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ATLANTA'S SUBURBAN CHOICE

Greenspace could go up

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What could city planners do when they run out of land for additional parks and greenspace? They could look to what architects have done for years — build vertically.

To generate ideas for innovative vertical park designs, Park Pride, along with the sponsorship of the Buckhead Coalition, created a vertical park design competition for landscape architecture students worldwide.

“As far as we know, this is the first vertical park design competition in the world,” said Walt Ray, Park Pride’s director of park visioning.

Competition guidelines were mailed to members of the Council of Educators of Landscape Architecture.

“We had 36 schools register from as far away as Canada, England and Australia, as well as from Georgia Tech, University of Georgia and Clemson University closer to home,” said Ray.

All told, the nonprofit received 21 submissions from the United States, Canada and England.

Entrants were asked to design a vertical 2½-acre park on a ½-acre plot of land with the address of 318 and 322 E. Paces Ferry Road in Buckhead. Designers were given a real piece of land but a park will not be

built there. The contest was formed to generate ideas on vertical parks.

Participants were to focus on meeting recreational needs of adults and children, as well as finding new ways to move through the park space.

“Entries had dog parks, restaurants and meditation gardens. One entry included a zip line as a way for people to leave the park,” said Ray. “We consciously chose design problems where students would be hard-pressed to find an existing example.”

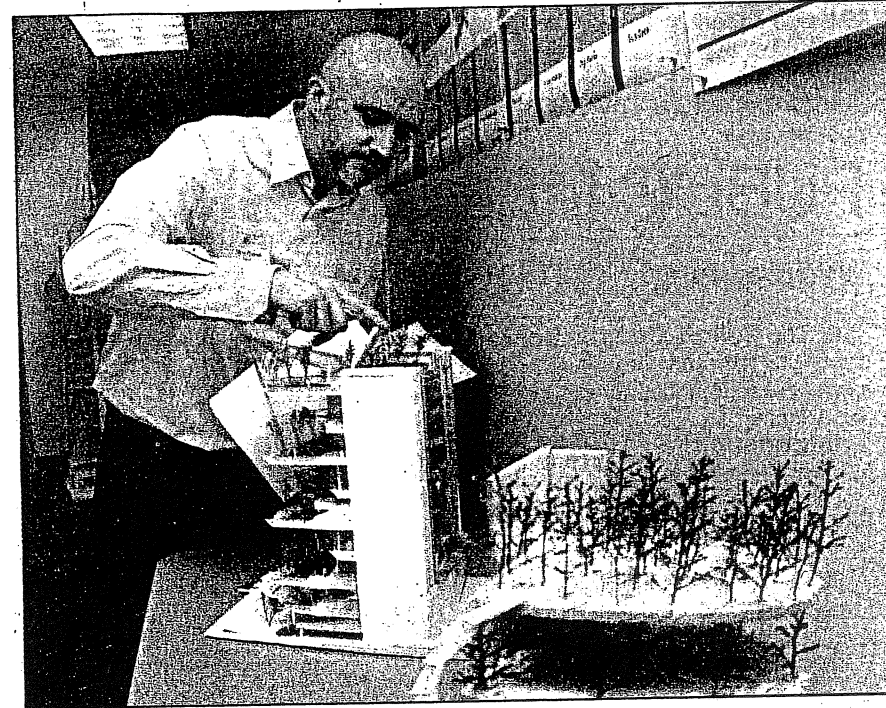
The Buckhead Coalition helped sponsor the competition to foster “a greater awareness of potential use, and beautification of green-fields,” said Garth Peters, director of community development for the business organization. “What better way than to have our youth contribute with ideas that consider our limited space, while also encouraging innovative vertical designs?”

Judging was held March 2. The winners will be announced at Park Pride’s Annual Parks Conference Monday at the Atlanta Botanical Garden in Midtown.

The winner will receive \$1,000, second place gets \$500 and third place receives \$250. Three honorable mention winners will be announced.

Breedlove Land Planning, The Jaeger Co. and KidsWin Foundation also sponsored the competition.

Information: visit www.parkpride.org.



Staff / Nathan S

Looking over small models of vertical greenspace made by college students, Park Pride judge Steve Provost of JB+A looks at every detail the "Buckhead Vertical Park" in order to come to a decision on the design.