

2024 Great Lakes Region Climate Action Seminar

Design for Biodiversity: Landscape Architecture's
Role in Protecting and Regenerating Ecosystems



CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS

2024 Great Lakes Region Climate Action Seminar

June 6-7, 2024

Design for Biodiversity: Landscape Architecture's Role in Protecting and Regenerating Ecosystems Across the Great Lakes

The ASLA State Chapters for Michigan, Illinois, Upstate NY, Ohio, Minnesota, and Indiana and the Ontario Association of Landscape Architects are pleased to announce the Call for Presentations for the 2024 Great Lakes Region Climate Action Seminar. This is the third event in a series aimed to explore and expand landscape architecture's role regarding climate change impacts occurring in urban and natural systems across the Great Lakes Region.

The theme for the 2024 Seminar is **Design for Biodiversity** reflecting [ASLA's recent call](#) for landscape architecture to take a leading role in acknowledging and addressing the biodiversity crisis connected to the climate crisis. This broader call will likely be rooted differently within each bioregion across the continent. Our goal through the seminar is to share research and design models for practitioners specific to the Great Lakes Region. We also hope to raise questions and identify existing gaps for this work so that we can create new initiatives and research in the coming years to meet this grand challenge.

Themes and questions that we are interested in exploring:

- **Great Lakes-specific issues and opportunities:** What unique issues is the Great Lakes Region facing regarding biodiversity loss? What are the specific opportunities to rebuild ecosystems for biodiversity?
- **Planning and policy context:** For what changes should landscape architects be advocating within planning and policy contexts to protect and restore biodiversity in the Great Lakes Region?
- **Game-changers and precedents:** What examples can we point to as models for biodiversity design at both the site design scale and larger regional systems scale? How do these models break spatial barriers necessary for ecological connectivity and integrity?
- **Land-use/special geographical zones:** What examples can we highlight that identify land-use or special geographical opportunities to protect natural areas in the Great Lakes Region?
- **Community context:** What communities are leading in landscape protection and regeneration for biodiversity? How are Indigenous communities and traditional ecological knowledge rightful guides toward ecological restoration? What are the emerging opportunities to design for wildlife and native plants within communities?

- **Plants and planting design/details:** How do we incorporate more diverse native plantings in residential and urban landscapes, particularly when local ordinances prohibit or limit them?
- **Collaboration:** Who are the key collaborators needed to advance biodiversity design? What knowledge do allied partners bring to the table?
- **Agriculture:** How do we incorporate biodiversity considerations into agricultural landscapes? What new models of regenerative agriculture emerge? How does this also impact local food systems and human health?

We hope to receive a wide range of submissions to this symposium from landscape architects, allied practitioners, and their collaborators. In that regard, it is preferred, although not required, that presentations be made by groups of presenters, not individuals.

Components for your submission. We request the following information from submitters:

- 1) A 500-1,000-word statement of the proposed presentation, responding to one or more of the themes and questions listed above.
- 2) Five (5) representative images of the content of the presentation. Please submit these as jpegs with total file size of the images not to exceed 20MB.
- 3) Any links or references that will be helpful to understanding the content to be presented.
- 4) Three learning objectives of what the attendee is expected to learn through the session. These will be used in developed CEUs for the seminar.

Presentation submissions can be made here: [2024 Great Lakes Region Climate Action Seminar](#)

Schedule

Call for Proposals Issued	January 22, 2024
Submissions Due	March 15, 2024
Notifications of Acceptance	April 15, 2024
Seminar Dates	June 6-7, 2024

Questions

Please contact Mary Pat McGuire at mmp1@illinois.edu and/or Stacy Haviland at stacy.haviland@cityoffortwayne.org