

NEWS RELEASE

WISCONSIN PARK & RECREATION ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE & TRADE SHOW

The Park Design Awards, Outstanding Young Professional of the Year and Outstanding Professional Award of the Year will be presented at the Annual Conference in Wisconsin Dells on Thursday, November 5th at 9:30 am. The presentation will be made at the Kalahari Resort.

Wisconsin Park & Recreation Association Park Section Announces 2015 Park Design Award Winners

PARK DESIGN AWARDS of Merit (Under \$250,000)

Waukesha County Department of Parks & Land Use – **Mukwonago Park Dog Exercise Area**



The Mukwonago Park Dog Exercise Area (DEA) is located on a 34-acre site that is separated from the main body of the Park by Beulah Road. Before the development of the DEA, the site consisted of several areas of old agricultural field that surrounded areas of wetlands and degraded oak woodlands. Waukesha County purchased the property many years ago with the intent to expand park facilities across Beulah Road, but resources had not yet been allocated for the site, and the property sat vacant and unused. In cooperation with a local stakeholder group, a design development process was initiated and completed over a short period of time. The stakeholder group was able to raise \$28,000 towards the project, and this tremendous support enabled the construction to move forward in an expeditious manner. A plan for the facility was created to turn the open areas of the site into use areas, including an entrance drive, parking, entrance gates and open space for the dogs, and the natural areas of the site were enhanced and preserved. One of the main goals of the project designers was to preserve the pastoral character of the site, and to blend the facility into the natural landscape

setting of the area and the region. This was successfully accomplished through the preservation of two agricultural buildings that were remnants of the original farmstead that existed on the Mukwonago Park property. The site entrance drive was designed around the buildings so that they now serve as an aesthetic entrance feature that also celebrates the cultural and historical significance of the property. Site features, including the parking lot and the entrance walkway and gates, were designed to blend into the existing landscape. Natural contours of the site were followed as closely as possible to maintain storm water flow on the property, and precise grading tolerances were specified to ensure that all site features were constructed to be ADA-compliant. Construction was started in the spring of 2014, and the grand opening for the Mukwonago Park Dog Exercise Area was held on September 6, 2014.

PARK DESIGN AWARDS of Merit (Under \$250,000)

City of Middleton Public Lands Department – **Graber Pond Accessible Trail**



Trail users in Middleton, WI welcome the installation of an ADA accessible kayak/canoe port and fishing pier, by the Eagle Scouts of Middleton, this is the first of its kind in the State. The EZ Dock Launch uses an innovative adjustable bench and guide rails to accommodate users of all ability. Rollers along the kayak/canoe port allow the use of guide rails, allowing users to maneuver with their upper body as they enter and exit the pond. Because the dock is floating, the water level relative to the pier remains unchanged, and because the dock only requires a little over an inch of depth to float, ice cover will not damage the structure during the northern winter.

PARK DESIGN AWARDS of Merit (\$250,001-\$499,999)

Waukesha County Parks – Nashotah Park Restrooms



The purpose of this project was to add needed restroom buildings to picnic area in Nashotah Park. A typical picnic area includes a shelter with grill, sand volleyball court, large open play field, a 50-car parking lot and (until this project) a primitive vault toilet. Waukesha County’s strategic plan , strategic outcomes call for a safe, economically vibrant and environmentally responsible county. The replacement of vault toilets with modern restrooms follows the plan and satisfies the expectation of the public to have flush toilets and ability to wash hands at a picnic in our parks, resulting in a healthier more rentable picnic area.

PARK DESIGN AWARDS of Merit (\$500,000 – 999,999)

Whitewater Parks & Recreation – Treyton’s Field of Dreams



Treyton Kilar was full of life. He loved his family, friends, faith and baseball. He aspired to be a professional baseball player one day and was always encouraged to dream big and work hard. Never without his ball and glove, he was a special boy who touched so many lives around him with his constant smile, encouraging words, and love of playing the game. Tragically, one month before his 7th birthday, his life and dreams were cut short when a drunk driver took his young life on September 2, 2010, on the way home from watching his sister's volleyball game. Committed to keeping his memory alive and wanting to make something positive come from such a horrific act, the Kilar family, with the support of the greater Whitewater community rallied to build "Treyton's Field of Dreams" as a way of celebrating Treyton's life and honoring all those affected by such tragedies. Treyton's Field provides a safe place for children and families to learn how to make responsible, lifelong decisions. It encourages active and healthy lifestyles, community togetherness, encourages families to spend and enjoy time together, and build a place where children are encouraged to dream big and learn that through hard work and vision, their dreams can become reality.

EDITOR'S NOTE

WPRA is a statewide, non-profit service organization dedicated to extending the social, health, cultural and economic benefits of parks and recreation through its network of recreation/park professionals and civic leaders. There are approximately 2,500 WPRA members who include state and local experts on recreation, urban planning, aquatics, at-risk-youth, therapeutic recreation services, and parkland development and services.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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