Project Summary: Amidst the national narrative of police and community relationships, the landscape architect worked with the Aspen Police Department (APD) to develop their new facility around public space guided by the principles of trust, transparency and community outreach. A powerful alternative to planning a police station, the design is a model of transforming utilitarian sites, with the perception of conflict, into beautiful and multi-purposed public space.

The design also fulfills another vital community need, workforce housing. The landscape architect was instrumental in developing a site plan to address the challenge of co-mingling police operations, emergency services and multi-family housing with strategic circulation and outdoor amenity space. The public space design unites these different land uses on a constrained site, and seamlessly integrates with the surrounding urban fabric.
For decades Brighton Boulevard served as the back door gateway into downtown Denver connecting Interstate 70 and undeserved neighborhoods to Lower Downtown, through an isolated light-industrial district of warehouses and garages. Historically ignored by city government, the roadway exclusively served its industrial users, consisting of four lanes of asphalt, devoid of any pedestrian facilities, curbs, or drainage. The redevelopment of Brighton Boulevard transformed the roadway into the first complete street in Denver, integrating new pedestrian spaces, a raised cycle track and low-impact water-quality planters into an innovative streetscape that has become the home to the emerging River North Arts District (RiNo). However, the project achieved much more than the installation of the city’s first complete street. Through the community engagement process and streetscape design, Brighton Boulevard negotiated the conflicts of redevelopment and urban change, creating a place that is home to historic, vital industries, and new residents, restaurants and artists.
GATEWAY ARVADA RIDGE
ARVADA, COLORADO

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

When the City of Arvada received official notice that the Regional Transportation District (RTD) planned a new light rail line (The G Line) through their City with a new light rail stop in their community near Kipling Street, they went to work developing their master plan for the station and adjacent affordable housing. Several years later when the light rail station became a reality, the landscape architect played a key visionary role and was the primary facilitator for the design and development of the northern portion of the surrounding community that would serve as both a landmark and a focal point from the light rail station. The landscape architect proposed concepts for the City’s Public/Private Partnership (P3) that created meaningful open space park amenities that would become the heart and soul of the re-imagined community.

PROJECT TEAM

Landscape Architect: Norris Design
Norris Design Team: John Norris, ASLA, PLA
John Norris, ASLA, PLA
Patrick Meyer, PLA
Katrina Kowalski
Josh Orth
Kraig Weber
Scott Curry
Developer: Embrey
Sculptor: Kevin Robb
Architect: Kephart
Civil Engineer: HKS
Landscape Contractor: Land Tech
Student Art Team: Kansas State University Landscape Architecture, Architecture, Interior Architecture and Product Design Programs
HISTORY REVIVED
THE HOTEL JEROME + ASPEN TIMES BUILDING COURTYARD

Project Summary: A model for the potential that landscape architecture possesses to encourage the stewardship of historical properties, this commission returned a beloved public space to prominence. In recent decades, the courtyard and streetscape of this iconic 19th-century Victorian hotel had fallen into disrepair; its pool physically inaccessible; its plantings devoid of clarity; its dining terrace losing its competitive edge.

In concert with the rehabilitation of the adjacent – and equally historic – Aspen Times Building, the design transforms 11,000 square-foot into a trio of distinct, vibrant spaces. Although privately owned, local citizens held a deep sense of nostalgia, and the hotel’s historic role as a community “living room.” In response, a high-touch stakeholder engagement process entailed conversations with citizens and the Historical Preservation Commission to ensure the design would celebrate its historic character. Although entitlements spanned many years, the team collaborated on innovative strategies over the 11-month construction to minimize disturbance while the hotel remained operational. Collectively, timeless craft, public engagement and innovative construction propels the legacy of this place forward for a new generation of users.

ASLA COLORADO DESIGN AWARD ENTRY
Lakehouse is a multi-family, mixed-use project located within the St. Anthony’s Hospital Redevelopment, adjacent to Sloan’s Lake in Denver, Colorado. The Landscape is comprised of a ground floor retail plaza, streetscape, a 29,200 square foot rooftop amenity deck with a pool and spa, and a 3,820 square foot rooftop production garden. This is the first residential project in the world to earn WELL Building Certification. All aspects of the project promote human health and well-being by way of air, water, nourishment, light, fitness and mind. The Landscape contributes to the principles of WELL Building by means of food production, outdoor community spaces, and rich, expansive gardens. Collectively, these elements form the platform for self-reflection and ethereal awareness. Where the experience of community provides a sense of belonging, it is the immersion in the garden that one can seek meaning and understanding within themselves.

“For me, garden design isn’t just about plants, it’s about emotion, atmosphere, and a sense of contemplation. You try to move people with what you do.” – Piet Oudolf –

Lakehouse
Situated at the base of the Highland Pedestrian Bridge, Platte Street Plaza transformed the underutilized yet highly trafficked passageway into a dynamic gathering space. By filling a gap in the existing streetscape with trees, lighting and seating, Platte Street Plaza’s new parklike setting promotes connection and relaxation, while inviting residents, visitors and nearby office workers to pause, connect and explore.

With a layered landscape approach, the site design promotes connection and enhances circulation, aesthetics, experience and most importantly, pedestrian safety. The transformation turned a thoroughfare into a place where people can gather and linger. Through a public private partnership between the City & County of Denver and Unico Properties, the redesigned plaza now serves as the heart of the neighborhood.

“Now it’s for everybody.”
Amanda Sandoval, Denver District 1 City Councilwoman
PROJECT DESCRIPTION
Serving as a hub for wholesome family fun, RainDance River Resort features the state’s largest lazy river designed to connect its community with the rich agricultural history of Northern Colorado. A microcosm of its lively surroundings, the resort-style pool is situated within a 13.4-acre park and is connected to open space, orchards and farmland through an extensive trail network. Large scale amenities celebrate simple pleasures, and every element evokes an immersive experience of “Living in the Farm.”

At RainDance River Resort, authentic design details take root in nostalgia, while repurposed materials forward sustainability. Agrarian patterns guided the pool and landscape design, and farm equipment was modified to function playfully. A working center pivot irrigation system serves as a custom water feature. A silo tower slide spills to a lazy river in the shape of the RainDance logo. It’s a homegrown pool concept and a watering hole reimagined.

Water is the lifeblood of a farm, after all. RainDance River Resort is designed to be a central source for a thriving community.

PROJECT TEAM
Landscape Architect: Norris Design
Norris Design Team: Mitch Black, PLA
Brock Reimer, PLA
Vance Hall
Julia Summers
Ally Balderston
Carl Runge
Client: Water Valley Land Company
Architect: VFLA
Civil Engineer: TST, Inc.
Pool Designer: Integrity Pool Builders
Steam on the Platte (STEAM) is a mixed-use project in one of Denver's burgeoning neighborhoods along the South Platte River in central Denver. The STEAM site has a convenient downtown location, light rail stop, bike path, sports arena access, in a riverside setting that makes it a desirable location for enterprising leaders, creative pioneers, and residents who crave an authentic blend of Denver's historical and edgy culture. The project's stormwater system and central "green" defines and sustains a landscape framework that celebrates qualities of the riparian river corridor in the high plains environment of central Denver. Wenk Associates was the project team’s key problem solver – filling the gap between design vision and implementation, and providing a more holistic approach to site planning, seeking multiple-benefit solutions to the site's unique challenges.
Project Summary: Resting at the confluence of two rivers in Big Sky Country, Story Mill Community Park is now Bozeman, Montana's largest nature park and a destination for gathering and civic pride. The community has grown up around the project site, rich in cultural and natural resources. However, years of abandonment and decay, ecological disturbance and non-native species had transformed the site into fragmented terrain. Through design cues that celebrate and interpret the site's intermountain context, the new 60-acre park connects people in the rapidly urbanizing city to the rich agrarian heritage of the Gallatin Valley and the adjacent historic Story Mill. Adventure abounds in a playscape inspired by Montana's natural realm, vernacular architecture and childhood imagination, and the community's response and excitement has been shared widely from conception through opening, reflecting pride and ownership. The overarching goal of the project was to ensure that all people would have close-to-home access to a park and nature. The resulting park is undeniably, Bozeman.
Inherent to the collaborative design approach, the Client and design team emphasized continuity of site program, building program, and aesthetic to create an iconic project reflective of The Colorado Health Foundation’s civic prominence. Strategic site selection allows the Foundation to implement its full philanthropic resources, including grant making, policy and advocacy, and other tools necessary to improve the health of Coloradans. The location reflects the humility of the Foundation while increasing outreach and influence.

The Colorado Health Foundation
DENVER, COLORADO

Essential to The Colorado Health Foundation’s mission of “Bringing Health in Reach for all Coloradans”, the goal for their new headquarters was to pioneer the healthy building movement in Colorado and beyond. Working closely with the Client in programming and visioning efforts, the design team was able to define a “health positive” vision for the project and the following goals were defined:

- Visitors and employees become healthier by engaging with the project.
- The project inspires others in the development industry by way of thoughtful collaboration.
- Deliver an integrated design process and cost-effective solution attainable for others to follow.

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The south garden acts as respite space for employees yet remains open for public use. Connected to the public realm, it provides a place for privacy, social distancing, and contemplation along with creating an urban habitat for birds, bees, and wildlife.

The living wall acts as a backdrop to the spiral staircase. Users admire the natural systems of plants and water as they circulate vertically through the building, encouraging physical activity and air purification within the workplace.

The two rooftops allow for additional work space, dining, or fitness depending on the adjacency to interior uses. With additional connection to outdoor space, employees can reengage with views of the Uptown and Downtown areas.

Landscape architectural services were influential to connection to nature in both indoor and outdoor spaces. By way of three-story living wall, interior planters, and intentional transparency in architectural wall systems, users feel connected to biophilic principles in all spaces.

The project captures the only remaining non-vegetated roof area and celebrates the irreplaceable resource through visual and audible connection at the public right-of-way. The innovative design solution replaced traditional stormwater management of other infill projects in Denver.
hub (noun): A center around which other things revolve or from which they radiate; a focus of activity, transportation, and commerce.

As part of a 275,000 square foot mixed-use development in Denver’s RiNo neighborhood, the Landscape Architect led the design of a 15,000 square foot amenity deck. As a multi-tenant facility that is home to everything from start-ups to corporate headquarters, the design of the shared common spaces had to provide amenities to meet many needs. Inspired by the offerings of other larger tech campuses, the HUB’s amenity deck was conceived as the “Break Room” with a series of spaces that offer shared resources and provisions for employees. The outdoor space includes custom furniture, bocce courts, ping pong tables, hammocks, an amphitheatre, community grills, and meeting spaces. By drawing users to common areas, the design enables social intersections where people can meet, interact, and create a shared sense of community. The Break Room has become the center of the development and home to daily lunches, outdoor meetings, occupant happy hours and the occasional office party.

Conceived as adaptation of a tall grass prairie, the planting beds were designed with a random native prairie grass aesthetic, accentuated by linear rows of crimson barberry to create a striking visual patterning for tenants looking down onto the space. A mix of flowering perennials throughout the prairie add seasonal pops of color while also providing a food source for the colony of bees kept by the client on the building’s roof as part of a nationwide sustainability program. Honey produced by the bees goes into the company’s custom brewed honey pale ale.
Project Summary: If you are a resident of Green Bay, Wisconsin, it is likely that the Packers NFL team plays a significant role in your life, especially on Sundays between October and February. The Packers, however, wanted to have a bigger impact. They had a vision for enhancing the quality of life for all residents through the creation of a public plaza and mixed-use development to extend Lambeau Field's tourism and community impact throughout the year.

Titletown, an entertainment district adjacent to the stadium, was born. The design includes a destination playground, ice skating rink, sled hill, football field, a game area, and flexible plaza space that allows for a variety of community events. The plaza is built on the site of a former parking lot and conceived as a public amenity, an extension of Lambeau Field into the community and a way to enliven the area on non-game days. On opening day, the design team saw the evidence of the park’s success: the plaza was full of people – young and old, couples and families – enjoying the day, having fun and celebrating in the familiar green and gold.
Twin Silo Park is largely defined by the juxtaposition of the natural prairie landscape with the domesticated environments of the classic farm complex. Natural landforms called “coulees”, inspired by the creek undulation, erosion and oxbows, create a sculpted set of overlooks and picnic spaces connected by paths, trails and creek crossings.

The social heart of the 54-acre park is comprised of multiple food offerings including an orchard, community garden, harvest room with hydroponic vegetable walls, and hops trellis. A restored McClelland Creek connects the gardens, back porch, festival space, creek play, BMX course, dog park, sports facilities, and art installations. Two repurposed silos anchor a custom play environment, the signature feature of the park.

**PRIMARY CONTRIBUTORS**

**CITY OF FORT COLLINS**
PARK PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT
Kurt Friesen, Project Director
Craig Kisling, Project Manager

**CIVITAS**
Craig Vickers, Principal
Robin Rooney Norcross, Project Manager
Sarah Maas, Designer

**RB+B ARCHITECTS**
Gopal Shrestha, Architect

**CRE8PLAY**
Todd Lehman, Playground Design

**GENERAL CONTRACTOR**
ECI Site Construction

2020 ASLA Colorado Professional Awards Entry
**Village Greens North Park**
2020 ASLA Colorado Professional Awards Entry

**Significance**
An example of how a landscape architect develops a true understanding of a site and responds to it both naturally and contextually, Village Greens North (VGN) has proven to be extremely popular at any time of day during all four seasons of the year. It provides unique park uses that encourage an appreciation for the natural environment. The entry and seating areas employ a palette of materials that celebrate the natural character of the landscape. Details of layered textures and colors add complexity and richness to the site design. The sculptural walls define the space, frame views, and echo the rolling nature of the site.

**Project Purpose**
Seeking a comprehensive program within the existing Village Greens Park, the owner wanted to see Village Greens North developed into a destination adventure park while still connecting it to Village Greens South Park. The goals of the project were to provide a unique recreational experience, to develop amenities that draw different user groups and visitors, and to preserve and protect the existing topography, vegetation, and unique character of the site.

In addition to being an adventure park with a natural aesthetic, the owner also sought to have additional gathering spaces throughout the park. Careful material selection for the plaza areas resulted in a refined character for an otherwise natural site. Weathered steel walls welcome visitors and drawn them into the park. Semi-custom designed shade structures respond to the rolling nature of the topography and landscape and provide a variety of seating and shade options.

**Environmental Sensitivity and Sustainability**
The site design for VGN was incredibly sensitive to the existing plains or prairie ecosystem. Portions of the site were specifically preserved as conservation areas to protect habitat for the only colony of prairie dogs in the City. The existing vegetation and topography became features in both the mountain bike skills trail and disc golf course that enhanced the experience for users. New plantings added diversity to the ecosystem. The pond and surrounding plantings provide habitat for numerous aquatic and riparian species.

A general trail alignment for the mountain bike skills course, the layout of the disc golf course, and the design of the new link from Village Greens South was designed to take advantage of the natural terrain site features and existing topography.

**Role of the Landscape Architect**
The role of the landscape architect for this project is incredibly unique. The principal/project manager for this project is an avid disc golf player and an accomplished mountain biker. As such, the landscape architect took a hands-on approach to design and construction oversite.
Once within the space, the highly-visible features have been strategically located in such a way that as one uses and explores an area, the next feature/space reveals itself, enticing one to continue exploring further into the system resulting in a space that is in constant motion and activity. While conceived and implemented prior to the current pandemic, the original concept of placing the landscape in motion and providing opportunities for smaller more intimate gatherings has provided an ideal condition for the community to practice safe social distancing, while still enjoying the benefits of being outside and immersed in nature.
**Project Summary:** The 84th Streetscape project reimagines a mile-long stretch of a state highway that extends through the middle of the city of La Vista, a southwest suburb of Omaha. What was once a thriving commercial corridor in automobile age has not adapted well to changing market conditions, leaving struggling pad development and low vacancy in its wake. The City established a vision and to create a new central city core along 84th Street that speaks to a more resilient future.

The 84th Street project represents a process of liberation for the community of La Vista. Through consensus-building public engagement and outreach that identified key stakeholders and the local Youth Council as project champions, the city was empowered to relinquish control of the state highway right-of-way for a greater and more comprehensive benefit. What is now an undefined roadway landscape will be transformed into an extensive greenway. This will offer greater separation and comfort for pedestrian and provide greater mobility options within a linear park-like setting.
RE-IMAGINE COULSON PARK

PROJECT GOALS:

RE-LIVE HISTORY: Coulson Park occupies a portion of the original town site of Coulson, which existed approximately from 1877 – 1882. The park presents an opportunity to tell not just the town’s story, but the history of all peoples who called the Clark’s Fork Bottom and Yellowstone Valley home. There is significant interest in providing a variety of cultural and educational opportunities in the park on the banks of the infamous Yellowstone River.

REVIVE RIVERFRONT LAND USE: The land on which the park resides has been subjected to a range of damaging activities and uses since the early 1900’s. The annexation of the site into the city parks system allows for an opportunity to demonstrate the value of park space and become a recreational asset to the community at large. A range of park amenities is presented within the master plan, ranging from passive park experiences to activity based opportunities, the majority of which respond to the river.

RE-CONNECT BILLINGS TO THE RIVER: The location of Coulson Park presents an opportunity to provide a feasible connection between downtown Billings and the Yellowstone River. Efforts are underway to strengthen bicycle and pedestrian connections to the park, leveraging the presence of the heritage trail currently passing through the site. The development of the park also presents an opportunity to consider additional access points to the river and across the river, linking up with the Four Dances Recreation Area.

RESTORE RIVERINE ECOLOGY: Coulson Park provides an opportunity to improve, enhance, and expand the ecological and natural resources found along the Yellowstone River and associated floodplain. Proposed park improvements are opportunities for habitat and riparian connections and restoration efforts. The park will showcase native trees and plants, lending a high degree of natural character and aesthetic to the final park design.

RE-ENVISION THE GATEWAY TO BILLINGS: The park location is one which many people, Billings residents and travelers alike, pass by on a daily basis, with unobstructed views of the park, river, and cliffs beyond. Due to the high visibility of the site it presents the opportunity to act as a gateway into Billings and showcase the values held by the community.

PROJECT STATEMENT:

Coulson Park sits on almost 60 acres adjacent to the Yellowstone River, across from the infamous Sacrifice Cliff. Designated by the City Parks and Recreation Department, it is a largely undeveloped natural area. It occupies a portion of the former Coulson town site (1877 – 1882) – a frontier town with big ambitions that was passed over by the railroad, leading to its collapse. The site was subsequently used as a city landfill and a sand and mining operation until it officially became a city park in the 1960’s. The future of Coulson Park was re-evaluated after an oil pipeline rupture in 2011 resulting in 85 miles of adversely affected natural resources, including Coulson Park. Through a holistic master planning framework, supported by a robust public outreach process, a master plan was developed to revitalize the site. Addressing issues such as ecological restoration, cultural inclusivity, celebration of history, site history, and recreation programming opportunities, the new master plan vision for Coulson Park is a reflection of the community’s desire to embrace local natural resources and invest in quality of life.

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THE FONTANA URBAN GREENING MASTER PLAN
Air Quality, Placemaking + Spacial Equity

PROJECT STATEMENT:
Grounded by quantitative research, the Fontana Urban Greening Master Plan applies scientific knowledge to explore various dimensions of air quality. In doing so, the Plan creates a multi-scalar, green infrastructure vision that influences development patterns, improves individual health, and creates a resilient future for Fontana. Through bilingual community engagement, the design team implemented a four-step planning process – Discover, Guide, Prioritize, and Implement. Transferable in its approach for other communities, the Plan achieved immediate policy change with its ambitious, long-term goal of increasing tree canopy coverage to 5% by 2050 – a transformational increase of over 1300%.

REGIONAL CONTEXT

URBAN GREENING AND AIR QUALITY STUDY

AIR QUALITY WITH NO TREE
AIR QUALITY WITH TREE
AIR QUALITY WITH TREE RAINING

URBAN GREENING FRAMEWORK

GREEN STREETS

EXISTING

PROPOSED

GREEN PLACES

WALKABLE MIXED-USE

RESIDENTIAL

PARKS & OPEN SPACE

COMMERCIAL

2020 ASLA COLORADO PROFESSIONAL AWARDS ENTRY

DESIGNWORKSHOP
The iconic St. Louis Forest Park is one of the largest and most visited urban parks in the USA and the most popular visitor attraction in the region. The original master plan, drafted in 1876 envisions a park that “the rich and poor, the merchant and mechanic, the professional man and the day laborer, each with his family and lunch basket, can come and enjoy his own ... all without stint or hindrance ... and there will be no notice put up to 'Keep off the grass.'”

While urban development surrounding Forest Park over the last century, the Park has become segregated from the community it serves. Adjacent neighborhoods that once enjoyed park frontage are now separated by large auto-oriented roadways that now form the Park’s present-day boundaries, creating strain to those that attempt to access the park by means other than a personal vehicle.

The Forest Park Great Streets Study goes beyond a typical park planning and design process to target challenges specific to equitable access and mobility – looking beyond its own boundaries to ensure the Park continues to serve its local community while welcoming visitors from the region. The study comprehensively applies contemporary multimodal solutions and directly addresses issues of social equity in an iconic landscape of cultural and historical significance.

Team:
Design Workshop
Nelson Nygaard
Development Strategies
Civil Design Inc.

The proposed improvements at the intersection of Skinker and Rosebury show the opportunity for increased safety, access, and convenience enhanced green space to the Skinker corridor side of the intersection shortens the crossing distances while allowing a more gradual entry into the Park for bicyclists and pedestrians. Number of travel lanes. A bump-out on the Park along Skinker Boulevard without reducing the

Recommendations for internal Park streets include:
• Construct bump-outs combined with speed tables
• Phase in bump-outs at all existing and
• Visually narrow driving lanes with the addition of stripe defined parking lanes and center-line

IN-PARK STREETS
• New 3-Way Stop at Tamm/Oakland (pending traffic study)
• Figure 4: Proposed Improvements for Skinker Boulevard / Rosebury Drive
• New Walkway from Turtle Park
• New Dual Path Underpass
• Figure 4: Proposed long-term improvements to Tamm Drive bridge
• 3 MINS
• 5 MINS
• ORANGE LINE EAST
• PURPLE LINE EAST
• 4 MINS
• Forest Park Free Trolley
• PURPLE LINE EAST
• 3 MINS
• 5 MINS
• Figure 4:

STREET AND CROSSING DESIGN
• High visibility crosswalks using a durable
• Feasibility study for HAWK signal design at
• Every intersection along Skinker.
• Retrofit existing painted crosswalks to be

Development Strategies
Nelson Nygaard Design Workshop Team:

significance of cultural and historical equity in an iconic landscape

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The High Line Canal Framework Plan

The High Line Canal is an experience like no other in the Denver region. A legacy feat of engineering aimed at conveying irrigation water, used now primarily for recreation, its uniqueness as a greenway stems from its original utility function. It does not conform to the traditions of city grids or natural water bodies. Rather, it winds its way with the region’s topography in a completely unexpected way—revealing an unfolding sequence of views, encounters, and experiences that feel both interwoven within and a world apart from its urban context.

A model of regional collaboration and community-driven planning, the Framework Plan serves as a pathway forward to revitalize the Canal as a regional greenway while improving it ecologically. The Plan illuminates the opportunities and challenges of the historic Canal system, while providing inspiring and practical guidance for improvements that honor and enhance its uniqueness. The recommendations respect the varied character of the communities along the way and prioritize improvements to areas underserved by or in need of public open space.

CONTRIBUTORS:

OBJECTIVE #1
HONOR AND REPURPOSE
The Plan promotes the Canal as a place that captures the region’s pride by honoring its historical identity and creating new life for the legacy as a model of green infrastructure.

OBJECTIVE #2
HEALTH, SAFETY AND EXPERIENCE
The Plan promotes strategies to improve the human experience through intentional design and maintenance, supporting the physical, mental, and social well-being of its users.

OBJECTIVE #3
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH
The Plan promotes strengthening the environmental health of the Canal and encouraging sustainable interaction with nature to enable the Canal to continue as a thriving natural corridor, increasing resilience and the health of our region.

OBJECTIVE #4
ACCESSIBILITY AND CONNECTIVITY
The Plan promotes a safe and continuous 71-mile greenway for all people and communities, serving to knit together the various communities and nature by providing improved access and connectivity.

Improved experience due to increased shade and wildlife.

Planting support wildlife habitat.

Increased biodiversity
Client/Owner: Diligent Development

Design Workshop

Team Members:
- Jim Macrae
- Kurt Culbertson
- Adam Melena
- Jake Guppy
- Michael Santarsiero
- Marianne Shank
- Ashlee Wells
- Chen Li
- Nicholas Sklare
- Venessa Jones
- Oskar Pietrini
- Peter Homan
- Adam Carreau
- Sue Choi

Consultant:
- Farmer D Consulting
- Curran & Company Architects

Project Statement:
The heartland of America is blessed with a remarkably productive agricultural legacy but is being bulldozed for development due to economic strains. Agricultural land contributes to state and local economies, supplies lucrative export markets, and buffers the nation’s balance of trade. These exceptional natural resources sustain valuable wildlife habitat, provide flood control and fire suppression, scenic views, and natural resources for hunting and fishing.

By 2050, the demands on agriculture to provide sufficient food, fiber, and energy are expected to be 50 to 70 percent higher than they are now. Given a limited suitable land area for agriculture in the United States and the need to feed and house an increasing number of people, it is more important than ever to find a way to balance the land and natural resources consumed by development with what is needed for agriculture and long-term sustainability.
Set aside in the 1950s to conserve remnant shortgrass prairie and educate the agricultural community on soil conservation, Plains Conservation Center (PCC) has evolved into a popular destination for school groups, young families and nature enthusiasts. Mundus Bishop collaborated with the City of Aurora and its partners and stakeholders to develop a master plan and design guidance for PCC to fulfill its legacy of conservation and education.

This master plan establishes a shared vision to guide public use, management and marketing of PCC's natural grassland ecosystem, and continue its tradition of educational programming and conservation. This master plan balances goals of resource conservation with visitor use to provide a long-term framework for inspiring and sensitively sited new visitor and educational facilities. The master plan ensures PCC's 1,100 acres of remnant shortgrass prairie remain protected and a prized environmental asset for the city and community.
Project Summary: With a historic industrial building stock, river frontage and a nexus of three multi-use trail systems, Frenchtown boasts existing enviable assets that contribute to quality of life in the St. Louis region. However, Frenchtown is also challenged with frequent river flooding, abandoned or underutilized buildings, a street network haunted by a former state highway designation and physical barriers to the proximate multi-use trails. Despite these challenges, Frenchtown is buzzing with momentum and a community motivated to unlock the incredible potential.

The Frenchtown Great Streets Plan is an ambitious comprehensive corridor plan that strives to achieve quality of life for local residents and regional-destination status for the St. Louis metropolitan area. This Plan documents an inspiring path forward using incremental and practical guidance that leverages catalytic projects. The vision of the community, the characteristics of complete streets and the Plan aspirations serve as a beacon for over 100 actionable recommendations in this Plan; an implementable instruction guide for the Frenchtown community to pursue for years to come.

A Living Plan: The Great Streets Plan is an Instruction Guide for the Plan Champion to Implement Projects

How can the vision become reality? The Great Streets Plan!
The public land assets of Detroit are largely seen as the backbone of its transformation. The conversion of Rogell Golf Course into a green infrastructure park, highlights the critical role public assets can play in reversing poor land use decisions of the past. Once an immaculately maintained private golf course, Rogell was forgotten and provided no benefit to the surrounding community. Nearly $1 billion in flood damages from the 200-year event in 2014, made Rogell’s parcel size and strategic location of its historic wetlands an ideal candidate for neighborhood scale solution for flood attenuation. Its potential role in rejuvenating the surrounding neighborhood with programming, economic growth, education through demonstration projects, and healing the Rouge River at a regional scale encouraged the City to buy this piece of land back from private ownership. Rogell Park is now set to be the City’s largest green infrastructure intervention that will reduce the combined sewer outflows to the Rouge, provide habitat restoration, active recreation, and has the potential of becoming a regional destination along the Rouge River greenway system.

**RECONNECTING THE RIVER**
The Mountain Avenue corridor is the salient east-west artery that connects Berthoud’s cultural and historic downtown core to its rural western neighbors near Highway 287, to their agrarian eastern counterparts near Interstate 25, and beyond. In many ways, Mountain Avenue is the “face” of the town and new developments were beginning to change its expression. As such, the protection of Mountain Avenue was identified as the town’s top priority and town officials decided to move forward with a corridor plan.

The corridor plan study area extends along Mountain Avenue between Highway 287 and Interstate 25, approximately 8 miles, focusing primarily on the right-of-way as well as the properties that front Mountain Avenue within the Town’s Growth Management Area. The project’s objectives were numerous; however, the guiding principle and philosophy was to honor the existing charm and unique aspects of this small town, and to build upon, nurture, and reinforce it. This created the foundation for the development of the project vision.

A comprehensive design vision was necessary to ensure that future development contributes to and enhances the town and its unique character. As the design team studied Mountain Ave, it became clear the distinction of the changes in context, character, and opportunities along the corridor, and realized that the corridor is made up of 6 recognizable character areas that contribute people’s perception of Berthoud. Each has unifying land use patterns, architecture, scale, and other cultural and aesthetic idiosyncrasies. These qualities were to be protected and reinforced to sustain Berthoud’s authentic personality, so design guidelines were prepared for each district prescribing a structure for new developments and redevelopment. Guidelines addressing architecture, building placement and orientation, urban design, streetscape, signage, parking, and walkability are meant to build upon and enhance the experience.

With the growth this community has experienced, a plan for future development, improvements, and enhancement became imperative. The corridor plan and the subsequent overlay district respond directly to the concerns and desires of the community and was to be done with the greatest acuity and refinement. It defines, in thorough detail, the way future development along the corridor is to be established, and it reassures a community, historically and understandably afraid of uncaring development, that despite the inevitability of growth, it can be done with great stewardship and sensitivity.

The design team for this project was led by Landscape Architects, who addressed urban design, placemaking, land use planning and design, streetscapes, and sign design. They partnered with a team of Architects to help formulate the planning and design archetype for building development and redevelopment. Also involved were members of the town staff and administration who provided valuable guidance and feedback with their in-depth knowledge of the town. Town staff and the design team worked together to engage members of the community in the process resulting in a collaborative process and a document that has been embraced by the community.
Virtual Community Engagement

The landscape architect firm was faced with this dilemma: Can we develop new techniques of engagement with the public, so crucial to quality design and planning outcomes, has been severely restricted due to social distancing requirements. The landscape architect firm was faced with this dilemma: Can we develop new techniques of engagement with the public, so crucial to quality design and planning outcomes, has been severely restricted due to social distancing requirements.

**Project Summary:** With the current pandemic, engagement with the public, so crucial to quality design and planning outcomes, has been severely restricted due to social distancing requirements. The landscape architect firm was faced with this dilemma: Can we develop new techniques of engagement with the public, so crucial to quality design and planning outcomes, has been severely restricted due to social distancing requirements.

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- Provide balanced and object info in a timely manner
- Obtain feedback on analysis, issues, alternatives and decisions
- Work with the public to ensure concerns and aspirations are understood
- Partner with the public in each aspect of decision making
- Place the final decision-making in the hands of the public

**Tools:**

- Newsletter, email, video, website, social media, live stream meetings
- Social media, discussion polls, blog, workbooks, surveys
- Ideation, survey, polls, serious games, social media, discussion
- Online forums, document co-creation, mapping, social media, video meeting
- Decision-making: Online voting, participatory budgeting

**Team Members**

- Riyadh Airport Park
  - Teresa Valle (Project Manager, Landscape Architect)
  - Brian Chambers (Project Designer)
  - Jason Fitch (Project Designer)
  - Stu Potts (Landscape Architect)
  - Fernando Tapio (Landscape Architect)
  - Michael Stout (Graphic Designer)
- Zilker Park
  - Cristian Marcillo (Project Manager)
  - Dylan Bragance (Landscape Architect)
  - Samer Kassar (Landscape Architect)
  - Sasha Egan (Landscape Architect)
  - Michael Stout (Graphic Designer)

**Greenprint Plan**

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**Greenprint Plan**

- Showcase your project’s vision and background, generate interest and invite participation.
- Share presentations, design alternatives, news stories and animated diagrams.
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Roxborough Village Metro District
Web-Based Master Plan

Creating master plans has been a common practice in landscape architecture for decades. Thousands of physical documents, which often sit on bookshelves, become static documents that frequently get forgotten as time goes on. They do not fulfill their intended use to guide and monitor the future vision of a community, and storage and distribution of printed versions are cumbersome, thus limiting public accessibility.

The recently completed Roxborough Village Parks, Open Space, and Recreation Master Plan breaks from this tradition and creates a new model by offering an engaging interactive web platform where the community can stay actively involved. Created as an online living document, the web-based platform allows residents stay informed and monitor progress as the plan transitions from vision to implementation. By focusing on people and communication, the platform explores new innovations that bridge communication, design, and technology, including the exciting landscape of virtual environments. The interactive web-based platform establishes a new model for landscape architects by embracing communication technologies to increase community participation and involvement long after the initial plan is created.

CONTRIBUTORS:
Livable Cities Studio, ArLand Land Use Economics

Easily accessible and shareable master plan document

Scan QR Code to visit website on your phone
Project Summary: Highlands Retreat is an endearing family refuge set within the protective canopy of a mature aspen forest. Surrounded by red sandstone cliffs and steep, rugged slopes, the landscape architect’s sensitive site planning and design was highly influenced by the property’s seasonal changes, filtered sunlight, and existing natural systems. A diverse and complex ecosystem of rich, organic soils teeming with grasses, forbs, and wildflowers sets the stage for a carefully crafted and environmentally sensitive design, one that proffers both a sense of adventure and peace to the owners and their guests.

A collaborative effort combining the creative talents of the landscape architect and architect, the home presents a refreshing vision of mountain architecture, one that engages the landscape in a manner that respects the natural history and cultural heritage of the surrounding environment. Outdoor spaces weave into the forest and wildflower meadows, giving the home a sense of permanence and enduring character. Modern interpretations of form and material combined with intentional additions of traditional elements imbue the home with a warm and welcoming sense of calm.
Complementing its formal architecture, Red Mountain Garden presents a series of open-air spaces that are transformed into comfortable, furnished outdoor rooms through the elegant use of stepped stone walls and flowering shrubs and perennials. Rooted in the principles of classicism, the garden successfully integrates the values of the client’s traditional tastes with an irregular and challenging hillside. Every outdoor room is geared toward comfort and captures framed views to the Elk Mountain Range between preserved native trees.
The design transforms an existing semi-rural property into a modern, experiential landscape, architecturally composed and carefully integrated into its grassland setting. The landscape architect redesigned, re-graded and detailed the property incorporating the owner’s programmatic desires.

The design thoughtfully integrates the semi-rural site with the contemporary architectural addition by transitioning from a pastoral entry to a nuanced and architectural treatment closer to the home. Views through a glass “bridge” extend the site’s length towards a distant pond. A linear swimming pool transforms into a glowing reflecting pool at night, while a series of outdoor rooms provide family living spaces. Graceful grading results in a picturesque site. Rugged stone wall vocabulary used to define space, direct movement and retain grade, contrasts with perpendicular sand finish concrete walls. To address the site’s ecological deficiencies, topography, planting, and water management create stretches of habitat edges which in combination with the restored pond make the site a magnet for wildlife. Landscape and architecture blend to add richness and cohesiveness to the detailing, artfully synchronizing the overall composition.
Building Bridges
The Renovation of St. Charles Place Park

The St. Charles Ambassadors were youth leaders selected to be mentored through the complete re-design of their park, St. Charles Place Park. The ambassadors are at the heart of breathing new life to this park. Their input and partnership in planning was critical to the success of building a shared, healthy outdoor amenity for the Cole community.

Landscape Architect: Valerian
Client: Denver Parks and Recreation

Leadership Team:
Valerian
St. Charles Ambassadors
Denver Parks & Recreation
Bienestock Natural Playgrounds
Iron Horse Architects
Q Factor

Project Partners:
St. Charles Recreation Center
Pioneer Landscape Centers • Rainbird
Denver Parks Trust • Denver Mayor’s Office
ERO Resources • Rino Beer Garden • Detour
Office of Councilman Albus Brooks
City and County of Denver Arts & Venues
Inner City Health • Landscape Structures
Sunbelt Rental • Blake Street Tavern

2020 ASLA Colorado Professional Awards Entry
**PROJECT STATEMENT:**

The creation of public memory is an inherently political process. The Sand Creek Massacre is an essential symbol of the struggles of American Indian tribes to maintain their ancestral ways of life. In the context of its time, the massacre stands out both because of the impact it had and the way the story was eventually told. Initially, it was exposed and condemned by the U.S. government and sparked decades of unrest on the Great Plains. But over time, the massacre diminished to the point that even locals were unaware of what stories were buried beneath 150 years of windblown prairie. With the creation of the National Park Historic Site, renewed attention was brought to the place and events – and with that attention came a need for incredibly sensitive planning and design. We often talk about decisions that are “light on the land” but in this case, it was of utmost importance that the experience honor the echoes of that day without any unnecessary elements. The massing and scale of the overlook was purposely minimized. One is meant to feel exposed and uncomfortable standing at the top of the hill. Sound carries far in this environment and it is one of the rare places that hasn’t changed significantly in the last century. The landscape architect’s role was truly to keep it that way, while providing unobtrusive access and contemplative spaces for the tribal members and visitors alike to connect with their past.

**PROJECT FACTORS**

**USE:** With the remoteness of the location, the rate of visitation can be very minimal for long periods of time and then jump drastically one or two times a year when the space is heavily used for events and ceremonies. The question was how to balance that wide range of use without overdeveloping the site that would feel sparse for most of the year. Number of parking spaces, seating, and other potential amenities were evaluated to reach a design solution that accommodates the influx of people without adding unnecessary development.

**ACCESSIBILITY:** Many of the tribal members who hold ceremonies are elderly or disabled, which necessitated special care for accessibility throughout the site. A key goal was to ensure construction was complete in time for their annual Healing Run event.

**INTERPRETATION:** A major goal of the project is to bring awareness of the events leading up to the massacre and its consequences that reverberated through generations. The decisions to integrate the interpretive panels relied on an orthogonal orientation to support the tribal elements and historical significance.

**CULTURAL SENSITIVITY:** Great care was taken to respect and honor the existing cultural features, including the monument, cemetery, and ceremonial spaces of the site. Meetings were held between NPS and the tribes where they were invited to walk the site and review ideas for improvements. NPS also organized a workshop to develop interpretive themes together with members of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe, Northern Cheyenne Indian Reservation, Northern Arapaho Tribe of the Wind River Reservation and the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes, Oklahoma. The team prioritized alternatives that limited development to land that was already disturbed in order to protect the sensitive cultural landscape as much as possible. Areas such as the cemetery and creek bed were given highest protection from visitors, while the monument area was improved to embrace the views and give protection from the sun.

**ENVIRONMENTAL SENSITIVITY AND SUSTAINABILITY:** The site boasts a diversity of wildlife habitats within the riparian and upland shortgrass prairie, which supports migrating birds by providing a stopover habitat to replenish their reserves. The project vision included implementation of a “sensitive resource zone”, which provide additional protections for the lowlands, which has a long-term beneficial impact on water resources. Wind and solar exposure were also factors when selecting materials for the shelter.
VanPlay: Parks and Recreation Master Plan

Community priorities informed

3 Bold Moves
with 3 supporting innovative planning tools

1) Equity
2) Renewal
3) Connectivity

Project Statement:

“In addressing spatial equity, VanPlay recognizes the inherent privilege some populations have to enjoy parks and recreation and provides added support and welcome to populations without that privilege.”

Vancouver embodies diversity in the 191 languages spoken by the city’s 631,000 residents. This diversity is reflected in the kaleidoscope of experiences available throughout 1,300 hectares of parkland, 28 kilometers of seawall, and network of 175 recreation facilities. However, when analyzed these exceptional opportunities to recreate are fraught with systemic barriers and vulnerabilities to equity, most notably for the 120,000 Vancouverites who experience poverty.

Undertaking the first citywide parks and recreation study in 25 years, the landscape architect led a multidisciplinary team to craft a data-driven plan that puts community priorities of equity, asset renewal, and connectivity at the core of the city’s decision-making. Informed by over 30,000 community conversations, the unanimously adopted plan has already garnered $265 million in new capital expenditures to provide more people the opportunity to connect to nature and shift the levers of power to bridge systemic barriers to spatial justice in Vancouver.

Acknowledgments:

The Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation
Commissioners
Stuart MacKinnon, Chair
• Tricia Barker
• John Coupar
• Dave Demers
• Camil Dumont
• Owen Gasbrehrt
• John Irwin

The Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation Senior Leadership Team
• Malcolm Bramley, General Manager
• Shauna Wilson, Deputy General Manager
• Steve Jackson, Director Finance
• Donna Rose and Daisy Chin, Director Recreation
• Howard Normans, Director Parks
• Christine Ulmer, Manager Communications

The Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation Staff Project Team
• Dave Hutch, Director of Park Planning and Development
• Doug Shannon, Manager of Policy, Planning and Environment
• Katherine Howard, Project Manager

A sincere thank you to the Staff Working Group and External Advisory Group.