James Patchett, FASLA, LEED AP is founder and President of Conservation Design Forum, Inc. located in Elmhurst, IL. Jim is widely recognized as one of the nation’s leading pioneers in the design and promotion of sustainable site planning methodologies that integrate innovative water resource management and ecological restoration measures into built environments. Trained both as a landscape architect and hydrologist, Jim has served on a variety of national technical advisory committees including the ASLA Sustainable Sites initiative and is a highly sought out speaker and educator on the subject. Jim is also co-founder of Conservation Research Institute.

Jim received an undergraduate degree in landscape architecture, and master’s degrees in both landscape architecture and civil engineering (water resources) from Iowa State University, and has completed the necessary course work towards a Ph.D. in landscape architecture from the University of Michigan's School of Natural Resources.