East West Trail
It takes a Team
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Douglas County leverages our capital and maintenance dollars to accomplish construction and maintenance of major park and trail projects.

See Feature Article on page 8.
Greetings! I would like to introduce myself as the new President of ASLA Colorado. It is such an honor and privilege to serve our Chapter alongside so many passionate and energetic professionals and I look forward to the opportunity to build new relationships and partnerships over the coming year.

We are coming off an exciting year at ASLA Colorado. Denver had the distinct honor to host the ASLA 2014 Annual Meeting & Expo and it was a great success on all counts. We were proud to be the Host Chapter for an event of this magnitude and feel it is a testament to all of the great work being done in Colorado by our talented and dedicated professionals! Building on the success and the energy of the Annual Meeting, we are poised to greet 2015 with enhanced enthusiasm and a renewed sense of purpose. ASLA Colorado already has a full slate of programs and events planned for 2015. Please check the website for details on our upcoming events.

In April, ASLA Colorado will be participating in the 2015 Board of Trustee’s and Chapter President’s Council Meeting and Advocacy Day in our nation’s capital. This meeting is our opportunity to bring together the leaders of the ASLA Chapters, the Board of Trustees and the National Executive Committee to share ideas, vote on initiatives and lobby our state senators and representatives to support policies that impact our profession. This opportunity serves as a great reminder of what an influential profession landscape architecture can be at all levels of planning and design.

Finally, I would like to thank all of our sponsors and our volunteers! All of you are committed to the promotion of the profession and we simply could not function without you. We are looking forward to a great 2015 and as always, hope to have open dialogue about how we can continue to improve and develop new programs and events. After all, we are your professional organization. As such, we always enjoy hearing about your events, activities, and news. Feel free to send us an email if you have information to share.

David Gregory
2015 Chapter President
president@aslacolorado.org
The Executive Board is the elected governing body of ASLA Colorado and is chaired by David Gregory, 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. Copies of the minutes and other relevant documents can be obtained by contacting Greg Williams, Executive Director, at 303-748-0321 or emailing info@aslacolorado.org.

**July 2014**

The Executive Board met in July. Judith Ward (Treasurer) reported on the income and expenses as they related to the budget. Mark Tabor (Trustee) reported on ASLA National activities. Don Godi reported on the weed application position paper. David Gregory reported on upcoming social events in the absence of Kelly Moore, membership director. Abe Medina reported on activity relating to Exposures. There was discussion about various upcoming events including the November ASLA Annual Meeting and Expo. It was agreed that there will be no December Awards Event in 2014 due to the timing of the November ASLA National meeting, instead a special event for the 2014 awards recipients will be held in 2015.

**August 2014**

In August the Executive Board and Council of directors met. The Board decided not to increase membership dues in 2015. A request from the University of Colorado Boulder to create a student chapter was received and it was decided to make a decision after additional information is received. It was agreed that ASLA Colorado will be a logo sponsor for the Cultural Landscape Foundation’s November “Rocky Mountain Mod” reception. It was also agreed to use the eMarketing service that ASLA Colorado subscribes to for future event marketing and registrations. Under the direction of David Gregory the nominating committee was convened to solicit candidates for the 2014-2015 term.

**September 2014**

The Executive Board did not meet in September.

**October 2014**

The Executive Board met in October. The organizers of Doors Open Denver encouraged ASLA Colorado to take on an enhanced role in 2015. Additional plans were made for the 2015 ASLA Annual Meeting and Expo in November. The nominating committee for the 2014-2014 Executive Board members issued a slate of candidates for vote.
EXECUTIVE BOARD & COUNCIL OF DIRECTORS REPORT

November 2014
The Executive Board met in November. The Board agreed to an expanded role with Doors Open Denver in 2015. Planning for design sessions at the ProGreen Expo were discussed. It was agreed that the 2014 Design Awards will be announced at the ASLA Annual Meeting this year and awards will be presented in the spring.

December 2014
The newly elected Executive Board and newly appointed Council met in November. New members briefly introduced themselves. A member of the Colorado Department of Regulatory Agencies State Board of Landscape Architects was present and provided an update on state activities. The Board received an update on the status of the Public Welfare Study. The Board received an update 2015 legislative issues by the association’s Legislative Liaison, Scott Meiklejohn. Gregory Williams, Executive Director, provided a PowerPoint orientation covering federal and state law, best association practices, and ASLA Colorado procedures. The Conflict of Interest Policy was distributed. There was general discussion about the 2015 spring Awards Event.

January 2015
The Executive Board met in January. Vivian Kovacs was introduced as the new volunteer Sponsorship Liaison and she presented plans and objectives for the 2015 sponsorship program. The Treasurer reported on fund balances and noted that Redpoint Resources (the association management firm) is bringing on a bookkeeper at the request of the association to handle bookkeeping and financial reporting duties. The Vice President of Government Affairs reported on anticipated legislation relating to fairness in public contracts. The Board voted to actively support this measure. A proposed dues increase for GreenCO was discussed. The annual contract for the Legislative Liaison was approved. A requested contribution for the ASLA National Building Renovation project was discussed. A request for financial support for the Dan Kiley Exhibit at the University of Colorado was approved.

February 2015
The Executive Board met in February. The Treasurer presented a draft annual budget for review and approval by email prior to the next Executive Board meeting. The GreenCO dues increase was approved. Financial support for the ASLA National Building Renovation project was approved. The Exposures Magazine Editor reported that there will be two issues in 2015, both digital, plus the printed Colorado Design Journal. Nominees for the ASLA National Olmstead Award were discussed and it was agreed to support Louis Bacon. The Colorado Council of Landscape Architects was discussed and it was agreed to dissolve this organization. A draft 2015 Events Calendar was reviewed and discussed. The Vice President of Government Affairs reported on the Pesticide Applicators Licensure Act (which had previously been voted on by email as a measure to actively support) and the Fairness in Public Contracts Act (also a bill the association is actively supporting).

March 2015
The Executive Board met in March. The Treasurer presented the new financial statements and chart of accounts which includes a Balance Sheet, a Profit and Loss Statement, and detailed statements by class and category. He also reported that the 2015 budget had been approved by email vote. Plans for the 2015 events calendar were discussed. Plans and locations for an October Awards Event were discussed. The Vice President of Government Affairs reported that the Pesticide Applicators Licensure Act (SB 119) and the Government Indemnification measure (HB 1197) both passed their respective chambers and are pending introduction in the second chamber. ASLA Colorado testified on both bills. Various regional events were discussed.
Modern Merits.

Minimalist design delivers maximum impact — the Tuscany Collection.
While building more for less is a mantra that is not new, it is now more critical than ever that parks and recreation agencies really explore and embrace how to accomplish this task. Let’s face it just because our budgets are shrinking it doesn’t mean our project load has diminished, or that elected officials will stop making commitments to the public that directly affect the way that we operate both with capital development and maintenance funding.

Douglas County leverages our capital and maintenance dollars by creating design and funding teams with the surrounding local, regional, state or federal governmental and quasi-governmental agencies to accomplish construction and maintenance of major park and trail projects. These are generally large regional projects that no individual agency would have the resources to complete in a timely manner. Any agency that will participate financially or in-kind is included. While partnership groups that plan, design, construct, and maintain large regional projects are not a new concept, the actual application of forming a partnership is something that may agencies will need to explore in these challenging financial times.

Forming partnerships can be challenging, but if agencies can look past petty differences and grasp the bigger picture of providing great parks and trails for the public the opportunities are substantial.
One such project is the East-West Regional Trail in Douglas County.

This 25 mile trail will stretch across the northern tier of Douglas County from Highlands Ranch in the west to the Town of Parker in the east. When completed, it will allow users the opportunity to trek several hundred miles through local, regional, and federal trails connections.

Douglas County has completed approximately 18 miles of the trail system. In doing so the County has formed connection, maintenance, and funding partnerships with the Highlands Ranch Metro Districts, and the City of Lone Tree; connection partnerships with Highlands Ranch Community Association, Castle Pines North Metro District, and the South Suburban Parks and Recreation District; and an easement agreement for the trail corridor with the Highlands Ranch Community Association, and the City of Lone Tree.

Another very important partner for this project was the Great Outdoors Colorado Trust Fund (GOCO - www.goco.org). The fund receives a portion of the Colorado Lottery and Powerball proceeds to benefit open space, parks, wildlife, and state parks. In 2008, GOCO awarded Douglas
County a substantial grant to fund the construction of this project. This additional monetary commitment was the catalyst needed to push this project over the top and ensure that phase one could be completed.

As you can see it was critical from the start to create a great partnership with a multitude of different public and private agencies to ensure that this project met or exceeded the design expectations. To ensure that all parties stayed on task the Architerra Group was hired to facilitate not only the design discussions, but also to take all of the varied ideas and demands and put those into a biddable set of construction documents. Although somewhat challenging at the start, this public private partnership developed into an efficient group that was able to provide a great recreational service to the public in a fairly short timeframe. If this project had been undertaken by any individual agency or as a series of small projects the timeframe for completion would have been substantially increased.

In 2012 using this same model, Douglas County began designing the remaining 8 miles of the regional trail. This new team includes Douglas County, the City of Lone Tree, the Town of Parker, the Colorado Department of Transportation, the Federal Highway Administration, the
Coventry Development Corporation, and the Urban Drainage and Flood Control District. By developing strong team bonds between local public and private agencies, as well as bringing in federal and state agencies, the team is better equipped to face the challenges of design, permitting and construction in a timely, cost effective and efficient manner. Construction of the next phase will begin in 2015.

This mindset is not only reserved for multi-jurisdictional regional trails projects, but can also be applied to any project where multiple public or private agencies may have a role or benefit from the completion of a project.

Douglas County also created a multi-jurisdictional team to design the Highland Heritage Regional Park in Highlands Ranch. The 92 acre park includes two playgrounds, three miles of concrete trails, two baseball/softball fields, ten soccer/football fields, a synthetic turf multi-purpose field, amphitheater, sand volleyball court, multi-use hard surface courts, picnic shelters, restrooms and an off-leash dog area. Design Concepts facilitated the design process and prepared the construction documents.

While bringing multiple agencies together for a project of any size can be intimidating and even unruly at times, the benefits for the community support and project completion are far greater than the obstacles presented.

Agencies should be encouraged to explore the possibilities of creating a team for an upcoming project. Remember with everyone doing a little we can accomplish a lot.

While bringing multiple agencies together for a project of any size can be intimidating and even unruly at times, the benefits for the community support and project completion are far greater than the obstacles presented.
Downtown Denver Parks & Public Spaces Master Plan

By Mark Bernstein

For over 150 years, Denver, the “Mile High City,” has prospered and flourished on its rich history beginning with the discovery of gold and unexplored wilderness. Denver was home to some of the Wild West’s most colorful characters from Buffalo Bill to Molly Brown. The adventurous spirit of the past thrives today, and is embodied in Denver’s culture.

In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, Denver experienced tremendous growth due in large part to the visionary leadership of Mayor Robert Speer. He was an enthusiast of the City Beautiful movement, and supported city planning and the urbanization of Denver. Speer was a civic idealist and believed humanity could be improved through a higher quality of life and an uplifting urban environment. His mission to build a modern city in the midst of the high plains prairie was bold and risky. Despite much criticism and skepticism, Mayor Speer persevered and completed major public improvements that define today’s urban form and character of tree-lined streets, historic parkways, parks and a civic center. Denver evolved from a dusty western town to the center of national spotlight in 1908 for the National Democratic Convention. In imagining Civic Center, Mayor Speer once said: “I believe that it will do more than anything else to advertise Denver - attract the tourist, health and home seekers; stimulate civic pride and encourage prosperity to abide with us.”

More than 100 years later, Denver continues to embrace and honor Speer’s philosophy as the City and County of Denver Department of Parks and Recreation and the Downtown Denver Partnership embark on a comprehensive Downtown Parks & Public Spaces Master Plan.

The 20-year plan will focus on investment in downtown’s parks and public spaces to enhance the quality of life by creating a sustainable, vibrant downtown that is economically healthy and growing. The master plan will serve as a supplement to the 2007 Downtown Area Plan and its five vision elements, including A Green City. The master plan will also support the policies and strategies of Parks and Recreation’s Game Plan through incorporating four key values: sustainability, equity, engagement and sound economics.

The Downtown Parks & Public Spaces Master Plan will include the eight districts in the urban center: Commercial core, Cultural core, Golden Triangle, Lower downtown, Arapahoe Square, Ballpark, Central Platte Valley (Commons) and Central Platte Valley (Prospect). In addition to the core districts, the Central Platte Valley (Auraria), Auraria Campus and Sunken Gardens Park have been identified as areas of influence and will be considered in the master plan. The approximate boundaries for the study area are Speer Boulevard, Interstate 25, Park Avenue West and Grant Street. Benedict Fountain Park and Sonny Lawson Park, located on the outer edge of Park Avenue West and Grant Street, will also be incorporated in the plan.
Denver is experiencing explosive growth, while Downtown Denver's parks and public spaces, both publicly and privately-owned, have remained fairly stagnant despite their ability to define the unique character of the urban environment. With over 300 days of sunshine a year, the City supports an outdoor culture where people desire to live, work and recreate. The public realm is that third place where Denverites can “re-create” themselves away from work and home. The quality of life found downtown continues to attract newcomers as Denver has become one of the nation’s best cities for 25-34 year-olds, a generation also referred to as the “Young and the Restless.” The residential population of downtown has grown 86% from 2000 to 2012, including a 35% increase in growth just in the last year. The City Center population within 1.5 miles of downtown grew 22%. Since 2000, the number of downtown households has increased by 110% and the City Center households grew by 32%. Even though the City has experienced significant growth and is projected to continue doing so, Downtown Denver must retain a desirable quality of life and remain competitive with other American cities for jobs and commerce.

**With so many cultural, entertainment and sports attractions located downtown, visitors from near and afar contribute to the forever changing face of downtown.**

Responsible, sustainable growth is critical for the future of the City. Currently, Denver’s park system ranks 17th nationally, according to the Trust for Public Land, with an average of 6.6 acres of park land per 1,000 residents. In comparison, Minneapolis ranked first with an average of 13.3 acres per 1,000 residents. For Denver to achieve its goal of being a world-class city of opportunity with an economically, healthy, growing and vital downtown, the City must continue to invest in its parks and public spaces.

The “face” of downtown is forever changing hourly, daily and weekly as people flow to and from for numerous reasons. It is the people who give downtown its vibrancy, and understanding their needs is challenging but necessary to better define the future vision for downtown parks and public spaces. From the 115,000 employees of downtown businesses who commute to work daily to more than 42,000 students attending one of the public higher education institutions at Auraria, these people seek opportunities for a respite through outdoor recreation and relaxation. With so many cultural, entertainment and sports attractions located downtown, visitors from near and afar contribute to the forever changing face of downtown. In 2012, 9.7 million people enjoyed Denver’s professional sports, cultural centers and theme parks while 900,000 people participated in numerous conventions at the Colorado Convention Center.

The engagement aspect of the planning process will be broad reaching, and will employ traditional and non-traditional methods to creatively and effectively include all socio-economic sectors of the downtown community. The planning process will integrate multiple committees from an Executive Committee, Selection Committee and a wide variety of technical committees focused on specific aspects of the plan.

In addition to the committees, key stakeholders will play a critical role in informing the plan. Public and private entities, including non-profit and for-profit organizations, will be represented.

The master planning effort will kick off in early September 2014 with the intent to have a final plan for City Council adoption in September 2015.
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upcoming EVENTS

MAY
- Colorado State University Native Plant Masters Program - Multiple Courses & Locations
  See full calendar at aslacolorado.org
- Second Wave of Modernism III
  Leading with Landscape - Conference and Tours
  May 21-24, Toronto, ON

JUNE
- Boulder County Native Plant Master Program
  S. Boulder Grasslands Open Space
  June 6, 13 & 20, Boulder, Colorado

JULY
- Historic American Landscapes Survey (HALS)
  Short Format Histories Due
  July 31, Washington, DC
FELLOWSHIP is among the highest honors the ASLA bestows on members and recognizes the contributions of these individuals to their profession and society at large based on their works, leadership and management, knowledge, and service.

The Fellows Nominating Committee of ASLA Colorado is currently accepting candidate nominations by chapter members for consideration. The Fellows Nominating Committee reviews potential candidates at the chapter level, and submits the best candidates to the ASLA Council of Fellows, who reviews candidates across all chapters. The Council of Fellows selects those candidates who will be elevated to the honor of Fellowship.

If you would like to submit a candidate for review at the chapter level, or would like more information on the process, please contact the chapter President.

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