

Lenexa Central Green

Project Description:

In taking commitment to sustainability one step further, Lenexa Public Works desired to evaluate ways in which the Lenexa Central Green development could be approached more holistically. The Central Green, as designed by George Butler Associates, consists of a large open green space, a stream way of three manmade step pools, and a wetland designed to provide a final cleaning of storm water from City Center that will eventually flow to Shawnee Mission Park Lake. The project's main purpose is to slow and filter much of the storm water from the future adjacent City Center development. The Central Green will act as this new development's major urban park space. Bike and pedestrian paths will connect the park to the City Center and Shawnee Mission Park. One of the most important issues addressed is that not all parks are "green" parks. The goal of a "green park" is to create a balance of the environmental, social and economic spheres.

Using the Sustainable Site Initiative (SSI) as a benchmark, Lenexa's Rain to Recreation Program is exploring a groundbreaking way of designing and constructing a park. Lenexa is using the Central Green development as a model for how sites may be developed. The SSI was founded by the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, The American Association of Landscape Architects and the United States Botanic Garden. SSI is a rating system that allows municipalities and private developers to work with their design team to create a clear set of design, construction, performance and maintenance guidelines that help to define how "green" a given site might become. The recommendations proposed by Davison Architecture + Urban Design, llc as a result of the SSI evaluation will enhance Lenexa's already progressive efforts to manage storm water and create useable park space for an increasingly urban community.

What makes this a Success Story?

The Success Stories selection committee recognized this project for its use of the SSI approach to evaluate how a park might be designed to achieve a broader level of sustainability.



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