

**Robert M. Searns, AICP** specializes in trails, greenways, bicycle and open space projects. He was Project Director of Denver's *Platte River Greenway* and developed the national award-winning *Mary Carter Greenway* in Littleton, CO. Bob has a 30-year proven track record in project planning and development and has worked with communities to implement and manage their projects.

He has been an instructor and an advisor for numerous conferences in the industry such as *The Urban Land Institute and American Planning Association, The National Park Service, The National Recreation and Park Association, American Rivers, and The National Rails to Trails Conservancy*. He serves as the National Chair of the Board of Trustees of *American Trails, Inc.*—the nation's leading recreational trails advocacy organization. Additionally, Bob has conducted workshops in the U.S. and abroad.

Bob has also contributed his knowledge to several publications. He has written articles and editorials for *Landscape Architecture Magazine, Planning Magazine, The Kansas City Star* and other publications. He co-authored *Greenways: A Guide to Planning, Design and Development* and *Trails for the Twenty First Century* (Island Press) and contributed to *Greenways* (Elsevier Press). He has also been a manuscript reviewer for Island Press. Their book *Greenways* won a *National Merit Award* from the American Society of Landscape Architects.



### Selected Relevant Projects

- Project Director for the \$10 million, 10-mile Platte River Greenway and the \$4 Million, 8-Mile Mary Carter Greenway in Denver, CO. Services included planning, raising funds, overseeing design and partner coordination. The Platte River Greenway won the *2001 Bruner Foundation Award for Urban Excellence* and the Mary Carter Greenway won the American Planning Association's *National Topic Award* as well as the *National 2004 Twenty First Century American Places Award*.
- Authored the *Prairieways Action Plan* for Commerce City, CO setting the future direction of parks, greenways, trails, and bicycle/pedestrian systems in the 43-square-miles west of Denver International Airport. The project includes trails accessing the *Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge*.
- Developed the plan for a metro-wide open space and trails framework for Greater Las Vegas, NV including "Vias Verde, Las Vegas" to permanently preserve the unique mountain/desert backdrop of the nation's fastest growing community. Also assisted in master planning the *Clark County Wetlands Park*—an award-winning desert multi-use trails and wetland interpretive area plan for Las Vegas Wash that runs between the City of Las Vegas, NV and Lake Mead.
- Master planned and led development of the Witherspoon Trail and Greenway in Louisville, KY for the owner of Papa John's Pizza Corporation.
- Assisted the Community Foundation for Southeastern Michigan in implementing a Metro-wide greenway plan for the Greater Detroit Region.

- Facilitated an organizational effectiveness workshop for the Michigan Environmental Council, a statewide advocacy group representing over 70 environmental organizations in Michigan.
- Master Planned a 50-mile reach of the Colorado River in Western Colorado to provide trail and water recreation and preserve an open space legacy in the face of rapid oil and gas development in the region.
- Master planned and developed the Bear Creek Trail and Greenway in Morrison, CO. Raised over \$3 Million. Secured right of way and coordinated construction for this trail through extremely challenging terrain.
- Developed The Audubon Center in Littleton, CO. The project is at the juncture of the High Line Canal Trail, The Platte River Greenway and The Colorado Trail. Services included raising funding for this \$ 750,000 project. Winner *Jefferson County Design Excellence Award*.
- Master planned and helped develop the Sand Creek Greenway in Commerce City, CO. Services included master planning, right-of-way, fundraising and construction management. Greenway goes through an oil refinery area and “Brownfield” conditions. Directed fundraising efforts resulting in funding of over \$2 million. Winner of the Colorado Chapter American Society of Landscape Architects *Planning and Stewardship Award*.
- Conceived of, planned and implemented 10,000 Trees—a river corridor revegetation and wetland restoration project involving 3000 volunteers along the South Platte River in Littleton, CO. Raised over \$250,000 for the project.
- Master planned Blue River Corridor and Trail Action Plan for Silverthorne, CO. Authored parks, trails, open space, and riverfront economic development master plan for this mountain resort community.
- Master planned Colorado Springs, CO Greenway and citywide trails system.
- Master planned and is currently developing the Big Dry Creek Greenway in Englewood, CO. The greenway links the High Line Canal with the South Platte River. Negotiated right of way and raised over \$1 million in funding for the project.
- Assisted the City of Arlington, TX in the creation of the Johnson Creek Greenway Master Plan.
- Consulted with the Kansas City *Metro Green Project* (Metro Area Regional Council of Governments) and helped develop a bike/pedestrian system and maintenance guide for the Kansas City Riverfront Heritage Trail
- Planner and development consultant for the Grand Canyon Greenway, a bicycle and pedestrian alternative to traditional auto access for Grand Canyon National Park.
- Authored a river corridor and canoe recreation master plan for the Fox River in Kane County, IL and assisted in greenway planning for Salt Creek (DuPage County) and the Chicago River.
- Assisted Orange County, CA citizens in trail and greenway planning for Santiago Creek in the Metropolitan Los Angeles area.
- Assisted Colorado State Parks with a management concept for the Upper Arkansas River Corridor that helped transfer of management along the Arkansas from U.S. BLM to Colorado State Parks.
- Consulted with Greater Orlando, FL planners, resort operators and developers, including Disney “Imagineering” staff, and others that including a possible long distance trail/paddleway from Orlando to Lake Okeechobee, potential of a trail and greenway system for Walt Disney World and other components for Orlando and the larger region.
- Currently developing a digital statewide comprehensive recreational trails and open space mapping system for Colorado under contract with the Colorado State Parks Trails Program.