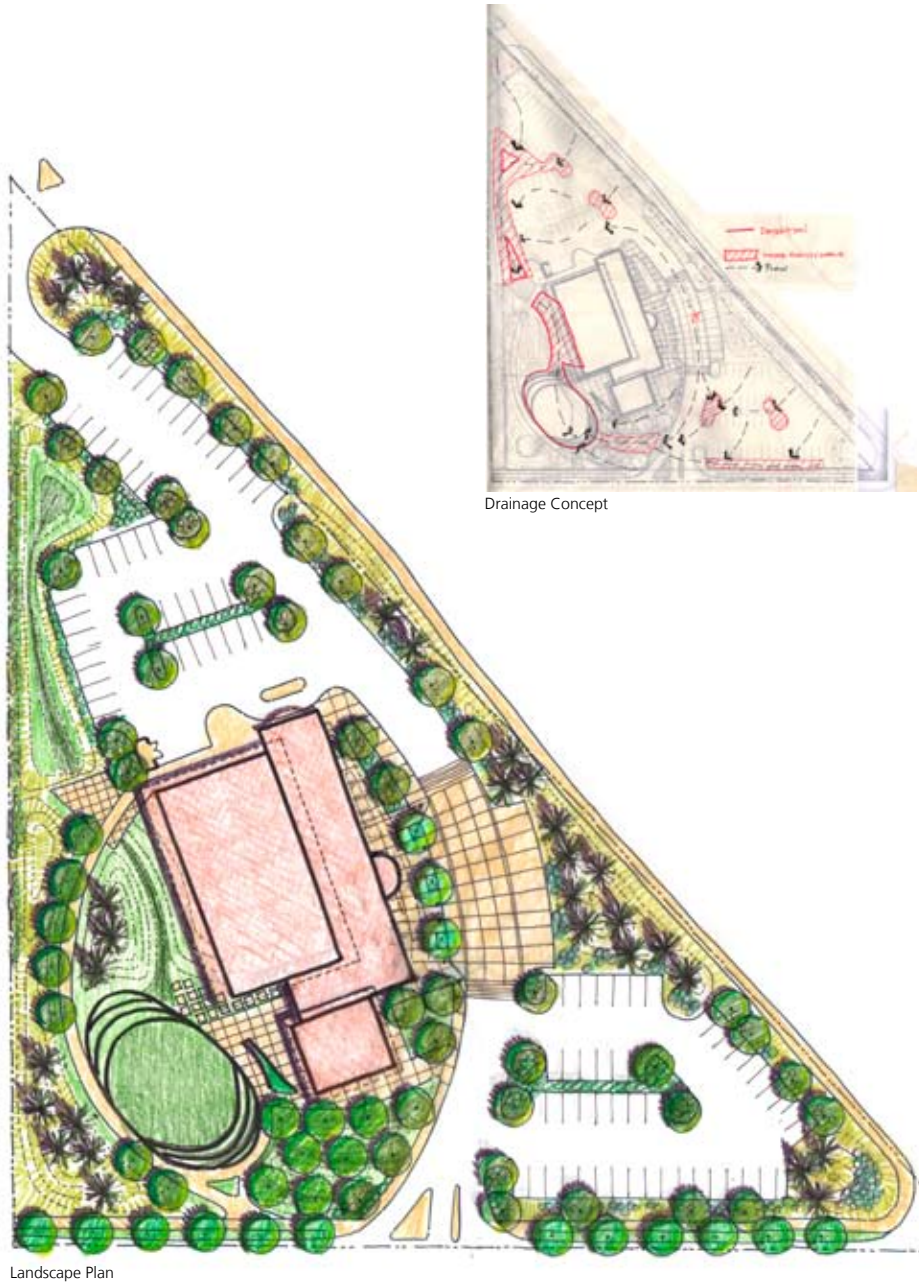


Parker + Florida Library, Arapahoe County, CO



The Arapahoe County Library District selected a high profile site for their new library at the intersection of Parker Road and Florida Avenue in Arapahoe County. The program included a large detention pond, a variety of different sized gathering spaces and the need to buffer the site from the adjacent busy streets.

Lime Green Design created a drainage concept that moved water from the high point of the site at Parker Road to a detention pond. This drainage strategy - high and dry to low and wet - is reinforced in the planting plan where plant selections reflect the concentration of moisture. Water moves through bioswales in and adjacent to the parking lot, causing a slow down in stormwater run-off, thus allowing water to infiltrate back into the ground while contributing to water quality.

Along Parker Road berming with conifers and xeric plants emphasizes this higher and drier concept and screens the main auto court and pedestrian plaza from the busy street. The form of the detention pond is complemented by a path which leads pedestrians through a park-like space, and helps to transform a stormwater facility into a pleasant amenity.

The drop-off auto court is elevated and provides a universally accessible, pedestrian friendly space which leads seamlessly to the entry plaza. This plaza is bound by the building colonnade and framed with plantings and stone bollards, creating a sheltered, intimate gathering space. At the south edge of the library a small plaza overlooks the park, and acts as a break-out space for the community room, and serves as an outdoor classroom off the childrens' section of the library.