DESCRIPTION:

The designers of four certified SITES™ park pilot projects will share approaches to achieving high-performing landscapes in diverse ecoregions, from the ultra-urban environment and postindustrial waterfront, to large national parks and restoration sites. Designers will highlight how projects achieved, sometimes unintentionally, multiple site benefits through application of the SITES rating system. Panelists will also discuss challenges of tracking documentation, meeting municipal requirements and federal mandates, securing project funding, and what they would differently next time. Discussion will conclude with a look back at how their participation in the pilot program has led to important modifications and improvements to the SITES rating system.

SESSION OBJECTIVES:

1. Examine lessons learned from the designers of four certified SITES park pilot projects.
2. Gain an understanding of the synergy between LEED and SITES
3. Understand the projects teams expectations and challenges related to SITES
4. Expand the use and applicability of the SITES rating system for a wide variety of projects in diverse eco-regions, in both the public and private sector.

SPEAKER BIOS:

Lisa Benson has been practicing landscape architecture and planning with Landmark Design in Salt Lake City, Utah since her graduation from Utah State University with a Bachelor’s Degree in Landscape Architecture. She has worked on numerous National Park Service Projects, and documented two National Park Service projects (Mesa Verde National Park Visitor and Research Center and Carlsbad Caverns National Park Bat Cave Draw and Visitor Center Rehabilitation) for the Sustainable Sites Initiative™ (SITES™) Pilot Program. Both projects have received final certification at the Two Star level. Lisa is licensed in Utah and Colorado and is a LEED Green Associate.

Steve Benz (panel lead) is Partner and Director of Green Infrastructure at OLIN. He oversees OLIN’s Green Infrastructure initiative, serving as liaison between project designers and engineers. Steve is involved in many award-winning projects, including Meeting Green, OLIN’s winning entry in the Philadelphia Water Department’s Soak It Up design competition, Yale’s LEED Platinum Kroon Hall, and Washington Canal Park, which achieved a SITES™ 3-star rating. Steve is a registered civil engineer and a LEED Fellow, the highest honor awarded by the US Green Building Council. In 2012 Steve became an Honorary Member of ASLA in recognition of his contributions to the industry.
Jessica Brown is a Landscape Architect at the National Park Service (NPS). She has a Master's Degree in Landscape Architecture from the University of Colorado, Denver and a Bachelor's Degree in Horticulture from Montana State University. Her work focuses on sustainable revegetation in NPS units throughout the country. She served as a key team member for Carlsbad Caverns Bat Cave Draw and Visitor Center Rehabilitation project receiving two stars in the pilot program for SITES™. Jessica serves on the Council of Directors for ASLA Colorado and resides in Grand Teton National Park, Wyoming with her husband and two children.

Michelle Crowley, RLA, ALSA is the founding principal of Michelle Crowley Landscape Architecture in Boston, MA. Prior to establishing her firm in 2011, Michelle was a senior associate at Reed Hilderbrand LLC where she assisted in the design, oversaw the implementation and lead the SITES™ documentation for the Scenic Hudson's Long Dock Park (SHLDP). A 10-year project, SHLDP was ultimately awarded a three-star rating in 2013 and was one of the first projects to be certified by SITES. Michelle holds a MLA from the University of Pennsylvania, and a BA in Asian Studies from University of Puget Sound.

Margery Groten worked on acquisition, design and development of Scenic Hudson’s Long Dock Park from 1998 through 2014, serving as Senior Project Manager at Scenic Hudson for the last ten years of her tenure. Ms. Groten coordinated: investigations and remediation of site contamination, design of the park, management and fulfillment of over $7 million in public and private grants, implementation of SITES and LEED planning and documentation, and park construction. During that time Ms. Groten also managed acquisitions and disposions of properties for Scenic Hudson. Prior to working at Scenic Hudson, Ms. Groten worked as a planning consultant for 12 years. Ms. Groten has a BA from Queens College, City University of New York and an MA in Environmental Psychology from Hunter College, City University of New York.
WASHINGTON CANAL PARK

Three-Star Certified Pilot Project
Location: Washington, D.C.
Project Size: 3 acres
Project Type: Open space - Park
Site Context: Urban
Former Land Use: Brownfield
Terrestrial Biome: Temperate Broadleaf & Mixed Forests
Budget: $20,000,000
Designer(s): OLIN and Studios Architecture
Owner: District of Columbia
Park Management: CPDA and Capital Riverfront Bid

photo by: OLIN / Karl Blumenthal

Resources:

- http://www.sustainesites.org/certified-sites/washingtoncanal
- http://www.canalparkdc.org/
SCENIC HUDSON'S LONG DOCK PARK

Three-Star Certified Pilot Project
Location: Beacon, New York
Project Size: 14 acres
Project Type: Open space - Park
Site Context: Urban
Former Land Use: Brownfield
Terrestrial Biome: Temperate Broadleaf & Mixed Forests
Budget: $3,300,000
Designer(s): Reed Hilderbrand
Owner: Scenic Hudson

photo by: James Ewing

Resources:

- http://www.sustainablesites.org/certified-sites/longdock
- http://www.scenichudson.org
- http://www.reedhilderbrand.com
CARLSBAD CAVERNS NATIONAL PARK
BAT CAVE DRAW AND VISITOR CENTER REHABILITATION

Two-Star Certified Pilot Project
Location: Carlsbad Caverns National Park, New Mexico
Project Size: 14.8 acres
Project Type: Open space - Park
Site Context: Rural
Former Land Use: Greyfield
Terrestrial Biome: Desert
Budget: $8,100,000
Designer(s): National Park Service
Owner: National Park Service
SITES™ Documentation: Landmark Design

Resources:

- http://www.sustainablesites.org/certified-sites/batcave
- http://home.nps.gov/applications/npspolicy/Dorders.cfm
MESA VERDE NATIONAL PARK VISITOR AND RESEARCH CENTER

Two-Star Certified Pilot Project
Location: Mesa Verde National Park, Colorado
Project Size: 105 acres
Project Type: Open space - Park
Site Context: Rural
Former Land Use: Greenfield
Terrestrial Biome: Desert
Budget: $14 million
Designer(s): Landmark Design
Owner: National Park Service

Resources:

- http://www.sustainablesites.org/certified-sites/mesaverde
- http://www.nps.gov/meve/planyourvisit/meve_vc.htm
- www.wildflower.org/plants
- www.plants.usda.gov

photo by: National Park Service