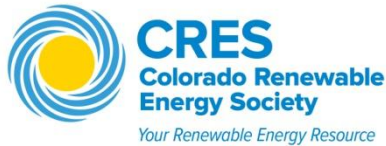


DENVER'S  
**Sustainability Park**  
where the future takes root



Request for:

## **Letters of Interest**

*Deadline December 30, 2011*

### **PURPOSE AND SCOPE**

The Colorado Renewable Energy Society (CRES) is requesting Letters of Interest (LOI) from organizations interested in developing projects and programs for inclusion at Denver's Sustainability Park. CRES is accepting submittals from private and public entities (for profit or nonprofit) whose proposals will enhance our efforts to create a holistic model for healthy, sustainable urban communities. Project and/or program ideas should include at least one of the following key elements; Renewable Energy, Green Building, Urban Agriculture and Sustainable Site Development, Community Outreach and Education, and Transportation. CRES is accepting submittals for established technologies and strategies but also encourages groups with emerging or nontraditional ideas to apply.

There is no membership or rental fee associated with becoming a park partner. However, certain project specific infrastructure and "sweat equity" will be expected of those who are selected to develop their projects and programs. These decisions will be made on case-by-case basis as circumstances dictate.

LOI submittals will be evaluated by a committee of renewable energy and green building experts, design professionals, community stakeholders, and representatives from CRES and Denver Housing Authority (DHA): collectively known as the Advisory Committee.

Projects and programs will be selected for further consideration based on the best combination of the following attributes:

- ◆ Potential for the project to have a meaningful impact at the park and in the community at large through demonstration, testing and education.
- ◆ Feasibility of developing the proposal on site. Either as a standalone project or in collaboration with other proposed or existing projects.
- ◆ Ability of the proposal to be deployed with existing infrastructure or identified resources
- ◆ Creativity and novelty

*CRES is requesting that any entity interested in proposing a project or program for inclusion at Denver's Sustainability Park do so by end of day **December 30th, 2011.***

## **LOI SUBMITTAL CONTENT**

Submit responses electronically to and request information from:

**Mr. DJ Cardi**

Program Manager

Colorado Renewable Energy Society (CRES)

3245 Eliot Street

Denver, CO 80211

Phone: (303) 882-5300

Email: [d.cardi@cres-energy.org](mailto:d.cardi@cres-energy.org)

CRES understands that all information submitted may not be 100% firm and accurate. At this stage, specifications or other information regarding your proposal are not meant to be binding contractual commitments. However, the following information, submitted as thoroughly as possible, will assist the Advisory Committee in evaluating your Letter of Interest and determining if your proposal will receive further consideration.

Proposals should be submitted in PDF or Microsoft Word format. Keep submittals to three pages or less, not including supplemental information.

### **Questions:**

Provide a brief summary of the project and/or program

How will the proposed project and/or program enrich Denver's Sustainability Park's mission of advancing a holistic model for developing healthy sustainable communities (see Project Requirements for more detail)?

What are the space requirements for your proposed project?

- ◆ Area and Dimensions
- ◆ Include approximate length, width and height of all structures.

Does your proposed project have any special siting requirements? (E.g. does it need to be oriented to face south or require specific site grading)

Has this project or program been deployed elsewhere in the past? If so, to what extent and with what results?

Does your proposed project have any utility or infrastructure needs (e.g. water, electric, drainage)

Optional – Provide any renderings, diagrams, or other collateral materials which are vital to evaluating your proposed project or program (this section does not count toward the three page limit).

## PROJECT REQUIREMENTS

CRES does not have strict requirements for the proposals that will be considered. Proponents of both conventional and nontraditional concepts and technologies are encouraged to apply. Any infrastructure brought to the site should be appropriate for a well-established downtown neighborhood (e.g. no excessive noise or light in the evening). Generally, proposals should include one or more of the following key elements:

- ◆ Renewable Energy
  - Solar PV, Solar Thermal, Wind, Geothermal, Biomass, Hydrogen, etc
  - Established and emerging technologies
  
- ◆ Green Building
  - Pilot green homes
  - Energy & resource efficiency demonstrations
  - Recycled material applications
  - Smart metering technologies
  
- ◆ Agriculture and/or sustainable site development
  - Xeriscaping & native planting demonstrations
  - Water quality management strategies
  - Urban farming concepts
  - Composting & waste management demonstrations
  
- ◆ Transportation
  - Fossil fuel alternatives
  - Alternative modes of transportation
  
- ◆ Community Outreach & Education
  - Program enrichment for K-12, trade schools, and universities
  - Job training initiatives
  - Community interactive or green focused art installations and programs
  - Programs to promote social cohesion for the local and surrounding communities
  - Healthy & active lifestyle promotion and education

***\*This list is not comprehensive- other innovative ideas not listed above will be considered\****

## GENERAL INFORMATION & BACKGROUND

Website: [www.DenverSustainabilityPark.org](http://www.DenverSustainabilityPark.org)

Denver's Sustainability Park is a first-of-its-kind demonstration and testing site for a full spectrum of sustainable technologies and strategies. Comprising a full city block, the 2.7 acre site is located at 2500 Lawrence Street in the heart of Downtown Denver, Colorado; just five blocks from the Central Business District and Coors Field. Denver Housing Authority (DHA) owns the land, and has been the vital force in redeveloping and revitalizing the historic Curtis Park Neighborhood of the greater Five Points Statistical Neighborhood, where the park is located.

In March of 2011, DHA and CRES formed a partnership, with CRES assuming the role of Program Manager for Denver's Sustainability Park. An Advisory Board is being formed to act as the governing body to oversee project selection, development, operational, marketing, and funding decisions. This board will have strong community representation as well as expertise in renewable energy, green building, sustainable design, urban farming, education, and arts and culture. Working with the board, CRES will identify the most appropriate and promising technologies, projects, and programs to incorporate into the park. Once identified, CRES and DHA will assist in providing development support for these projects and programs, as well as institute measures for testing and evaluation.

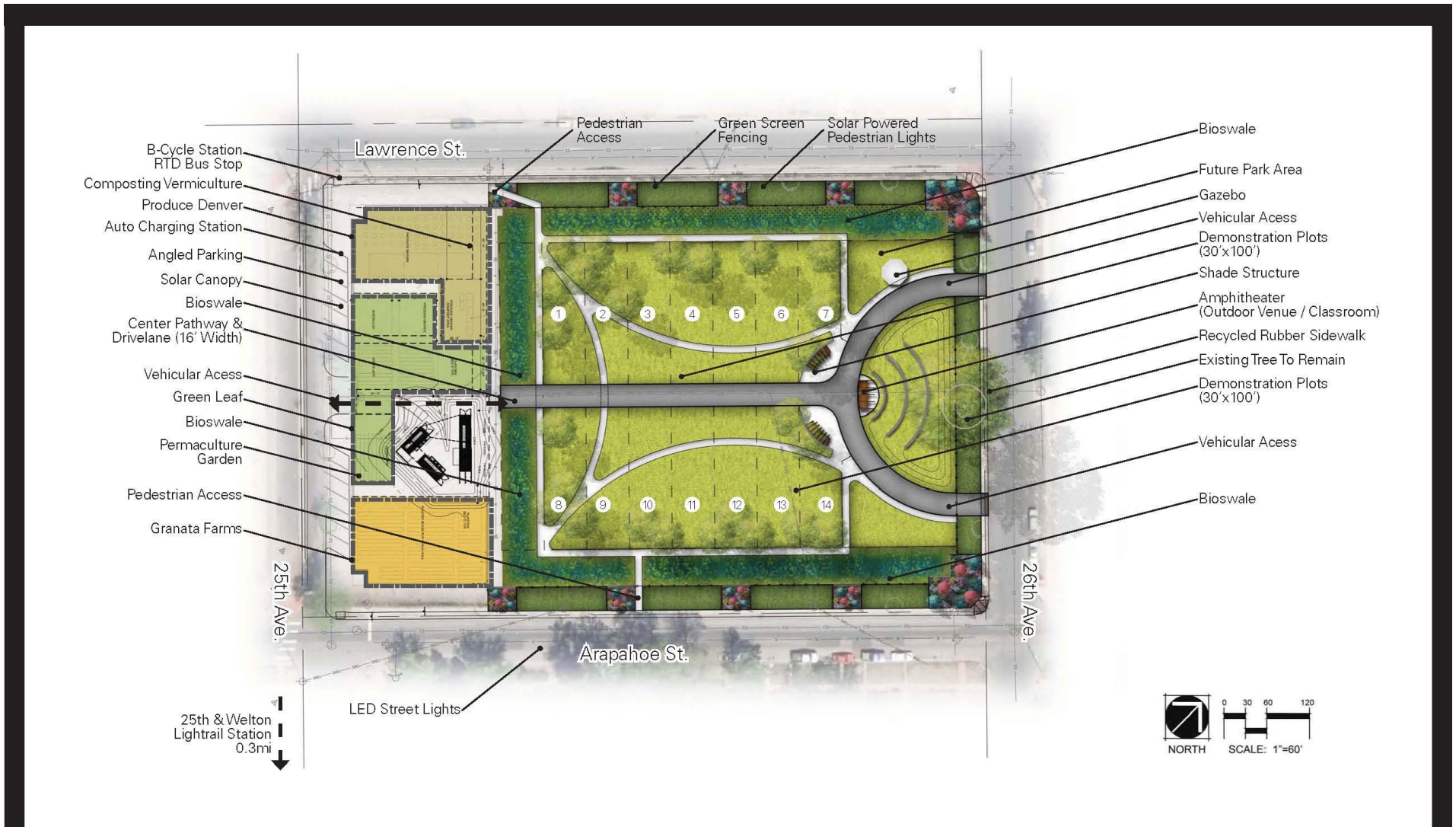
Perhaps more important than testing and evaluation, Denver's Sustainability Park will be a place to showcase and demonstrate established and emerging earth-friendly strategies. It will serve as a hands-on learning laboratory for students, developers, green industry professionals, municipal leaders and the public at large. With strategic involvement in events like the World Renewable Energy Forum coming to Denver in May 2012, and the Annual Green Route Festival, the park and its supporting partners and exhibitors will get local, national and international exposure. Once the park is developed, annual visitors will number in the tens of thousands.

Our interactive website will be a platform by which we promote our supporting partners and the various programs and projects on site. The website will further serve as a source of information for the public about the merits of sustainable development and the myriad options available for integrating sustainable design principles into their lives.

Providing quality education, community outreach, and social cohesion opportunities is an integral component to our work at the park. In addition to tangible technologies and infrastructure, CRES aims to identify a number of innovative programs to host on site. There are plans to incorporate an outdoor commons area to serve as an open air classroom and venue for community and cultural events. This area will provide added incentive for local residents and out-of-town visitors to visit the park. Exhibits and projects will be displayed in an inviting park setting with meandering pathways, trees, xeriscaping, benches, and community-inspired art installations.

Recently awarded Denver's Mayoral Design Award, our master plan is the inspiration from a charrette where nearly 50 community leaders and green industry professionals collaborated on creating a design that would best meet the needs of the park's various stakeholders in a holistic and synergistic way. The resulting master plan, created by Norris Design, allows for much flexibility and adaptability in terms of incorporating new projects and programs. The purpose of this LOI is to determine what projects and programs will be the most appropriate, promising and exciting to include as part of Denver's Sustainability Park.

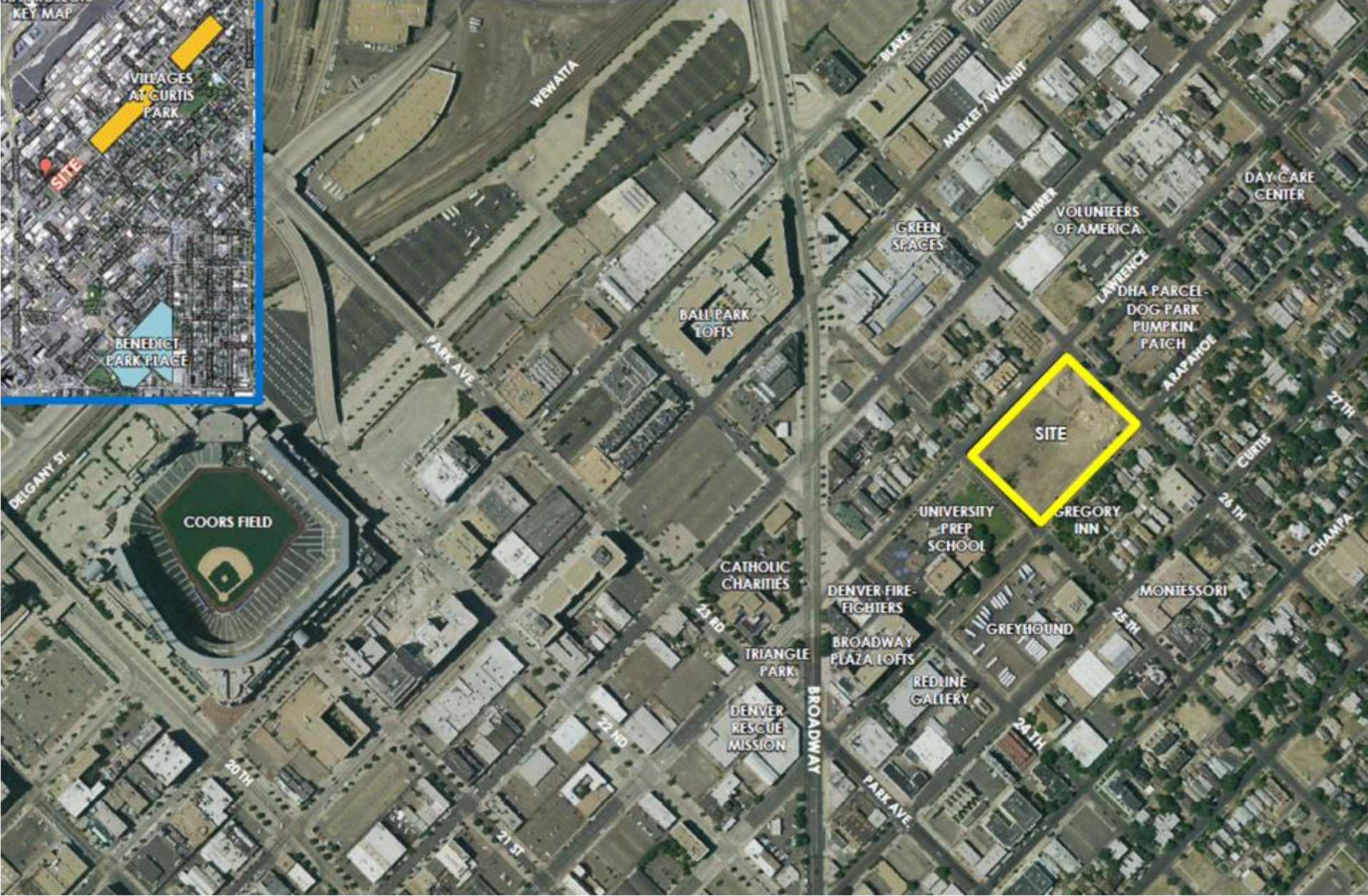
# Site Plan



1101 Bannock Street  
 Denver, Colorado 80204  
 P 303.892.1195  
 F 303.892.1186  
 www.norris-design.com



# Context Map #1



**Context Map #2**



## CURRENT INFRASTRUCTURE

“Green screen wall” security fences around the perimeter of the site with four secured access gates

Sidewalks around the park including a recycled rubber sidewalk demonstration along 26<sup>th</sup> Street

LED street lights and pedestrian lights as part of a pilot program with the City and County of Denver

Three recycled shipping containers serving as office space, bathrooms, and storage for the urban farming organizations

Electric, Water and Sewer utilities

Denver B-cycle kiosk (public bike sharing program) and local bus stop. Light-rail station is three blocks away.

## CURRENT PROJECTS AND PROGRAMMING

### Urban Farmers Collaborative

Location: Southwest portion of the site (left side of the master plan)

Project Summary:

The Urban Farmers Collaborative (UFC) is a partnership of organizations committed to urban agricultural production as a method of ensuring that city residents have access to fresh organic food. The UFC provides employment for farmers and a site for teaching individuals, particularly young people, about farming and living sustainably. The Urban Farmers Collaborative engages with community members and organizations in converting unused land to farms because they recognize that local assets (people, land, knowledge, and community) are the primary building blocks of sustainable community development.

Through urban agriculture, the Urban Farmers Collaborative:

- ◆ Stimulates the local economy by creating jobs to produce and distribute food locally
- ◆ Increases access to healthy, affordable food in urban communities
- ◆ Engages communities in living and eating more sustainably
- ◆ Supports healthier individuals and communities
- ◆ Reconnects urban dwellers with the land, facilitating a firmer understanding of the natural world and food production
- ◆ Decreases the ecological footprint of our current food system

Partners:

- ◆ **GreenLeaf** is a Denver-based non-profit creating social change through urban agriculture. GreenLeaf is engaging urban youth in transforming vacant city land into farms, paying them a fair wage to grow vegetables for their communities and engaging youth in building socially just food systems in Denver.
- ◆ **Granata Farms**, a small for-profit venture farming in backyards and vacant lots, is advancing a model of urban agriculture that demonstrates the viability of small organic urban farming operations in an urban setting, connecting eaters directly to the people who grow their food through a community supported agriculture (CSA) program.
- ◆ **Produce Denver** is a socially conscious for-profit landscaping company whose goal is to achieve economic sustainability farming front yards and creating edible landscaping, while producing food for the Denver community.

## **A Village Environment's: Demonstration Village**

Location: Plots 8 & 9 (as indicated on the master plan)

### **Project Summary:**

Inspired by the traveling Smithsonian exhibit *Design for the Other 90%*, Demonstration Village is a place where visitors can see a multitude of temporary relief and permanent developing world housing options. Built in collaboration with the Denver Housing Authority and the Colorado Renewable Energy Society, Demonstration Village seeks to establish itself as a must-see for anyone seeking to learn more about shelter options, energy systems, and irrigation technologies in the developing world. On-site gallery space is being planned and will be used to showcase an array of common sense technologies, tools and strategies designed to improve quality of life for marginalized populations around the world.

Currently on display at Demonstration Village: CircHouse, Habihut, Salvage Walls & Hypar Roof, Humanitarian House, Solar Pump, Treadle Pump, Ez Latrine, Earth mound supported Storage Bag. For more information about Demonstration Village visit: [www.demonstrationvillage.org](http://www.demonstrationvillage.org).

## **Turnkey Aquaponics**

Location: Plot 1 (as indicated on the master plan)

### **Project Summary:**

This project is a unique, high altitude, cold weather greenhouse structure suitable for housing and aquaponics systems. The design concept is the first known structure providing a platform for scalable aquaponics systems for vegetable production nourished by a fish habitat. The closed-looped system is designed to control water temperatures in large (up to 1,500 gallons) fish tanks under extreme weather conditions without relying on large amounts of conventional energy for heating and cooling while still providing an appropriate environment for plants and fish to thrive together. The structure incorporates innovative active and passive solar support for both air and water heating, and simple but effective low voltage and passive air heating, cooling, and ventilation. The system is designed to operate on an average of just 500 watts of electricity. The local nonprofit FEED Denver will provide operational support, education, testing, and distribution of grown food.