



MiSITES

VOLUME 20, NUMBER 1

MICHIGAN CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY
OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

SAVE THE DATE!

October 7-8, 2026



ANNUAL CONFERENCE ON LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

East Lansing, MI

**LANDSCAPES
IN TRANSITION**



**ASLA
MICHIGAN**

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Happy Spring! Our ExCom and subcommittees have been very busy this quarter, and we're thrilled to share the newest edition of MiSITES.

National: National has rolled out an updated website and virtual member experience. We encourage you to log in and refresh your membership details, so you receive content tailored to your interests. Meanwhile, our ExCom has been actively participating in monthly cross-chapter collaborations through the Presidents Council. We believe collaboration strengthens our chapter and moves us forward in an intentional way.

Licensure: I'd like to extend my sincere gratitude to VP of Government Affairs, Bob Doyle, our legislation subcommittee, and KDA for their work the past few months. With support from National, we took a strategic approach and met with a range of legislators, ultimately securing a pause on a proposed delicensure bill. Our Chapter continues to collaborate on legislation, ensuring that any future changes in law protect licensure and clarify which activities fall outside of HSW.

Education: We remain committed to supporting our student members in meaningful ways—through networking events, educational gatherings,

portfolio reviews, hosting ExCom on campus, and providing awards and stipends. We also look forward to strengthening our partnerships with sister organizations that share our vision and champion the future of our profession.

Annual Conference: We had great success and participation at last year's conference! This year's theme is Landscapes in Transition. It will be held at the Graduate in East Lansing on October 7-8. We are excited to continue the updated Award Celebration and provide updates on our Strategic Plan. Don't forget to save the date for this incredible event! More information is coming soon on our website.

Lastly, I want to express my gratitude for the trust you place in me and in this organization. I'm always just an email away and glad to support however I can. None of our progress would be possible without the dedication of our ExCom and volunteers, and I'd be thrilled to have you consider joining us. Our call for nominations is now open!

Best Regards,
Dana Hernalsteen, PLA, ASLA
President Michigan Chapter of ASLA

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LOOKING FOR CEUs?

Email education@michiganasla.org for resources and consider attending the 2025 Michigan ASLA Annual Conference.



Michigan Chapter of ASLA



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www.michiganasla.org

LYON SQUARE: RECLAIMING THE RIVERFRONT

Ryan Johnson, PLA, ASLA | Progressive Companies

In the heart of Downtown Grand Rapids along the city's evolving riverfront, Progressive Companies led the design of a dynamic, four-season public space that redefines how residents and visitors engage with the urban environment. This \$4.3 million transformation created an inclusive, flexible gathering space that integrates pedestrian activity with business functions and vehicular access.

Situated between the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel and DeVos Place Convention Center—two of West Michigan's primary civic and economic anchors—the site was highly visible yet underutilized, prioritizing vehicles over people.

Today, Lyon Square serves as a renewed public space redefining how residents, workers, and visitors experience the riverfront. It functions as both a civic connector and cultural platform, bridging infrastructure, landscape architecture, urban design, and community identity.

Lyon Square represents a catalytic investment aligned with the City of Grand Rapids' "River for All" vision and the GR Forward plan, reinforcing commitments to walkability, tourism, public life, and equitable placemaking while restoring a meaningful connection between downtown and the Grand River.

RIVERFRONT IN TRANSITION: DESIGNING AN URBAN SPACE WITHIN COMPLEXITY

Lyon Square occupies a strategic position within its framework. Located along the Downtown Promenade, it connects hotels, convention facilities, offices, surrounding businesses, and the riverwalk.

Over the past decade, Grand Rapids has redefined its relationship with the Grand River. Once treated as backdrop—or, in some cases, a barrier—the river is now central to the city's ecological and social future.

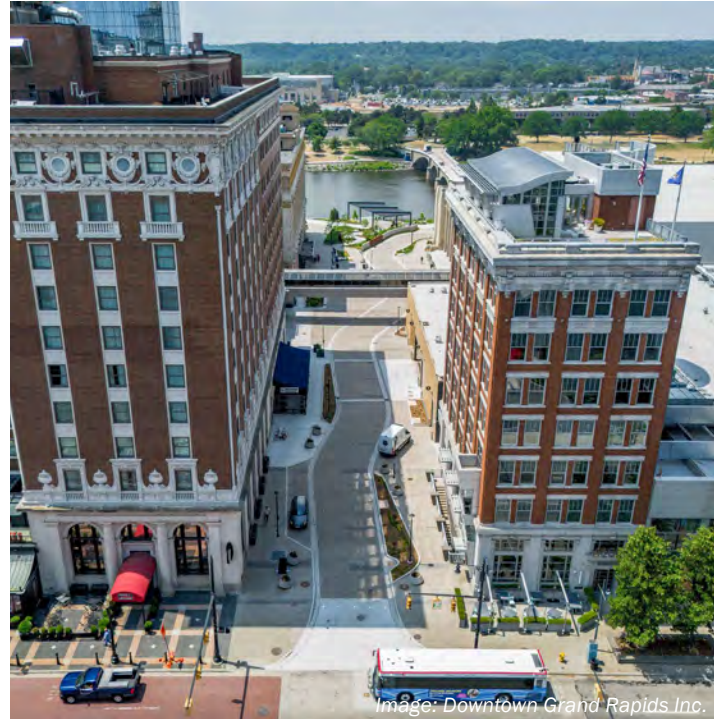


Image: Downtown Grand Rapids Inc.



Image: Downtown Grand Rapids Inc.

Prior to improvements, access to the river's edge was limited, particularly for those with mobility challenges. Depressed terraced seating created separation rather than activation. The result was infrastructure—not place.

Lyon Square presented a rare and compelling design parameter: a highly visible riverfront site defined as much by its opportunity as by its constraint. Its role as a gateway to the riverwalk created the potential for a vibrant public gathering space that strengthens connections between the urban core and the waterfront.

Simultaneously, the site was shaped by layers of operational and infrastructural complexity. The space was required to accommodate emergency and service vehicle access, maintain ADA-compliant pathways across challenging grade transitions, and perform reliably through Michigan's seasonal extremes.

PLANNING AND DESIGN PROCESS: A COLLABORATIVE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE EFFORT

The transformation of Lyon Square focused on creating a flexible, four-season civic platform that supports everyday use and civic events, improves pedestrian circulation, and integrates landscape systems that enhance long-term performance.

The project brought together key stakeholders including the City of Grand Rapids, Downtown Grand Rapids Inc., AHC Hospitality, Rockford Construction, and Progressive Companies. Together, the team pursued strategies that treated infrastructure, accessibility, and placemaking as interconnected systems rather than competing priorities.

"The breadth of stakeholder voices involved in defining what success truly meant for the space brought a unique challenge for our team," said Ryan Johnson, Landscape Architect at Progressive Companies. "Together, we met that challenge by grounding the project's goals and guiding principles in those conversations—ensuring they were clear, concise, and collectively endorsed before advancing into design."

This level of collaboration shaped every aspect of how Lyon Square was

designed and constructed. Early and sustained engagement among all partners established a shared understanding of priorities and performance expectations.

The planning and design process was deeply collaborative, grounded in engagement and coordination among civic leaders, private stakeholders, designers, engineers, accessibility advocates, and contractors. Public engagement informed the project at every stage from workshops, walking tours, stakeholder meetings, and design charrettes. Feedback consistently emphasized the need for improved accessibility, clear and intuitive pedestrian circulation, preservation of the river views, enhanced safety, and the ability to support a wide range of programming. These priorities became foundational design drivers throughout the process.

Environmental and Operational Performance

Mark Miller, Managing Director of Planning & Design at Downtown Grand Rapids Inc., noted, "One of the main successes of this project is the creative use of design and materials to balance the space with the functional requirements of the adjacent properties."

The landscape and infrastructure at Lyon Square were approached as a coordinated systems working together to manage water, reduce maintenance demands, and improve the comfort and longevity of the public realm. Expanded green infrastructure was implemented throughout the site to improve stormwater management in a dense urban environment, while native and adaptive plantings contribute biodiversity and reduce long-term maintenance demands.

An integrated snowmelt system was installed to support continuous access during winter months, ensuring that circulation routes, gathering areas, and connections to the river remain usable even in challenging conditions. This infrastructure extends daily activity throughout the year, and ensures the space remains active and safe year-round.

Additionally, circulation patterns, grading strategies, and material transitions were carefully developed to create smooth, legible movement across the site



while still accommodating emergency and service access. Those technical decisions helped ensure the space performs as intended every day, without drawing attention to the infrastructure supporting it.

Along the adjacent corridor, a Dutch-inspired woonerf strategy reshaped how vehicles and pedestrians interact. Drive lanes were raised to sidewalk level, curbs were eliminated, and continuous paving was carried through the roadway. This design style clearly communicates pedestrian priority while still allowing vehicles to move through the space safely and deliberately.

Accessibility was at the forefront throughout the project. In collaboration with Disability Advocates of Kent County, the team incorporated directional tactile warning pavers and contrasting concrete banding to define clear travel paths and maintain full ADA compliance. The result is an environment that supports intuitive movement and equal access for visitors of all abilities.

Social Performance: Civic Spaces that Support Community Life

Lyon Square was designed to function as a collection of interconnected civic spaces. Each space supports different forms of use while contributing to a unified public experience.

The Overlook replaces a formerly depressed terrace with an elevated, fully accessible destination overlooking the Grand River. The space is designed to serve both everyday and event-driven use, anchored by an architectural shade structure, integrated in-ground lighting, and durable paving.

Connected to the Overlook, the Garden Walk brings a more immersive experience along the river's edge. Its winding form, layered plantings, and sculpted landforms naturally create a slower, more intimate transition through the landscape. Elongated concrete unit pavers, low seat walls, integrated art, and intentionally placed lighting guide guests movement, while framing views back to the river and city skyline.

Creating the Garden Walk required a high level of coordination between design and construction. The tight radii of the path demanded extensive custom cutting of elongated pavers, and achieving clean joints and consistent

Image: Downtown Grand Rapids Inc.



Image: Downtown Grand Rapids Inc.

patterning took precision and close collaboration on site. The finished result reflects that team effort—a space where craftsmanship reinforces design intent rather than compromising it.

In addition, the plaza adjacent to the Exhibitors Building entrance extends the site's flexibility at a civic scale. Embedded projection infrastructure allows the plaza to support digital art and seasonal programming, transforming nearby building façades into active participants in public life. This area was designed to host large gatherings and event programming while remaining welcoming for everyday use.

Economic and Cultural Impact

Since completion, Lyon Square has strengthened connections between the riverfront, downtown businesses, hotels, and convention facilities. Increased foot traffic and improved pedestrian flow have reinforced the area's role as both a daily destination and a venue for large-scale civic activity.

Seasonal activations and cultural programming continue to expand the area's role as a destination. Infrastructure originally introduced for temporary installations have evolved into permanent features, allowing the space to adapt as community interests and cultural opportunities grow.

Richard Win, President of AHC Hospitality, noted: "The improvements to Lyon Square have elevated Grand Rapids' ability to compete for large-scale events, while offering a meaningful destination for day-to-day enjoyment. It's a driver of economic development and a reflection of the city's evolving identity as a world-class, welcoming destination."

LESSONS LEARNED: COLLABORATION AND INTEGRATION

Lyon Square demonstrates the value of early alignment among public agencies, private partners, advocacy groups, and downtown stakeholders. Established clear design goals and shared principles at the outset created a consistent framework for decision-making and helped the team navigate complexity without losing focus or momentum.

This alignment proved critical during construction, as designers and builders

collaborated on site to solve challenges in real time—testing layouts and adjusting details as needed while maintaining the integrity of the original design vision.

Another challenge brought on was below grade, existing tunnels and structural constraints that limited available pavement depth. Rather than forcing uniform solutions, the team recalibrated materials and patterns where needed, maintaining performance and durability through informed technical adjustments.

These moments reinforce a fundamental lesson: strong design is not rigid. It is resilient. The success of Lyon Square came from a team willing to adapt while protecting the project's intent, quality, and long-term performance.

The project illustrates that excellence in landscape architecture lies in integration. Lyon Square does not privilege aesthetics over function or infrastructure over experience. Instead, it demonstrates that layered, systems-based thinking can elevate all aspects simultaneously. •

Planning and Design Team

Landscape Architecture and Urban Design - Progressive Companies

Client

City of Grand Rapids

Key Project Partners

Downtown Grand Rapids Inc.

AHC Hospitality

Rockford Construction

Grand Rapids-Kent County Convention/Arena Authority

Legends (ASM)

City of Grand Rapids

Additional Project Partners

Disability Advocates of Kent County

Mobile GR

LEGISLATIVE RECAP

Bob Doyle, VP of Government Affairs

Our Chapter's efforts to guide the legislative process have been fruitful, as noted in the recent email posting from MiASLA. Here is what we know so far:

- House Bill 4879 was introduced in September of 2025 for the sole purpose of deregulating the profession of landscape architecture, and the bill has been successfully sidetracked based on the rapid response from KDA and Chapter representatives.
- A new bill has been drafted, but not yet introduced, which would amend the current law we practice under to both clarify and simplify the definition of our work, focusing on issues of health, safety and welfare. We have been graciously afforded the opportunity to have input into the draft by Rep. Posthumus, and the draft bill remains under consideration by potential sponsors.
- Just prior to these legislative issues arising, the State Of Michigan began interpreting the 2021 Michigan Building Code as reading that landscape architects cannot seal drawings that include structures, whether habitable or not, such as playground structures. We believe this is a misinterpretation of the code and harms our profession's ability to compete in the marketplace. We successfully convinced Rep. Posthumus to include clarifying language into the draft bill noted above, and we are thinking strategically about how we can address this issue whether the bill moves forward or not.

While we can remain positive about our efforts to date, there is still much work to do as the year unfolds to defend landscape architecture as a profession and retain our ability to compete and practice while protecting the public.

An ad-hoc Legislative Committee has provided meaningful guidance on these efforts, and if you would like to join in this effort, please email Bob Doyle at bob.doyle@smithgroup.com.

PROFESSIONAL & STUDENT CALL FOR ENTRIES & JURY DUTY

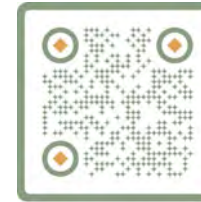
Michigan ASLA AWARDS Portal is now open and accepting entries for the 2026 Professional and Student Awards.

1 REQUEST for Upload Link Deadline:
**Wednesday
June 10, 2026
at 6:00pm**

2 UPLOAD Award Documents Deadline:
**Wednesday
June 24, 2026
at 11:59pm**



AWARD CRITERIA



ENTRY FORM



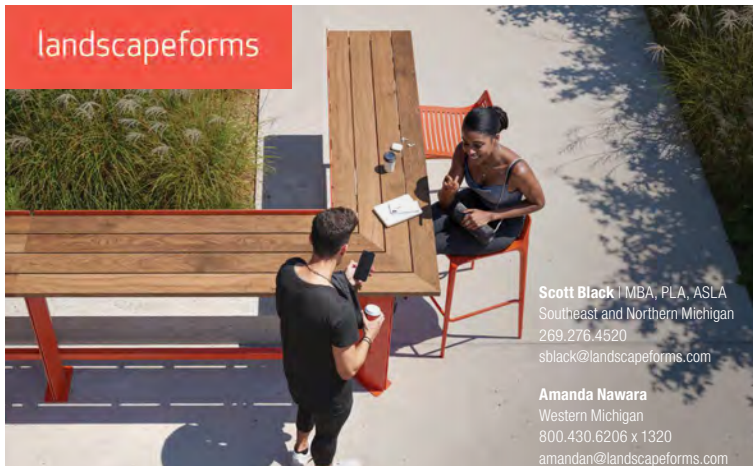
JURY FORM

3 As part of our Chapter duty, we are in need of jurors to evaluate the Iowa Chapter Award Submittals. If interested, please fill out the **JURY FORM!** Jury duties will likely occur in late July to early August and are virtual.

**no prior experience necessary*

Award Questions?
awards@michiganasla.org

landscapeforms



Scott Black | MBA, PLA, ASLA
Southeast and Northern Michigan
269.276.4520
sblack@landscapeforms.com

Amanda Nawara
Western Michigan
800.430.6206 x 1320
amandan@landscapeforms.com



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Bicycle Security
by Order Manufacturing



Lofty Bike Rack
madrax.com | 800.448.7931

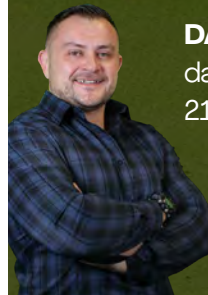


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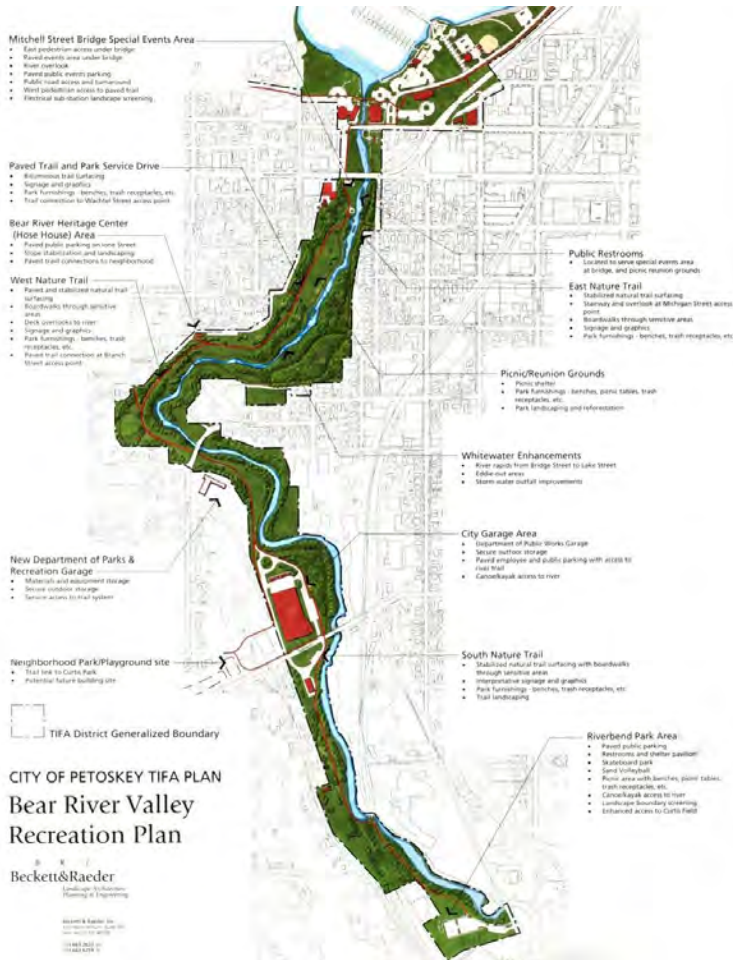
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DANIEL PAUL, CPSI
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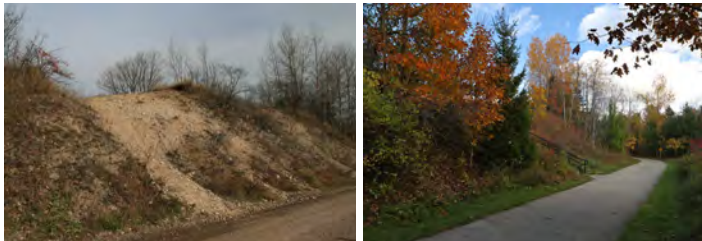
beneath the path. Establishing pedestrian connections through challenging topography facilitated reduction of foot traffic erosion. Revegetating bare slopes and improving prior attempts to control the river also presented opportunities to improve sustainability and water quality. Opportunities for water access were determined by safety, stream velocities and fish habitat protection.

During design development, the primary circulation spine was refined to ensure accessibility. Existing connections to the surrounding neighborhood were refined and new connections developed. Where steep grades were challenging, a stairway tower was engineered and implemented to establish a new access point and overlook for downtown neighborhoods. Native seed mixes, live-staking and plug planting palettes were refined for the local area. Parking areas were refined to facilitate stormwater BMPs and provide accessibility. To explore opportunities for water recreation, BRI consulted Recreation Engineering and Planning, an in-stream recreational and environmental engineer. These improvements consist of limestone weirs placed at strategic locations, creating a series of stable pools of water above the weirs and a standing wave below. Standing waves allow whitewater kayakers to surf and perform tricks, and the pools below allow capsized kayakers to recover and rejoicing the wave via recirculating eddies. The improvements can also improve fish habitat and facilitate upstream movement, providing slower pools where fish can rest, feed or spawn.

IMMEDIATE IMPACTS

Recreational use increased dramatically upon the park's completion. Pavilions were reserved for most summer weekends, and restrooms in the north parking area kept people in the park. The Bear River Crawl 5k Run/Walk, which preceded park development, added the paved trail and increased in popularity. A whitewater kayaking event called the Bear River Spring Rendezvous was founded, attracting participants and spectators. At the 2016 event, Al Hansen, Park and Recreation Director who helped realize the improvements, commented to the Northern Express, "The re-engineered river also has created better fishing in the river, as the same conditions that aid kayakers help the fish habitat".

Other environmental quality improvements included native seed mixes tailored to local conditions which exceeded expectations, providing cover, reducing erosion on slopes bare from industrial impacts and improving habitat. Live staking and plug planting to address bankside erosion and stabilize previous rip-rap armoring helped to restore natural conditions. Less-desirable activities that occurred prior to development when the park was a forgotten space diminished with increased public presence. Park development also increased awareness of Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council's annual "Heal the Bear" cleanup, an event predating park development. Jennifer Buchanan, former director at Tip of the Mitt and Parks Commission member, commented that while participation increased, the amount of trash removed from the river decreased after development.



PARK EVOLUTION

Proximity and trail connection to Bayfront Marina and Little Traverse Wheelway Regional Non-motorized Trail continues to increase awareness of this lesser-known natural and recreational asset. Trails are well-used for recreation and circulation. The Bear River Crawl and Heal the Bear cleanup remain popular, but kayaking use has lessened due to the seasonal nature of whitewater opportunities. Finally, the original stewards, the Odawa, continue to care for the river and surrounding area, monitoring and reporting water quality and addressing invasive species.

FUTURE CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

The park has evolved into a 4-season park used by community and visitors. Managing use impacts will be a primary challenge. Kendall Klingelsmith, current Parks director, has also identified new erosion caused by the river's dynamic nature. Most point-source stormwater connections to the river have been fortified with pretreatment structures but a few unimproved sources require improvement.

Aside from fishing, in-stream recreation is less likely to increase. The natural, uncemented whitewater drops have begun to deform, resulting in fewer recreational opportunities, and use remains dependent on snowmelt and storm events. One potential major change to fish habitat is removal of the lamprey weir at the river outlet, restoring fish passage to the river but requiring other lamprey control measures. Potential improvements to facilitate fish passage, inhibit lamprey passage, and facilitate recreation include fish ladders and variable weirs that can be adjusted to inhibit lamprey passage and create whitewater surf waves.

Population increase is presenting new potential impacts and opportunities. Housing demand has resulted in a large apartment complex at the south end of the park, presenting the opportunity to connect its residents with the river valley. Preliminary plans propose extending the Petoskey Downtown Greenway to the development, ultimately resulting in a 3-mile "Best of Petoskey" loop with 90' of elevation change, waterfront access on the Little Traverse Wheelway, connection to historic downtown, and access to the Bear River



Valley Recreation Area., which Al Hansen described as “a gorgeous place, and what’s most neat about it is that it’s right in the middle of town.” •

Design Team

Beckett & Raeder, Inc: Planning, Landscape Architecture, and Civil Engineering Services
Recreation Engineering and Planning: In-Stream Environmental and Recreation Engineering Services

Client

City of Petoskey

Key Project Partners

Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council
Little Traverse Bay Bands - Odawa Natural Resources



LTU SUMMER PROGRAM

Placemaking Through Landscape Design

Each summer, Lawrence Technological University opens its College of Architecture + Design to a cohort of high school students to learn more hands-on about designing. The Placemaking through Landscape Design Program, a partnership between Michigan ASLA DEI Committee and Lawrence Technological University, introduces students to landscape design through sketching, model-building, site ideas, and real-world inspiration. Students learn how parks, plazas, and trails get created, while building their own public space concepts with guidance from design professionals around the Metro Detroit area.

Studio sessions and site visits are led by local design professionals who bring their active practices into the classroom, sharing the tools and critical thinking to help students form and refine their ideas during the week-long program.

The curriculum moves from analysis to imagination. By incorporating a walking tour of the campus, field trips in Southfield and Detroit and teamwork between one another to bring their designs to life, students are able to have fun learning about landscape design through different environments and presenting their final project on the last day.

High school students can sign up by searching [LTU Summer Programs](#) and select "Placemaking Through Landscape Design" in the July 13-17 dates. Deadline to register is July 1st. •



MICHIGAN CHAPTER STRATEGIC PLAN

Vanessa Warren, Chapter Immediate Past-President

Dear Members,

I would like to update you on the progress of the Chapter's Master Plan. Based on feedback from the Executive Committee, chairs, and members, the foundation of the plan is outlined below. Please feel free to share your thoughts by emailing me at the Past President's email address available on the Chapter's website.

Best regards,
Vanessa Warren, Past President

MISSION STATEMENT

To promote the art and science of landscape architecture through education, advocacy, and collaboration, enhancing Michigan's natural and built environments while inspiring future generations of designers.

VISION STATEMENT

Michigan Chapter of American Society of Landscape Architects will provide leadership, education, and promotion of the profession for careful stewardship, wise planning and artful design of our cultural and natural environments.

ORGANIZATIONAL CULTURE

Inclusive

The Chapter is committed to welcoming and serving all people and communities and treating them fairly and equitably.

Volunteer-Supported

Devoted to the encouragement of volunteerism and benefiting from the expertise and creativity of members who give their time and energies to advance the Society and the profession.

Member-Focused

Guided by member needs and interests and dedicated to meeting them.

Accountable

Dedicated to the efficient, effective, and prudent use of Society resources for the betterment of landscape architecture and the common good. Committed to the timely, transparent, and complete reporting of progress in meeting strategic goals.

OUTCOMES

The goals and objectives of this strategic plan are organized in close alignment with the National ASLA's focus areas and initiatives. Strategic initiatives identified in this plan have been categorized into "outcomes" based on the National ASLA's 2025-2027 Strategic Plan.

The outcomes are intended to highlight thematic priorities of the plan. Close alignment with National also helps to ensure our intent to build and grow along with National, to take advantage of program and development synergies when they arise. The outcomes include:

- Broaden the understanding of the profession in the State of Michigan and positively impact its growth and diversification.
- Advance the profession in the State of Michigan.

- Create and curate our body of knowledge, aligning it with education, research and practice.
- Provide a platform to elevate expertise and the collective impact of our members.
- Grow our membership and partnerships.
- Support members to elevate and scale their voice, their practice, and their business.
- Leverage and strengthen the relationships between Chapters and National and provide and request essential support.

GOALS

- 1. Provide a community for Michigan ASLA members that is welcoming and inclusive that provides a place for members, partners, and supporters to connect, learn and grow.**
 - a. Improve the member experience
 - i. Increase communication with members regarding the Society and Chapter and not just promotional posts.
 - ii. Create a Chapter brand that satisfies the National brand while distinguishing the Chapter.
 - iii. Dissolve any discounts between the membership and the Executive Committee.
 - b. Expand diversity and demographics
 - c. Improve engagement in:
 - i. Chapter
 - ii. Conference
 - iii. Education sessions and events
 - iv. Universities
 - v. Social media (use social media to increase engagement and not just posts for external organizations)
- 2. Grow through collaboration and effective partnerships.**
 - a. Partnerships with affiliated organization
 - b. Training for volunteers
 - c. Establish a mentorship program
 - d. Improve transition for student members as they move into their careers
 - e. Reduce barriers for participation (localities and virtual opportunities)
 - f. Create opportunities to support each other
- 3. Increase our collective impact.**
 - a. Participating in local events:
 - i. Local events
 - ii. Socials
 - iii. Advocacy days
 - iv. Conferences
 - b. Participating in policy discussions
 - c. Elevate public awareness of the profession.
- 4. Provide a platform to elevate the expertise of our members.**
 - a. Educating the public
 - b. Educating policy makers
 - c. Training for public office runs
 - d. Establish relationships with elected officials.
 - e. Advocate the profession

ANNUAL CONFERENCE FIELD EVENTS & AWARDS CELEBRATION

Accompanying our 2026 Annual Conference on Landscape Architecture, we're thrilled to offer a full day of opportunities to celebrate outstanding award winning projects, recognize our members, and provide additional CEUs. Come join us!

Wednesday, October 7, 2026

Sketch Walk 12:00pm to 3:00pm

Led by Jack Goodnoe, Bob Chipman,
& David Peterhans
Route starts at MSU Human Ecology Building.
Register early as space is limited!

3
CEUs
PENDING

Botanical Tour 3:30pm to 5:00pm

Tour the internationally recognized MSU
Beal Botanical Garden & Campus Arboretum.
Led by Emeritus professor Dr. Robert Schutzkzi,
MSU's Horticultural Department & Garden Staff.
Complementary with Conference Registration!

1.5
CEUs
PENDING

Awards Celebration 7:00pm to 9:00pm

Join us at MSU Eli Broad Art Museum to recognize
the chapter awards and celebrate our professional
accomplishments.
Hor d'Oeuvres and Refreshments will be provided.

Annual Conference
October 7-8, 2026

LANDSCAPES IN
TRANSITION

The Graduate Hotel
East Lansing, MI



LA Ride is an interactive, slow to medium-paced bike ride where riders visit locations designed by landscape architects throughout the host city. Through this educational experience, attendees learn about projects of various scopes and scales, the professionals who worked on them, and their contextual significance to the surrounding area and its population. Every ride includes "Lecture Sites" and "Mini Stops" where planners, advocates, and technical staff give presentations to the group.

WHERE: Lansing, East Lansing, MI

WHEN: 12:00pm - 5:00pm

Preliminary Lecture Sites:

1. Ecology Building (MSU)
2. Mass Timber
3. Lansing River Trail
4. East Lansing Revitalization
5. Michigan Capital Building

Riders may register the day of the ride using cash or credit card.

- **Individual Rider**
No CEUs - (\$40)
- **Individual Rider**
With CEUs - (\$120)
- **Students** (with Valid ID)
Complimentary - (\$0)

After Party! - TBD

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2026

EVA LOUNGE

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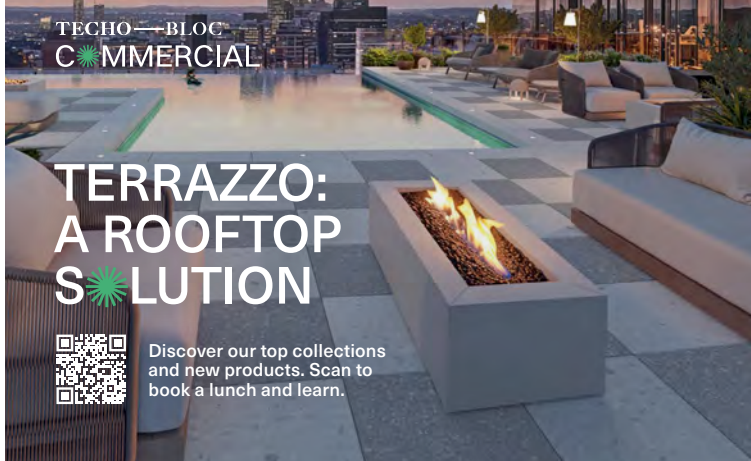


Patent Pending

Contact Jamie McArdle at jamiem@victorstanley.com



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2025 MICHIGAN ASLA FELLOW INDUCTEE: JACK GOODNOE

Jack Goodnoe, ASLA

*Land Planning and Design Associates, Detroit, MI
Nomination in Works by the Michigan Chapter*

Jack Goodnoe has risen to be a leading landscape architect in the design of contemporary American and international cemeteries. His 40 years of industry-changing design has created, transformed, and enriched the landscapes of more than 125 cemeteries. His pioneering work in sustainable, green cemeteries is establishing new models and setting industry standards of environmental performance and design quality, such as his development of the concept of “ecotone burial,” where a rich biological zone interfaces between two ecosystems.

Jack is the landscape architect most chosen for designing new facilities within historic American Garden Cemeteries, where his work protects and enhances these rich 19th century landscapes. At the Forest Conservation Burial Ground in Ashland, Oregon, Jack’s master plan incorporates both an extensive cemetery master plan and an ongoing site restoration project. This cemetery design employs his invention of ecotone burial zones, fostering environmental diversity and creating new, high-value burial areas. At The Preserve in Waterford, Michigan, his design turned groundwater seepage on the site into a natural stream amenity. Jack’s designs for soft infrastructure, groundwater management, amenity development, native landscapes, burial layout, pedestrian circulation, meditation features, and indigenous rock memorialization in this early green cemetery established new models and standards for sustainable cemetery design. The design of Fountain of Remembrance Columbarium at Spring Grove Cemetery, in Cincinnati, Ohio, accommodates over 1,000 cremation niches while respecting and honoring its historic landscape.

The growing preference for cremation and sustainable cemetery landscapes has driven the industry to reinvent itself, and Jack’s work is at the forefront of this evolution.

Profile provided by National ASLA.



2025 MICHIGAN ASLA FELLOW INDUCTEE: JEFF KLEIN

Jeff Klein, ASLA

*Deputy Chief of Landscape Architecture, City of Detroit, MI
Nomination in Leadership/Management by the Michigan Chapter*

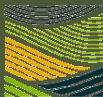
As a landscape architect and long-time resident of Detroit, Jeff Klein has spent his career leading the steady rebuilding of the city's essential public and private green infrastructure—parks, greenways, play spaces, gardens, and commons. Jeff's leadership has been pivotal in the creation and restoration of public and private space that integrate ecological and social outcomes by organizing teams and resources to optimize a project's outcome.

After twenty years in private practice leading projects as an independent design-build contractor, Jeff joined the city staff at a time when it was in deep decline, parks were closed, and neighborhoods were still losing residents. Jeff was charged with rebuilding the Park Development Unit responsible for building and maintaining more than 300 city parks. His leadership skills were quickly apparent as at the end of the first season—all the swings were functioning safely for the first time in a long time—setting standards and approaches that have made it one of the most effective city units. Within two years Jeff was tapped to fill the newly created Deputy Chief of Landscape Architecture position to manage nine parks under the new Strategic Neighborhood Fund, each requiring different approaches but all involving community members, stakeholders, and leadership.

Jeff also led the wildly successful detailed design, construction, and maintenance/operations establishment for the first phase of the Joe Louis Greenway (JLG), for what will be a 27-mile loop around the city. Jeff's outstanding vision, leadership, management and organizational skills, and his love for Detroit have been instrumental in the renewal of dozens of essential public landscapes that serve one of the more diverse urban populations in the world.

Profile provided by National ASLA.





DIVERSITY

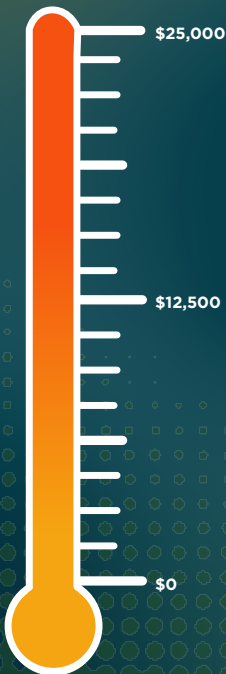
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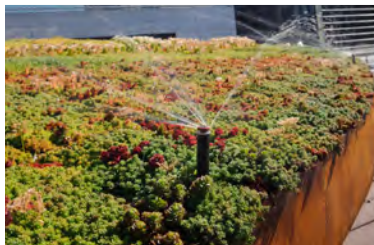
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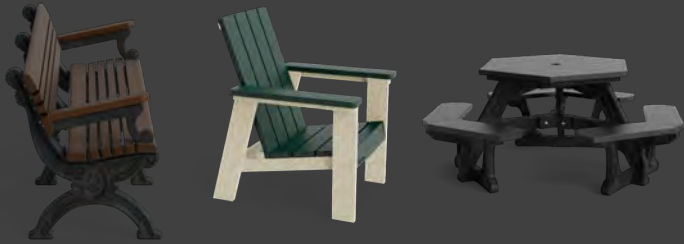
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Congratulations on your graduation and accomplishments. Welcome to the next chapter! We at Michigan ASLA hope you stay in touch and get involved as you step into professional positions.

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