



# The BRIDGE Series

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In partnership with AICP Certification Maintenance Provider



FITZGERALD & HALLIDAY, INC.  
Innovative Planning, Better Communities

## The Economic Value of Urban Parks & Public Spaces

### *Landscape Architects as Superheroes??*



*McLevy Green, Downtown Bridgeport*

Friday, March 6, 2020 | 9:00 am - Networking Breakfast, 9:30-11:30 am - Program  
CT Main Street Center Headquarters, Eversource, 410 Sheldon Street, Hartford CT 06106

#### PRESENTERS

- W. Phillips Barlow, ASLA, AICP, LEED AP, *Principal, To Design LLC*
- [Philip Birge-Liberman](#), *Director, Urban Semester Program, UCONN Urban & Community Studies*
- Michael T. Doherty, PLA, *Associate, Lead Landscape Architect, Milone & MacBroom*
- Gary Sorge, FASLA, *Vice President, Community Development, Stantec*



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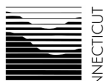
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*Urban design is about making connections between people and places, movement and urban form, nature and the built fabric, and that's what we love to do. When it works, it can make for a magical experience that enriches the human spirit."*

- Phil Barlow, To Design LLC

## PROGRAM

Introduction	KPW	5"
What is Landscape Architecture?	Phil Barlow	15"
Economic Value of Urban Parks	Phil Birge-Liberman, Ph.D.	20"
Three Quick Case Studies		
▪ Case Study: <a href="#">Albany Skyway</a>	Gary Sorge	20"
▪ Case Study: <a href="#">Meriden Green</a>	Mike Doherty	20"
▪ Case Study: <a href="#">Bushnell Park, Hartford</a>	Phil Barlow	20"
Q&A		20"



ASLA subject matter is appropriate for continuing education credits for Connecticut-licensed landscape architects



2.0 AICP CM credits approved for planners

**Join us for breakfast, networking & an informative program!**

Friday, March 6, 2020  
9:00 to 11:30 am



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## SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

### I. **What is Landscape Architecture?**

Phil Barlow helps us understand what landscape architects do and how they serve society, highlighting the professionalism and diversity of work of Connecticut's landscape architects.

### II. **Economic Value of Urban Parks**

Phil Birge-Liberman will discuss the various roles that urban parks play in the economic development of cities. In addition to obvious economic benefits related to real estate values and new development (something Frederick Law Olmsted understood back in the 1870s), Phil will share other economic measures such as reducing the cost of stormwater treatment, the mitigation of CO<sub>2</sub>, the value of parks for recreation and tourism. We will look at parks in various American cities to highlight what's being done around the country and to show what could be done in Connecticut cities.

### III. **3 Case Studies:**

#### ▪ **Albany Skyway - Transforming downtown Albany's waterfront into an ideal urban center**

Connecting downtown to the waterfront and the Arbor Hill and Warehouse District neighborhoods, as well as to the Mohawk Hudson Hike Bike Trail, the Albany Skyway addresses the community's desire to repurpose overbuilt infrastructure to gain more access to the waterfront.

Funded in part by the Environmental Protection Fund from the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, the vibrant linear park will provide space for social gatherings, festivals, and other events. It will also encourage walking and biking, revitalize the economy, and create the unique urban ambiance so desired by today's workforce.

#### ▪ **Meriden Green**

The award-winning Meriden Green is a 14-acre public park and flood control program in the heart of downtown Meriden. A former remediated brownfield, design of the project required extensive collaboration between landscape architects and water resource engineers, working in tandem with brownfield experts, wetland biologists, geomorphologists, community stakeholders, federal, state, and local legislators, and government agencies.

The success of Meriden Green, and its transformation of downtown Meriden, exemplifies the effective use of landscape architecture practices. Solutions included green infrastructure; vibrant gathering spaces; economic development; habitat creation and restoration; and community outreach.

#### ▪ **Bushnell Park, Hartford**

The 50-acre Bushnell Park is the oldest publicly funded park in the U. S. To Design, LLC has been completing landscape architecture projects at the park for over 10 years. Their work includes a circulation study, a plan and design manual for walkways and lighting, gateways and signage, and a redesign of the now fully accessible playground.

In collaboration with the Bushnell Park Foundation, the City of Hartford, and iQuilt Foundation, To Design, LLC has worked to ensure that this "crown jewel" of downtown Hartford is cherished and enjoyed for years to come.



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**Links to More Info:**

<https://thehill.com/changing-america/opinion/476518-city-parks-are-critical-infrastructure>