

Park honors Wellman

By Gerald Ensley
DEMOCRAT SENIOR WRITER

Martha Wellman cared deeply about the environment and Tallahassee. Now her name is affixed to part of the Tallahassee environment.

Blueprint 2000 will dedicate Martha Wellman Park on Monday. The park is on West Tennessee Street, a quarter-mile west of Capital Circle.

Wellman was a state government analyst and Sierra Club member who served on numerous Tallahassee committees. She was one of 13 members of the Economic and Environmental Consensus Committee, which created the plan for Blueprint 2000 and its one-cent sales tax funding approved by voters. She was a community representative for Blueprint's Capital Circle Southwest project.

Wellman, 60, died of cardiac arrhythmia in May 2007, on an airplane returning to Tallahassee from a Sierra Club meeting in California. She had lived in Tallahassee since 1972, including many years on Rankin Avenue, in southwest Tallahassee, a few miles from the new park.

"I think it's exciting and fitting that she is being remembered in an area she so strongly represented," said developer Henree Martin, who also served on the consensus committee. "She was always a voice for those in the southwest."



Special to the Democrat
Blueprint 2000 will dedicate Martha Wellman Park on Monday to the memory of the late community and environmental activist who died in 2007. The park is on West Tennessee Street, a quarter-mile west of Capital Circle.

The new park is an enhancement of a storm-water pond — and represents Blueprint 2000's "holistic" approach to its large slate of infrastructure projects. Working with the Florida Department of Transportation, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Northwest Florida Water Management District and Leon County, Blueprint 2000 redesigned two planned smaller storm-water ponds into one 15-acre storm-water pond around which it built the park.

The larger pond, encircled with vegetation, treats more runoff than two smaller ponds. The park features seven "refuge" stations with benches and is encircled by a lighted jogging/walking/biking trail.

"Our philosophy is to build projects that solve more than one issue,"

WELLMAN PARK

The dedication of Martha Wellman Park will be from 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. Monday. The park is on the south side of West Tennessee Street, a quarter-mile west of Capital Circle.

said Dave Bright, planning manager for Blueprint. "I think the park will be well-received by people living out there."

Jim Johnson, who was Wellman's companion for 33 years, said family members are coming from all over the nation for the dedication. Johnson is a retired Tallahassee Community College physics instructor now living in Tennessee.

"I don't think you could find anyone more deserving of having a park named after her," Johnson said. "She truly was a public servant."

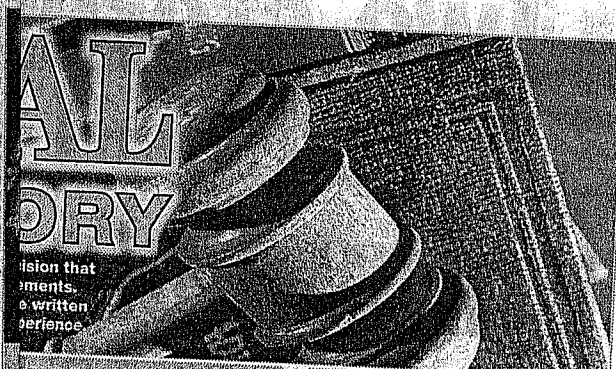
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