PINA Permaculture Design Contest 2023

Use this form to **submit your Permaculture Design to PINA**, the Permaculture Institute of North America, **before Monday October 2, 2023.** You must answer all questions and upload images and supporting documents for your design to enter the Design Contest.

Design Contest Rules Summary: The Top Five (5) Finalists in each category will be selected by PINA's Panel of Judges: the ***$1,000 New Designer Award*** (must have completed a PDC in the last 3 years, after 1/1/2020), and the ***$5,000 Grand Prize*** *for the best designs, regardless of design experience!*

The Top Five Finalists in each category will be invited to share about their designs in **Live Online Events, November 14th @ 7:30PM ET for New Designers and November 15th @ 7:30PM ET for the Grand Prize.**

PINA members will vote to select the winners in each category. **Voting closes November 21st** and the **Winners will be announced November 27th.** All Finalists will receive award packages from our sponsors. Please read the complete Design Contest Rules, Terms and Conditions.

As is the case with all good Permaculture Designs, PINA is seeking design submissions that creatively use and respond to local conditions to improve quality of life for you, your community, and your ecosystem.

Consider how your design can best impact local communities of need, grow local economies, address "invisible structures," and how your design can create more engagement, more Permaculture education, more Earth Care, People Care, and Future Care in your region.

Note: *Every design doesn't need to solve all of today's issues, but more integrated designs are encouraged.*

Project Lead: First and Last Name (must be a current PINA member & a PDC grad) *

Kelly Bull

PDC Info: Date and location where you completed your first PDC, and name of primary instructor(s) *

CRMPI (Central Rocky Mountain Permaculture Institute)

Email: *

Phone : *

Title of Design Project: *

South Corona Urban Food Forest

Note: *Please be concise but comprehensive in your answers below.*

If you are logged in to a Google Account, this form is ***auto-saving*** *so you may return to it at your leisure ��.*

Awesome! Got it.

Design Overview: Please give a summary of your design. Where is it located? Community impacted? Problems solved? What goals does it achieve? *

This urban residential food forest design is located on 1/7th of an acre in Colorado Springs, Colorado, on South Corona Avenue in the Stratton Meadows neighborhood. Stratton Meadows is in a unique location because it is an underserved area within one of the most wealthy districts in the city. There is a high volume of pedestrian traffic from people walking to the public bus stops, to the elementary school, to the community center, or to the shopping centers nearby. Many homeowners do not have the time, energy, knowledge or budget to care for their yards. With sparse vegetation and more drastic impacts from climate change, summers are getting much hotter and more uncomfortable. The goal of this design is to demonstrate an affordable, drought-tolerant, heat-tolerant, regenerative and low maintenance landscape that can provide shade, food, wildlife support, beauty.

Earth Care: How does your design address climate instability, potential pollution concerns, and enhance your local ecology? *

With an average of 16 inches of annual rain, water is the limiting factor of a successful landscape in Colorado Springs. Rains come in quick and powerful downpours, so all paths are raised around sunken rain water harvesting planted basins that can capture as much rain as possible. All downspouts are directed to

flow into the basins. With a 4” layer of mulch topping all soil, the moisture is maintained in the soil for later use, while also cooling soil temperatures.

4 inch curb cores have been designed to passively irrigate the right-of-way bed using stormwater from the street (and were actually installed in May 2023 after working for 10 months with the city to become a pilot project to demonstrate their effectiveness!). Not only do the curb cores provide passive irrigation, but they also alleviate the pressure on the city stormwater system during heavy rains while also naturally filtering roadway toxins.
Plant selection throughout the design focuses on providing as much diversity as possible to create a thriving and biodiverse ecosystem, from soil microbes to animals.

People Care: How will your design engage and/or serve local communities? *

A successful example is the best way to persuade people how much potential their landscape holds. Plants in the front yard will be labeled with names and QR codes that can be scanned to learn additional information. Educational signs will mark the curb cuts to inform neighbors of the purpose and to get on the waitlist to get their own as the pilot project expands.

As this design inspires other neighbors, yard by yard, the neighborhood will become more beautiful and resilient. With the increase in vegetation and shade, the neighborhood will cool down in the summer, bringing comfort to the high levels of pedestrian traffic.
Previously, interaction amongst the neighbors was non-existent and as parts of this design have been implemented, neighbors have stopped to chat about it and a new neighborhood garden club has formed! The director of the local community center has also been involved in the project and has offered up free meeting space and marketing for the new garden club.

Future Care: How will your design foster more permaculture projects and on-the-ground action? *

With the newly formed garden club, several neighbors are now interested in regenerative landscapes of their own. 4 neighbors to the east and west of the design site have permission for curb cuts so far and are just waiting on funding. 5 houses of curb cuts in a row will create a lush strip of vegetation that will surely draw positive attention and inspire others. This area is of particular importance because it is on the route the elementary students walk from the elementary school to the community center’s after-school program. Getting the young people involved will be essential to the future growth and improvement to the neighborhood.

As this project is implemented, it is being shared on social media in order to reach and educate an even wider audience and have an exponential impact on other communities as well

The curb cuts have also helped inspire other cities in Colorado. The city of Boulder hired Brad Lancaster as a consultant to help them implement curb cuts and he was able to use Colorado Springs as a success story and example to follow.

Details: Choose three (3) Permaculture Design Principles and share how they can be seen in your design. *

Obtain a Yield:
The abundant harvests that will come from the numerous fruits, vegetables, flowers, and herbs that provide food, medicine, shade, and beauty are an obvious yield, but there are so many more subtle yet equally important yields. The soil started as parched and depleted rock-hard clay and after a year of prep work with

layers of compost and mulch, the thriving population of soil microbes and earthworms is certainly a yield. Each new species of insects and bird supported by the yard is an incredible yield. Every dollar saved on water no longer needed to irrigate is a yield. A once lifeless and uninspiring yard that now brings joy and a deeper connection to the rest of nature and to community is perhaps the best yield of all.

Produce No Waste:
Not only does the design work towards producing no waste on the site, but also the community. The first goal of the design was to regenerate the depleted soil and tapping into the local waste resources was essential. Within a 2 mile radius, waste was gleaned from local business and neighbors to build compost piles and sheet mulching beds. The local grocery store produce department started saving their expired produce, Starbucks saved coffee grounds, neighbors saved chicken and rabbit manure, and arborists dumped wood chips.

All yard trimmings from plantings will stay on site to be composted or chopped up into mulch. Kitchen scraps from the kitchen and all shredded paper from the home go into the worm composting system. Worm compost then acts as the fertilizer and natural fungicide and pest control for the garden.

Use and Value Diversity:
This design relies on biodiversity to create a thriving ecosystem that allows the landscape to be low maintenance. Each guild includes plants with multiple ecological functions to ensure pollinator support, biomass for mulch, nitrogen fixation, habitat for a range of species, and nutrient cycling. Native plants that have ancient and close relationships with a wide other native species of insects and birds have been prioritized.

A healthy soil microbe population is the foundation of a successful ecosystem and a wide range of organic materials have been brought in to create compost and amend the soil to ensure the entire soil food web is present. A successful compost system has been set up that will provide a continuous supply of nutrients and microbes into the future.

The diversity of the neighborhood is also an incredible asset. Just within the garden club, a diverse mix of ethnicities, ages, and professions are represented and each neighbor has unique knowledge, skills, and talents to contribute.

Budget: How would you spend the $5,000 Grand Prize to implement your design in the next year? Please be as detailed as possible. *

The prize money will first be used to purchase the rest of the plants, about $1000. The educational component of the project is very important and the plant signs with QR codes and curb cut signage for the front yard is the next priority. Additional funds will be used to install the rain barrel system behind the garage. The remaining money will go towards the greenhouse and solar panels. This prize money will accelerate the completion of this project exponentially and will make such a positive impact on the entire community.

Upload your design here: *PDF Preferred, images and docs accepted, up to 5 files (10MB limit per file) *

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Design Experience: Do you qualify for the *$1,000 New Designer Award*? *

Yes, I took my PDC within the last 3 years, after January 1, 2020

No, I took my PDC before January 1, 2020

Do you agree to the Rules, Terms and Conditions of the 2023 Permaculture Design Contest? *

Yes, I will use the award money to implement my design & agree to the terms linked

No

In order to submit your design, you MUST be a member of PINA at any level. Are you a current PINA member? Become a member here. *

Yes

No

Maybe

Other:

Feedback: any comments or suggestions for this submission process?

I had to reduce the file size quite a bit, so if the quality looks low and it is difficult to see, please use this dropbox link: https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/bv8e2x21499xpu3sgyr6b/S-Corona-Ave-Title-Block.jpg?rlkey=i9k596bkspevl7g3d2565wdjw&dl=0

Thank You for Your Entry!

Permaculture Institute of North America

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