
GCSC Seminar Series

Online via Zoom

Tuesday, November 10, 2020
4:00-5:00 PM

tinyurl.com/gcsc-hinners
Passcode: 233753

Sarah Jack Hinners

City & Metropolitan Planning, University of Utah

Campus as a Living Lab: Embedded Research for Sustainability Innovation in the Built Environment



Through examples of landscape research at the University of Utah, this talk will explore opportunities for research universities to become innovators in sustainability in the built environment.

Bio

Dr. Sarah Jack Hanners is a landscape and urban ecologist on the faculty of the Department of City and Metropolitan Planning at the University of Utah, the Director of the Center for Ecological Planning and Design and an Associate Director of the GCSC. She holds a BA in Geography and Environmental Studies from McGill University and a PhD in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology from the University of Colorado Boulder. Her work focuses on the relationship between ecological, social and built systems, interdisciplinary collaborative processes, and the role of nature in cities. She has been working across the academic/operations divide at the U for the past eight years to facilitate stewardship of Red Butte Creek and of campus landscapes more broadly, with a particular focus on ecological management of stormwater through green infrastructure approaches.

Abstract

Research universities are engines of new knowledge, which provides the fuel for societal innovation. When it comes to the built environment of their own campuses, however, universities are generally passive consumers of commercial design and technology offered by private sector firms. Since pushing the envelope on sustainability innovation in the built environment is critical to meeting this century's challenges of climate change, water scarcity, and population growth, universities are in a unique position to leverage their research capabilities to be leaders rather than followers in this field. I'll talk about our research collaborations with the University of Utah to advance sustainability in our campus landscapes with regard to water use, stormwater management, biodiversity, and access to nature.