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Letter from the President

Aaron Zahm, ASLA

As October comes to a close and the ASLA National Convention wraps up in San Diego, your Executive Committee will start fresh with a new team of volunteers. Before we celebrate the new team, I want to thank one outgoing member for his three years of dedicated service to the board. Patrick Gay steered the "NMASLA ship" expertly as President and is responsible for continuing the Chapter's success with fresh initiatives, increased member and sponsor levels, and praise from national ASLA - all this while serving as Principal of one of New Mexico's premier landscape architecture firms. We'll miss you, Pat! Huge thanks, also, to Aaron C., Alex, Amy, Chris, Dominique, Kristina, Mike, Rob, Sara, and Will for giving their time, enthusiasm, and ideas generously over the last year. And the election results are in: all these folks are sticking around for another term! Joining them are Daniel Smith, Julie Graff, and Micah Giardetti. The upcoming year is sure to be a great one for

NMASLA! We'll be planning 2012's events and initiatives at our November meeting and we'd love to hear your thoughts. Shoot me an email with your feedback of the past year and your hopes for 2012.

But let's not look too far ahead, yet. We're finalizing plans for 2011's principal event: the NMASLA Design Awards and Gala Celebration. As we speak, the Nevada Chapter is judging our design awards entries. Their job isn't going to be easy one, as the response from our membership was tremendous! We received over 40 total entries, representing the outstanding work of 16 different firms and individuals, in 5 different categories, with projects located throughout the state; from Navajo Dam to Eunice, and everywhere in between. On Saturday, December 3rd, please plan to join us for the largest gala event yet. We'll be presenting numerous design awards, honoring Chapter members and dignitaries, and celebrating landscape architecture throughout New Mexico. You might also walk away with a few fun gifts! Look for an invitation in the mail soon.

**NMASLA 2010-2011
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
DIRECTORY**

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From all the new and returning members of your Executive Committee, thanks for your membership and we look forward to seeing you on December 3rd!

To comment on the President's message, please email responses to Aaron:
azahm@mrwnm.com

Q2 Golf Tournament





NMASLA's
3rd-Quarter Mtg.

NMASLA Educational Workshop and Student/Professional Mixer

This event is **Pre-Approved for FOUR Continuing Education Credits!**

@ UNM George Pearl Hall and O'Neills on Central

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schedule of events
friday OCTOBER 21, 2011

12:00-1:00: Sponsored Box Lunch in Rm P104

1:00-1:30: **Turfgrass Specifications**
Presenter - Clay Guck, Mountain West Golfscapes

1:30-3:00: **Irrigation Installation for LAs**
Presenter - Jan Loving, Loving and Associates

3:00-3:30: **Introducing the Garden Back into the Landscape**
Presenter - Paulina Aguilera-Eaton, GardenCulture

3:30-5:00: **Lighting Design for LAs**
Presenter - Brian Fuller, RKL Sales

5:00-???: **Student/Professional Mixer @ O'Neills**

Want to help sponsor this event?
We need YOUR support!

rsvp by Oct. 17, 2011

Email or fax this form to Amy Bell:
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Lunch and Education sessions are **FREE** to **NMASLA and Student ASLA members**, but friends and colleagues are encouraged to attend for \$35.

Refreshments at the Student/Professional Mixer are included.

Payment is due at the event.
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- ham, turkey, bacon and avocado _____ qty

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2009 Master Plan

El Parque del Rio Conduit for Santa Fe's Urban Watershed

*Kenneth Francis,
Principal+Partner, Surroundings*

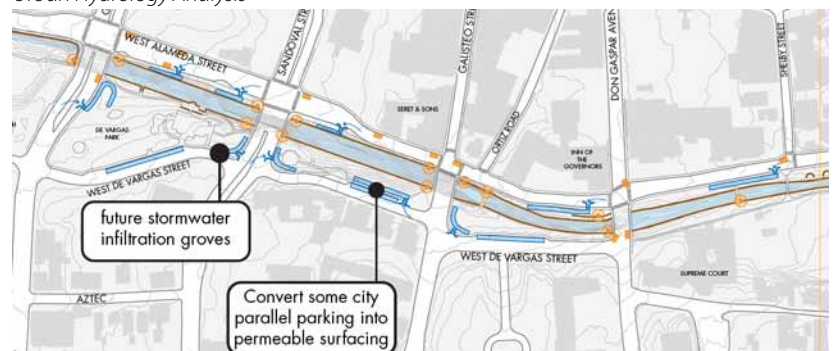
In early 2008, the City of Santa Fe's governing body approved the Parks Bond Implementation Plan that assigned approximately \$30 million worth of parklands improvements throughout the city. Included within the list of projects outlined in city plans were improvements along the Santa Fe River Parkway, historically named El Parque del Rio. Surroundings was the team selected as the landscape architects to meet the challenges of updating and expanding the master plan, as well as creating new designs for implementation along the parklands of the Santa Fe River between Saint Francis Drive and Palace Avenue.

After initial site walks with our design team, stakeholders, and City staff to listen, learn, and record, Surroundings conducted a thorough analysis of the two mile long corridor that began to uncover

larger questions beyond the City's priorities for the project: improvements toward pedestrian circulation while meeting City ADA compliance commitments, repairs and upgrades to irrigation and existing elements, and general beautification. In addition to addressing the City's priorities, our team began to focus on the fact that this remarkable stretch of parkway is a critical conduit for the urban watershed of Santa Fe to reach the river. Our analysis of urban stormwater along the two-mile stretch of river parklands estimated quantity of run-off along Alameda Street as well as identified locations of all drop inlets and outfalls into the river that we later incorporated into our design strategies for the project.

Because our work boundary was limited between the bordering street curbs of Alameda Street and other roadways to the Santa Fe River's channel walls, we could not make effective changes within the eroded river channel. We asked ourselves how could we positively affect the health of the river through landscape architecture (being limited within the parkway) in a way that would better integrate the urban watershed with the Santa Fe River. The first challenge we faced was a lowered water table that has occurred over time due to the channelized river condition, placing a strain on many of the mature, historic trees along the park. Stormwater is a powerful contributor to urban watersheds that currently bypasses what

Urban Hydrology Analysis



“...how could we positively affect the health of the river through landscape architecture... in a way that would better integrate the urban watershed with the Santa Fe River.”



has been, historically, a riparian corridor due to a traditional storm water system of drop inlets. These drains connect to underground pipes that feed concentrated quantities of water and pollutants from the surrounding roadways directly into the river.

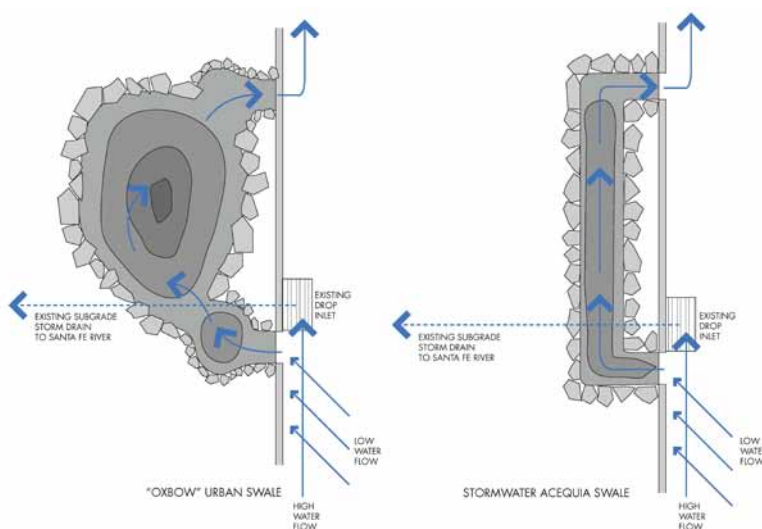
In order to re-hydrate the parkway, slow stormwater runoff before it enters the river, and decrease pollutant loads into the river, Surroundings proposed several low-tech, but locally contextual, green infrastructure strategies to re-introduce

moisture into the soils of the parklands. “Oxbow” swales were placed throughout the parkway, typically just up slope of traditional stormwater drop inlets to capture as much urban runoff as possible. These oxbows act like oxbows in larger riverine systems: simple depressions with an inlet created to allow water to infiltrate and, in large rain events, an exit so that water may continue to another oxbow or to an existing stormwater inlet. These oxbows will support new planting areas around more active pedestrian areas, as well as provide

supplemental benefits to a new orchard for the Boys and Girls Club.

One of our biggest challenges was convincing the City to allow permeable parking spaces, but they agreed to test the system in two unique street areas, on a continually active East Alameda and quieter West DeVargas Street. The chosen areas are intended to help reduce runoff on the streets, as well as provide supplemental water to tree lined streetscapes adjoining these areas.

Surroundings also transformed the historic stone curbing near Old Santa Fe Trail by gapping them. This will intentionally allow “leaking” through a gravel sub-grade below a new brick sidewalk and hydrate the cottonwood canopy downtown. At the east end of El Parque del Rio, we acknowledged the history of orchards and acequias along the Santa Fe River. Our team





Permeable Parking

designed what we have termed a “stormwater acequia” that will take water from Alameda Street and surrounding sidewalks and distribute it into water absorbing scoria rock. This linear channel will benefit new flowering and fruiting trees near El Alamo Street.

It has been a lengthy,

Orchard along Stormwater Acequia



complex process due to an extensive set of public meetings, historic design review board approvals and detailed design of four separate project areas across a two-mile project boundary. Construction of the park will most likely (finally!) begin this winter, weather permitting, and it is our hope that we

have set a new paradigm of design standards for all future projects along El Parque del Rio. It is projected to take four to six months to complete.

Please direct any comments or questions to Kenneth Francis:
kenneth@thesurroundings.com



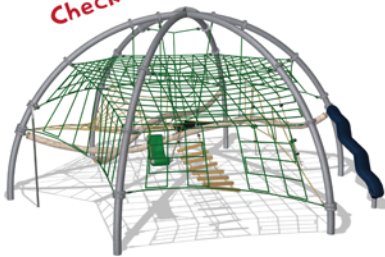
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New Member Spotlight: Nevenka Milic-Chavez, Associate ASLA

I have remembered well designed places ever since I was very little. Hedgehog's house was the name of my favorite book from childhood. The *Hedgehog's House* was made out of logs, branches, dirt, rocks and pine needles. It was built partially underground and partially above ground. The above ground part had a "green roof" with different kinds of beautiful and colorful wild flowers and mushrooms growing on it. I can compare this "dwelling" with "earth ship" houses that can be seen around the Rio Grande gorge in Taos. The Hedgehog's house captured my childhood imagination. I kept reading this book over and over again and tried to reproduce it whenever I played outside with other kids.

Growing up in Belgrade, Serbia, I was consistently intrigued by nature and discovering the essence of new places while traveling. Often thinking what makes me like one place better than another, I kept dreaming about moving to some exotic place. At that time, the Mediterranean coast was at the top of my list. I used to find its architecture, plant palette, smells and overall atmosphere ideal. I spent all year waiting for summer to be able to go to the coast of Croatia and Italy. Once there,



I would draw the ancient Roman buildings scattered all around this region. I especially admired olive and palm trees and the smell of lavender. I would often attempt to squeeze a palm frond in a car to take home to Serbia to decorate my room.

My decision to apply to the College of Forestry where a Landscape Architecture program was offered felt like coming home to me. For the first two years the program was forestry-oriented. I found it very interesting even though it was loaded with difficult bio-engineering courses such as statics and dynamics, statistics, math, descriptive geometry, phytopathology, entomology, etc. I especially enjoyed spending time at the College of Forestry building. It was full of exhibited preserved wild flowers, pieces of trees, insects, animals, rocks, fungus, moss and lichen. There was a statue of a huge deer in the front and a spacious arboretum in the back. In the city of Belgrade, with two million people and its very urban environment,

this setting felt like an oasis to me.

The last two years at my college were Landscape Architecture oriented and the program of study steered towards a combination of design, art, architecture, civil engineering and horticulture. The program was shifted from the College of Architecture to the College of Agriculture (where it was taught as Horticulture), back to the College of Forestry many times in the past. The core content changed many times, so the program was not where an LA program should be, in my opinion. I kept thinking about this and was already making plans to seek a higher education in the USA.

In the turbulent political climate of Serbia at that time (1995-2002) it was not easy completing the Bachelor's degree. Regular exam weeks in the spring of 1999 were scheduled, but steadily interrupted by air attack warning sirens. Crossing the bridges over the Danube River to be able to get to the College to take an exam was very risky. Only a few of us, very driven to complete the education, were brave enough to leave the house and go to take an exam.

I graduated in November of 2002 with the graduation project – Evaluation of "People's Garden Park" (Pancevo) - existing condition and new design proposal. I left for the USA in February of 2003. It was just before

another devastating event for Serbia occurred. In March of 2003, Serbian prime minister Zoran Djindjic was assassinated and I was reassured I made the right decision.

I lived in Massachusetts and New Hampshire and spent summers in San Francisco for the first three and a half years in the US. I was doing research on graduate schools and was taking courses in freehand drawing and various software. After visiting New Mexico in the winter of 2005 and meeting with Alf Simon, I applied for MLA at the University of New Mexico and was thrilled to hear I was accepted to the program for fall of 2006.

I learned and changed a lot throughout those years at UNM. The education I received broadened my vision and understanding of Landscape Architecture tremendously. I graduated in December of 2008 with the web site "Revealing the essence of place" as my master's thesis project. The importance of the internet in today's world made me decide to do the thesis in this information communication area. This web site, with its associated links, offers a way for the visitor to experience vicariously the recursive process through which we explore a new environment in real life.

For the last six years, I have been working in the design-build and maintenance field. I worked for Heads

Up Landscape Contractors, El Pinto, Trugreen and N Design (myself). I hold a contractor's MS06 license NM # 367486. Throughout this time I have done several residential designs in Corrales, Santa Fe, Bernalillo, Rio Rancho and Phoenix, AZ. I have designed, repaired and maintained irrigation systems; designed and installed outdoor and indoor plant material; identified and monitored plants pests and disease problems; installed hardscapes, such boulders, flagstones, landscape lights and fences; pruned trees for high aesthetic expectations; designed and developed brochures, posters and business cards, designed and installed a 300 sq ft mosaic. I have also done lots of photography and wrote



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"Landscape Architecture in Serbia," an article for International practice PPN.

I read and travel a lot, study Spanish and I tried paragliding. I run and hike a lot with my husband and our white German shepherd Snezha (Serbian for snow white). I hike long distances with friends of mine and NMASLA members, as well. I look forward to giving my contribution to NMASLA and meeting other members.

I have been given a wonderful opportunity to start working in October as a Project Coordinator for the Parks and Recreation Department at the City of Albuquerque with a great team of professionals. I am arriving at the point where my desire to see the "big picture" will be fulfilled by applying the principles and practice of sustainable landscape architecture and planning, along with interaction with the public.

I enjoy living in Albuquerque very much. It is my exotic destination. It reminds me of the Mediterranean even though there is no sea. In the famous cartoon, Bugs Bunny should have turned left at Albuquerque, but I am happy I haven't so I am here to do my best working for Albuquerque!

Special thanks to Susan Corban for edits.

Please direct any comments or questions to Nevenka Milic-Chavez:
nevenkamilic@yahoo.com

Brownfield Reclamation+Urban Environment

Ryan Anderson, MLA

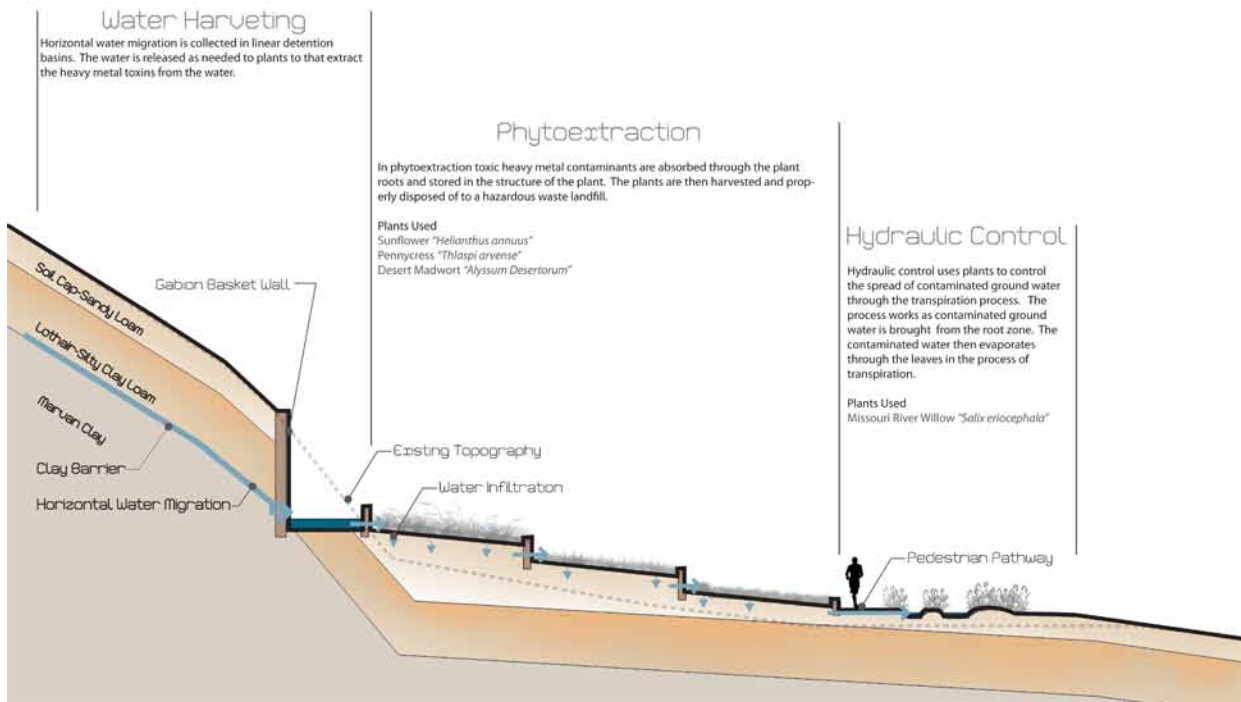
Brownfields are generally defined as abandoned and underutilized industrial properties that are known or suspected to be contaminated (Kirkwood, 2001). The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) defines Brownfields as "abandoned, idled, or under-used industrial and commercial facilities where expansion or redevelopment is complicated by real or perceived environmental contamination".

Experts estimate that up to 400,000 sites within the United States may be considered a Brownfield (epa.gov). Many of these sites are considered a legacy of the urban-industrial

past, but have been left empty for decades. Responsible for the vacant sites are increasing competition from global economic forces, labor costs, and new modern facilities. A major reason the sites continue to remain vacant is that the cost of reclaiming the land is greater than the perceived value of the land. Also contributing is the urban growth pattern of sprawl; urban areas continue to spread horizontally, leaving urban centers abandoned. These existing urban Brownfield sites have a significant effect on local economies and property development. Brownfields within the urban environment stand as both an opportunity for recovering urban land and as a reminder of the industrial past of many urban areas. There are three major reasons for the purpose of site reclamation or reclaiming Brownfields. These reasons

are human health, ecological health, and aesthetics.

Rather than continuing to pose health, ecological and aesthetic issues, Brownfields can be transformed into productive, recreational, historical, educational, cultural and beautiful destinations. This project is to perform the transformation of an extensive superfund site adjacent to the City of Great Falls, Montana, into a productive, recreational, historical, educational, cultural and beautiful destination. The site is to become a symbol of how health, ecological, and aesthetic issues can be removed through sustainable reclamation. Recreation, ecological restoration, cultural and educational programming will emphasize the historical context of the site and educate the public about the reclamation process. The intent of this approach



"Brownfields can be transformed into productive, recreational, historical, educational, cultural and beautiful destinations."

is to create a renewed public concern for sustainability and our human impact on the earth.

The selected site is the former Anaconda Smelter Property in Great Falls, MT. This site was chosen because both the City of Great Falls and the property owner are interested in reclaiming the land and turning the site into a beneficial condition.

Currently, the issue of concern on the site is impacted vadose zone water, which may leach contaminated water into the Missouri River.

Reclamation Strategy

The method of water pumps would require circulating water through the impacted soil and collecting the waste. Since the wastes are collected in the

water, the water still needs to be properly disposed of. This method would require the installation of one or more pumps and a system of collection pipes. This method is not a viable option because of the high cost and high maintenance it would require. The use of chemicals may be used to decontaminate the water. This method would require collecting the water and placing chemicals into the harvested water to decontaminate the water. This method should be avoided because it would require regular maintenance and has a high cost.

Phytoremediation can be used to minimize the amount of vadose zone water from reaching the Missouri River. This method will allow for

a passive and educational reclamation. To implement this method, it will require the installation of linear catch basins to collect impacted water and then distribute the water to plants that perform phytoextraction.

Reclamation Practice (Phytoextraction Smelter)

Reclamation for the park requires the control of water leaching into the Missouri River. For the control of water leaching, a system of vertical barriers and phytoremediation is proposed. The phytoremediation system involves three stages. In the first stage, surface water and below ground horizontal water migration is harvested in open linear detention basins. The water is then passively released to plants that perform

phytoextraction (stage two). Stage two of the system involves three planted terraces that perform phytoextraction. In phytoextraction, toxic heavy metal contaminants are absorbed through the plant roots and stored in the structure of the plant. The plants are then harvested and properly disposed of on site, or the metals are reclaimed for beneficial use. The proposed plants are Alyssum, Pennycress, and Sunflower. These plants were selected because of their ability to perform phytoextraction and compatibility with the climate in Great Falls, Montana. Stage three of the system is hydraulic control. Hydraulic control uses the plants to control the spread of impacted ground water through the transpiration process. The process works as impacted ground water is brought from the root zone and up through the plants,

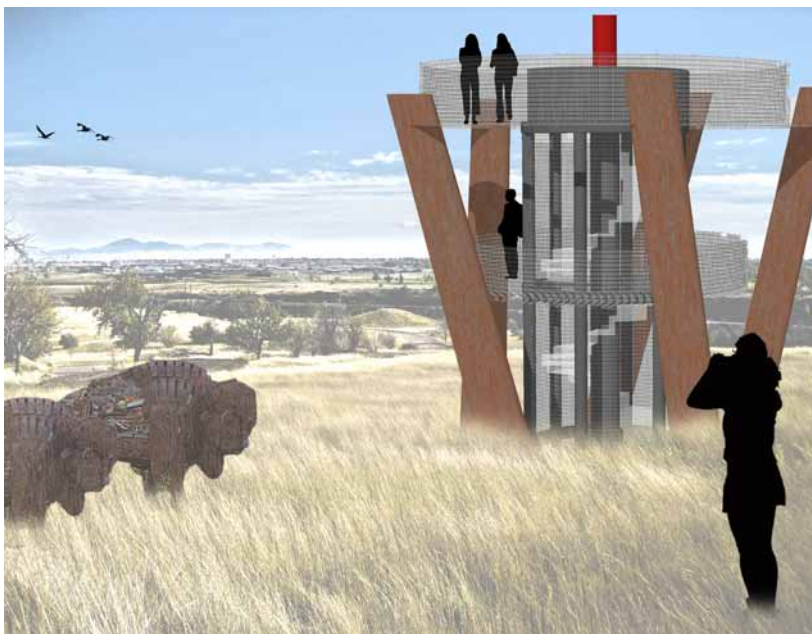


evaporating through the leaves in the process of transpiration. The proposed plants for stage three are Grey Poplar and Missouri River Willow. These plants were chosen because of their ability to perform hydraulic control and they are native to the Great Falls region.

Smelter Park

Smelter Park is the transformation of the

Anaconda Smelter superfund site adjacent to the City of Great Falls, MT, into a productive, recreational, historical, educational, cultural and beautiful destination. The park will provide a solution to the health, aesthetic, and ecological issues that exist on site. Recreation, ecological restoration, cultural and educational programming will emphasize the historical context of the site and educate the public about the reclamation process. The feature of the park's design, ecological restoration and cultural and educational programming is meant to emphasize environmental sustainability and a renewed public concern for our human impact on the earth.



Smelter Park will also support richly diverse habitats for wildlife, birds and plant communities, as well as provide extraordinary natural settings for recreation. Through

ecological innovation and creative design, the use of plants will remove health and ecological hazards and aesthetically turn the current superfund site into an asset for the community. An expansive network of paths and vehicle parkways, will help to create an animated, inter-connected park. People will be able to experience the site by foot, bike, or by car. Smelter Park will have four main areas: Black Eagle Dam, Smokestack Arena, Grassland, and Borrow Pit. Each area will have a distinct character and programming approach.

Conclusion

Smelter Park is to become

a model for the 400,000 Brownfield sites within the United States of how health, ecological, and aesthetic issues can be removed through sustainable reclamation. Brownfield sites can recover urban land and become an asset to urban areas. Smelter Park will become an expression of renewal and how society can restore balance to its landscape.

The transformation of the Anaconda Smelter superfund site into Smelter Park provides a solution for the City of Great Falls, Montana and the property owner. The site is transformed into a beneficial condition and becomes a

productive, recreational, historical, educational, cultural and beautiful destination for the community of Great Falls.

Please direct any comments or questions to Ryan Anderson:

ry.anders@gmail.com



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Are You An Advocate?

Kevin O'Hara, Legislative Analyst, ASLA

The ASLA Advocacy Network is a valuable tool in promoting ASLA's legislative agenda. To date in 2011, a record-setting 10,000 messages have been sent to members of Congress and the Administration on protecting programs critical to landscape architects, like Transportation Enhancements and the Land and Water Conservation Fund. In addition to sending critical messages to Congress, ASLA has utilized the Network to keep members informed on important grant opportunities, including: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

Sustainable Communities Challenge Grants; U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) TIGER Grants; and more. The Advocacy Network is also used to send messages to state legislators and even members of city councils! This grassroots advocacy tool is our chief way of communicating with elected officials. As a small organization, it is imperative that we all respond to these alerts. Acting collectively we can have a large voice. Ask your colleagues who have responded to alerts - they will tell you it takes very little time. ASLA national provides a suggested letter template that highlights key messages. If you are busy, simply click send and your job is done. If you have a few

extra minutes, take the time to personalize your message with examples from your own practice or from your firm. If you are not receiving ASLA's Advocacy Alerts, I urge you to visit www.asla.org/advocacy and click on the red Act Now button to sign up.

Please direct any comments or questions to government affairs:

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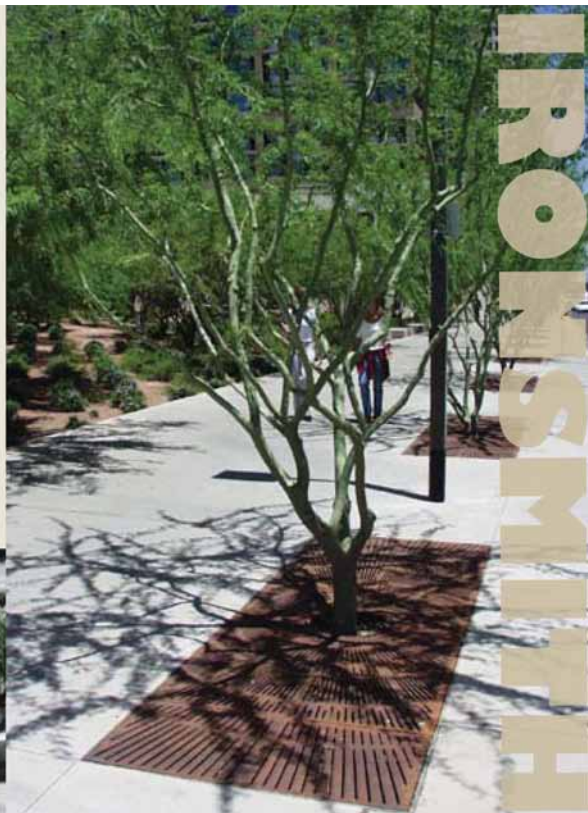
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Letter From Student ASLA Co-President

The fall 2011 Student ASLA Chapter at UNM has had a great launch! September has seen great member participation, community events, skills workshops, and much more.

The first order of business of the new officers of UNM Student ASLA was to officially change the name of our organization. We are no longer called SOCLAS, but have more formally aligned ourselves with NMASLA. Not only are we all very excited about the more active collaboration between NMASLA and the UNM Student Chapter of ASLA, but also we are very grateful for their enthusiastic support of our activities.

One of the most exciting developments includes the creation of a UNM Student ASLA Blog. The blog has given our officers and our members an interactive and dynamic tool to stay informed and provide suggestions

and feedback to the officers. Please visit our new blog at unmstudentasla.wordpress.com.

On September 16th, a group of our members put together a Park(ing) Day event on the corner of Harvard and Central. The weather was beautiful and the plants were generously loaned by Plants of the Southwest to help provide a great addition to a refreshing and inviting pocket park. Please visit the blog for more pictures of the event.

More recently, our members were invited by Creative Albuquerque to help them reinvision their outdoor courtyard space. Seventeen members participated in

a three-hour charrette at the Creative Albuquerque headquarters. The ideas were given to the director and will be presented to the board.

We will continue to try to bring relevant workshops, events, and lectures to our members. We welcome suggestions from the professional community. Please feel free to contact either Patrick Sinnott or myself with any question or suggestions that you might have.

Best,
Windy Gay, Co-President UNM Student ASLA
windygay@gmail.com

Creative Albuquerque Charrette



Park(ing) Day 2011



Chapter Events

Q3 Educational Workshop and Student/Professional Mixer

Date/Time: Oct 21, 2011

Workshop: 12-5, Mixer: 5:30-7

Location: Workshop: UNM George Pearl Hall, Mixer: O'Neills Pub on Central

Note: See Page 3

Women in the Dirt

Date/Time: Nov 10, 2011 6pm

Location: The Screen, Santa Fe

Note: For more information go to www.santafebotanicalgarden.org

Q4 Design Awards Gala

Date/Time: Dec 3, 2011, 6pm-10pm

Location: Albuquerque

Note: Information and formal invites are coming in the mail.

Newsletter

The NMASLA newsletter is produced by students in the MLA program at the University of New Mexico School of Architecture and Planning.

Please submit articles, news, photos, corrections, etc., to the editor:

Alex Leider
aleider@unm.edu

Call for Articles!

We want to showcase YOUR projects in our newsletter! Please send us your case study of a project completed in the last year and a half for inclusion in the next or future newsletters. Additionally, if you have ideas for a different type of article, please send us your suggestions. Help us keep our newsletters relevant and interesting for the NM Landscape Architecture community.

Please send your questions, case studies and/or articles to Alex Leider:
aleider@unm.edu

Website

Have you visited the NMASLA Website?

Please check it out:

<http://www.nmasla.org/>

Want to show off your projects??? We are requesting project images or landscape images that anyone would like to have posted on the website. Please include a note with a brief description (name of project/landscape, location... anything else to explain the image).

Please send projects to Sara Zahm:
sara@sarazahm.com

LARE Study Materials

NMASLA now has a collection of LARE Study Materials that can be checked out by NMASLA members for 24-hour periods.

Please email Kristina Guist:
kguist@mrwnm.com

Membership & Address Changes

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