EXTENSION LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
THE IMPACTS OF A STATE-WIDE LEGACY

Over the past 40 years, USU’s Landscape Architecture and Environmental Planning (LAEP) Department and Extension specialists have engaged Utah’s rural communities through a variety of design-based activities. While these projects have contributed to the reputation of USU LAEP as a leader in design-based community engagement, the impacts of these endeavors had not been formally documented, measured, or widely disseminated as research products in scholarly venues of landscape architecture or Extension.

This project developed and implemented a novel impact assessment framework for evaluating past design Extension projects at USU and guiding future design-based community engagement activities at USU and other land-grant institutions.

CASE STUDY SELECTION METHODS WORKFLOW

300+ EXTENSION PROJECTS OVER 45 YEARS

PROJECT TYPOLOGY ANALYSIS
- Organized by project type

PROJECT DOCUMENTATION
- SUFFICIENT
- NOT SUFFICIENT
- NOT CONSIDERED

PROJECT SETTING
- GEOSPATIAL DISTRIBUTION
- PROJECT SCALE
- PROJECT AGE

PROJECT TYPOLOGY

FINAL SELECTION OF CASE STUDIES

Case Study Data Collection:
- Existing Documentation Analysis
- Site Visit
- Client Interviews
- Interview Content Analysis

LAEP ALUMNI said:
- 94% positively impacted their leadership skills.
- 91% positively impacted their ability to use the design process to solve real world problems
- 68% helped them get an internship or a job.

ASSESSING THE IMPACTS

Actual research identified the projects’ extensive body of work, comprised of over 300 known projects performed over two decades. During this initial investigation, projects were inventoried, characterized, and cataloged according to project typology, site scale, geographic setting, decade initiated, and level of engagement with departmental faculty, students, community members, and others. From these known projects, 20 projects were selected for further investigation, which included on-site observation and documentation, semi-inventoried, characterized, and cataloged according to project typology, site scale, geographic setting, decade initiated, and level of engagement with departmental faculty, students, community members, and others. From these known projects, 20 projects were selected for further investigation, which included on-site observation and documentation, semi-inventoried, characterized, and cataloged according to project typology, site scale, geographic setting, decade initiated, and level of engagement with departmental faculty, students, community members, and others.

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THE RIPPLE EFFECTS OF LAEP EXTENSION: U.S. 89 PROJECT CASE STUDY

$2.2 MILLION FROM NPS SEATED $44 MILLION IN LOCAL PROJECT EXPENDITURES

$1.3 MILLION IN FUNDING FOR CONSTRUCTION

$0.7 MILLION IN PROFESSIONAL DESIGN FEES

LAEP ALUMNI said:
- 60% positively impacted their ability to collaborate

HERITAGE TOURISM FROM THE MPNHA AVERAGES 165,000 VISITORS PER YEAR

MPNHA SUPPORTED PROJECTS TRANSFER TO BETWEEN $67 - $72 MILLION IN PROJECTS

- Heritage Tourism from the MPNHA averages 165,000 visitors per year
- $2.2 million from NPS seeded $44 million in local project expenditures
- $1.3 million in funding for construction
- $0.7 million in professional design fees
- 60% LAEP alumni said positively impacted their ability to collaborate