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Memory of community activist kept alive with new park

Martha Wellman, who devoted her life to promoting conservation in our community, will be honored June 1 at the dedication of the Martha Wellman Park, West Tennessee Street at Capital Circle N.W.



Henree Martin

My View

Martha, who moved to Tallahassee in 1972, played a crucial role in numerous environmental projects including the Lake Munson Action Plan, the Leon County Water Resources Citizens Advisory Committee, the Economic and Environmental Consensus Committee, and Blueprint 2000.

She was a faithful, diligent member of Blueprint 2000 who always contributed to the discussion. Her knowledge of infrastructure issues and her passion for our community were displayed in the way she lived her life. She particularly focused on her beloved southwest Tallahassee area and was adamant that everyone should help preserve their neighborhoods.

Michael Miller wrote that Martha had enormous curiosity and a great reputation as a researcher. "She gave so much to Tallahassee, Leon County and the State ... through decades of work on behalf of the environment."

Martha, who passed away on May 1, 2007, would have been

MARTIN

From Page 11B

ecstatic about the park being named in her honor. This park has brought significant stormwater infrastructure improvements to the community and reflected her belief that stormwater ponds can be both functional and aesthetically pleasing.

An avid bird watcher, she would have also enjoyed the doves, red-winged blackbirds, cormorants, great blue herons, American egrets, wood storks and other birds that have already been spotted at

the park. The park also features a trail around a pond, which will serve as the perfect location for a morning jog or a lunch-time stroll.



Wellman

Holistic planning was a key to the Blueprint philosophy and she would love seeing the reality of that vision expressed in the park. It merges beauty with practicality. Cypress, magnolia and live oak trees have all been planted around the park, and will one day line the pond like the columns of a cathedral.

The dedication will be at 9:30 a.m. June 1 with officials of Blueprint 2000 and Leon County, along with Martha's family, friends and former colleagues honoring her. It is my hope that residents of Leon County will visit the Martha Wellman Park to enjoy the environment that she worked so passionately to protect. Wear your walking shoes and enjoy the walk.

■ Henree D. Martin, owner of Developers Realty & Investment Properties, Inc., was one of the original members of Blueprint 2000 and is still on the Economic and Environmental Consensus Committee. Contact her by e-mail at Hmartin@nettally.com.

RD ORTIZ/Orange County Register to thrill as an interior designer.

point: with a

paper. Florida's interior design law enacted by a small group of industry insiders looking to wall out competition," the institute said in announcing its lawsuit on Wednesday. "It has nothing to do with protecting the public and everything to do with protecting a handful of elitist interior designers from fair competition." According to the Institute, Florida makes it "a crime to perform commercial interior design" without a license, or "call yourself an 'interior designer' for residential work." Even grouchy old conservatives will admit the Department of Business and Professional Regulation, Agency for Health Care Administration, Health Department, or Agriculture and Consumer Services folks have their places. You wouldn't want your doctor or lawyer doing it as a hobby (or,