Preserve the Greenbelt Program

Dominion Bridge
Designed by Yves Béhar and fuseproject
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Exposures Magazine is a publication of:
ASLA Colorado, PO Box 200822, Denver, CO 80220.
Visit us online at www.aslacolorado.org, or e-mail us at info@aslacolorado.org.

on the cover...

Paving detail at City of Centennial Center Park, designed by Design Concepts.
Happy Summer! We find ourselves at the midpoint of this historic year for our chapter. I am very excited to say that our membership has grown this quarter by 31 members! We’ve had the most posts to our Job Link in the Chapter’s history suggesting a strong and sustainable market for Landscape architects in our region.

I am pleased to announce that the American Society of Landscape Architects has elevated Axel Bishop to the Council of Fellows. The designation of Fellow is conferred on individuals in recognition of exceptional accomplishments over a sustained period of time. Individuals considered for this distinction must be full members of ASLA in good standing for at least ten years and must be recommended to the Council of Fellows by the Executive Committee of their local chapter, the Executive Committee of ASLA, or the Executive Committee of the Council of Fellows. Congratulations Axel.

With only 4 months until we play host to nearly 6,000 of our colleagues from around the world, great progress is being made to ensure the Colorado Chapter is strongly represented. Each of our 5 individual sub-committees is well underway. There is still time to participate in planning and creation of this historic event for our Chapter and State. Let me know if you’d like to get involved. Even with the busy summer your Chapter is still offering many opportunities for socializing and education. Please continue to check the website and our 3rd Quarter chapter post cards coming soon.

Robb Berg
2014 Chapter President
EXECUTIVE BOARD & COUNCIL OF DIRECTORS REPORT

The Executive Board is the elected governing body of ASLA Colorado and is chaired by Robb Berg, Chapter President. The board meets monthly. The Council of Directors is a larger appointed group that meets quarterly to support the board by providing support for association programs. The following is a highlight of the general chapter board and council activities since the last issue of Exposures.

April 2014. In April the Executive Board and Council of Directors met. The 2014 budget was reviewed and approved. Past President Ian Anderson presented a conceptual plan for a Sustainability Project involving several organizations. The board agreed to work with the project principals to help get it off the ground. Government Affairs Committee Chair David Sprunt reported that the Legislator of the Year Award was presented to Senator Josie Heath in the capitol, a news brief and photo is posted online on the news page of the website. Plans for various upcoming programs, events, and socials were discussed. There was discussion about liability insurance at social events where liquor is served and Greg Williams will research this issue with ASLA National and a local insurance broker. Additional plans for the ALSA National Convention and Expo in Denver were discussed.

May 2014. The Executive Board did not meet in May.

June 2014. The Executive Board did not meet in June.

Copies of the minutes and other relevant documents can be obtained by contacting Greg Williams, Executive Director, at (303) 748-0321 or e-mailing info@aslacolorado.org.
As your chapter representative to the national ASLA Board of Trustees, I’m pleased to have a few lines in Exposures to review the role and responsibilities of the Board and report on present and future decisions and priorities that affect the organization at the national and chapter level.

As most may know, the Board of Trustees is the oversight and policy setting body for the ASLA organization. Working with our elected national Executive Committee (national president, VP’s, and Executive VP Somerville) the Board biannually reviews the operational priorities, financial health, and primary services provided to the membership by the Society. Apart from the production of an acclaimed magazine, many may not know that ASLA is involved with everything from the availability and accreditation of college LA programs, to development of LA products and tools like the SITES site performance metric to political advocacy and public policy lobbying that supports the profession.

This year’s Mid Year Meeting was held May 16-17 in Washington DC and included reports by the National President Mark Focht FASLA, and Executive Vice President Nancy Somerville (CEO). Present focus areas of President Focht are the SITES initiative; Board Performance Task Force; Chinatown (Wash DC) Green Streets Demonstration Project; ASLA Headquarters master plan; and the 2014 Annual Meeting and EXPO in Denver. EVP Somerville provided an overview of programs and operations beginning with economic indicators such as on-track financial performance; membership trending up slightly; LAM advertising 8 percent ahead of 2013; Denver annual meeting and EXPO and sponsorships within 3 percent of 2013; JobLink postings up over 2013; and Business Quarterly showing slow improvement. With an annual budget of $10.2 million and revenues of $12 million and net assets of $5 million, the Society is in a strong fiscal condition.

**DUES INCREASE PROPOSAL**

One of the questions before the Board this year was a proposed member dues increase. In 1999, the Board established a policy calling for the evaluation of member dues every two years. The Finance and Investments and the Member Services Committees are responsible for evaluating the dues structure and making recommendations to the Board. The criteria used in the evaluation are: 1) the Consumer Price Index (CPI); 2) total dues revenue as a percentage of the budget; and 3) the cost of programs and services. While the Society has successfully weathered the economic constraints of the past five years, program costs are rising, averaging three percent in 2013 and 2012. A dues increase would help to avoid cuts in the program services provided to members. The Committees met several times to review the
above factors and the final consensus was to align the dues rate increase with the three percent increase in program costs experienced over the prior two years. The recommendation was to increase dues three (3) percent or ten (10) dollars, effective January 1, 2015 and then again in 2016 for Full, International, and Affiliate Members. Additionally, the Committees recommended an increase of five dollars, effective January 1, 2015 for emerging professionals. With the data presented and after some spirited discussion, the Board accepted the recommendation unanimously.

SITES INITIATIVE
The other major topic that the Board has been grappling with over the last year was the status of the SITES Initiative and challenges presented by our partner in the effort, the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center/University of Texas at Austin, applying for sole patent ownership and protection of SITES. Since that action and various legal maneuvers, the Green Building Certification Institute (GBCI) the project certification and professional credentialing arm of the U.S. Green Building Council that administers the LEED system, has stepped in to provide an agreement proposal. Under that proposal ASLA, UT, and the GBCI would negotiate an agreement that will enable the start of open project certification and ensure the long-term future of the Sustainable Sites Initiative™ (SITES™). GBCI would assume the role of administrator and manager of the SITES program to most quickly enable SITES v2 to launch and realize its full potential for market use and integration. The solution proposed was very much in keeping with ASLA’s past proposals to the SITES partners as a way out of the patent dispute. Since that time, discussions with GBCI have progressed positively. The outline of the proposed agreement is as follows:

• GBCI will own/purchase all of the SITES intellectual property.
• GBCI will manage SITES, including project certification, professional credentialing, and future revisions of the Guidelines and Rating System.
• ASLA and the SITES partners will have ongoing recognition as the founders/developers of the program;
• ASLA and the SITES partners will have permanent seats on an advisory council to provide ongoing input;
• ASLA and the SITES partners will each have individual, royalty-free licenses to produce related educational content.
• SITES will be rebranded. (This was proposed by ASLA to enable the project to proceed while the trademark dispute is still pending.)

The Board was asked to vote to approve these principles and support the transfer of the SITES intellectual property to GBCI (pending negotiation of specific contract provisions that protect ASLA interests as well as an acceptable purchase price/arrangement).

These were highlights of this year’s Mid Year meeting. Please share any questions, comments, or concerns you may have about the Board of Trustees, the national organization, or any other ASLA topic. As Colorado Trustee, I work for you, so don’t hesitate to contact me.
From Olmsted’s pastoral landscapes to Corner’s infrastructure park, the High Line, the public’s perception and use of open spaces has transformed throughout the century. People are swiftly moving into cities, creating a predominately urban civilization in which landscape architects must pay close attention to the planning of the ever-changing public spaces. People need parks and public spaces more than ever. They need a space where they can feel grounded again and escape some of the chaos that at time ensue the cities. A park no longer needs to be green, but rather a space within a public realm where social interaction and optional activities are the driving force of its vitality. New public spaces should react to the needs of the community and be flexible enough to change with the population over time. The Dominion Bridge in Ramsay is one such project that is investigating the needs of the community in regards to parks and public spaces and reacting to what they desire.

“INVESTING IN THE NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITY IN REGARDS TO PARKS AND PUBLIC SPACES”

Below

The master plan combines the repurposed historic foundry buildings, site artifacts, and new public spaces to create a vibrant community hub for Calgary.
Located just 1.5 miles from Calgary, Canada’s downtown core lays the oldest neighborhood of the City, Ramsay, and the historic Dominion Bridge foundry buildings that once produced steel for hundreds of bridges in North America. In 2013, Design Workshop was hired by New Urban Development to do concept design for the open spaces and public realm of a 10-acre mixed master plan developed by RTKL. The master plan combines the repurposed historic foundry buildings, site artifacts, and new public spaces to create a vibrant community hub for Calgary. The Dominion Bridge in downtown Calgary affords a rare opportunity to stitch together a historic neighborhood and new development with carefully articulated public spaces.

**BIGGER IS NOT ALWAYS BETTER**

Due to the goals of reusing existing buildings and reestablishing the historic city grid, Dominion Bridge in Ramsay does not have one large open space. The entire acreage of parks at Dominion Bridge is 7,000sq meters (15 percent of the total plan), but there is not a park larger than 2,000sq meters. Instead of one large open space it has a series of pocket parks, a large urban plaza, and urban ecological landscapes affectionately called “urban wilds” that are interconnected through a high quality pedestrian walking and bicycling environment. The program for these public spaces, once again, relates to the needs and wants of the Ramsay neighborhood. The smaller spaces will support smaller events, thus never creating a large amount of traffic in the neighborhood.

The design and programming for the public spaces in Dominion Bridge have considered the needs, desires and character of the Ramsay community and the physical conditions unique to the site. Dominion Bridge will provide a variety of smaller parks and landscapes that complement not duplicate or challenge the parks that already exist within the Ramsay community. The smaller scale allows for display areas for local artists, areas to listen to local music and performances, an orchard and urban garden that will balance the existing community gardens, outdoor café seating, space for local grocers, and an urban wilds walking loop around the edge. Dominion Bridge will positively impact the community by creating a preeminent public realm for the neighborhood of Ramsay.

**Legend**

1. Mixed Use Blocks
2. Creative Office
3. Dominion Common
4. Dominion Building
5. Community Garden
6. Urban Wilds
7. Spine Road
PUTTING IT WHERE IT COUNTS

Public spaces will provide new activities for residents of the Ramsay community as a whole, as well as providing spaces for the residents to use year-round. Great urban cities such as Copenhagen and Malmö have similar climates to Calgary, yet, unlike Calgary, they have spaces that encourage people to use them even in the middle of winter. The urban framework of Dominion Bridge and the placement and heights of the buildings will optimize sun access and mitigate climatic conditions, encouraging people to linger longer year-round. The design preserves sun-filled spaces on all open spaces for most of the year and highly used public spaces, especially the central plaza, are significantly sunny for much of the year. When complete, Dominion Bridge will add five percent more usable open space than required by the City for wider community use and increase the canopy coverage to 27 percent, seven percent above Calgary’s forest benchmark.

To ensure the highest use of the parks at Dominion Bridge, New Urban Development engaged RWDI, a renowned climate and human comfort expert from Toronto, to study wind, solar, shadow patterns, and to run simulation tests on the design by using 3D models. The results of their simulations helped the design team locate the best possible locations for different programs within each of the distinct public spaces. The spaces utilize the sun in the winter, the shade in the summer, and mitigation efforts such as coniferous plantings and art pieces to prevent wind channeling in specific areas. RWDI will continue to be an integral part of the team and will help test and recommend mitigation strategies for the design of the public spaces as the design progresses.

During the planning process of the parks, a ‘spectrum’ of programming events was developed. Dominion Bridge in Ramsay is designed and programmed to accommodate as many and as wide a spectrum of community events as possible throughout the entire year. In a climate with unpredictable weather like Calgary, it is important to provide buildings and spaces which allow users to enjoy public space flexibly with the ability to modify the environment to accommodate human comfort. By keeping the sunny spaces shaded in the summer and the cold spaces warm in the winter, residents will be encouraged to enjoy the many activities planned for the community.
NEAR TERM INVESTMENT FOR A LONG TERM AFFECT
It can be said that the vitality of a park can be measured by how people use, care for and honor the space. The design and programming for the public spaces in Dominion Bridge has considered the needs, desires and character of the Ramsay community and the physical conditions unique to the site. During a workshop in January 2014, the design team met with the community to identify exactly what was needed and when it was needed. Within a short distance of the Dominion Bridge site, Ramsay has several existing amenities such as soccer fields, hockey areas, river walks, community gardens, tennis courts and baseball fields and natural features such as the Scotsman Hill escarpment. Dominion Bridge will provide public spaces that help Ramsay achieve its stated goals. For example, food production is identified as a goal within the Ramsay Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Plan. New Urban and its partner, Leaf Ninjas, have built a small, but important urban food forest garden for the community located at the popular gathering spot Café Rosso. It is the hope of New Urban and Leaf Ninjas the demonstration garden will not only produce food for the neighborhood but will also serve as a learning opportunity for local school children and be a built prototype for others in the community to implement elsewhere in Ramsay.

Ramsay is known as the artistic neighborhood and the neighborhood where art is created in Calgary. Currently, there is no opportunity for artists to display their work in the area. New Urban is fast-tracking one of the programming elements from the spectrum and created the PASSAGE Art Space, a long corridor between existing offices and the historic foundry building. The PASSAGE had its first exhibit called InDust:Real, which displayed local artwork and artists’ take on industrial artifacts. The premier had an excellent turnout and there continues to be daily visitors to this curated exhibit.

Dominion Bridge aims to create a distinguished public realm for the neighborhood of Ramsay. By integrating existing historical buildings, which have defined the area for years, with new architecture and public spaces unlike anything in the area, Dominion Bridge will create a new public realm that will encourage residents of Calgary to step outside and continually enjoy their parks and public spaces. It will encourage residents to wander their neighborhood and find new experiences in their park system.

Anna Cawrse, a project landscape designer, came to Design Workshop in 2012. With a Master of Landscape Architecture from Harvard’s Graduate School of Design and a bachelor’s degree of Landscape Architecture from Colorado State University, Anna brings a passion for urban design and public infrastructure to every project. Since joining Design Workshop, Anna has worked on numerous urban design, site design, and parks planning projects throughout North America. She is dedicated to researching, designing, and implementing the four rings of Design Workshop’s Legacy Design®: Community, Art, Environment, and Economics, into every project.

Program and Character:

1. Street trees using Silvics guide and tree branching specifications from City of Calgary
2. Corridor eating and sitting spaces
3. Urban raised planters
4. Parallel parking for local retail
5. Stormwater collected at Urban Rain gardens
6. Locally sourced pavers
7. Seasonal food carts
8. Historic rail lines preserved. Movable landscaps along the rail change with seasons and event programming.

ABOVE: The design and programming for public spaces in Dominion Bridge has considered the needs, desires and character of the Ramsay community and the physical conditions unique to the site.
The Institute for Environmental Solutions (IES), in partnership with the City of Wheat Ridge, implemented Preserve the Greenbelt Elementary Education Program, an education and urban reforestation program during the 2013-2014 school year. The program incorporated scientific analysis, riparian landscape planning, hands-on education, and volunteer involvement to improve the Wheat Ridge Greenbelt.

The Wheat Ridge Greenbelt, a 300-acre woodland open space bordering Clear Creek, is a cherished area to the people of Wheat Ridge and surrounding communities. In recent years, the Greenbelt has experienced ecological decline due to drought, extreme weather, and limited municipal resources. IES identified a unique opportunity to build on a previous IES restoration project, the Wheat Ridge Revive the Greenbelt! Program. In 2012-2013, IES, in collaboration with the City of Wheat Ridge, planned and implemented a pilot riparian restoration program to reverse the decline of Greenbelt trees. Over 200 volunteers planted more than 200 trees along Clear Creek in April 2013. Thanks to careful planting design (Kevin Lyles, Confluent Design), tree selection, planting, and maintenance, over 75% of these trees are flourishing in spite of the September 2013 and May 2014 floods.

IES WHEAT RIDGE PRESERVE THE GREENBELT ELEMENTARY EDUCATION PROGRAM

Based on the successful 2013 IES tree project, two local educators contacted IES about engaging elementary school students in learning about the local ecosystem, and in planting and caring for trees in the Greenbelt. With grant support from Xcel Energy, IES designed the Wheat Ridge Preserve the Greenbelt Elementary Program to teach 4th graders at Kullerstrand Elementary and 3rd graders at Mountain Phoenix Community School how to become Greenbelt Tree Stewards.
The initial stage of the project focused on information gathering from stakeholders, the IES steering committee, and local forestry and ecology experts. IES worked closely with Wheat Ridge Forestry and Open Space Supervisor, Margaret Paget, on site selection, tree selection, and project organization. Project plans considered the riparian system’s limitations for replanting and the Colorado Natural Heritage Program’s Biological Inventory. IES identified five critical aspects of the project:

- Stakeholder involvement
- Optimal site selection
- Optimal species selection
- Correct planting
- Maintenance of the saplings for three years.

Working closely with the teachers, IES planned and implemented three workshops in each of three classrooms and a half-day field trip for the two schools. In the Web of Life workshop, each student adopted an organism (plant or animal) that lives in the Greenbelt then connected a string to other students portraying related organisms, literally mapping a “web of life”. In the second workshop, students represented the parts of a tree and its environment, such as roots, branches, trunks, air, water, sunlight and nutrients. Each student then related parts of the tree and the resources needed for its survival, learning about balance and resource scarcity in ecological communities. Margaret Paget brought in samples of the saplings that the students would plant and gave an overview of planting and the ecology of the Greenbelt.

Sixty Mountain Phoenix Community School 3rd graders walked with teachers and parent volunteers from school to the Greenbelt south of 43rd Avenue at Moore Street on April 18 to put their new knowledge of the ecosystem to work. On April 23, thirty 4th graders from Kullerstrand Elementary School found their planting site south of West Lake near Youngfield. The students participated in three hour-long activities: planting two saplings, arts and crafts, and a nature walk led by Margaret Paget. IES Institute Associate Brian Kelly demonstrated proper planting techniques. Each student was encouraged to name their saplings, providing the opportunity to connect to their trees as they grow. The nature walk through a portion of the Greenbelt gave students a better understanding of the open space. In the arts and crafts activities, the children expressed their vision of the park, and created a souvenir to take home. Kids and volunteers all received custom t-shirts with their school logo and the title, Greenbelt Tree Steward. The third classroom workshop was designed to teach the children how to care for the newly planted trees so that they grow and thrive. Students played a board game depicting events that could help or harm urban trees.
COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AND PROJECT OUTCOMES

The Jefferson County Schools elementary science curriculum emphasizes learning that relates to the real world. The 4th grade curriculum focuses on living systems, living things, organisms and ecosystems. By connecting the ecological web of live in the Wheat Ridge Greenbelt to actually planting and caring for trees—a critical backbone of the ecosystem—science and the environment come alive.

The majority of 4th graders at Kullerstrand Elementary, a school with over 77% of its students receiving free or reduced-cost lunch, had never visited the Greenbelt, although their school borders the open space. Some of the students were astonished that access to this public space is free. Now each of them has a personal investment and motivation to visit, learn about, and care for the resource.

Based on the positive and enthusiastic feedback from students, teachers, administrators, and parents, IES has decided to work on developing an ongoing Greenbelt-based environmental education program for Kullerstrand 4th graders.

Mountain Phoenix Community School students are more familiar with the Greenbelt, and all have visited the area on school outings. Planting trees to restore damaged areas added a significant new dimension to the students’ experience. As with the Kullerstrand students, Mountain Phoenix students will now have a personal connection, making the Greenbelt an important part of their world.

In the first two months after planting in April, over 90% of the saplings are leafing out and thriving. This indicates that the students did a proper job of planting, and the species and sites selected were appropriate. IES Wheat Ridge Tree Stewards, staff members, and parent volunteers continue to care for the new plants. IES has made special collaborative arrangements for the City of Wheat Ridge to deliver a constant water supply for volunteer stewards use.

"THERE WEREN’T A LOT OF TREES BUT NOW THERE ARE A LOT OF TREES”
Sergio, 4th Grade

BELOW!: Tree planting sites were selected to provide improved tree canopy in areas most in need while optimizing survival of newly planted trees.
THE IES TREE PROJECT

The mission of the IES Tree Project is to improve Colorado cities using tree science. Through collaborative, multi-disciplinary partnerships and programs, IES restores natural systems and urban green infrastructure; educates children and adults to become environmental stewards; rehabilitates, improves and maintains critical urban natural resources; and improves community health and economies.

IES connects people with their environment. In 2010-2011, IES collaborated with Mitchell Elementary School and the City of Golden on Trees for Healthy Kids and Community to plant 40 trees to improve the school environment — reduce air pollution and noise from the adjacent highway, control storm water, and mitigate wind. After three years, City of Golden Forester, Dave High, describes the project as “a big success” with the majority of trees thriving. IES partnered with the City and County of Broomfield on Trees for a Healthy Community and Economy in 2011-2012, developing and implementing a plan to protect the environment while improving the local economy in Broomfield’s civic center.

Based on experience through these projects, IES has determined that the following five factors go into successful tree planting and survival.

1. Thorough collaboration with the full range of interested stakeholders
2. Careful planning of the education and planting program
3. Careful selection of the planting sites and plant species to optimize survival
4. Good instruction and proper planting
5. Plan and implement appropriate maintenance

We look forward to building on this experience, and continuing to train the next generation of tree stewards. IES welcomes comments, questions, and volunteers. Please contact us at Solutions@i4es.org or www.i4es.org.
upcoming EVENTS

**AUG**
- Small Business Bootcamp - Design Budgets/Contracts, Aug 7
- Boulder Summer Social, Aug 14

**SEPT**
- Small Business Bootcamp - Risk Management, Sept. 11
- Chapter End of Summer Social, Sept. 11
- Women In Design (WID) Fall Event with Mary Margaret Jones, of Hargreaves, Sept 23
- 20th Annual Pheasant Hunt, Sept 25

**OCT**
- APA Colorado Annual Conference, Oct. 1-4
- Small Business Bootcamp Building Wealth, Oct. 8
- ASLA Colorado Design Awards Submittal Deadline, Oct. 10

Check the ASLA Colorado website for more events: www.aslacolorado.org

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For more information on sponsorship opportunities, please contact Greg Williams, Executive Director of ASLA Colorado at info@aslacolorado.org
The Call for Entries for the 2014 ASLA Colorado Professional Design Awards will be released late summer of 2014. Now is a great time to start thinking about projects for this year's program. The Design Awards Program is ASLA Colorado's premier event, recognizing top work from the chapter's members in Colorado and Wyoming.

The submittal deadline for this year's Design Awards will be October 10, 2014. More details coming soon, and will be posted on the chapter website when available. www.aslacolorado.org

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