



NEWS RELEASE

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For Release after 9 p.m.
August 25, 2011

MPC Honors Local Development at 30th Annual Excellence Awards

The Knoxville-Knox County Metropolitan Planning Commission presented its 30th Annual Excellence Awards on August 25 to recognize developers, designers and neighborhood activists who have made our community a better place to live. The 2011 awards were announced at the Knoxville Convention Center following a dinner and keynote presentation by guest speaker Rob Kerns of planning firm Wallace, Roberts and Todd, project manager of PlanET.

The award for New Development was given to Knoxville Area Transit for the John J. Duncan, Jr. Knoxville Station Transit Center. The planning and design team were faced with the challenge of finding a large site downtown that could safely accommodate numerous buses and trolleys and hundreds of passengers a day. The team took an innovative approach in using the public air rights over James White Parkway and preserving other potential downtown locations for future private investment.

The Murphy Farm, owned by Kevin Murphy, received the Historic Rehabilitation award. Mr. Murphy, a sixth-generation descendent of the original owner, worked with Clinch River Custom Builders and architect Randall DeFord to painstakingly rehabilitate his old family home, including restoration of the woodwork, porches, stained-glass windows, and smokehouse.

The Renovation award was given to Friends of Young-Williams and Randy Boyd for the Young-Williams Animal Village. Working with Johnson Architecture on the redesign, the project team turned a

former restaurant space into a welcoming, airy setting for people to adopt pets or drop their animals off at the adjoining doggy daycare. The stone base, heavy timber beams and columns, and the seam metal roof echo the design theme of the Young-Williams Animal Shelter on Sutherland Avenue.

The Appalachian Mountain Bike Club Multi-use Trails won the Special Use category. Located along the ridges of South Knoxville, this series of natural surface trails connects the William Hastie Natural Area to Ijam's Nature Center. The Appalachian Mountain Bike Club, a voluntary organization, oversaw and completed the work, including grading, bridge building and sign posting, encompassing more than six miles of new trails. The system is not merely for mountain bikers. The soft surface accommodates runners, hikers, and nature-lovers .

The Neighborhood Achievement award went to *Go to 2033: Urban Planning Student Manual*. The manual is based on the Knoxville-Knox County General Plan and nicknamed *Go to 2033*, a year representing the long range vision for the community. The largest measure of credit for the manual goes to Suzanne Wedekind, an art teacher from West Valley Middle School, who developed its curricula. Students successfully used the manual's planning and design principles this past school year to develop their own plans for Bearden and Cumberland Avenue.

The Environmental Sustainability award recognized the Scripps Networks Interactive, Inc. Headquarters Expansion, a 155,000-square foot addition to their campus in west Knox County. Various measures were used to cut energy consumption. Its white roof reflects light, thus reducing heat load. The building is narrower than conventional buildings but almost entirely encased with thermal-pane windows, allowing maximum daylight penetration. The features have resulted in LEED Gold recognition by the U.S. Green Building Council. LEED, by the way, stands for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design.

For more information about MPC's Excellence Awards program and this year's winners, contact Mike Carberry at 215-2500.

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