associate at the University of Virginia's Institute for Environmental Negotiation, ran a national Community-Based Collaboratives Research Consortium for universities and community groups; and for 12 years was the national Save Our Streams Program director at the Izaak Walton League of America.

GUEST SPEAKER: CHRIS BEDFORD

Chris Bedford is co-founder of the Sweetwater Local Foods Market (Muskegon) and President of the Center for Economic Security.

He is an award winning filmmaker and a nationally recognized advocate for the development of healthy, local food systems. He lives and works on an organic farm in Montague with his partner, Diana Jancek.



West Michigan Strategic Alliance
P.O. Box 68046
Grand Rapids, MI 49516



SUMMIT AGENDA

- 7:30 am Registration & Continental Breakfast
- 8:30 Welcome
Greg Northrup, WMSA President
Ken Freestone, Green Infrastructure Project Manager
- 8:50 Electronic Survey
- 9:00 Keynote Speaker: Karen Firehock
*"Green Infrastructure Planning
Regional to Local - and Back Again"*
- 10:15 Break
- 10:30 Guest Speaker: Chris Bedford
"The Economics of the Local Food Revolution"
- 11:15 Electronic Survey
- 11:30 Documentary by Chris Bedford
"The Organic Opportunity"
- 12:00 pm Lunch
- 1:00 Breakout Session 1
- 2:00 Breakout Session 2
- 3:00 Survey Results
- 3:15 Closing Remarks

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

(choose 2 that you would like to attend on the registration form)

- A** *LID - Low Impact Development Manual*: LID is a versatile approach to stormwater management that can be applied equally well to new development, urban redevelopment, and along transportation corridors. A LID guidance manual is an essential tool for local governments as well as property developers and designers to promote and build green infrastructure and advance integrated management practices. The speaker will introduce Michigan's recently published statewide LID manual.
- B** *INVEST - Integrated Valuation of Ecosystem Services Tool*: An interactive session demonstrating "real" applications of how planners, planning commissioners or other leaders might use INVEST. Discussion will also encompass data gaps, tool improvements and best methods for distributing INVEST. invest.wri.gvsu.edu/index.html
- C** *"Agriculture, A Key Sector in the New Economy"*: Learn how to apply "best practices" to help protect and enhance our agricultural economy using, PDR, agricultural zoning, entrepreneurial development systems and support regulations.

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REGISTRATION

\$50 (No refunds after September 10th)

Name: _____

Organization: _____

Title: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email (required): _____

Please circle your choice for each breakout session (see program):

Breakout #1 A B C

Breakout #2 A B C

Please indicate any special dietary needs here:

Credit card or check payment in the amount of \$50 to:

West Michigan Strategic Alliance
P.O. Box 68046
Grand Rapids, MI 49516
wm-alliance.org

For questions or to register:
Phone 616-726-2466 | Fax 888-776-7457
Email rsvp@wm-alliance.org

CREDIT CARD PAYMENT

Type (circle): Visa MC AMEX

Credit Card Number: _____

Name on Card: _____

Expiration Date: _____ Sec. code: _____

Billing Address: _____

City: _____ State/Zip: _____

Signature _____ Date _____

TEAR OFF AT PERFORATION



One registration per form.
Please copy for additional registrants.



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& FSC Certified Paper.