

A Publication of the Colorado Chapter of the American Planning Association

November 2011

Garden of the Gods Park Designated as one of Top 10 Great Public Spaces

BACKGROUND OF THE PARK

Discovered by two young surveyors in 1859, the park got its name when one of them declared it to be "a place fit for the gods to assemble." Today, Garden of the Gods Park attracts some two million recreational enthusiasts - who come to hike, bike, rock climb and horseback ride - as well as landscape and wildlife admirers each year.

Situated on the western edge of Colorado Springs, the park was donated to the city in 1909 by the family of railroad executive Charles Elliot Perkins with the caveats that "it

shall remain free to the public, where no intoxicating liquors shall be manufactured, sold, or dispensed, where no building or structure shall be erected except those necessary to properly care for, protect, and maintain the area as a public park."

A 230-acre site within the park is dedicated to preserving the history of the pioneers and early citizens who settled in the Pikes Peak Region between 1860 and 1920. The Rock Ledge Ranch Historic Site, a living historical farm, is listed on the National Register.

"It's an honor to be one of APA's Great Places,' savs Mavor Steve Bach. "Colorado Springs residents and the two million people that visit each year already know Garden of the Gods is a great place."

The park's unique sandstone rock formations - many of them

quite striking such as kissing camels and hogbacks - contributed to its designation as a Department of the Interior National Natural Landmark.

An ad seeking a company to build a new visitor's center raised community concerns and resulted in a park master plan being developed in 1994. For years, the park had been targeted by developers wanting to build roads and houses and condos on all sides. The planning process included a series of public meetings that focused on how best to preserve the 1,323-acre park while accommodating visitors. The planning process ultimate-



ly changed the way the park is managed and protected.

In 1995 Ms. Lyda Hill, philanthropist and businesswoman, owned the land east of the Park. She proposed a public/private partnership that would result in a new visitor center just outside the park on her land. Since it opened, the Garden of the Gods Visitor & Nature Center has contributed more than \$1.6 million for park maintenance and educational activities.

FEATURE ARTICLES

CO

Making Great Communities Happen

Garden of the Gods, Great Public 1-2 Space

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

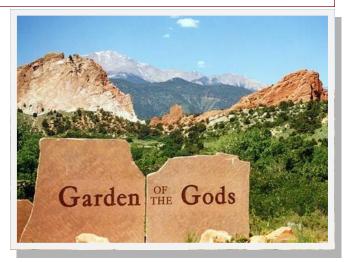
President's	3-
Message	4
T and all at land	_
Legislative	5-
Committees	6
Sustainability Committee	10
Committee	
Student Becomes	8-
the Teacher	9
the reacher	Í
Advertisers	7
Auverusers	'
APA Colorado	11
Roard Contact	

Garden of the Gods, continued

GREAT PUBLIC SPACES OF 2011

Garden of the Gods Park has been designated one of 10 Great Public Spaces for 2011 by the American Planning Association (APA) under the organization's Great Places in America program.

"It's an honor to be one of APA's Great Places," says Mayor Steve Bach. "Colorado Springs residents and the two million people that visit each year already know Garden of the Gods is a *great place*. This designation highlights the role the City and dedicated community members have played over the years in preserving the land where ancestors of the Ute Indians, lived many thousands of years ago."



APA singled out Garden of the Gods Park for its 300 million years of geologic history, impressive array of dramatic rock formations, and its use as a habitat by species as diverse as dinosaurs and honey ants. The crown jewel of Colorado Springs' park system, Garden of the Gods Park features a landscape that continues to awe and inspire visitors.

"Garden of the Gods Park rivals any place anywhere in its cultural and spiritual significance, extensive earth history and pure majestic beauty. For thousands of years and still today, people have been drawn to the dramatic red rock formations at the foot of Pikes Peak to live and recreate," said Jan Martin, of the Colorado Springs City Council.

Through Great Places in America, APA recognizes unique and authentic characteristics found in three essential components of all communities - streets, neighborhoods, and public spaces. APA Great Places offer better choices for where and how people work and live every day and are defined by many things including planning efforts, architectural styles, accessibility, and community involvement.

"Except for issues of ownership, Garden of the Gods would have been America's second national park, a status it undoubtedly merited," said APA Chief Executive Officer Paul Farmer, FAICP. "Its most recent master plan - which incorporates Ian McHarg's Design with Nature principles - has reduced the potential for degradation and deterioration, ensuring that this magnificent landscape will be enjoyed by future generations."

The nine other APA 2011 Great Public Spaces are:

Fairmount Park, Riverside, CA	Monument Circle, Indianapolis, IN	
Gray's Lake Park, Des Moines, IA	Rice Park, St. Paul, MN	
Fair Park, Dallas, TX	Maymont, Richmond, VA	
Point Defiance Park, Tacoma, WA	Milwaukee RiverWalk, Milwaukee, WI	
Bicentennial Capitol Mall State Park, Nashville, TN		

For more information about these public spaces, as well as lists of the 2011 APA 10 Great Neighborhoods and 10 Great Streets, and designations between 2007 and 2010, visit <u>www.planning.org/greatplaces/</u>.

For more information about Garden of the Gods Park, visit www.gardenofgods.com.

President's Message: Turning Stumbling Blocks into Opportunities Susan Wood, AICP

In our last newsletter, the subject of the importance of planners and planning and the role they play in economic growth and sustainability was discussed. At the

same time, the need to demonstrate the value of planning was also introduced. Of late, planning has been considered by some to be unnecessary and, even worse, by some others a plot to mandate local control and take away private property rights.

Economic Sustainability: Our Efforts and Focus – Status Report

Recently, the APA Colorado Board began to research ways to engage the development and financial community so that we can join in a collaborative effort and work together toward a balanced and sustainable economic future. It readily became apparent that this subject is bigger and broader than first thought.

There are numerous and varied stakeholders who also realize the need to focus on economic vitality. This presents us with many opportunities to join in their efforts, as well as the opportunity to establish our "niche" in this domain. Certainly, we provide a wealth of expertise in land use and transportation planning and can demonstrate the necessity of these efforts in a desirable economic future. Again, this brings us full circle and back to the need to demonstrate our worth. We can do this by participation in the efforts of others, as well as seeking ways to demonstrate our expertise and unique ability to understand and synthesize varied, sometimes conflicting, stakeholder interests and values into an agreed upon set of goals and strategies.

Participating in the efforts of others, as well as leading our own APA Colorado efforts, would have the dual purpose of seeking solutions to economic problems, as well as raising the awareness of planning and planners and their value and contributions to our communities and region. This is in lock step with the efforts of APA National and we can avail ourselves of their resources.

Demonstrating the Contribution of Planners – Available Resources

NG

OR

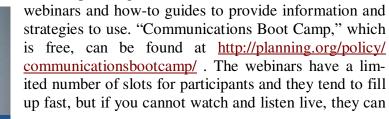
Communications Boot Camp -

- Empowering and Transforming Planners

In addition to our own local efforts, APA National has launched a campaign to advise planners of negative attacks on planning. Further, they are offering communication tools to counteract this effort.

In particular, negative attacks are being levied by opponents of Agenda 21, which is a United Nations report that came out of the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. These groups have identified planners and planning as synonymous with Agenda 21and claim that both wish to usurp local control and private property rights.

To address this misconception, and other criticisms of planning, APA National has initiated a series of



PAGE 3



President's Message, continued

be viewed later. Shortly after they are aired, the webinars are archived and can be accessed using the same link. In addition to "Communications Boot Camp," look for local opportunities to participate, learn, and contribute, and by all means, please let me, our Chapter Administrators, and other APA Colorado Board members know your thoughts and ideas.

In the face of a tough economy and negative press, we really do have an opportunity to both offer and demonstrate what it is that we do best, which is plan for good development; efficient provision of services; adequate infrastructure; preservation of community values; affordable housing; and economic sustainability.

We all know the value of good planning. Let's use these tough times as an opportunity to show it to others.

Planning and Women Division

Join us in our Planning and Women division membership drive, we have a goal to maintain over 300 members. Ask your boss, your cohorts and your alumni to join APA and most importantly :) the Planning and Women Division, now is the time. By the way, even though we are the advocates of planning and women, this division is not only open to women, we welcome men members.

In 2012, the Planning and Women division intend to increase membership, host a webinar, open a LinkedIn account, establish a LinkedIn group, open a Facebook account, open a twitter account, write a blog and/or white page for any topic that you are passionate about (writers needed, reply to me asap) and all around network and share information. If you have any ideas, let them be shared and reply to me with your social media connections so that we can all connect.

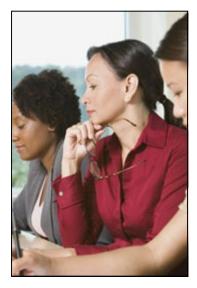
In the meantime connect with my personal and social media accounts:

Facebook.com/UBL.Kesha LinkedIn.com/in/KeshaNelson Twitter: @KeshaN or @HotBabeEngineer Cell: 573-680-2037

I look forward to connecting with all of you and moving the Planning and Women division into a member loaded dynamism.

Sincerely,

Chekesha "Kesha" Nelson Vice President, Planning and Women Division & 2012 National APA Conference Session Proposal Coordinator for Planning and Women Division



The Legislative Committee

Gloom and Doom in Washington? A Report from the APA Federal Policy & Program Briefing

Kyle A. Dalton, AICP Legislative Committee Co-Chair

Kicking off with personal advice from two trained planners who now serve as elected mayors, APA's 2011 Federal Policy & Program Briefing in Washington, D.C., illuminated the intersection of politics and planning. Chapter President Susan Wood, AICP, and I represented the APA Colorado Executive Board at the Briefing. High-level administration officials and non-profit organization staff spoke about current issues in Federal transportation, sustainability, economic development, and rural development programs. Communications strategists and advocacy experts spoke on recent attacks on planning, and how to use strategies and effective messaging to beat the critics. The event wrapped up with legislative advocacy training and a day on Capitol Hill to help congressional representatives understand why planning matters to our communities.



As bad as the news from Capitol Hill can seem to us in Colorado, it felt ten times worse inside the Beltway. Everyone from government staff to advocacy organizations to elected officials themselves are exhausted by the partisan gridlock. Speaking on the potential for surface transportation reauthorization, U.S. DOT Deputy Assistant Secretary for Transportation Policy Beth Osborne said, "It used to be that we could depend on surface transportation bill extensions, if not reauthorizations. After what happened at the FAA, nothing's a given now." She was referring to the failure of Congress in July and August to pass an extension for the Federal Aviation Administration, resulting in widespread furloughs, construction delays, and lost tax collections. The fear is that the same could happen at other DOT agencies when the current surface

transportation bill extension expires on March 31, 2012. In the understatement of the week, Devon Barnhart from the Office of U.S. Senator Frank Lautenberg (D-N.J.) summed it up this way: "It's a BAD time to depend on the federal government."

But there is still reason to hope. During Planners' Day on Capitol Hill, we visited the offices of the Colorado congressional delegation to build relationships and ask for continued full funding of both the Community Development Block Grant program and the Partnership for Sustainable Communities. The good news is that Colorado Congressman Ed Perlmutter has agreed to sponsor the Livable Communities Act of 2011 in the U.S. House, a scaled-down version of the pro-planning bill he introduced last year. The bill would formalize the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) Office of Sustainable Housing & Communities, and fund a lending program for private transit-oriented development. It also would increase funding for the HUD Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant and Community Challenge Planning Grant programs for several years. These federal grants have been in high demand by Colorado communities.

Above all else, the buzz that ruled the Washington briefing was how to reframe planning in the context of economic development. Recent research and polling results were presented that indicate that

The Legislative Committee, continued

land development patterns, transportation, climate change and global warming "just aren't priorities" to the American public right now. The research conclusions are that the era of talking about Smart Growth and Sprawl Wars is over, and the Era of Fiscal Responsibility is here. Though there is some internal pushback against the idea, according to the presenters, we have a clear opportunity to permanently establish that planning is about economic recovery. APA President Mitchell Silver, AICP, summed up the overriding message this way: "(1) Planning = Jobs, and (2) Planning = A Strong Economy."

If you are interested in strategies for effectively communicating about the benefits of planning, why not sign up for APA's free Communications Bootcamp? Currently underway, the three-month program draws on the expertise of communications specialist Robin Rather of Collective Strength, who WOWED the crowd in D.C. and kept us all talking about how we can build support for planning and counter the attacks. Find more information at <u>www.planning.org/policy/communicationsbootcamp</u>.

Let the Legislative Committee Hear from You

The APA Colorado Legislative Committee advocates for good planning and ensures planners' voices are heard in the legislature. But we can't do it without you! In order to represent our members and set priorities, APA Colorado's Legislative Committee conducts an annual survey of all APA Colorado members. **This year's <u>survey</u> is available now at <u>http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/5B2Y6H6</u>. Please take five minutes today to share your thoughts. We ask you rank the planning topics that are most important to you, and draw attention to issues that need legislative solutions. The annual survey results are invaluable in setting the direction for the Legislative Committee and focusing our efforts during the Colorado legislative session, which begins in January. Please, take the survey <u>today</u> at <u>http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/5B2Y6H6</u>.**

Visit us online at <u>www.apacolorado.org/content/legislative-committee</u> to learn more about the Legislative Committee, join the APA Colorado Legislative Listserv, get involved, find our next meeting, follow the bills we are tracking, or contact your committee co-chairs.

KUDO'S

Congratulations to **Philip Greenwald**, City of Longmont on receiving advanced specialty certification as a Certified Transportation Planner (CTP). Lesli Ellis, AECOM, also joined the inaugural class of advanced certification by receiving Certified Environmental Planner (CPD) designation.

A shout out to the University of Colorado Denver's planning program. Their accreditation by the Planning Accreditation Board was recently re-certified for 3 more years.

Great work everyone!

IT'S Gonna be Big!!!



2012 APA COLORADO CHAPTER CONFERENCE SNOWMASS, COLORADO

October 3 - 6, 2012

APA Colorado Advertisers



When the Student Becomes the Teacher

Reflections on My Travels in China

Daniel Murray, Master of Urban and Regional Planning, Candidate University of Colorado Denver

After years of reading, hearing, and seeing second hand accounts about China, the time had come for me to develop my own perceptions of the world's most populous country. As a graduate student at the University of Colorado Denver, with what is likely to be the only time in my life with three months of free time, I applied to teach English with the Teach for Friendship Foundation. This past July I had the pleasure of traveling and teaching conversational English to undergraduate students at the Huazhong University of Science and Technology in the city of Wuhan, Hubei province, China.



The experience left a lasting impression on me. As a student of Urban and Regional Planning, I am constantly questioning the manner in which societies relate to their environment and each other. Upon stepping off the plane in Shanghai and every subsequent city I visited, the most overwhelming impression is the rate at which construction is taking place. Whether buildings were being torn down or constructed, or traveling on a new toll road through farm land, the physical landscape was changing in every direction. I reflected upon this culture where many aspire to own a car, yet they still embrace walking, cycling, and every form of mass transit available. Subways, light rail, high speed rail, and bus systems are being built or expanded in every

city we visited. Elements of sound urban planning such as active transportation, density and mixed use are the norm in China. In a city such as Wuhan with 9.7 million people (China's 4th largest city), there is a striking juxtaposition between Audi's and rickety bicycles sharing the same road, technologically advanced youth and older generations who cling to tradition, and of course the very rich and the very poor.

A moment that epitomized the difference to me between US and China was when my students asserted that in the US, "even the poor people have cars." I had to admit, there might be some truth in that

statement; we have built our cities and values around the importance of owning a car. Another distinction is the manner in which we drive our cars. Despite operating with the same roads, traffic signals, and crosswalks, we use them in a totally different fashion. Traffic in the cities of China move like a school of fish, tightly packed and in a chaotic flow. In contrast to the structured and defensive style of western traffic, which moves more like a marching soldier, ensuring not to invade anyone's personal space. I'll let the traffic engineers tell us if the Chinese or the American streets are safer or move greater volumes of cars.



Teacher/Student in China, continued

What I can tell you is that drivers expect to have pedestrians, bikes, scooters, and slow moving carts mixed into traffic and they are prepared to move with them. My initial impression was that streets are less structured, yet I came to appreciate that there is a great understanding for what each person on the road might do. If a car fills a gap between two cars they all keep moving rather than slowing to create even bigger gaps, if a bike or pedestrian sees a gap in which to cross traffic, the cars continue at the same pace, allowing the pedestrian to maneuver across lanes without impeding the flow. It is dangerous, certainly, but it does emphasize that all users of the road have equal standing and responsibility. This seems to create a strangely synchronous transportation system where great numbers of people are

enabled to drive, walk, ride electric bikes, or push a cart down the road.

A second lasting impression was how incredibly focused the students are on their studies. I realized that the social aspect of the US education system through Greek life, college sports, and recreational clubs is almost nonexistent. Undergraduate school is study focused and exam intensive. These students are excellent test takers. In contrast to the US, there is less focus on group work, research papers or process-oriented creative exercises, and more oriented around on test scores. Fortunately for me, I was able to engage my students in an entirely new format - conversational English with a native English speaker. I was able to create a setting where there was no right answer, no homework, and no tests. Every student simply needed to contribute to building a respectful classroom setting and participate in the conversation. And that they did, capitalizing on an opportunity to honestly share their insights and talk freely; an experience that many students revealed they have never been able to do in an academic setting.



My last impression is that China is a country that does not take much for granted. Everyone I spoke to was enthusiastic about the increase in the quality of life over the past 60 years. I was impressed by their candidness on issues of population, environmental and social injustice, and the heavy hand of government. After three weeks we concluded that no system is perfect. While many of my students might aspire to go to a foreign graduate program, there is also a tremendous amount of national pride which ties them to their country. They are a generation of only children who feel enormous pressures placed on them by their parents and society, but have accepted this responsibility and are motivated to contribute to Chinese society. Coincidentally, it affirmed my sense of nationalism and desire to contribute to the planning profession here in Colorado.

Daniel Murray is in his second year of the UC Denver MURP program, and can be reached at <u>dan-iel.murray@ucdenver.edu</u>. If you're are interested in seeing photos and listening to an interview recorded by the University student radio, visit <u>http://youtu.be/DUVSjjB26x8</u> or search "Dlmurray14" at YouTub*e*.com.

Livin it Up with the Sustainability Committee

Tareq Wafaie, AICP Sustainability Committee Co Chair

Great streets owe much of their success to the buildings that surround them. Buildings determine the scale, the destination, and the architectural context. Building aesthetics can either make or break the street. Consider your favorite streets and the buildings along them. Now think of your least favorite streets and the buildings surrounding. As people and as planners we thirst for attractive environments. We frequently photograph the places that leave a positive impression on us. When planners capture photos of negative impressions it is most often to start a dialogue for change – a blight study, a SWOT analysis, a visual preference survey, a walking audit. Planning regulations focus heavily on the form of buildings itself. This is the job of the development community. Build something that tenants desire. Build something that saves tenants money. Build something that looks good, feels good, and contributes to a livable and sustainable neighborhood.



On September 30th, the APA Colorado Sustainability Committee invited planners to join them on a tour of the Living City Block in the heart of Denver's LoDo district. Living City Block's Chad Riley, LEED[®] AP led the group of 20 participants throughout the two-block area showcasing the 17 historic buildings that were critical to the redevelopment of Denver's old skid row. Mr. Riley provided descriptions on the programming of the buildings, including energy efficiency retrofits, and facilitated a lively discussion on how to incorporate a districtwide energy system into an existing built environment. Making deliberate connections with strategic partners such as the various building owners, energy service providers, business improvement districts, and local governments is an essential component of the Living City Block mission. The tour provided attending planners with valuable perspective on programming at the block scale to achieve new levels of resource efficiencies. For more information on the Living City Block visit www.livingcityblock.org.

 Get Involved!

 For more information on the APA Colorado Sustainability Committee, please contact:

 Anne Miller, AICP, co-chair
 annem@greenplayllc.com

 Tareq Wafaie, AICP, co-chair
 tareq.wafaie@state.co.us

Or visit us on the web at http://www.apacolorado.org/content/sustainability-committee

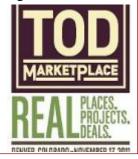




TOD MARKET PLACE, Nov 17

With another 48 miles of FasTracks now under construction, TOD has the potential to capture roughly half of all Front Range growth in compact communities. With our region poised to grow again, now is the time for metro Denver to showcase our transit system and its development opportunities to a national audience of developers, lenders, brokers, investors, and companies seeking to locate within

TOD. Check out their website for more information: <u>uli/tod</u> <u>marketplace</u>



THE WILDERNESS CITY: Nature, Culture and Economy in the Next West

21st Annual RMLUI Conference - Venue: University of Denver Campus



For More Current Events/Workshops and Trainings go to www.apacolorado.org

APA Colorado Board

Contact anyone on this list with your ideas to highlight planning as a profession or suggestions for the Chapter.

Executive Committee President Susan Wood, AICP RTD susan.wood@rtd-fastracks.com

Vice President Communications/ Newsletter Editor Jeremy Klop, AICP Fehr & Peers j.klop@fehrandpeers.com

Vice President External Affairs Shelia Booth City of Fountain <u>shelia@fountaincolorado.org</u>

Secretary/Treasurer Joni Marsh, AICP City of Longmont joni.marsh@ci.longmont.co.us

Professional Development Chair Mike Sutherland, AICP City/County Broomfield <u>msutherland@ci.broomfield.co.us</u>

Denver Metro A Representative Erica Heller, AICP P.U.M.A. Erica@pumaworldhq.com

Denver Metro B Representative Jessica Osborne CDPHE jessica.osborne@state.co.us

North Central Representative Joe Frank, FAICP City of Fort Collins jfrank@fcgov.com Northwest Representative Greg Moberg City of Grand Junction gregm@gjcity.org

Southwest Representative Chris Hawkins AICP Town of Mountain Village chawkins@mtnvillage.org

Central Mountain Representative Stan Clauson, AICP Stan Clauson Associates stan@scaplanning.com

South Central Representative Meggan Herington City of Colorado Springs <u>mherington@springsgov.com</u>

Public Official Representative Jeff Walker, Xcel Energy RTD Board of Directors Jeffrey.A.Walker@xcelenergy.com

Student Representative Daniel Murray CU Denver MURP Candidate danielmurray14@yahoo.com

Faculty Representative Jeremy Nemeth, PhD University of Colorado jeremy.nemeth@ucdenver.edu

Legislative Committee Co-Chairs Eric Heil, AICP ericheillaw@gmail.com

Kyle Dalton, AICP kyleadalton@yahoo.com Additional Contacts Western Planner Representative Katie Guthrie, AICP katie.guthrie@apacolorado.org

Sustainability Committee Co Chairs Tareq Wafaie, AICP Tareq.Wafaie@state.co.us

Anne Miller, AICP annem@greenplayllc.com

Outreach Committee Chair

Awards Committee Chair Anne Lane anne.lane@hotmail.com

Student Chapter President Carrie Murphy CU Denver MURP Candidate carmur6281@yahoo.com

APA Colorado Administration Katie Guthrie, AICP 970.667.2192 katie@apacolorado.org

Denise Taylor Henasey 303.918.6771 denise@apacolorado.org

APA Colorado Mailing Address PO Box 265 Golden, CO 80402-0265