

PLANNING MATTERS



American Planning Association
Colorado Chapter
Making Great Communities Happen

A Publication of the Colorado Chapter of the American Planning Association

NOVEMBER 2012

2012 APA Colorado Chapter Awards

FEATURE ARTICLE

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The APA Colorado Chapter continues its recognition of outstanding projects, plans and people of the planning profession by announcing the 2012 award recipients. A celebration of award winners took place at the Viceroy Snowmass Hotel on the evening of Thursday October 4th. In addition to selecting category award winners, the Awards Committee selected some winners to present their winning project in detail in a session at the Annual Conference. Each session was eligible for Certification Maintenance credits and offered conference goers the opportunity to learn the trials and vicissitudes of the award winning projects!

For 2012, the chapter awards were given in five categories:
Students
Health and Active Living Programs
Sustainability
Community Engagement
Outstanding Planning Project

Within each category, projects either receive an outstanding project or merit award. Projects were evaluated on innovation, transferability, excellence, and effectiveness. Every year, APA Colorado dedicates one Planning Matters newsletter to showcasing those award winning projects from around the state. Please enjoy reading about what your colleagues are accomplishing around Colorado!



Snowmass Success

*Shelia Booth, AICP
Chapter Administrator*

If you didn't make it to the annual APA Colorado conference this year, you definitely missed a good time. We had 319 planners and non-planners join us for four days of learning, networking and beautiful scenery at the luxurious Viceroy Hotel in Snowmass Village. If you were lucky enough to book one of the rooms, you would probably agree with fellow planner Tareq Wafaie when he stated that after a night there he had "government guilt."

With over 45 sessions, workshops and mobile tours even the most knowledgeable and experienced planner could find something new and exciting to listen to. Most of the sessions have been posted on the APA Colorado website on the Annual Conference page. Most attendees agree that the opening session *Way Out of Bounds* was like no other and a special thanks should go out to CU Denver student Fritz Clauson for donning the furry mastodon costume.

We hope you'll join us next year at the Marriott Vail Mountain Resort & Spa in Vail. Look for our request for sessions early Spring 2013. This is a great opportunity to share your stories, successes and strategies with your comrades. We'll also be seeking nominations for APA CO awards and offering sponsorship opportunities for next year. Make your plans now to attend.



President's Message: Update on APA Colorado

Susan Wood, AICP



The year 2012 is winding down and it has been an eventful year for APA Colorado. It has been one of change and, as is typical of change, the year has been accompanied by challenges and opportunities. Changes in staff created a need for greater Board involvement. The result has been a fully engaged and knowledgeable Board, who, assisted by a newly-hired Chapter Administrator, Shelia Booth, is ready to conquer greater goals and fulfill the directives of the recently-approved Strategic Plan. Overall, each goal and resulting implementation strategy included in the Plan support the importance of planning and the need for planners.

The Strategic Plan emphasizes the theme “Partners in Planning – Finding Common Ground”, and includes a variety of strategies to support the theme including partnering with allied groups; providing jointly-sponsored events with allied groups; forming coalitions with groups who have like-minded legislative goals; maintain a supportive relationship with institutions of higher learning and with student APA; and others. In addition to long-held relationships with ULI, CML, CCI, ASLA, and more, we continue our partnership with Downtown Colorado, Inc. (DCI) and on December 12th, we will collaborate to present “The Planners Bottom Line: Including Planners in Stage One.” In April 2013 (exact date to be determined), we will team for the second time with transportation-focused groups WTS, ITE, and ACEC to present the 10th Annual Transportation Symposium. Additionally, we remain open to future opportunities to join forces with those with common goals.

Another Strategic Plan goal is to enhance service to members. This includes a renewed commitment to communication. Led by the V.P. of Communications, T.J. Dlubac, efforts include an emphasis on a robust quarterly newsletter; social media; and a reorganized and reactivated Communications Committee who will evaluate various communication strategies. Also targeted to augment member services is a concerted effort to provide regional events. While some regions have benefited from regional training events, others have not seen offerings often enough. Regional Representatives will be focused on seeking these opportunities.

Also included in the Plan is the goal to enhance the Awards Program. Indeed, Awards are the centerpiece of this newsletter and we certainly have newsworthy award winners this year. At this year's Awards Celebration, which was held at the Annual Conference in Snowmass, each was roundly celebrated by a warm crowd. Each year, our Awards recipients represent the best in planning and they are all deserving of the honor and of our congratulations. A full reporting of the winners is showcased within this newsletter.

Finally, during 2012, several Board members and Committee Chairs who, after much-appreciated service to APA Colorado, have moved on to other pursuits. Some of these stepped-down early in the year and some have announced their resignations recently. We thank them all for their service and celebrate their contributions. These include:

Michael Sutherland, AICP – Professional Development	Meggan Herrington, AICP – South Central Representa-
Jeremy Klop, AICP – V.P of Communication	Jeff Walker, AICP – Public Official Representative
Daniel Murray, AICP – Student Representative	Shelia Booth, AICP – V.P. of External Affairs
Anne Lane, AICP – Awards Committee Chair	

Please join me in thanking and honoring them for all of their hard work. We know that each will continue their involvement in APA Colorado.

In 2013 we will continue to look for opportunities to celebrate planning and planners. There are many ways to get involved in APA Colorado. We invite your service on the Board and on committees and we welcome your attendance at APA events. Check the APA Colorado website for upcoming opportunities and look for email updates. As always, we welcome your thoughts and comments.

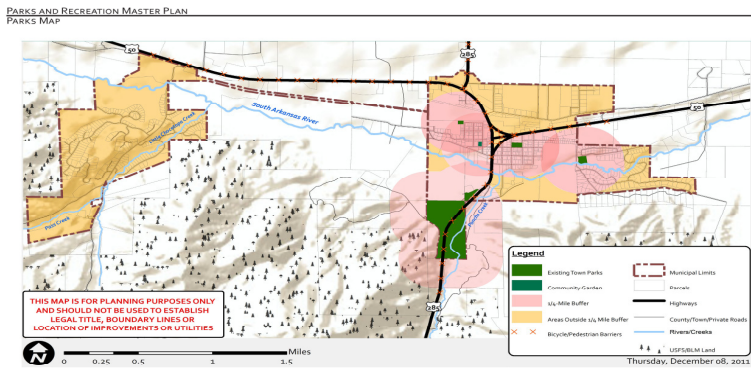
Student Project

Poncha Springs Parks and Recreation Master Plan

The Colorado APA Chapter is happy to recognize the hard work of planning students in Colorado - as the very future of planning and community development lies in their hands. This award goes to a deserving recent student (or group) projects which demonstrate outstanding work. These projects should study or actually impact a real community or plan.



This year we are pleased to present an outstanding project award to Matt Farrar and Kelly Zappia for their work on the Poncha Springs Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The plan is highly visual, making it user friendly to the public and those who administer the plan.



Parks Map

These students helped to design an outreach survey to inform the plan within the Community Needs Assessment section of the plan. This plan also included a funding strategies section, highlighting potential funding mechanisms to help implement the recommendations. It's an A+ plan in my book, and represents the first ever outstanding project award ever given in the student category.

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APA CO & DCI present:
The Planner's Bottom Line: Including
Planners in Stage One
December 12th, 2-4 p.m.
For more information:
www.apacolorador.org/content/events

APA Sustainability Committee at the 2012 Conference

This year, the APA Colorado Sustainability Committee featured a session titled “Reduce, Reuse, and then Recycle...Transitioning to Zero Waste”, in partnership with Telluride-based non-profit EcoAction Partners. While recycling has been commonplace in many Colorado cities for decades, it is far less common to find a community providing compost pick-up, restricting single-use grocery bags, or analyzing the product life-cycle of construction materials. Referred to as Zero Waste Planning, some Colorado towns are moving beyond recycling to address all types of waste generated in their communities. This is exactly what Eco-Action Partners director Kris Holstrom and her partners in the Town of Telluride, Town of Mountain Village, and San Miguel County have been working on for the past five years. Beginning with efforts to produce zero waste at the town’s numerous summer festivals, the efforts in the Telluride area have expanded to examine how an entire community or region might be able to produce zero (or close to zero) waste.

The session provided an overview of zero waste efforts, challenges and success stories and then provided important suggestions on how planners and community leaders can help with zero waste planning efforts. To view the presentation, visit <http://www.apacolorado.org/content/annual-conference> and for more information on zero waste planning, visit www.ecoactionpartners.org.

APA Sustainability Committee Fundraising

Members of the Sustainability Committee attended the APA Colorado annual conference in Snowmass in October. The committee kicked off its first-ever fundraising event with the sale of ToGo Ware bamboo eating utensils. Thanks to Jonathan Wachtel, AICP and several volunteers from the APA Colorado Student Chapter, sales were outstanding during the conference! We still have several utensil sets remaining, so please contact the committee to get yours today (or soon thereafter). The committee will use the profits for marketing efforts, securing speakers and venues, and general operating costs for committee functions. The APA Colorado Sustainability Committee hosts quarterly educational and networking events and holds regular meetings the third Wednesday of the month. Please visit <http://www.apacolorado.org/content/sustainability-committee> to learn more.


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Sustainability Awards

The Sustainability category recognizes advancement in “green” design and planning in the state of Colorado. This year’s award recipients have shown depth in agency collaboration, innovative ideas and achievement of project goals. Moreover, each of these recipients have shown how the project fits into a broader community and/or regional sustainability effort and exhibit marked achievement of project goals.

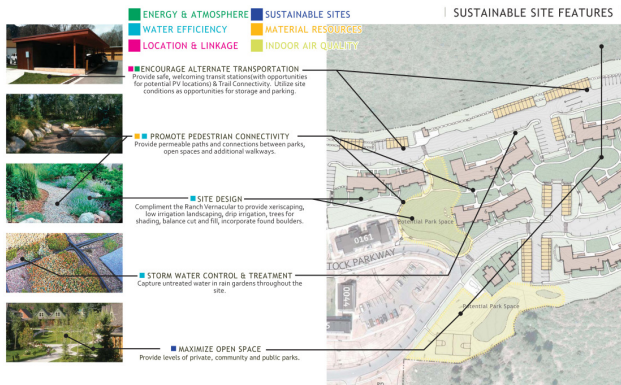
Sustainability in Colorado means many different things to many different people. In some places in the state, the word is known as the “S” word. In others, sustainable living is completely embraced as their Mantra of governance. The Colorado APA is pleased to give two merit awards in the Sustainability category this year.

SUSTAINABILITY MERIT AWARD Burlingame Ranch Affordable Housing Project Phase II

Design Workshop, Oz Architecture, and the City of Aspen, among others, designed this project to accommodate a wide range of income levels with a healthy balance of housing and outdoor space that provides the foundation for a vibrant, sustainable year-round community that promotes Aspen’s authentic and local identity. Using green-construction methods



2. ILLUSTRATIVE BURLINGAME RANCH AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROJECT PHASE II MASTER PLAN. A strong, central pedestrian core of open space and public facilities connects growth and interaction, while vehicular circulation and "curb-to-curb" facilities are reduced to the outer loop road. A series of shared pedestrian paths and public pedestrian destinations is also in place to connect each building that connects to Aspen and other destinations. The building is oriented with the topography to minimize the size of the walls and provide good views from each side. Canopies are used to shade porches on the left side of the loop road and incorporate an additional 50 square feet of outdoor storage for each unit. Specially designed trash enclosures, transit stops and mail centers are also integrated into the plan as components of the supports and are evenly distributed throughout the site to maximize proximity to the residents.



8. SUSTAINABLE SITE CHARACTERISTICS: The site planning and design strive to create a walkable, livable and sustainable community that residents will be excited to be a part of and took advantage of the existing site topography, views, orientation and location to synthesize them with the architecture and landscape architecture elements.

and building materials and systems that deliver comfortable, reliable, durable, and efficient homes to last – this project included many lessons from other housing projects within the region. Give a round of applause for Design Workshop, and the City of Aspen for their efforts to provide an equitable and sustainable future for Aspen.

SUSTAINABILITY MERIT AWARD Health Impact Assessment of the South Thornton Revitalization Subarea Plan

This is a combination of procedures by which a policy, program, or project may be judged as to its potential effects on the health of a population –and the distribution of those effects within the population. The report includes detailed analysis and recommendations to positively impact policy to decrease health inequities that result from differences in a person’s access to social, economic and environmental resources. The APA Colorado Chapter would like to acknowledge the city of Thornton and Community Enterprise for their exemplary report that paves the way for others in Colorado for this emerging planning effort.

THE HEALTHY PLACES PROJECT

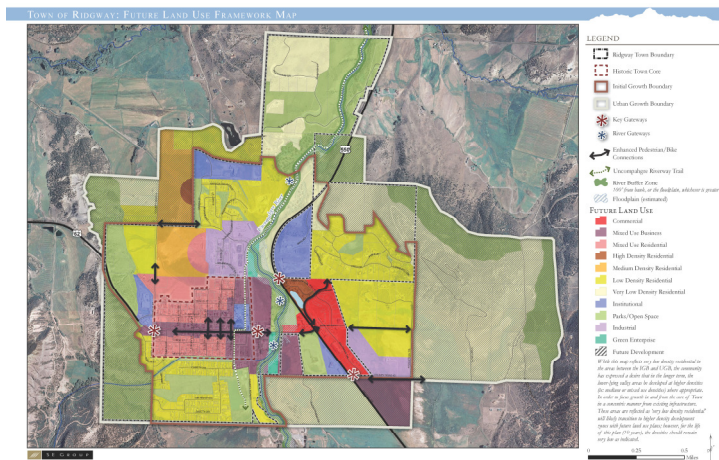
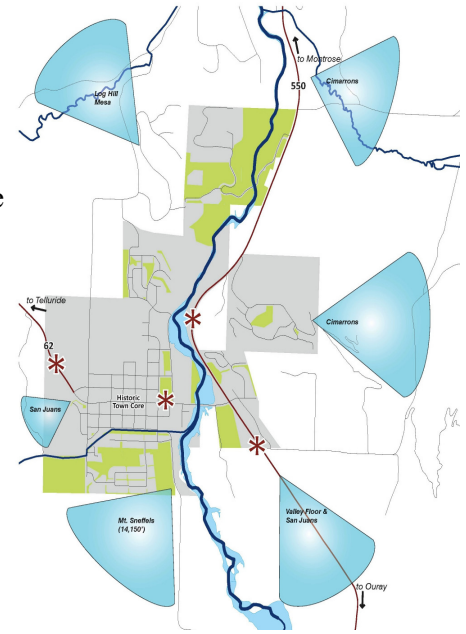
Outstanding Planning Projects

Submissions in the Outstanding Planning Project category may be recently implemented or have some level of completion that allows for evaluation in terms of their success. Most projects submitted for this category are frequently a combination of a project and a process. This category recognizes planning projects that represent Colorado’s most unique and effective planning processes. This year, we celebrate two merit awards in this category, and one Outstanding award.

MERIT AWARD

Town of Ridgeway 2011 Land Use Plan Update

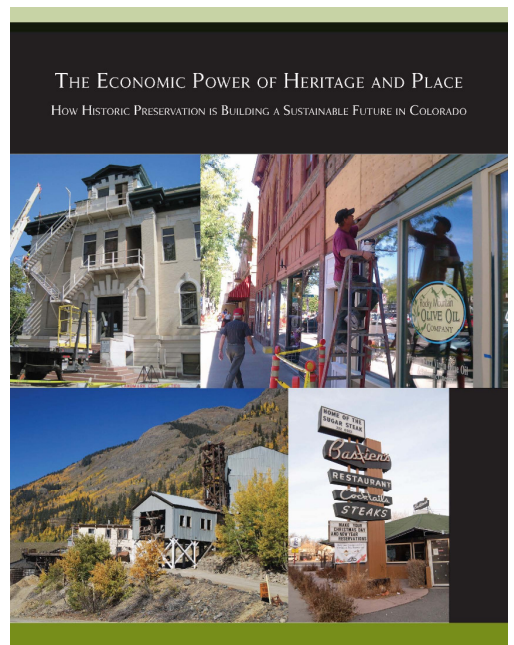
The Town of Ridgeway and SE Group are awarded the Merit Award for their 2011 Land Use Plan Update. With a \$10,000 budget, this project truly gets the most bang for the buck! How did they do it? They focused on what was important, utilized interns, and allowed the town to look inward at the resources and expertise found within the community. These Citizen-led focus groups included local experts on the topics of architecture, planning and land use, education, and more to craft policies that the town and SE group could further fine tune. It is a highly user-friendly plan with a guidebook approach, making it easy to articulate the town’s vision for future land use decisions. We congratulate Ridgeway and SE group for their incredible cost-saving mechanisms and production of a most excellent land use plan!



MERIT AWARD

The Economic Power of Heritage and Place

Clarion Associates, through the Colorado Historical Foundation and History Colorado, prepared a unique, multi-year, comprehensive study of the economic and other benefits of historic preservation throughout Colorado. This plan captures the economic benefits of preservation at two levels – the statewide level, by looking at cumulative impacts of the rehabilitation of historic buildings, heritage tourism, and programs like the Colorado Main Street program. At a more focused level, the report documents the economic importance of preservation for the owners and users of historic properties, looking at issues like property value trends. The result is a valuable advocacy tool for



Continued on Page 10



Join the Sustainability Committee

of the American Planning Association

Promoting the integration of sustainability principles in planning policy and practice through relevant education and outreach

- Identify Innovative planning methods and tools
- Collaborate with other organizations that share common mission and goals
- Promote policy recommendations to support sustainable planning
- Share Innovative methods, foster dialog, and raise awareness on sustainability issues and how they relate to planning

Join us at one of our regular monthly meetings. Visit our website for details.

www.apacolorado.org/content/sustainability-committee



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Photo taken in downtown Fort Collins

Legislative Committee Asks For Your Feedback

*Kyle A. Dalton, AICP
Legislative Committee Co-Chair*

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 survey is available now at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/C62Z3SJ>.** 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. This year, the survey will help us draft a chapter legislative agenda to guide our efforts at the Capitol. Look for more information in December on how to participate in our agenda-setting worksession. Please, take the survey today at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/C62Z3SJ>.

Volunteering for the Legislative Committee is easier than ever! Simply provide your contact information at the end of the annual survey, or contact Kyle Dalton, AICP, at kyleadaltont@yahoo.com or (303) 968-7931. Visit us online at www.apacolorado.org/content/legislative-committee 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.

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President's Award

Gilbert F. McNeish, Esq.

For 2012, Gilbert F. McNeish, Esq., of Spencer Fane & Grimshaw, LLP (formerly Grimshaw & Haring) is named as the recipient of The President's Award for meritorious contributions to planning, planning law, effective planning in Colorado, and APA Colorado.

Gil has focused his 35+ year law career in the field of land use and planning. During this time, he has faithfully represented his clients, as well as continually upheld the principles of good planning. Further, for many years Gil has trained candidates for the Master of Urban and Regional Planning degree in the subject of Planning Law. The number of students who have learned the basis for zoning and land use decisions at the State and Federal Supreme Court levels under the tutelage of Gil are too numerous to mention. Each has gone forward in their planning career with an understanding of the legal foundation for planning.

Lastly, Gil has been a friend and resource for APA Colorado. From 2006 to 2011, Gil served as co-chair for the Legislative Committee. During that time, Gil offered his knowledge of planning law, Colorado State Statutes, and the history of many Colorado planning laws on the books today. In addition to service as Legislative Committee co-chair, Gil offered his services and the services of his firm, then Grimshaw & Haring, pro bono, to prepare amicus briefs for both the Colorado Supreme Court and the U. S. Supreme Court on behalf of APA Colorado. Countless man hours went into the research and preparation of these briefs, all of which were given in service to the ideals of good planning and in the interest of good planning in Colorado.

For these many contributions and unwavering dedication to the principles of good planning, this award is given to Gil McNeish.



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Climate Change Preparedness Planning

The Sonoran Institute & the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy is hosting a webinar on December 5th on Climate Change Preparedness Planning. This webinar is free to the public and is worth 1.5 CM credits.

Date: December 5th

Time: 12:00 p.m.—1:30 p.m.

For more information visit the APA CO webpage:

www.apacolorado.org/content/events

Outstanding Planning Project *(Continued from Pg 6)*

planners and state and local government officials. Let's congratulate Clarion Associates on their merit award for their work to ensure that Colorado stands the test of time.



"Plug into Nature" - Finding Connections to the Outdoors for Youth and Families in Larimer County

APA Colorado Chapter is proud to award the Outstanding Award in the Outstanding Planning Project category to Design Workshop and Larimer County for "Plug into Nature – finding connections to the outdoors for youth and families in Larimer County." The Plug Into Nature project takes a planning and community engagement approach to address a concerning trend in which children are becoming increasingly disconnected from the outdoors. The three major components of the project include program and facilities inventories, gap analyses of both access to natural areas and outdoor programming, and an analysis of the challenges inherent in engaging children in nature. This plan is interesting, sexy, and chalk full of priority strategies to fill the gaps and eliminate barriers to improving connections to nature. Congratulations to Larimer County and Design Workshop for an incredible example of creativity meets functionality!






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Community Engagement

As planners, we are always looking for new and exciting ways to engage the public in our processes. This Community Engagement award is for an outstanding process or innovative practice. Our 2012 award winners have discovered a new or better way to engage the public with innovative outreach and participation techniques. APA Colorado recognizes the innovations in the Community Engagement category with two awards in this category.

MERIT AWARD

Frisco Community Plan
Connect. Sustain. Create.

APA Colorado is pleased to award the merit award in Community Engagement to The Frisco Community Plan. The public process to update Frisco’s master plan became as much about community engagement throughout the experience as it was about the creation of the plan itself – which highlights community core values and identifies quality of life policies to guide Frisco into the future. This public process included six public forums, and one business forum – each building upon the previous public forum’s dialogue. Because of this plan, Frisco actually changed it’s approach to all of its public meetings. Let’s engage in applause for their efforts in Frisco!

FRISCO COMMUNITY PLAN <small>CONNECT.SUSTAIN.CREATE</small>		
FORUM 1 March 30 th , 2011 What is Community?	FORUM 2 April 20 th , 2011 Why Frisco?	FORUM 3 May 4 th , 2011 Am I a Local?
FORUM 4 May 18 th , 2011 What’s the Future?	FORUM 5 June 8 th , 2011 Connect.Sustain.Create	FORUM 6 June 22 nd , 2011 Celebrate Frisco Dinner

Inclusive Park Planning through Community Partnerships in Westwood, Denver

For an outstanding project award in community engagement, we recognize another LiveWell Westwood project! Inclusive Planning through Community Partnerships. With language barriers, and economic disparities, the Westwood neighborhood finds plenty of challenges engaging the public. In this project, Denver’s parks and rec department partnered with the Trust for Public



Land to transform a blighted property into a park. Two surveyors, one speaking only Spanish, and the other speaking only English, worked together to knock on every door within ¼ mile of the park. Meetings for this project included child-care, pizza, and using display boards with pictures, and not words. This was a successful way to engage the community and show the city what was truly important to the neighborhood. Congratulations to LiveWell Westwood and The City and County of Denver!

Thank You APA Colorado Sponsors!!!

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Health and Active Living Program

Zumba in Westwood - Sharing Facility Space to Overcome Resource Scarcity

We are a healthy state here in Colorado. Look out your window anywhere you go, and you'll likely see somebody exercising – be it a professional cyclist on a bike, or a family walking one of our amazing trail systems. Meanwhile, the US is suffering from an epidemic. Even in Colorado, the number of children and adults with obesity is continually on the rise. Planners have a direct role in shaping our built environment.



This category recognizes successfully implemented programs and projects which work to overcome the obesity epidemic in our communities. The successful recipient of this category will have made changes to the built environment and community lifestyles which lead to the

increased access to healthy foods, exercises or social wellness within their communities.

This years recipient has shown depth in community engagement, high rates of community participation, agency collaboration, innovative ideas and achievement of project goals.

This year, we recognize one particular program that shaped bodies in the Westwood neighborhood in west Denver. LiveWell Colorado partnered with the Westwood neighborhood to pay for 6 women and 1 man to be trained Zumba instructors. In addition, they organized coalition partners with gyms to request that they allow Zumba to occur in their facilities. This program solved problems of this neighborhood of no one to exercise with, and nowhere to exercise. This program offers zumba instruction to participants at a requested donation of 1-2\$. Congratulations to the Zumba in Westwood program for a Merit Award in Health and Active Living Programs! Let's give a big Cha-Cha Cha for

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APA Colorado Board

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

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