

News



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**Park Designs for Georgia**

The Park Design Studio at jB+a has been working with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, State Parks & Historic Sites Division, for several years. The majority of this work has been focused on the renovation of campgrounds at existing state parks. These areas are typically inhabited by visitors with recreational vehicles and travel trailers that require utility hookups and an outside living space. The DNR has coordinated with jB+a to develop new campsites, upgraded rest room facilities, new group activity shelters, and even waterfront activity areas. jB+a provides the layout, grading, drainage, and then coordinates with various engineers to provide the new utilities at each project. While the first few projects have been completely constructed, others are just now reaching the bid phase. Be sure to visit one of Georgia's newly renovated state parks!



Model/Photo: Gerding Architects, LLC

**Sweetwater Creek Visitor Center**

The jB+a Park Design Studio worked with Gerding Architects to produce the new Visitor Center and Museum at Sweetwater Creek State Park in Lithia Springs. This new building will be LEED certified and is carefully integrated into the hillside of the project site to allow access to the green roof and roof top garden. The site includes numerous visitor education elements including a demonstration garden, descriptions of underground rainwater cisterns, electric car charging stations and accessible green roof.

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**College Park Renovates Park Facilities**

The City of College Park improved the amenities in Jamestown and Barrett Parks with 8' wide tumbled paver trails, several pavilion structures, grills, benches, lighting and an upgrade to the existing playgrounds and landscaping. jB+a completed the construction documents and is providing construction observation for the park renovations. A multi-use field and parking lot will be developed on approximately 3 acres adjacent to Jamestown Park. The additional development at Barrett Park includes the construction of modular block walls with integrated seating surrounding the existing tennis courts, providing both a tennis viewing area and a solution to erosion problems.



**Learning to LEED**

In the spirit of the jB+a corporate goal to provide landscapes that are livable, maintainable and sustainable, jB+a is dedicated to LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design), the green building rating system developed by the U.S. Green Building Council. The LEED system includes a list of guidelines that address energy efficiency, green building material selection and site planning. The overall goal of the LEED approach is the development of a sustainable building design that utilizes "green" construction materials and incurs minimal impact on public facilities for storm / waste treatment and energy needs. jon Benson + associates is currently working on several projects that will incorporate the LEED approach and are dedicated to the approach as a means to provide sustainable design solutions.

## jB+a Designs River Parks Across Georgia

### Greenway and Parks on Flint River

The Flint River in middle Georgia has seen recent riverfront park development, as the jB+a Park Design Studio has worked on two projects along this river. The first is the greenway and historic ferry on Flint River, which was the last river ferry in operation in Georgia. jB+a, along with Hartrampf Engineering, is studying the feasibility of incorporating the ferry into the greenway as an interactive museum on the Flint River at Oglethorpe. In addition, a riverwalk will be designed linking the Flint Riverfront to downtown Oglethorpe.

The River Bend Park will be developed on a 16-acre plot of land on the Flint River in Mitchell County. This riverfront park master plan offers several waterfront recreation opportunities including a canoe launch, an existing boat ramp with trailer parking, and even a secluded point that will appeal to anglers.



### Chattahoochee River Parks

The Chattahoochee Corridor has many environmentally protected areas that must be taken into account when designing parks that utilize the river. jB+a has had the pleasure to work on two parks recently that are both on the Chattahoochee. Gwinnett County is redeveloping and expanding the Holcomb Bridge Chattahoochee River site to be a passive recreation park. The jB+a Park Design Studio developed the master plan for a new park which includes a picnic pavilion, a playground and open space.



In addition, jB+a worked right across the river with the City of Roswell to develop the master plan for Garrard Landing, a passive park with canoe launch, picnic facilities and trails. The design responds

to the regulatory requirements of the Atlanta Regional Commission, River Keeper, the National Park Service and the City of Roswell. The jB+a Park Design Studio worked with each of these groups to insure that the park design met the needs of the park users without negatively impacting the protected buffers of the Chattahoochee River.



### 800+ ACRES ON THE DOG RIVER

In Douglas County, Dog River Park encompasses 800+ acres of land acquired by the Trust for Public Land for the County and is just north of the Dog River Reservoir, Douglas County's primary drinking water supply. The rugged topography and the natural beauty of the property lend the use of the site to a passive recreation area. The jB+a Park Design Studio prepared a 20 year Master Plan, which displays a variety of passive recreation uses including: multiple trail systems, trailhead parking, public river access, kayak launches, picnic and playground areas, dog park, primitive camping and an interpretive / nature center and supporting facilities. In addition, municipal and active recreation facilities include a fire station, library, senior center, ball fields, soccer fields, tennis courts, and an aquatics center.

### Eco-Lodge on the Suwanee River

With the popularity of eco-tourism on the rise, the jB+a Park Design Studio is working with MOMA Architects to develop a new Eco-Lodge on the Suwanee River in Fargo, Georgia. Located at the new Okefenokee State Park, the lodge setting will provide an opportunity to learn about and experience the ecology and beauty of south Georgia's wetlands, forests, Okefenokee swamp lands and the famous Suwanee River environs. The Eco-Lodge and site are being designed within LEED guidelines and will be LEED certified.

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