



Re-Imagine Your Park

2019 Utah State University LAEP Extension and ASLA Design
Competition

Introduction:

The Utah State University Landscape Architecture and Environmental Planning (LAEP) Extension program in partnership with the Utah Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) invites individuals and teams of Utah high school age and Technical College students to participate in the 2019 “Re-Imagine Your Park” Design competition.

Public spaces are an important part of what makes communities enjoyable places to live, work, and play. Public parks were originally envisioned as a space for city residents to experience the physical, social, and emotional benefits of nature. Public parks have evolved over time in both how they are designed as well as how they are used, maintained, and enjoyed. Public parks have been, and continue to be an important part of the fabric of cities and towns across the state of Utah. More than ever before, communities need designers, planners, and citizens to envision and create public spaces that inspire, connect, and serve the needs of citizens and the environment.

It was within a design competition entry by Fredrick Law Olmstead for Central Park in New York, one of America’s most famous public parks, that the title, and eventual modern profession of Landscape Architecture was first born. As in Olmstead’s time, design competitions are intended to recognize innovative and insightful solutions to a given design challenge. The “Re-imagine your park” design competition invites students to bring their insight, knowledge, and creativity together to assess, and re-image a park in their own community.

Awards

The design competition sponsor will award a total of 3 awards. The first, second, and third place submissions will receive a \$100.00 prize and be recognized at 2019 USU LAEP and Utah ASLA Events.

Eligibility:

To compete in the 2019 LAEP Extension Program Design Competition individuals and/or teams must meet the following criteria:

1. Students must be enrolled in a High School (Grades 9-12) institution or equivalent educational program or institution within the state of Utah.
Or
2. Students must be enrolled in a Technical College or equivalent educational program or institution within the state of Utah.

Submissions can be submitted as an individual or a team. Awards are for submissions, thus winning teams will split awards among team members.

The Design Challenge:

The design challenge for this competition is to select a public park within the community you live, or within a nearby community that you think is not functioning well, is underused, neglected, or could just be improved. Study the park to discover what is insufficient, lacking, poorly designed, unsafe, uninteresting, outdated, etc. that leads you to believe it could be improved. Clearly investigate and record what specific issues you believe are causing problems within the park you have selected. Based on your observations, create a site map that graphically explains the issues you discovered.

Using your site analysis, re-design selected portions, or the entire park to address the issues you identified in your analysis. Make sure to consider the community that surrounds the park, and incorporate the needs of the public. You are encouraged to consider environmental sustainability, water conservation, and ecological principles in your design. Re-design your selected park into a vibrant, exciting, well designed public space, that also meets the needs of the surrounding community.

Submission Requirements

To compete in the design competition teams and individuals must submit the following documents that describe your approach and solution to the design challenge described above:

- One (1) cover sheet – The cover sheet should only include the full name, or full names if participating as a team, of team members, an accurate email address for each team member, and the school they attend. This cover sheet will be used to generate a team number and will not be included in the information provided to the judges. No other information that identifies individuals or school affiliation should be included on any of the subsequent submission items.
- One (1) Project narrative – The intent of the project narrative is to provide a summary of how each team's submission uniquely meets the design challenge criteria. The narrative can include graphics but all text, images, and graphics must not exceed a 3-page limit. Pages should be 8.5"x 11" with 1" margins and text should be single spaced in standard 12-point font. Headings may

be larger than 12-point font and text labels for graphics or images may be smaller than 12-point font.

- Four (4) Presentation Boards – The intent of the presentation board(s) is to allow participants an opportunity to showcase an understanding of the site, context, existing park features, and overall design. Presentation boards should focus on visual elements and text should be limited. Presentation boards should be formatted to fit on a standard 11”x17” paper with 1” margins. Font, color, layout, etc. are to be selected by the participant.

These presentation boards should include:

- A context map identifying the location of your selected park within the larger context of the community. Label relevant local features that influence your site and include an address for you site.
- A site map of the park that identifies the opportunities and challenges observed by the participant(s) and effectively communicates the issues at the existing park that need to be addressed.
- A design that shows the proposed solution(s) to the issues identified in the site map. The design must include a north arrow and a scale. This plan may be in color or a line drawing.
- A graphic produced by the team that describes the detail(s) of one of design elements proposed by the team. This graphic may be a construction detail, elevation, section, etc.
- Any other graphic images (i.e. sketches, sections, elevations, perspective drawings, etc.) that further explain the proposed design solution may be included, but must remain within the maximum number of allowable pages.

Submission Instructions:

The sponsor will collect submissions for the competition via email. Participants must email their submissions to extension.laep@aggies.usu.edu by Friday, March 29, 11:59 PM, MST. Email submissions must include “Re-imagine your park” in the email subject line. Email submissions must be submitted in a PDF format and must include all the required components either as a single PDF or separate PDF attachments in a single email. The total size of all files must not exceed 20 MB.

Judging:

Qualifying submissions will be judged by a panel of professionals, extension faculty, and faculty, staff, and invited students within the USU Department of Landscape Architecture and Environmental Planning. Judges will score submissions on a scale of 0 to 100 using the judging criteria below.

Judging Criteria:

1. Documentation (10)
 - a. Are the documents well-written and free of errors?
 - b. Does the project demonstrate a clear understanding of the existing conditions of the park and explain how the design addresses the identified deficiencies?
 - c. Are all aspects of the required documentation included?
2. Site Map/Analysis (30)
 - a. Do the documents show a clear understanding of the existing conditions of the site?

- b. Do the documents illustrate an in-depth critical review of the existing conditions to identify inherent design issues, poorly functioning systems, maintenance challenges, or patterns of misuse or lack of use.
- 3. Proposed Design (30)
 - a. Do the documents clearly illustrate how the design effectively addresses each of the issues identified in the site map/analysis?
 - b. Does the design provide the park with new and relevant opportunities?
 - c. Does the design address issues important to the surrounding community, current, and future populations?
- 4. Innovation and Creativity (20)
 - a. Does the design represent a creative or innovative approach or solution to the issues identified in the site map/analysis?
- 5. Overall Quality (10)
 - a. Do all of the documents meet the submission requirements outlined in the competition announcement? (i.e. size, fonts, spacing, etc.)
 - b. Do the documents use clear and effective graphic communication to showcase a unified design idea and submission?

The 2019 Utah State University Landscape Architecture and Environmental Planning Extension Design Competition, the Utah Chapter of the ASLA and our sponsors wish you the best as you identify challenges within your community's public parks and create innovative solutions to those challenges.

Please direct competition related questions to: extension.laep@aggies.usu.edu