

# 1. Executive Summary

This document is the product of a research study conducted by David Sprunt, ASLA, and Michael Weir, Associate ASLA, (the research team) for ASLA Colorado during 2013-15. The study was funded by matching research grants from ASLA Colorado and ASLA. Its goal is to build legislative support for continued licensure of the profession in Colorado. Colorado's Landscape Architecture Practice Act, enacted in 2007, is scheduled for sunset review in the 2017 legislative session.

This research expands upon a 2010 study conducted by Erin Research for the Council of Landscape Architecture Registration Boards (CLARB). That study defined public welfare in the context of landscape architecture and identified seven impact areas where landscape architecture benefits the public welfare.

Using the CLARB study as a foundation, the research team developed and tested a systematic method for evaluating and communicating the public welfare benefits of landscape architecture projects. This information will be used to create advocacy documents and strategies to help the association build political support for continued licensure of the profession during sunset review.

Specifically, the products of this study will be used to develop our advocacy message and delivery methods, and thereby enhance lawmakers' understanding of how the professional and regulated practice of landscape architecture benefits the public. By delivering a compelling message of the positive impact that landscape architecture has on the public welfare, ASLA Colorado aims to gain political support and votes for renewal of the Landscape Architecture Practice Act in 2016-17.

Key products of this study are:

- An inquiry and evaluation tool that can be used to gather public welfare benefit information about specific landscape architecture projects,
- A site-based case study document template used to consolidate and present information about landscape architecture's public welfare benefits in a concise and readable format. These documents will be used in advocacy and education efforts with public officials,
- Two case studies presented in the case study template format, as a proof of concept demonstration, and
- A proposal for the creation of an online information database that could contain a wide array of information about landscape architecture projects, including public welfare benefit information.