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BCRA TO PARTICIPATE IN SUSTAINABLE DESIGN PILOT PROGRAM

BCRA's design for a regional park has been awarded a spot in a prestigious roster of projects to test sustainable landscape ratings. South Kitsap Regional Park Master Plan Phase 1 Design has been selected to participate in the Sustainable Sites Initiative (SITES™) pilot program, which will ensure the site achieves a certain standard of sustainable design. The park is among 150 other national and international projects chosen to test the nation's first rating system for sustainable landscapes.

By designing the park to meet SITES™ standards, there is "a check system for us to meet a certain level of sustainability," Alan McWain, Senior Landscape Architect at BCRA said. "Sustainability was a big concern in the community planning [for the park], and SITES™ gives us a qualitative assessment system to meet that objective."

Community feedback and public process played a large part in choosing the final master plan; multiple designs were presented to the public in summer 2008 before BCRA's master plan was adopted. The design was also used to secure \$500,000 in Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) grant funds that will fund playgrounds, athletic fields and courts, and a community garden, while still maintaining over two-thirds of natural, undeveloped forest for low-impact trail use and native habitat areas.

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The new program is designed to measure sustainable landscapes in terms of how well a site uses “less energy, water and natural resources; generates less waste; and minimizes the impact on the land compared to traditional design, construction and maintenance techniques,” according to the SITES™ website. The plans that have been chosen will use low-impact techniques that will measure how a site “protects, restores and regenerates ecosystem services – benefits provided by natural ecosystems such as cleaning air and water, climate regulation and human health benefits.”

SITES™ is a partnership between the American Society of Landscape Architects, the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center at the University of Texas at Austin and the United States Botanic Garden.

Construction is slated to begin the fall of 2010 or winter of 2011.





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