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C O L O R A D O

# green

Official publication of ALCC serving the green industry in the Rocky Mountain region

The ELITE Awards  
Industry Awards  
Jake's Designs cuts turnover

40  
years  
—2019—



# ELITE

Elevating Excellence

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**SILOAM STONE, Inc.**

# The ELITE Awards



Photos courtesy Travis Yegge



## Use of Color | Judges' Choice

**Sustainable Landscapes-Colorado** | Streets at Southglenn



Photo courtesy Sustainable Landscapes - Colorado, LLC

The immense scope of the plantings at Streets of Southglenn includes 13,000 square feet of annual and perennial beds, 400 hanging baskets and 40 containers. The client wants the floral program to create an ambience that gives shoppers, diners and visitors a “sense of arrival,” and the theme must change each year to create a sense of anticipation.

The company’s soil preparation and fertility practices promote faster growth to quickly fill in planting gaps of 9-18 inches—a plus for property owner. Hydrozones were a must, and appropriate irrigation technology reduced water waste and optimized plant health, but could not give the appearance of overwatering. Hanging baskets and containers were watered by hand every day by a small crew. Both the annual and perennial selections support pollinators.

## Use of Color | People's Choice

**Environmental Designs, Inc.** | Candelas



Photo courtesy Environmental Designs, Inc.

The customer wanted high-impact curb appeal at both entry monuments to this new housing development close to the former Rocky Flats nuclear plant. Environmental Designs overcame poor public image by showing that the area could be beautified and environmentally suitable for life. Water conservation, preserving native plant diversity and enhancing wildlife habitat were the goals.

Nearly 7,000 annuals and perennials were planted in this high-plains eco-region with low precipitation and high winds. Challenges of the site were overcome with soil modifications, careful plant selection for beneficial wildlife, including perennials for pollinators, and avoiding overplanting to reduce water waste.



## Irrigation Management

**Environmental Designs, Inc.** | Centerra Metropolitan District

Centerra Metro District has worked closely with Environmental Designs, Inc. (EDI) since 2015 to fully repair and maintain their irrigation systems. In 2017, Centerra contracted with EDI to perform detailed irrigation management services.

Before 2015, the irrigation system was in a state of disrepair and was highly inefficient. In four years, EDI has successfully brought Centerra's systems back to original specifications and increased efficiency through smart irrigation technology. This has brought savings of well over five million gallons of water per year in 2017 and 2018, which represents a 24 percent decrease in consumption from the city-mandated budget.



Photo courtesy Environmental Designs, Inc.

## Innovation

**BestYard.com** | Landscape Contractor Storage Yard

With continued development in Douglas County, BestYard.com identified a need for landscape contractors: a facility that meets strict zoning requirements, where they could rent space and safely store equipment needed to run their businesses.

After a 10-year rezoning effort, BestYard offers the first outdoor storage yard for multiple landscape contractors in Douglas County. The 7.5-acre facility is screened from public view with 5-foot landscape berms and 6 to 10-foot fencing, and is landscaped with grasses, 70 trees and 350 shrubs. There are front and rear detention ponds to hold and filter water runoff to meet Colorado water quality and environmental standards. This zoning, with visual and audio screening, provides landscape contractors a haven to conduct operations without being in violation of zoning laws.

The site provides on-site offices, storage sheds, space for trucks and equipment, dumpsters and more to support efficient business operations. By locating their base of operations alongside colleagues, tenants can share client referrals, ideas, knowledge and equipment.



Photo courtesy BestYard.com



## Community Stewardship

Environmental Designs, Inc. | International Hearing Dog



Photo courtesy International Hearing Dog, Inc.

International Hearing Dog, Inc. is a nonprofit organization that pairs trained shelter dogs with hearing impaired people. They needed new outdoor space in which to train dogs as well as space to display donor bricks. With vendor donations, along with employee volunteers and resources from Environmental Designs, the company was able to provide International Hearing Dog with both the new training space and the donor brick area—pro bono.

## Customer Service

BrightView | Customer Service



Photo courtesy BrightView

BrightView was nominated by customers for their award. Clients praised their professionalism, quick response time, and knowledgeable and committed staff. The Front Range team prides itself on building and maintaining trust-based professional relationships by actively listening to customers' landscape goals and offering honest recommendations based on what is best for their landscape.

Continuous improvement and innovation help the company achieve client goals. When new opportunities arise to do jobs more efficiently, by making adjustments to current programs or through the use of new technology, large-scale training of employees is conducted.

BrightView asks for feedback on an ongoing basis and makes adjustments when clients aren't happy. If a client surveyed says they are less than moderately satisfied, they are flagged for follow up by account or branch managers to determine how to improve client service satisfaction.