

## James F. Palmer, PhD, FASLA

Landscape Architect

### Education

- 1968–72 Bachelor of Arts, University of California, Kresge College, Santa Cruz, California
- 1972–76 Masters of Landscape Architecture, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Massachusetts
- 1976–79 Doctor of Philosophy, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Massachusetts

### Professional Experience

- 2009-present Landscape Architect, T.J. Boyle Associates, LLC, Burlington, Vermont.
- 2008-present Sole Proprietor / Scenic Quality Consultants, Burlington, Vermont.
- 1979-2008 Independent consultant
- 2006-present Professor Emeritus, Faculties of Landscape Architecture and Environmental Studies, State University of New York, College of Environmental Science and Forestry, Syracuse, New York
- 1980- 2006 Assistant through Full Professor, Faculties of Landscape Architecture and Environmental Studies, State University of New York, College of Environmental Science and Forestry, Syracuse, New York.

### Related Project Experience

#### *FairPoint Communications Wireless Broadband*

Providing aesthetic assessment services for the permitting of multiple wireless towers throughout the State of Vermont. Currently finalizing the visual impact assessment and prefiled testimony for an initial four tower project including coordination of all archaeological and historic resources – Current Project

#### *New York Regional Interconnect*

Provided expert review and testimony to Spectra Environmental for an opposing community consortium concerning the potential aesthetic impacts from a proposed 200 mile 400 kV high voltage direct current transmission line in New York State (NYS PSC Case 06-T-0650). Currently under review

#### *Long Island Offshore Wind Park*

Provided expert review to Mangi Environmental Group for the Minerals Management Service in preparation of the DEIS for the Long Island Offshore Wind Park. The proposal was for 40 off shore wind turbines to generate 140 MW of electricity. I successfully advocated that the visual assessment include a public acceptance study. Long Island Power Authority is currently reviewing whether to continue with the project.

#### *Concept Plan for Plum Creek's Lands in the Moosehead Lake Region*

Provided Maine's Land Use Regulation Commission expert review, analysis, and testimony concerning the scenic and related recreation impacts of Plum Creek's proposed development concept plan for their lands in the Moosehead Lake region (Zoning Petition ZP 707). The plan affects 400,000 acres and proposes nearly 1,000 residential lots, plus 1,000 units divided between two resorts. Since there was no scenic assessment at the time I was retained, I developed a work plan to characterize the scenic issues, focusing on scenic impacts along the shoreline. Based in part on my review, a new proposal was submitted one year later. My review in the second phase focused on the scenic impacts of hillside development. In both phases I made significant contribution to scoping and evaluating vegetation clearing demonstrations for their effectiveness in screening proposed development.

***Redington Wind Power Project***

In 2006 I was retained Maine's Land Use Regulation Commission to provide an expert review, prepared testimony, and testified before the Commission concerning the scenic and related recreation impacts of a 90 MW 30 wind turbine project on Redington and Black Nubble Mountains in Redington Township (Zoning Petition ZP 702). My contact was Marcia Spencer Famous (phone: (207) 287-4933, or by email at [Marcia.spencer-famous@maine.gov](mailto:Marcia.spencer-famous@maine.gov)).

***Cape Wind Project***

In 2003 I was retained by the Alliance to Protect Nantucket Sound to provide an expert review, and prepare commentary concerning the scenic and recreation impacts associated with the construction of Cape Wind, a proposal to locate 130 wind turbines in Nantucket Sound to generate up to 420 MW of electricity. The US Army Corps of Engineers initially oversaw the preparation of the DEIS. The visual impact assessment did not follow the Corps' recommended procedures, and was clearly inadequate. Congress moved permitting authority for off shore alternative energy projects to the Minerals Management Service, Department of the Interior. The permitting process was reinitiated and I reviewed the new DEIS. My contact with the Alliance to Protect Nantucket Sound is Audra Parker (phone: 508-775-9767, email: [audra@saveoursound.org](mailto:audra@saveoursound.org)).

***Brookhaven Energy 580-megawatt Natural Gas-fired Electric Generating Plant***

In 2002 I provided an expert review, prepared testimony, and testified before the New York State Public Service Commission concerning the visual impacts associated with the construction of a 580-megawatt Natural Gas-fired Electric Generating Plant in Brookhaven, New York (Case 00-F-0566). I was under subcontract to Spectra Environmental Group who represented the Town of Brookhaven. My contact at Spectra Environmental Group was Robert C. LeFleur, President (phone: 518.782.0882, phone: [rclafleur@spectraenv.com](mailto:rclafleur@spectraenv.com)).

***Bangor Hydro-Electric 345 kV Transmission Line***

In 2002 International Paper retained me to provide an expert review, prepared testimony, and testified before the Maine Board of Environmental Protection concerning the scenic and recreation impacts associated with constructing an 84-mile 345 kV transmission line from Orrington to Baileyville, Maine (Application # L-17131-29-E-N and L-17131-31-F-N). The line would be primarily located in a new corridor on land owned by International Paper and cross several streams and rivers that were important Atlantic salmon spawning areas. Among other things, I advocated consolidating the transmission line in the existing Stud Mill road service corridor. The permit was denied. My contact was their lawyer, P. Andrew Hamilton, of the firm Eaton, Peabody, Bradford & Veague (phone: (207) 992-4332, email: [AHamilton@EatonPeabody.com](mailto:AHamilton@EatonPeabody.com)).

Two years later Bango Hydro-Electric submitted a revised plan based on the consolidated corridor that was approved. I provided minor advice on this second application.

***Public Acceptance of the Wind Power Project in Searsburg, Vermont***

Between 1996 and 1998 I was retained to evaluate the public's acceptance before and after the construction of the Searsburg Wind Power project. The study evaluated knowledge and opinions concerning electric power generation, but focused on the advantages and disadvantages of wind energy. Visual simulations were incorporated into the questionnaire to evaluate scenic impacts. The survey was sent to a randomly sampled panel of residents in the region near a proposed project. My contact was John Zimmerman, Vermont Environmental Research Associates (phone: (802) 244-7522, email: [vera@northeastwind.com](mailto:vera@northeastwind.com)).

***Public Recreation Use of Two Vermont Hydroelectric Projects***

In 1990 and 1991 I was retained by Stetson-Harza, Utica, NY to conduct recreation use studies for the FERC hydropower development license applications at Essex 19 and the Clyde River, both in Vermont. I developed a survey plan for both power companies, prepared the questionnaires, conducted the analysis, and wrote the project reports.

***Visioning Workshops for Forestport, Inlet, and Old Forge***

Designed and conducted three visioning focusing on special community characteristics and how to preserve them in the face of development pressures. These workshops were sponsored by Central Adirondack Partnership for the 21st Century.

***The Northern Frontier Special Resource Study***

Managed the Special Resource Study to identify nationally significant historical, cultural, and natural resources associated with the area of New York known as the Northern Frontier during the period between the French and Indian War and the War of 1812. Nearly two hundred resources were identified, described, and mapped. Four alternative strategies to manage these resources were evaluated. The final report was submitted to the US Congress by the National Park Service.

***Community Landscape Perceptions: Dennis, Massachusetts***

Initially served as a survey consultant for a town study in the mid-1970s to determine the scenic values citizens assigned to different areas of their community landscape. Since then, I have conducted two independent surveys at ten year intervals that demonstrate the efficacy of scenic assessment methods, and the stability of the findings. These studies have been conducted in cooperation with the town planning department.

***Community Needs Survey***

Served as the survey consultant to the City of Rome, NY to establish priorities for the Comprehensive Planning Program. Worked with planning staff who conducted interviews of opinion leaders to identify possible community needs for which the City could plan. Prepared a questionnaire and random sample of residents. Conducted the data analysis and prepared project report.

***Aesthetic Impacts of Timber Harvesting on Middleground Vistas***

Directed this study co-sponsored by the White Mountain National Forest and the North Central Forest Research Experiment Station, U.S. Forest Service. Supervised preparation of realistic color simulation depicting alternative clear cutting intensities, patterns and sizes from tow viewpoints. Field validated simulations. Developed a survey instrument to evaluate visual preferences and knowledge of forest practices. Conducted surveys of regional opinion leaders and random samples of northern New Hampshire residents and northeastern Forest Service employees. Conducted statistical analysis, project reports and peer reviewed articles.

***Socio-cultural Assessment of Wetland Values***

Co-directed (with R. Smardon) a study of human use and values associated with wetlands for the City of Juneau, Alaska. All new construction had been prohibited under Federal regulation until a wetland management plan was approved. Conducted fieldwork to prepare an experiential, visual classification of wetlands. Conducted interviews with local opinion leaders and conducted two public workshops to identify a range of human use values and issues associated with wetlands. This material was used to develop a questionnaire. Developed a random sample of Juneau residents. Conducted a survey of Juneau residents and workshop attendees. Conducted data analysis, prepared project reports and peer reviewed articles.

***Allegany State Park Management Survey***

Directed a study to identify public acceptance of management alternatives in Allegany State Park for the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. The OPRH&P's proposed management plan was challenged for not identifying the public objectives for the park. Used a Delphi approach to identify management issues and alternatives through the mail. The results were used to prepare a questionnaire to evaluate management objectives. Conducted a survey of the park's advisory board, a random sample of park campers and a stratified random sample of residents within approximately 50 miles of the park. Completed the data analysis and prepared project reports.

## Memberships and Affiliations

American Association for the Advancement of Science, American Society of Landscape Architects (Fellow), American Planning Association, Council of Educators in Landscape Architecture (Fellow), Environmental Design and Research Association, International Association for Landscape Ecology, Landscape Research Group (UK), Vermont Green Building Network, Vermont Planners Association

## Awards

2008	Merit Award, ASLA Professional Awards Program
2006	President's Award, Council of Educators in Landscape Architecture
2006	Elected Fellow, Council of Educators in Landscape Architecture
2003	Elected Fellow, American Society of Landscape Architects
2002	SUNY Chancellor's Award for Exemplary Contributions to Research
2000	Merit Award, ASLA Professional Awards Program
1999	Certificate of Appreciation, U.S. Department of Agriculture, for contributions to the NED-1 expert system.
1998	Merit Award, ASLA Professional Awards Program
1995	Visiting Fellow, Staring Centrum, Wageningen, The Netherlands.
1993	Outstanding Planning Project for Community Research in Comprehensive Planning American Planning Association, New York Upstate Chapter
1979	First Award, Environmental Design Research Association
1977	Citation, Progressive Architecture Awards Program

## Selected Publications

Palmer, J.F. 2008. The perceived scenic effects of clearcutting in the White Mountains of New Hampshire, USA. *Journal of Environmental Management* 89(3):167-183.

Palmer, J.F. 2004. Using spatial metrics to predict scenic perception in a changing landscape: Dennis, Massachusetts. *Landscape and Urban Planning*, 69(2-3):201-218.

Palmer, J.F., (project coordinator), et al. 2002. *The Northern Frontier Special Resource Study*. Boston, MA: Boston Support Office, National Park Service. 122 p.

Palmer, J.F. and R.E. Hoffman. 2001. Rating reliability and representation validity in scenic landscape assessments. *Landscape and Urban Planning*, 54(1-4): 149-161.

Palmer, J.F. 2000. Reliability of rating visible landscape qualities. *Landscape Journal* 19(1/2):166-178.

Twery, M.J., H.M. Rauscher, D.J. Bennett, S.A. Thomasma, S.L. Stout, J.F. Palmer, R.E. Hoffman, D.S. DeCalestra, E. Gustafson, H. Cleveland, J.M. Grove, D. Nute, G. Kim and R.P. Kollasch. 2000. NED-1: Integrated analysis for forest stewardship decisions. *Computers and Electronics in Agriculture* 27(1):167-193.

- Palmer, J., and J. Roos-Klein Lankhorst. 1998. Evaluating visible spatial diversity in the landscape. *Landscape and Urban Planning* 43(1-3): 65-78.
- Palmer, J.F. 1997. Stability of landscape perceptions in the face of landscape change. *Landscape and Urban Planning* 37(1/2): 109-113.
- Palmer, J.F. 1996. The 1996 status report on computing skills and training in landscape architecture. *Computing* 9(2):2-5. [reprinted in *Upstate Landscapes* 14(1) 7-10, 1997]
- Palmer, J.F., S. Shannon, M.A. Harrilchak, P. Gobster, and T. Kokx. 1995. Esthetics of clearcutting alternatives in the White Mountain National Forest. *Journal of Forestry* 93(5): 37-42.
- Palmer, J.F. 1991. Representing error in GIS modeling. In K. Beard & B. Bittenfield (co-leaders) NCGIA Initiative Seven Position Papers: Visualization of the Quality of Spatial Data. Orono, Maine: NCGIA. 6 p.
- Palmer, J.F., S. Alonso, K. Dong-hee, J. Gury, Y. Hernandez, R. Ohno, G. Oneto, A. Pogacnik, and R. Smardon. 1990. A multi-national study assessing perceived visual impacts. *Impact Assessment Bulletin* 8(4): 31-48.
- Palmer, J.F. 1990. Aesthetics and quality of life. Appendix V. In *Ecosystems and their Human Values* (48th Meeting of the Chief of Engineers' Environmental Advisory Board, U.S. Army Engineer Waterways Experiment Station, Vicksburg, MS) pp. V1-V15.
- Palmer, J.F. and R.C. Smardon. 1989. Measuring human values associate with wetlands. In L. Kriesberg, T. Northrup and S. Thorson (eds.) *Intractable Conflicts and Their Transformation*. Syracuse, NY: Syracuse University Press. pp. 156-179.
- Smardon, R.C., J.F. Palmer, A. Knopf, K. Grinde, J.E. Henderson and L.D. Peyman-Dove. 1988. Visual Resources Assessment Procedure for US Army Corps of Engineers. Instruction Report EL-88-1. Vicksburg, Mississippi: US Army Engineer Waterways Experiment Station. 71 pp. plus appendices.
- Smardon, R.C., J.F. Palmer and J.P. Felleman (eds.). 1986. *Foundations for Visual Project Analysis*. New York: John Wiley & Sons. 374 pp.