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Morris Eco-Friendly Demonstration Neighborhood master plan receives award

Summary: Several members of the University of Minnesota, Morris campus worked on the award-winning project.

(April 9, 2010)-The Morris Eco-Friendly Demonstration Neighborhood master plan was awarded the highest honor in the Planning and Analysis category of this year's Minnesota chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects awards. Adam Regn Arvidson of Treeline developed the landscape plan, and Stahl Architects crafted the building plan.

Several members of the University of Minnesota, Morris campus worked on the project. Jim Barbour, biomass facility scientist, David Fluegel, Center for Small Towns (CST) community program specialist, and Troy Goodnough, CST and campus sustainability coordinator, served on the planning committee. Rachel Olm '09, Minneapolis, biology and environmental studies, and Tara Loomis '09, Hutchinson, communications, media, and rhetoric, supported the project as CST project assistants to Fluegel.

The Morris Eco-Friendly Demonstration Neighborhood master plan was created for the redevelopment of the 17-acre former elementary school grounds, located near campus. The plan proposes an environmentally and socially sustainable neighborhood that is affordable to construct and maintain. Earth moving is minimized in order to save cost, maintain soil integrity, and reduce construction fossil fuel consumption. Site planning includes storm water management and green spaces, including park areas and prairie restoration.

In addition to the award in the planning and analysis category, the project was also ranked overall as the number two annual project in all five categories of awards. The award will be presented at the Minnesota chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects annual banquet on Friday, April 23, 2010, at the International Market Square in Minneapolis.

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