Accomplishments

Georgia Trail Summit

Pulaski County Archway Professional Michelle Elliott and College of Engineering student Natalia Shim participated in the plenary session, “Ride It, Paddle It or Hike It: Trails are Money Makers” at the 2015 Georgia Trail Summit held June 4-6 in Athens, Ga. The two presented a case study of the positive economic impact of the Ocmulgee Water Trail and its potential for the future. The presentation highlighted two semesters of work by Shim and fellow engineering student, Justin Valle. Their work was supported by College of Engineering professor Dr. Ernest Tollner, and will be used help identify future opportunities for expansion along the Ocmulgee River between Macon and Hawkinsville.

Engineering student Natalia Shim presents her work for the Ocmulgee Water Trail.

College of Environment and Design students in Middle Georgia

CED students spent time working in Macon, Warner Robins and Hawkinsville during the month of June. Two groups of students traveled to Middle Georgia to assist in a number of summer design projects. CED faculty member Brian LaHaie’s summer class is finalizing a two semester project to design concepts for a 65 acre recreation complex in Warner Robins. The group traveled to the site and met with local officials to discuss their vision for the property. The students’ final master plans will be presented to the mayor and others from Warner Robins on campus July 28. Warner Robins hopes to be able to begin construction by the end of the year.

Archway/CED graduate students Andrew Bailey, Emily Hunt and Susan Summers traveled to Macon and Hawkinsville to work on a variety of projects. In Macon they visited the existing Ocmulgee National Monument, and looked at City property that would become the entry way for a new National Park. The students will be designing a new grand entry concept along Clinton Street that would connect Macon to an existing service entrance at the Monument, and expand existing walking and biking paths near the
Ocmulgee River. This project is part of a proposed national park that would extend along the Ocmulgee from Macon to Hawkinsville.

The students also traveled to Hawkinsville to provide designs for a new recreational area in town. A collaborative effort by the city, county and school system seeks to develop a new park featuring tennis, skate boarding and a splash pad. This project would be funded by SPLOST funds, and would be contingent on continued voter support for SPLOST funded recreation in the county. Students also looked at efforts to revitalize downtown, and will propose some ideas to create a more pedestrian friendly environment along the Commerce Street shopping district.

Left image: CED students visit Warner Robins recreation facility site.
Right image: CED student Susan Summers presents her concept for a new recreation facility in Hawkinsville.

**Ongoing Efforts**

**Downtown Hawkinsville Beautification Efforts**

At the request of local merchants, Archway has been facilitating a number of community conversations to beautify and support downtown. The committee hosted two clean-up efforts in June, and plans to continue these on a regular basis. Both the youth and adult leadership groups supported this effort by washing windows and raising funds to purchase new trash cans. The city has also applied for a $15,000 grant to restore an existing mural downtown and to create three new downtown murals that would promote the community market. The Georgia Department of Economic Development Tourism Product Development grant award winners will be announced in September.