

Conservation in Metropolitan Regions Session Information



23RD ANNUAL LAND USE CONFERENCE

Conservation in Metropolitan Regions Track

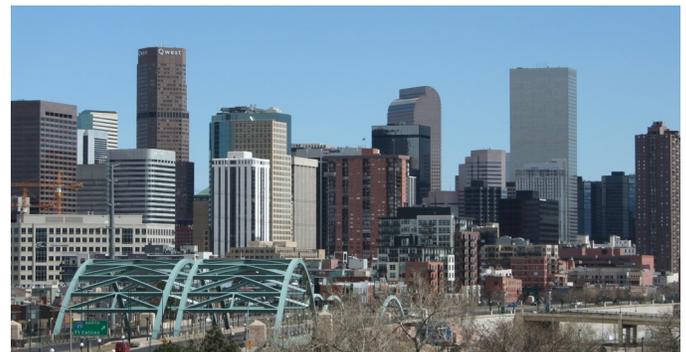
As part of our conference this year, the Rocky Mountain Land Use Institute is proud to partner with the Metropolitan Greenspace Alliance, a national network of regional urban greenspace organizations, to present a full conference track devoted to understanding how to connect cities with their natural environments.

The pressures of population growth and economic development threaten to overtake the natural amenities and open space that makes cities livable... and that attract so many people to the urban centers within the Rocky Mountain region.

Big questions loom:

- How do we create a shared vision for what the region should look like in 50 years?
- How can we preserve the ecological function of our watersheds in metropolitan areas and protect our communities from flooding and other natural disasters?
- As we grow, will we be able to provide habitat for birds and other wildlife, or grow food, within our sprawling cities?
- And how do we connect increasingly urban populations to their natural environment?

The **Conservation in Metropolitan Regions** track brings together national leaders who are at the forefront in thinking about these important questions and who have a track record of fostering regional metropolitan collaborations to expand networks of open space and trails, creating successful green infrastructure projects, and building an urban constituency for environmental and natural resource protection.



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METROPOLITAN GREENSPACES ALLIANCE



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Framing an Urban Agenda for Nature



Cities and nature have often been seen as incompatible: as two different things and places. Recently, there has been a rediscovery of the benefits of nature in cities and the need for collaborative partnerships that tackle these complex metropolitan issues beyond their political boundaries. Protecting, restoring, and connecting nature in cities and the metropolitan regions that surround them can enhance human health, create more livable and enjoyable places while promoting economic vitality, save scarce dollars by employing “green” infrastructure, and contribute to a more sustainable future in the face of climate change. This opening session of the Metropolitan Conservation track will set the stage to establish a coherent national agenda for urban conservation.

Moderator:

James N. Levitt, Fellow, Lincoln Institute of Land Policy

Speakers:

William L. Allen, Director of Strategic Conservation, The Conservation Fund

Bob Ratcliffe, Chief of Conservation and Recreational Programs, National Park Service

Tim Sullivan, Colorado State Director, The Nature Conservancy

Front Range Urban Greenspace Protection: What’s Working in Metropolitan Denver?



Colorado has been at the vanguard of protecting open space statewide, providing funding through Great Outdoors Colorado and incentivizing conservation through state tax credits and other legal tools in both the rural and metropolitan areas of the state. This panel brings together community leaders to explore several local collaborative conservation efforts in the Front Range of Colorado to share lessons learned and best practices in bringing diverse constituencies together in Colorado to protect urban open space.

Moderator:

Kate Kramer, Executive Director, Sand Creek Regional Greenway Partnership

Speakers:

Devon Buckels, AICP, Coordinator, South Platte River Urban Waters Project

Howard Kenison, Partner, Lindquist + Vennum, LLP

Hillary Merritt, Project Manager, The Trust for Public Land

Collective Impact: A Model for Collaborative Problem Solving



Urban conservation requires complex, multi-jurisdictional collaboration that brings together diverse stakeholders from many sectors of society. Successful efforts subscribe to the principles underlying a “collective impact” approach. This session will explore the concept of collective impact, the specific elements that comprise this approach, and its application to large landscape conservation.

Speakers:

Bill Fulton, President, The Civic Canopy

Becky Hoffman, Executive Director, Adams County Youth Initiative

Jeremy Madsen, Executive Director, Greenbelt Alliance

New Frontiers in Land Conservation

Land is finite—when we have reached the maximum limit of raw, large-scale, private land protection through the use of perpetual conservation easements, what can be done with the smaller parcels of undeveloped land and the already-built environment? Like the mantra of Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, the new frontiers for land protection will be Conserve, Re-Develop, and Un-Develop. This session will explore these three options as the new frontiers of land conservation: conserving land in suburban and urban landscapes for publicly accessible or owned parks, gardens, trails, and community spaces; re-developing dedicated land uses and existing buildings to other purposes that better suit the public's needs and interests; and un-developing the built environment to return the land to a new public purpose, which may help transform the landscape into an interconnected functional network of urban ecological systems that provide multiple benefits for people and nature.

Moderator:

Dan Pike, President, Colorado Open Lands

Speakers:

Will Allen, Director of Strategic Conservation, The Conservation Fund

Jessica Jay, Land Conservation Attorney, Conservation Law, PC

Bruce Roll, Director of Regulatory Affairs and Watershed Management, Clean Water Institute



Coalitions to Advance Urban Nature

Large landscape conservation in metropolitan regions involves public and private collaborators who look beyond political boundaries to achieve their goals. This session will explore the similarities and differences of successful coalition models in setting regional goals and implementing projects in metropolitan regions. Come learn how these coalitions formed, the challenges of planning at multiple scales, the role of the backbone organization in supporting these “collective impact” approaches, and the challenges of working bottom-up when developing large landscape goals, strategies, and actions.

Speakers:

Cathy Geraghty, Director of Strategic Initiatives, Forest Preserves of Cook County; Chicago Wilderness

Bridgett Jones, Executive Director, Cumberland Region Tomorrow

Jeremy Madsen, Executive Director, Greenbelt Alliance

Claire Robinson, Managing Director, Amigos de los Rios/Emerald Necklace

Mike Wetter, Executive Director, The Intertwine Alliance



Race and Equity in Urban Nature

Valuing nature starts at home, and for most of America, this is dependent upon a connection to nature that begins in the backyards, local parks and preserves, and natural landscapes of urban and suburban America. This session will explore the importance of conservation and equity in the context of the diverse audiences of a metro region, including citizens (youth and adult), civic leaders, and elected officials and the parks and open space entities (public and private) that are charged with providing and managing these resources.

Speakers:

Belinda Faustinos, Principal, BVF Consulting, Inc.

Jo-Elle Mogerman, Vice President, Chicago Zoological Society

Roberto Moreno, Executive Director, Alpine Mountain Sports Foundation

Dean Saitta, Professor & Chair, University of Denver Department of Anthropology



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Outcomes: A National Agenda for Urban Conservation

Join this session to synthesize the primary outcomes of two days of panel discussions regarding conservation in metropolitan regions. These outcomes will be used to help advance a national urban conservation agenda, which will continue to develop at the National Workshop on Landscape Scale Conservation in October 2014.

Speakers:

Shawn Johnson, Senior Associate, University of Montana Center for Natural Resources and Environmental Policy

Erik Johnston

Associate Professor, Arizona State University School of Public Affairs; Director, Center for Policy Informatics



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If you're interested in learning more about how to create more liveable and sustainable cities through greenspace protection, don't miss the **Conservation in Metropolitan Regions** track!

Contact Us!

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And if you want to dive deeper into the work of the **Metropolitan Greenspace Alliance** and understand how these regional alliances for urban conservation function, plan to attend our "nuts & bolts" workshop on Saturday, March 15th. Contact Susan Daggett at 303-871-6970 or sdaggett@law.du.edu for more information. To register for the workshop, please go to the [RMLUI website](http://law.du.edu/rmlui) or <http://bit.ly/1beJNzO>.

