

*When you're through changing, you're through. - Bruce Barton*

CHICAGO - ELIZABETH JONES



Greetings, from the ASLA National convention in Chicago! The education and field sessions have been focused on the central theme of "regenerating places and people". The Sustainable Sites Initiative stood out as an up and coming program similar in ideology to LEED with an emphasis on ecosystem along with a comprehensive number of credits on landscape issues. This initiative was created to promote sustainable land development and management practices that apply to sites with and without buildings, while providing the necessary tools for those who influence land development and management practices to address the urgent global concerns such as climate change, loss of biodiversity and resource depletion. The ultimate goal is to facilitate a paradigm shift from creating sustainable sites to climate positive sites that provide renewable resources.

The central message of the Sustainable Sites Initiative is that any landscapes, from large subdivisions to parks or homes all hold the potential to improve and to regenerate the natural benefits and services provided by ecosystems in their undeveloped state.

The U.S. Green Building Council is participating in the initiative and anticipates incorporating the guidelines and performance benchmarks into the next iteration of LEED.

The program will have 4 levels of certification that will recognize the percent of attainment. Made up of a set of prerequisites and performance benchmarks that combine current research, technology, best practices and performance goals for design, construction and maintenance of sustainable sites. The guidelines and performance benchmarks will include a ranking system with specific site performance goals. The ratings will recognize performance in achieving a sustainable site.

The Sustainable Sites Initiative is currently in a working process with pilot projects beginning in 2010 and being evaluated in 2012. A working group of 75 to 100 projects across the country will test how well the rating system is applied to construction and maintenance practices. If anyone has a project that might be a good pilot project or for more information, visit: [www.sustainablesites.org](http://www.sustainablesites.org).

## ANC CORPORATE CENTER VI OFFICE BUILDING

This 6 story class A Office Building includes landscaping to match its grandeur. The tall palms and canopy trees, which will eventually mature into their full lofty potential, bring the building down to a pedestrian scale. The clean architectural lines of the building are supported and mimicked in the landscaping surrounding it. A shady central plaza is filled with trees which are accented with a variation in hardscape coloring, rocks, and lighting. The plaza is also bordered with a continuous planter separating the building from the plaza. Tables and chairs provide meeting space within the plaza and grant a sense of escape for the employees within.

The project is LEED certified and achieved the gold rating. A water conserving irrigation system includes smart controls which further enhance this innovative design.



## FAVORITE FLORA:

### CHITALPA TASHKENTENSIS - CHITALPA TREE



This fast growing tree can be easily confused with the Desert Willow or *Chilopsis linearis arcuata*. The Chitalpa tree (*Chitalpa tashkentensis*) is a hybrid of the Desert Willow and the *Catalpa bignonioides* which is native to the southeastern United States. By making this hybrid, the tree inherited the traits that make it possible to survive to extreme heat and cold of the desert. It prefers filtered shade and while it doesn't require a lot of water in the summer a little extra will help maintain the blooming season longer.

This tree provides showy clusters of flowers Summer through Fall. Beware around pools as this deciduous tree litters heavily, however, it does not have seed pods. It can grow to a height and width of 20 feet. This beautiful tree can be used as both a standard or multi-trunk and is at home in any landscape.

Next time we'll feature a succulent that is perfect around the house...

## PHOTO OF THE MONTH



STILL AUTUMN AFTERNOON  
PROVO CANYON, UT  
SARAH WELLS