



city parks



city plazas

celebrating your community



Celebrating Life and Building Memories



Creating Communities Through Connections

Downtowns and main streets change over time as their uses become redefined. The one constant that ensures their connection to the community is history. This connection is often abstract, in the form of stories and family ties. By finding a way to make the connection physical, history becomes the cornerstone of an adapting and ever-changing community.

West Point was a thriving industrial area with its roots deep in the Chattahoochee River. The local industry and town changed, but the river was always there. Uses changed from industrial to recreational, and the river became the city's main street, introducing new connection opportunities. The creation of biking and walking trails, boating trails and streetscape connections focused on the history of local Native American facilities, Civil War artifacts, and even a great flood that changed the downtown forever.

For **Oglethorpe**, bringing back a physical connection across the Flint River was important in expanding their community. The Flint River ferry operated until 1988, but was removed because of new technology. Acting on the desire to revitalize the city and the connection to the river, the downtown was expanded. Creating a greenway link to the riverwalk and ferry museum established an educational loop between two important historical locations.

Located on the Savannah River, **Garden City's** industry has grown so strong that it forced the community to move inland and create a new downtown. Starting from scratch, the city carefully planned their pedestrian, bike and road connections, but had to also integrate their history by incorporating a few elements from the past. An historic home was moved on-site as a welcome center. The re-created gardens and period architecture helped to set Garden City's roots in its new location.

Stop By Our Booth At:

Alabama League of Municipalities
Birmingham

Tennessee Municipal League
Memphis

Municipal Association of South Carolina
Charleston

North Carolina League of Municipalities
Charlotte

Want to Make Your Town *Green*? Create a Destination

A destination is any place someone might drive to, then park their car and walk – for shopping, exercise, entertainment or countless other reasons. Many urban design enhancements can help to define a destination. Aside from lowering pollution, here are a few examples of additional green benefits for some common enhancements.

- **Tree canopies** reduce runoff by catching rainwater while the root systems enhance the soil's ability to absorb water and cool the earth's temperature. Street trees lower heating costs, while also buffering noise and reducing carbon dioxide emissions. Trees and landscaping provide environments for wildlife and other eco-systems that would not exist in paved environments.

- **Wide sidewalks and trails** provide comfortable spaces for people to walk, run, bike and enjoy being outdoors, encouraging exercise for improved health and well-being.

- **Street furniture** provides for a cleaner environment and encourages community interest and pride. Benches, trash receptacles and signage create an inviting atmosphere for pedestrians.

- **Narrow streets** slow traffic and lessen the amount of heat-creating pavement.



to learn more, visit our website: www.cityparkscityplazas.com



Blazing Trails: A New Urban Park

A creative way to integrate greenspace and encourage healthy physical activity can be as easy as building a trailhead park. Often constructed using federal funding, trailhead parks are becoming increasingly popular in urban environments. Traditionally used to park your car and hop on your bike, they are also used as performance, market and gathering spaces.

The **Dallas** Trailhead Park connects the popular Silver Comet Trail to Dallas's historic center. Also incorporated is the veteran's memorial area and a formal lawn that supports small public performances.

In **Locust Grove**, the urban trailhead also was designed to cater to outdoor markets and festivals. The park is located in the center of downtown and connects a series of trails and sidewalks to surrounding neighborhoods.

"A great City gathering space serves as a community anchor, celebrating life, strengthening bonds and creating memories; snap shots of life."



Kids playing in Suwanee fountain, 07



Suwanee Town Center: Building Community Through Play

Suwanee, a northern suburb of Atlanta, developed a community-based gathering space to serve as its front yard and anchor its identity. Through its award-winning Open Space Initiative, the city planned and funded the urban 10-acre Town Center Park. It has become the centerpiece for new office, retail, residential and municipal development in Suwanee. This open space park includes walking paths in a unique ellipse design, an amphitheater for festivals and civic gatherings, and an interactive fountain where children splash and play in the vertical jets. The park and the fountain have become signature landmarks, supporting the city's desire to provide a family-oriented destination for the community.



Dallas, GA

Locust Grove, GA

jB+a, inc.

700 galleria parkway
suite 400
atlanta, georgia 30339
770.803.0900

