



# the Wire

SWCA

News from SWCA Environmental Consultants

Volume 17, Number 2 | 2017

Cover story:

## THAT 70s PLACE | 10

URBAN ACCESS TO NATURE | 3

FROM SILVER TO SNOW | 6

SWCA GIVES BACK | 14

NEWS BRIEFS | 15



## FOCUS: EXAMINING THE PAST, RESPONDING TO THE PRESENT, PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

By John Thomas, CEO



Does the future include the past? That's a question we're asking with this issue of *The Wire*. Whether it's preserving mining artifacts at a ski resort (see "From Silver to Snow," page 6) or examining 1970s architecture to determine its historical significance (see "What 'Late Modernism' Means for Historic Preservation," page 10), we offer examples of projects that seek to protect and honor history while allowing for future progress.

Sometimes, it's not machines or buildings that need preservation, but nature itself. As you'll see in "A Creek Runs Through It" (page 3), for many cities throughout the country, there's a renewed push for urban access to nature – to benefit people, recreation, wildlife, city tourism, and water resources. And two counties in Texas are demonstrating how to collaborate and make that access happen for millions

of visitors along a 40-mile stretch of creek. SWCA has helped by conducting biological and cultural resources surveys along the trail.

Finally, in this issue we wanted to highlight our Gives Back program (see page 14) and all the effort SWCA employees devote to charitable causes nationwide. We welcome the opportunity to partner with clients on charitable events as well, so please get in touch.

As time marches on, old will continue to collide with new in dramatic and exciting ways. It's our responsibility (and our pleasure) to help ensure that natural and cultural resources are preserved for tomorrow while enabling projects that benefit people today. ■

## A CREEK RUNS THROUGH IT: HOW THE LARGEST URBAN LINEAR PARK WAS BORN

By Matt Stahman and Todd Butler

*"Eventually, all things merge into one, and a river runs through it."*

These words from the famous novel *A River Runs Through It and Other Stories*, by Norman Maclean strike a chord in all of us. We cannot help but lose ourselves in nature. We are drawn to open spaces as moths are drawn to a flame.

Why do we crave open space? Why do we seek nature? Why are these things so important to us, even in an urban setting? Perhaps it is because we need these spaces to quiet our mind and spirit. In the electronic information age, we need places where we can go to enjoy the sound of running water, the smell of fresh leaves after a morning rain, the sight of a white heron as it glides along the creek, the act of an inquisitive child digging in the dirt or inspecting a lady bug. We need these places as much as we need our homes, grocery stores, highways, and office buildings.

### THE CENTRAL PARK EFFECT

In 1853, inspired by the green open spaces of London and Paris, the New York State Legislature authorized New York City to set aside more than 700 acres in the center of Manhattan for what was then a novel purpose – a park for the enjoyment and recreation of the city's citizens. Today, Central Park covers 843 acres of open green space. Central Park is iconic. The two are inseparable, City and Park, like body and soul.

Other iconic urban parks include Chicago's Lincoln Park, which is the second most visited city park in the country, followed by Mission Bay in San Diego. Atlanta has Piedmont Park in the heart of Midtown. And downtown Phoenix is flanked by South Mountain Park, which includes 16,000 acres of desert landscape, mountains, and trails.

### HOUSTON'S TURN

In 2003, two Texas counties partnered and sought to create a refuge for the citizens of Houston and the surrounding suburbs. Harris and Montgomery County commissioners recognized a need for open space in their rapidly developing suburban areas. The goal was simple: create an open greenway along Spring Creek, which provides the boundary between their two counties. To do that, they called upon SWCA to conduct biological and cultural resources surveys along the proposed trail path.

continued on page 4



Now, calling Spring Creek a creek is a bit of a misnomer. In many parts of the country, Spring Creek would be considered a river. Running approximately 60 miles from its headwaters in Waller County to its confluence with the San Jacinto River, the “creek” is 100 yards wide in some places. It is capable of carrying kayaks, canoes, and even full-sized boats. Its white sandy beaches and riparian forests are used by families wanting solace on weekend outings, local anglers seeking bass and catfish, and wildlife looking for food and cover.

As Harris County Precinct 4 Commissioner Jack Cagle explains, “Our vision is to create a 12,000-acre linear park system, the largest of its kind in any major urban area, spanning nearly 40 miles of Spring Creek, preserving an ecological gem and

creating a mecca for ecotourism, education, and outdoor recreation just north of Houston.”



## HOW SWCA IS HELPING

SWCA has been involved with the development of this trail system for several years. Our biologists and archaeologists have conducted surveys for wetlands, endangered species, and archaeological sites (both historic and prehistoric) on more than 15 miles of the trail system. The area adjacent to Spring Creek has been occupied periodically as early as 8,000 years B.P. (Archaic time period) to more recently 200 years ago by the Atakapans and Akokisa Native American Tribes, and the banks still contain remnants of their settlements. Our archaeologists have successfully identified/tested as many as 20 cultural resource sites, including an historic cemetery. SWCA staff also helped Harris County avoid and minimize impacts to unique wetland habitats, including



They're not far from that goal. The project now spans the entire 40 miles, with only a handful of outparcels still to be acquired, and includes more than a dozen county parks on both sides of the creek. Eventually, all of these parks will be connected by the Greenway and a pedestrian and equestrian (it's Texas, y'all) trail system.

The trail system will be enjoyed not only by local residents, but by visitors as well, as it lies less than two miles from Houston's George Bush Intercontinental Airport. Travelers can Uber from the airport to Jesse H. Jones Park and Nature Center, hop on a trail, rent a bike or a canoe, and enjoy the great outdoors before heading back. Likewise, multinational companies, including ExxonMobil, are planning their new Houston corporate campuses so their employees and visitors have access to the Spring Creek Greenway trail system.



those crystal clear spring-fed freshwater ponds that give “Spring” Creek its name.

“It has been a pleasure working with Harris County on the routing of these trails,” says Todd Butler, SWCA Archaeologist/Principal

Investigator. “The establishment of the trails provides a much needed escape for residents to encounter and enjoy the beautiful landscape, wildlife, and history of our area.”

“The trail system that's being installed is world class,” notes SWCA Project Manager and Stream Restoration Engineer Lee Forbes. “In the middle of Houston, you can step off into this green world and lose yourself to the sounds and sights

of nature. Bald eagles, herons, and native wildflowers; it's truly amazing. It's like you're not even in a city.”

“As a native of this area, I see the Greenway as a legacy for our children and future citizens of the Houston metroplex,” says Matt Stahman, Principal of SWCA's Houston office. “We're proud of what we've been able to do so far to help and we look forward to being involved in the next phase of the Greenway's development.”

At a national scale, greenspace conservation in major urban areas, especially along the riparian zones of waterways, not only connects the public with nature literally out their backdoor



but also provides other services including flood control, wildlife corridors, water quality improvement, and so much more. As we draw closer to “one” homogeneous landscape in our major cities, we hope Spring Creek Greenway will inspire other greenspace projects and that there will always be “a creek that runs through it.” ■

For more information, contact **Matt Stahman** at [mstahman@swca.com](mailto:mstahman@swca.com) or **Todd Butler** at [tbutler@swca.com](mailto:tbutler@swca.com).



## How Nature Affects Your Health

Researchers worldwide have studied the effects of green space and trees on mental and physical health. The bottom line? Access to parks is good for you. Some of their specific findings include:

- A study published in *Physiological Science* found that time spent in nature activates the brain's attention centers, and boosts creativity and problem-solving ability.
- In 2009, Dutch researchers found a lower incidence of 15 diseases (including depression, anxiety, heart disease, diabetes, asthma, and migraines) in people who lived within a mile of green space.
- In 2015, a team overlaid health questionnaire responses from more than 31,000 Toronto residents onto a map of the city, block by block. Those living on blocks with more trees showed a boost in heart and metabolic health.
- Pennsylvania researchers found that even looking out a window at nature has healing effects on the body, especially following an illness or surgery.





## FROM SILVER TO SNOW: PRESERVING PARK CITY'S MOUNTAIN TREASURES

*By Anne Oliver and Kate Hovanec*

Long before it was a world-class ski town, Olympic Games venue, or host of the Sundance Film Festival, Park City, Utah, was one of the richest silver mining centers in the world.

In October 1868, prospectors discovered a silver vein in the mountains above the future site of Park City. The Ontario Mine, one of the district's largest producers, opened in 1874 and ignited the boomtown atmosphere of the region. More prospectors arrived in droves, carried by the newly complete Transcontinental Railroad.

Soon there were more than 300 individual claims in the district, and during this period many workings in the mountains became sprawling industrial sites. The extraction and processing of ore required support buildings in addition to structures like shafts, head

frames, hoist houses, mills, boarding houses, offices, private residences, change houses, roads, rail lines, aerial tramways, conveyor systems, ore bins, water tanks, and water lines. Meanwhile, in town there were businesses and houses to support the miners and their families. Buoyed by modern conveniences like electricity and running water, the town's population ballooned to more than 7,000 by 1898.

Although the mines weathered a number of early financial dips, after World War I, declining ore quality, labor unrest, and the Great Depression combined to bring an end to Park City's prosperity. The population declined sharply. Many houses, commercial properties, and mine sites were abandoned. The wartime economy of the 1940s brought little relief and, by the 1950s, the population had dropped to about 1,000 people. The two largest mining operations were consolidated into United Park City Mines, which became the last remaining mining company in the area.

### DISCOVERING TREASURE ABOVE GROUND

That could have been the end of the story. But Park City was resilient, and the next boom was imminent. Skiing had long been a part of the town culture and a method of transportation through heavy snow. A major push for skiing as a recreational activity and economic catalyst began in 1958, when United Park City Mines, recognizing the potential value of its land above ground, conducted a feasibility study to create a ski area, which opened in 1963.

The ski industry has had a profound impact on Park City, which is now one of the premier resort destinations in the world. Today, its permanent population is only 7,500, but the town accommodates more than 3 million visitors each year. They come not only for the deep powder, but also for the summer

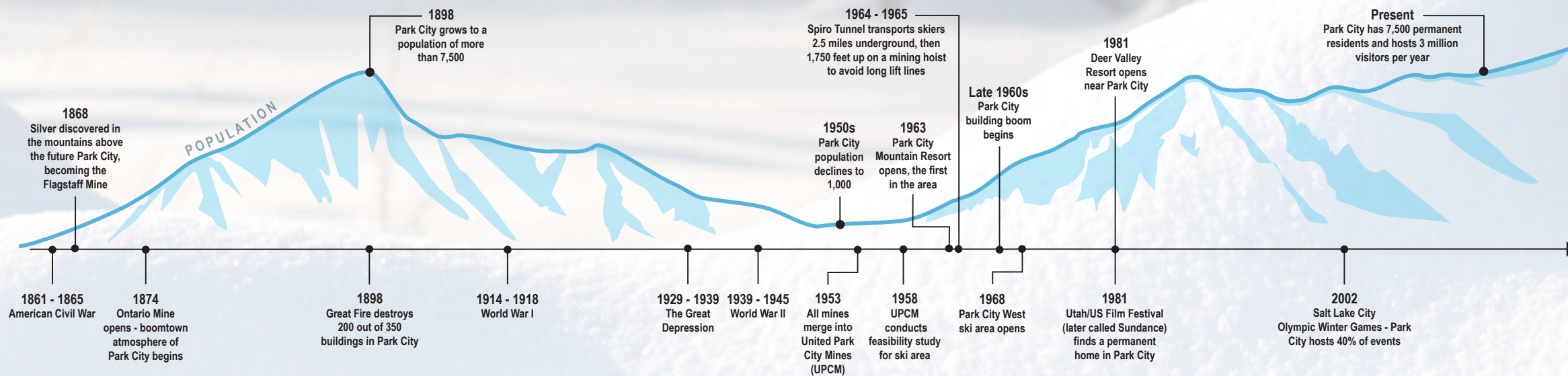
*Skier near historic California Comstock Mill site / Courtesy of Vail Resorts*

mountain biking, hiking, arts, dining, and the town that still oozes Old West charm.

Although the outdoor recreation industry brought a new economic boom to the area, much of the historic mining infrastructure remains. The various roads, buildings, equipment sheds, processing facilities, offices, and bunk houses that sustained the mining practice back then tell an important story today. What should be done with these mining remnants? And what about the surface rights of inactive claims that are leased for development and new use? These are questions that SWCA's architectural history team in the Salt Lake City office recently helped VR CPC Holdings, Inc. (commonly known as Vail Resorts) address.

*continued on page 8*





continued from page 7

Many locals and tourists ski, hike, or bike past the remains of the mining sites that line the modern ski runs and summer trails, and which are now an integral part of the cultural landscape. These resources represent both an asset and a challenge to Vail Resorts. On one hand, the ore bins and hoist houses are popular attractions for tourists and important to long-time residents as a reminder of community history. On the other, the abandoned mine resources are aging and in many cases are in poor condition. Given the size of some structures, their current state of repair, and the lack of viable new uses, the preservation problem at Park City is daunting.

## MERGING THE PAST WITH THE FUTURE

Vail Resorts contracted SWCA to create a preservation plan for the mining resources. The plan included an inventory of the sites, assessments of their conditions, options for stabilization and other treatments, and an assessment of resource significance in order to prioritize any future preservation and fundraising work.

In total, SWCA investigated 26 resources that varied in size and complexity from diminutive fire hose houses to a ten-room hoist house with intact equipment and machinery. The options for each resource included:

- Stabilization
- Leaving the resource “as-is”
- Demolition
- Public interpretation
- Adaptive reuse

Stabilization, in concert with additional documentation and interpretation, is considered the optimum preservation approach for nearly all of the historic mining resources. Stabilization isn’t complicated and typically involves repairing or replacing rotted timbers, repairing roofs, and reattaching corrugated metal panels to walls. But stabilization may not be the solution for every resource.

Other options include leaving the resource in “as-is” condition (if it’s relatively durable, isolated, or not significant), demolition (if it lacks historic significance and poses a safety risk), interpretation for the public (ranging from a plaque to a documentary film), and adaptive reuse (converting a building to a day lodge, restaurant, or ski area storage facility).

However, accomplishing any of these things will require a considerable dedication of time and money, as well as a long-term investment to maintain the resources. Vail Resorts committed to produce the preservation plan, assist the town of Park City in securing certain preservation easements, create a five-year capital fundraising plan for the community, and make a one-time monetary contribution towards stabilizing the highest priority sites.

Because the stewardship of historic mining resources at the scale identified in the plan is well beyond the scope of Park City Mountain’s focus on ski area operations or obligations, the greater Park City community, the Park City Historical Museum, Park City Municipal, and the ski resort launched a collaborative campaign to fundraise and garner contributions from the community or other public funding sources. Even ski and snowboard guests are engaged and can contribute by way of the creation of a new mountain trail map tailored specifically to skiing by and learning more about the mining project sites.

The Friends of Ski Mountain Mining History, chaired by several long-time community leaders, has in just a couple short years raised tens of thousands of dollars, resulting in considerable preservation progress on two of the identified priority sites. The restoration work has been overseen by a fifth-generation local miner and contractor who brings incredible passion and dedication to his work. The preservation work on one relic, the California Comstock Mill, has already received award recognition from Preservation Utah and Park City Municipal Corporation.

## THE BENEFITS OF PLANNING

By investigating the history and preservation possibilities for the resources on its property, Vail Resorts made an important first step toward addressing the concerns of the Park City community about preserving the area’s mining history. Through these efforts, Vail Resorts was also able to develop a closer relationship with Park City’s municipal government, its historical society, and the community as a whole. Preservation efforts have also benefited the resort’s many visitors, for whom the old mining structures are a key aspect of their outdoor experience.

Of course, Park City is an unusual example. Most old mining districts do not become world-famous ski resorts and receive millions of visitors per year. But that doesn’t mean that cultural resources management isn’t an important consideration for mining companies. Many situations can trigger a need for architectural history work, including mine expansions, improvements to existing infrastructure, and planning for future exploration and development.

In each of these cases, the work that SWCA has done for Vail Resorts is highly applicable. Preemptive surveys of resources on land owned or leased by mines help to streamline future planning and environmental compliance work.

In addition to the benefits offered by proactive resource management, historic preservation efforts can also foster positive public relations. Many mining sites are associated not only with historic infrastructure but also nearby settlements or towns, all of which can be important to local residents and the general public. The history of mining is important to us all, and the preservation of significant mining structures that remain on the land is the best way to keep the story alive. ■

For more information about Park City’s Mountain Treasures, contact **Anne Oliver** at [aoliver@swca.com](mailto:aoliver@swca.com) or **Kate Hovanes** at [khovanes@swca.com](mailto:khovanes@swca.com).



To see bonus footage on this story, visit [www.swca.com](http://www.swca.com).



# THAT 70s PLACE: WHAT “LATE MODERNISM” MEANS FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

By SWCA Staff

In the 1970s, lapels were wide, fabrics were synthetic, and architectural features like oddly shaped windows and concrete panels suggested that George Jetson designed buildings from behind his atomic-powered drafting table.

In 1966, shortly before this rocket ride from traditional to “far out” in architectural design, President Lyndon Johnson signed the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). A little more than 50 years old now, the NHPA has cultivated an equal share of supporters and detractors. You can guess who plays for each side – historians and preservationists scramble to save much of the nation’s architectural heritage from the shadow of the wrecking ball, while developers and city leaders push to leave their own mark on the landscape.

Implementation of the NHPA has evolved over the past five decades, but one aspect has remained the same – generally speaking, a resource must be at least 50 years old for consideration of its historic significance (properties with exceptional significance can be designated before the 50-year mark). That means today, up for debate are those buildings from the decade that taste forgot: the 1970s.

## WHY 50 YEARS?

The 50-year-old benchmark is as American as a frozen apple pie. In 1966, the nation was approaching its 200th birthday, so anything 50 years old or older was a little more than a quarter of the time the United States had been a nation. Older cultures in Europe and Asia may laugh, as this benchmark is nothing more than a blink of time’s eye.

The golden age of Queen Anne houses and neoclassical government buildings is long past. The NHPA just missed saving Penn Station in Manhattan, but it has played a significant role in saving individual buildings and entire blocks and neighborhoods in communities nationwide. With the regulations firmly in place,

the NHPA faces an interesting challenge – how to record and celebrate the historic and architectural significance of buildings that most people may never have cared for in the first place. Time marches on, and soon it will be 50 years for those 1970s buildings still proudly displaying ornamental concrete blocks, strange fenestrations, tri-levels, and mansard roofs.

## EYESORES? OR “LATE MODERNISM”?

For an example of how some cities are treating 1970s architecture, let’s look at Denver, Colorado. Historic Denver Inc. is an organization that tracks and promotes the city’s significant buildings. It refers to buildings from the 1970s as part of the “Late Modernism” school.

What qualifies as “Late Modernism?” A few of the architectural features contributing toward that classification include a horizontally oriented building plan, ribbon windows, flat or shed roof, use of industrial materials like concrete, and very little exterior ornamentation. High-rise and low-rise buildings qualify – notably schools, factory buildings, office buildings, and shopping centers.

While classifying these buildings may boost their significance, in Colorado and many other states, the lexicon “Late Modernism” has yet to be officially recognized by state agencies and preservation specialists, and architectural historians are still working out what stylistically was actually going on and how to “classify” these trends and architectural movements. The lexicon is the list each State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) uses to describe a building’s architectural style or type. The closest description Colorado’s SHPO uses is “Modern Movement,” which covers most of the buildings constructed during the second half of the 20th century.

An interesting example of a lost building that many argue should have been preserved was Denver’s GEICO building. Resembling a space-age beer barrel, the GEICO building stood for a little more than 40 years at the corner of South Wadsworth Boulevard and West Alameda Avenue in the community of Lakewood, west of Denver. In early 2012, it was demolished to make way for a national chain drugstore. In the 40 years it stood, the building’s bizarre shape gained a measure of public recognition for its uniqueness.

*continued on page 12*



continued from page 10

SHPO offices, architectural historians, and historic preservation specialists are becoming more aware of those buildings that have endured ridicule or have stood anonymously for years.

## PROJECT CONSIDERATIONS

Love them or hate them, the buildings lucky enough to make it to the 50-year mark will have a great bearing on development projects. Most of SWCA's historic resource specialists have found themselves investigating offices and other commercial buildings from the 1960s-1970s.

An example of this is the proliferation of cell phone towers. Cell towers direct countless numbers of conversations around the world every second of every day. In another example of how time marches on, a generation of new antennas are replacing the original towers.

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is responsible for the licensing of these towers, and compliance with Section 106 of the NHPA is required.

Survey work in a cityscape requires the historic resource specialist take note of the Area of Potential Effects (APE) surrounding the location where the tower will be installed. The APE is defined under 36 CFR Part 800.16 as "the geographic area or areas within which an undertaking may cause changes in the character or use of historic properties, if any such properties exist." If a NRHP-listed property is within the APE, a Secretary of the Interior's qualified historic preservation specialist or architectural historian must evaluate the impact of the proposed new tower.

For potential visual effects, the FCC has suggested the APE include descriptions of buildings or features within ½ mile radius for towers 200 feet or less in height, ¾ mile radius for towers more than 200 but no more than 400 feet tall, and one-and-one-half miles' radius for towers taller than 400 feet.

Away from an urban setting, the surveyor needs to consider topography and vegetation when considering the impact within the APE for visual effects.

As a result, apartments, residences, and professional buildings are becoming increasingly scrutinized for their historic significance.

For many Americans, it's ingrained to replace what is old or move along and be the first to construct where no one has built before. The likelihood of an American building making it to 50 is an accomplishment unto itself. ■

For more information about how historic preservation applies to your project, contact **Anna Mod** at [amod@swca.com](mailto:amod@swca.com).

To see bonus footage on this story, visit [www.swca.com](http://www.swca.com).

*That means today, up for debate are those buildings from the decade that taste forgot: the 1970s.*



## WHAT THE NHPA MEANS TO YOU

Contrary to what most people understand, listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) does not include any government regulation for private property owners. The NHPA is designed to review projects that may impact NRHP listed properties owned, financed, or permitted by the federal government. This typically means DOT-funded highway, bridge, and road repairs and FCC-permitted cell towers. It also can be a part of any FEMA disaster recovery such as Hurricanes Katrina, Sandy, and Ike.

However, many municipalities have their own set of preservation regulations that owners must consider for buildings, bridges, and other examples of the built environment. Owners of potentially historic buildings should consult with their city or town's planning or historic preservation department to make sure what they have planned for their building follows the local historic preservation ordinance.

If you own a historic property and the building needs a little TLC, you can benefit from preservation. Some of those benefits include:

- **Tax Credits:** A 20% credit on federal income taxes is available for the rehabilitation of a property listed in the NRHP. To qualify for the tax credit, the property must be income-producing, and the rehabilitation work must be certified as complying with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Rehabilitation of Historic Properties. Approximately 35 states have their own tax credit incentives that can be combined with the federal program.
- **Local Incentives:** A visit or phone call to your community's Historic Preservation Office or Planning Department could result in a list of unexpected bonuses. These include easements, zoning, and other considerations for keeping your building which may be unique to your community.
- **Environmental Benefits:** Remember, the greenest building is the one that is still standing. Property owners and businesses should always consider the savings of making improvements to their buildings before deciding on demolition.

There are advantages to keeping your old building standing and most of them are economic. If you decide to keep and maintain your old property, you should also see a great deal of good will from your neighbors and new friends for keeping a piece of your community's past for the future to enjoy.





TIME VOLUNTEER

## SWCA GIVES BACK: MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN LOCAL COMMUNITIES



SWCA Gives back is our company-wide community service program that includes employee volunteer efforts, donations, and matching corporate grants. It grew out of our employees' passion for volunteering and supporting various charitable activities nationwide.

In just a few short years, the program has grown, creating a culture of giving at SWCA. From environmental stewardship events to clothing drives, charitable races, fundraising activities, river clean-ups, bike rides, homeless outreach, hospital visits, and sponsoring tournaments and events – our employees devote time and money year-round.

We also partner with clients to support charitable events. Interested in helping us Give Back? Contact **Joseph J. Fluder, III** at [jfluder@swca.com](mailto:jfluder@swca.com).

Organizations supported by SWCA in 2016-2017 include:

- Amherst Survival Center
- Connecticut River Watershed Council
- Dallas Heart Walk
- Feeding America
- Flagstaff Marine League Charities
- Galevston Mission
- Girl Scouts of America
- Habitat for Humanity
- HELP of Southern Nevada
- The Humane Society
- Meals on Wheels
- National Park Foundation
- The Nature Conservancy
- Pat Tillman Foundation
- Phoenix Children's Hospital
- Red Cross
- Ronald McDonald House
- Salvation Army
- Save Our Canyons
- Special Olympics
- Toys for Tots
- United Way of Salt Lake
- Wesley Mission Center
- Wild Animal Sanctuary
- Woody Guthrie Center
- Wounded Warrior Project

For more information about SWCA Gives Back and a comprehensive list of organizations SWCA has supported in the past year, visit [www.swca.com/swca-gives-back](http://www.swca.com/swca-gives-back).

### GIVES BACK BY THE NUMBERS - 2016

**\$61,900**  
TOTAL DONATIONS

VOLUNTEER  
HOURS  
**1,112+**

**29**  
GRANTS  
AWARDED

GIVES BACK  
EVENTS  
**72**

**71**  
ORGANIZATIONS  
IMPACTED

## NEWS BRIEFS

### SWCA Welcomes Chad Evenhouse



**Chad Evenhouse** has joined SWCA Environmental Consultants as the Business Development Director for Generation. Chad brings with him more than 19 years of experience as a consulting environmental scientist and business development leader. As a professional wetland scientist with a strong background in soils and hydrology, Chad has developed expertise in environmental planning and permitting for large-scale land development and infrastructure projects, including siting feasibility, due diligence, and permitting for utility-scale solar and wind energy facilities. He has also navigated numerous projects through the agency consultation process, represented clients and industry groups in discussions with the EPA, and provided expert witness testimony.

### Larry Semo Award Winners



**Jim Railey**, Cultural Resources Principal Investigator in Albuquerque, was selected as SWCA's Lawrence S. Semo Scientific Achievement Award winner for the first quarter of 2017. Jim started with SWCA in 1998 and served as the Cultural Resources Program Director for Albuquerque between 2003 and 2007. His scientific leadership has earned the respect and trust of colleagues, agency archaeologists, and clients.



**Mary Anne McLeod**, Environmental Resources Specialist in the Flagstaff office, was selected as the winner for the second quarter of 2017. Mary Anne is an expert on the Southwestern Willow Flycatcher population along the lower Colorado River (LCR) and its tributaries, and on the effects of tamarisk beetles on flycatchers. For 15 years, she has led our efforts on behalf of the

Bureau of Reclamation for the LCR MSCP, Nevada Department of Wildlife, and Southern Nevada Water Authority.

### Seth Mitchell Promoted to Pittsburgh Director



SWCA recently promoted **Seth Mitchell** to Director of its Pittsburgh Office. In this role, Seth will be responsible for leading Pittsburgh's interdisciplinary team, organizing business development efforts and strategy, providing staff mentoring and development, and working with leadership to ensure the office meets its goals. Seth joined SWCA in August 2016 as a Principal Investigator/Project Manager and was soon promoted to Cultural Resources Team Lead. Before joining SWCA, Seth spent many years leading teams of archaeologists in the field and office on projects throughout the Midwest, Northeast, and South.

### Pasadena Office Relocating to Historic Building

SWCA has secured 7,773 square feet of office and laboratory space at 51 West Dayton in Pasadena, California, for expansion and relocation of its California-Pacific regional headquarters. The 1890s building, once a livery stable, has been seismically retrofitted and comprehensively updated for creative and professional services.

"This is an amazing historic structure, and a very adaptable space that offers SWCA the opportunity to expand in Pasadena, the location of our regional headquarters for more than a decade," said Cara Corsetti, SWCA paleontologist and senior principal for California and Hawaii. "Pasadena is an excellent location for us, both in terms of our clients in southern California and across the entire region."

The office, which employs more than 50 scientists and support staff, is currently in a space on South Arroyo Parkway near Pasadena's historic downtown; the new space can accommodate as many as 75 employees. The firm will take occupancy of the new space in September 2017.

*continued on back page*





*The Wire* is published by SWCA, Incorporated. POSTMASTER:  
Send address changes to SWCA Environmental Consultants,  
3033 North Central Ave., Suite 145, Phoenix, AZ 85012.

To be added to our mailing list, or for editorial comments  
or questions, call 1-800-828-8517; email us at [thewire@swca.com](mailto:thewire@swca.com);  
or write to SWCA Environmental Consultants,  
3033 North Central Ave., Suite 145, Phoenix, AZ 85012.

STEVEN W. CAROTHERS | Founder

JOHN THOMAS | President & CEO

GINA WAGNER | Editor & Contributing Writer

MARCY DORSEY | Graphic Designer, Photographer & Illustrator

ALYSSA ALBERTONE | Multimedia Editor

Please visit us on the web at [www.swca.com](http://www.swca.com) and on social media.



Natural, Cultural & Water Resources | Air Quality | Environmental Planning, Permitting & Compliance | GIS | Landscape Architecture

## NEWS BRIEFS (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15)

### New Board Members

The SWCA board added two additional external directors this year bringing the total number of director seats to eight.

New to the board are **Shane Stowell** and **Laura Huenneke**.



**Shane Stowell** is a partner at RHR International. For more than 70 years, RHR has focused on combining business acumen and psychological perspective to help develop senior leaders and teams in businesses and non-profits of all sizes. Shane holds a Psy.D. from Loma Linda University. He is an entrepreneur/clinical psychologist who works with clients in healthcare, professional services, high-tech industries, Fortune 100 retail, precious metals, private equity, performing arts, and the nonprofit sector. Shane has been working with SWCA's executive team and senior leaders for the past four years.



**Laura Huenneke** is a professor in the School of Earth Sciences and Environmental Sustainability at Northern Arizona University. She earned her Ph.D. in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at Cornell University. She has numerous professional honors and recognitions, more than 50 peer-reviewed publications, and serves on the editorial boards for numerous scientific journals. In addition to her scientific and academic endeavors, Laura has experience in the organization, development, and strategic visioning for academic institutions. She has served as Dean, Founding Dean, Vice President for Research, and Provost at Northern Arizona University. The combination of scientific expertise and organizational experience make Laura an exciting and unique addition to SWCA's board of directors.

---

**Want to join our team?**

**See career opportunities at [SWCA.com](http://SWCA.com)**