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Big Rock, forest projects take the prize

Architects laud plans for parks

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Two Louisville Metro Parks projects were among the winners of recent awards by the Kentucky Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects.

One is the master plan for the environmental and design restoration of the Big Rock area of Cherokee Park, by Mike Smiley of Environs Inc. of Louisville, to improve traffic, parking, pedestrian access and historical interpretation. It received Special Recognition for Environmental Practices.

The other is the Jefferson Memorial Forest Master Plan by Jones and Jones of Seattle, Wash., and Environs Inc., which won a Merit Award for Planning & Analysis. The plan addresses current overuse and erosion with rebuilding and techniques to control foot traffic and encourage vegetation growth, plus plans to expand environmental education programs. Plans include an equestrian center, horse camp and conference center with outdoor-event spaces.

Other awards were for redevelopment of Circus Square Park, an anchor for downtown Bowling Green, by Pete Andriot of Rundell Ernstberger Associates of Muncie, Ind.; the English Park Overlook and Boat Ramp in Owensboro, by Paul Kissinger of EDSA in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.; and the Devou Park Master Plan for Covington, by Chris Manning of Human Nature Inc., Cincinnati.

Additionally, a Special Recognition for Sustainable Concepts went to SEQUL — The Sustainable Environmental Quality Legacy, conceived by Jason Hale of CDP Engineers of Lexington as a building that would be a regional model to introduce alternate-construction methods, design principles and creative materials.

The awards were made by jurors Richard W. Espe and Brett J. Weidl, both of MSi in Columbus, Ohio, and Winter Park, Fla.; Nick Gilliland of NBBJ with offices in Beijing and Shanghai, China, Columbus, Dubai, London, Los Angeles, New York, San Francisco and Seattle; and Eugenia M. Martin, landscape architect for the city of Dublin, near Columbus.

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