



**Parks & Recreation
Portfolio
2025**



Real People. Real Solutions.





Firm Overview

Sleeves Rolled Up

Two hard-working Midwesterners started our story from a garage in 1949. John Bolton and Martin Menk's goals were to help surrounding communities advance the natural and built environments by listening and leading. From humble beginnings, they epitomized the backbone and spirit of a firm dedicated to well designed and engineered projects that endure.

We have grown from that modest garage into a dynamic collective of designers, planners, landscape architects, engineers, researchers, artists, scientists, strategists, storytellers, doers, dreamers, realists, collaborators, problem-solvers, and creators.

We Believe

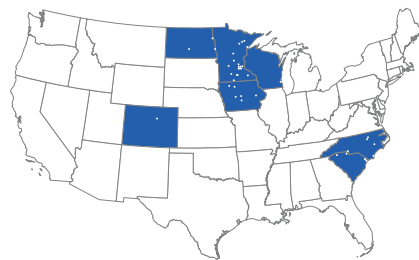
Our people believe in the power of placemaking. Rooted in collaborative problem solving and a passion for creating unique places, our design teams establish visionary place-based planning guidance, conceptual design vision, and possess the expertise to articulate timeless, safe, and sustainable projects.

Design Rigor

Our practice is intentional. We plan, design, and engineer within the site context, function, and ambitions of a project to exceed client expectations. Our design rigor is the guiding framework of our practice to ensure projects are responsive to their scale, place, and community.

Local Love, National Knowledge

We know how important it is to embrace the local context and what makes each place special. Beyond our ties and understanding to the local pulse of a place, we also rely on our extensive national perspective and resources. Our connected group of people have a wealth of experience on various project types from the coast, to the Rockies, and throughout the plains.





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Colby Park Design

Colby Park is the heart of Windsor Heights and historically has been a valuable asset to the Des Moines metro. Following the completion of a community-wide park system plan completed by Bolton & Menk, the City of Windsor Heights sought a new vision for Colby Park, one that would maintain its legacy as a destination public space. The resulting concept plan was uniquely Windsor Heights, inclusive to community members of all ages and abilities, and designed to leave a lasting impression on visitors.

Phase 1 of the project, completed in 2024, delivered a vibrant new playground, sprayground, iconic food truck plaza and an artful landscape blending hardscape and landscape reflective of the park and Windsor Heights community. Our team led the visioning, design, documentation process and construction administration, working closely with city staff and parks committee to align the design with community priorities and budget.

Client / City of Windsor Heights

Location / Windsor Heights, Iowa

Project Cost / \$3,200,000

Year Completed / 2024

Services Provided / Landscape Architecture, Civil Engineering, Water Resources, Surveying

Notable / 2024 IA ASLA Honor Award







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Riverfront Renaissance Improvements

The City of Hastings wanted to revitalize and reconnect their downtown to the Mississippi River while leveraging the nearby regional trail connection. Bolton & Menk collaborated with the city to develop the three-phase Downtown Riverfront Renaissance project. Phases one and three focused primarily on the downtown infrastructure, while phase two focused on Levee Park, which straddling the Mississippi River, Mississippi River Regional Trail, and downtown business district.

Collaboration with city staff, stakeholder groups, and community members aided in the development of cohesive vision for the park. The master plan included enhancements to the regional trail and construction of destination amphitheater, musical playground, ice skating rink, branding and signage, and a veteran's memorial.

Completion of this riverfront improvement project has reconnected downtown Hastings to the regional trail system, become a regional destination and economic driver for the City.

Client / City of Hastings
Location / Hastings, Minnesota
Project Cost / \$6,500,000
Year Completed / 2017
Services Provided / Landscape Architecture, Civil Engineering, Water Resources, Surveying
Notable / 2017 MRPA Award of Excellence







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MacRae Park Revitalization

Bolton & Menk partnered with the City of Des Moines to revitalize MacRae Park, focusing on new trails, a roadway, boardwalk, fishing pier, and a natural playscape. The team evaluated the initial concept, prioritizing accessibility, circulation, functionality, and cost while considering the park's challenging topography, mature canopy trees, and a key stormwater pond. Through close collaboration with city staff, trail alignments and playscape designs were optimized to minimize environmental impact, particularly preserving mature trees, using GPS and field-based design.

Our multidisciplinary team ensured effective communication across city departments, resulting in improvements that enhance recreational opportunities and accessibility. The revitalized park will connect directly to the Grays Lake and Water Works Park systems, extending benefits to neighborhoods further south. This project showcases the importance of thoughtful planning and stakeholder engagement to create sustainable, community-focused urban outdoor spaces.

Client / City of Des Moines
Location / Des Moines, Iowa
Project Cost / \$2,505,515
Year Completed / 2023
Services Provided / Landscape Architecture, Civil Engineering, Water Resources, Surveying







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Norway Lake Dam Removal and Rock Rapids Installation

The Pine River dam, classified as high-hazard and significant fish barrier, was seen as an opportunity to improve public safety, the aquatic resources of the river and Norway Lake and provide recreational amenities to the community.

In 2022, the dam was removed and replaced with rock riffles and enhanced riverbanks to provide safe river access, reduce flood risk and reestablish aquatic organism connectivity within the river. The team worked with the City of Pine River, MNDOT, State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), and regulatory agencies from feasibility studies starting in 2013 through project completion.

The riffle pools and channels enhanced recreational opportunities for wading, fishing, and other water-based fun. This work reconnected 134 lakes and 80 miles of river and stream corridors benefitting fish, mussels, and many game and non-game animal species.

Client / City of Pine River, MNDOT, SHPO

Location / Pine River, Minnesota

Project Cost / \$2,100,000

Year Completed / 2021

Services Provided / Landscape Architecture, Civil Engineering, Water Resources, Surveying

Notable / 2024 MN ASLA Award of Excellence







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Clarks Creek Community Park

The Clarks Creek Community Park is a 32.5-acre community park in north Charlotte. The park is separated from the existing 96.6-acre Clarks Creek Nature Preserve by Hucks Road. Due to the sensitivity of the park's proximity to Clarks Creek Nature Preserve, the park incorporates plant materials that increase bird attraction while decreasing predators. Park amenities include a sprayground, playground, play meadow, community garden, pickleball courts, basketball court, restrooms, park shelter with a picnic area, separate dog parks for large and small dogs, and a trail system which includes both paved and natural surfaces and provides connections to the adjacent communities. The community park is adjacent to existing neighborhoods and is an amenity used by both the local neighbors and community stakeholders. Public engagement and thoughtful coordination with all community stakeholders was essential to the design and implementation of this community asset. Bolton & Menk worked closely with Mecklenburg County to meet the design guidelines and planning principles set forth by the Park and Recreation Department to ensure safety, accessibility, economy, recreation, and overall aesthetics.

Client / Mecklenburg County

Location / Charlotte, NC

Project Cost / \$3,770,000

Year Completed / 2019

Services Provided / Landscape
Architecture, Civil Engineering







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Park System Plan

Robbinsdale recognized the importance of its parks, trails, and open spaces in fostering community well-being and connection. Until 2024, the city lacked a dedicated parks planning document to guide long-term investments. Identifying the need for renovation in one of its busiest community parks, the city prioritized the creation of a park system plan, engaging Bolton & Menk to lead the effort. The plan aimed to shape a vision for a healthy, accessible, and sustainable system of parks and open spaces. An in-depth inventory and analysis of all park assets, paired with robust community engagement—including input from staff, the Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Commission, and the public—guided the plan’s recommendations. These included strategies for park improvements, facility upgrades, programming enhancements, and maintenance operations. Planning-level cost estimates for future improvements, including those at Sanborn Park, were developed to integrate seamlessly into the city’s capital improvement plan.

Client / City of Robbinsdale
Location / Robbinsdale, Minnesota
Project Cost / \$49,568
Year Completed / 2024
Services Provided / Landscape Architecture





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Third Street Linear Park - Bearden Promenade

The 425-foot-long Third Street Linear Park in Uptown Charlotte connects South Tryon Street to Romare Bearden Park. It enhances the city's core, fostering a strong physical and visual connection. Bolton & Menk facilitated collaborative workshops to involve public and private entities in the park's design process. The park features detailed elements such as entry monument signage, overhead structures for a pedestrian atmosphere, seat walls for informal seating, and tree plantings that create a semi-continuous canopy.

It also includes outdoor dining for a nearby restaurant and a coffee shop with a walk-up window, promoting a seamless connection between indoor and outdoor spaces. Safety and accessibility for pedestrians were prioritized, with landscape, hardscape, and street furniture thoughtfully incorporated to guide and limit pedestrian movements across Third Street. This park is part of the acclaimed 300 South Tryon Development.

Client / Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation

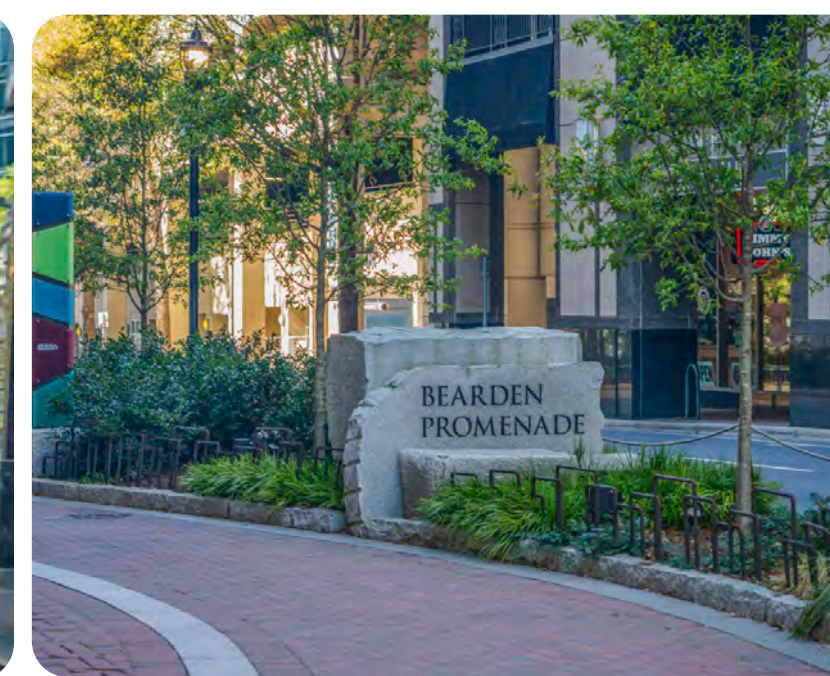
Location / Charlotte, NC

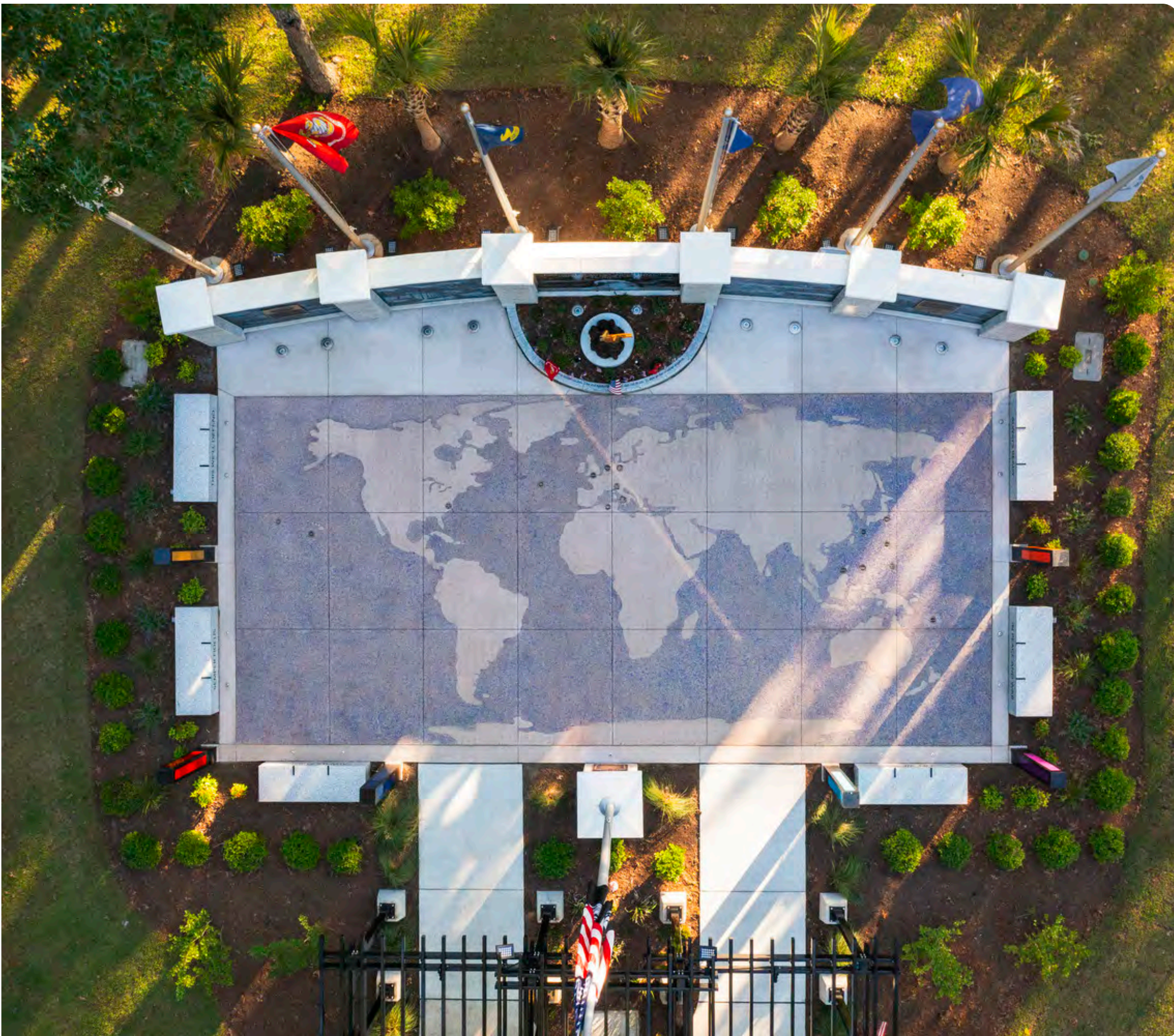
Project Cost / \$1,690,000

Year Completed / 2018

Services Provided / Landscape Architecture, Civil Engineering







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Warbird Park WWII Memorial

Bolton & Menk worked with the City of Myrtle Beach to design a memorial highlighting the region's pivotal role in WWII training missions. The centerpiece of the Warbird Park WWII Memorial is a black granite backdrop wall etched with images of the Myrtle Beach Army Airfield and an inspirational quote. Six flags and matching granite benches represent the six military branches active during the war, complemented by six illuminated columns displaying each branch's colors at night. A world map is sandblasted into the concrete plaza, with bronze medallions marking major WWII conflict locations. Visitors enter through a pergola inspired by the Army Air Base guard house. Developed through close collaboration with stakeholders and WWII veterans, the memorial honors Myrtle Beach's significant contributions to military operations and commemorates those who sacrificed their lives. This thoughtfully designed space offers both remembrance and education within Myrtle Beach's broader historical landscape.

Client / City of Myrtle Beach

Location / Myrtle Beach, SC

Project Cost / \$850,000

Year Completed / 2023

Services Provided / Landscape
Architecture, Civil Engineering







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Apgar Family Water Plaza

Bolton & Menk, alongside Artist Hilde DeBruyne and Waters Edge Aquatic Design, led a community-driven design for a new destination urban plaza in Marshalltown's Linn Creek District, centered on the theme of water. Drawing inspiration from the universal act of skipping stones, the plaza features rhythmic "ripples" in its layout and a series of timed fountains that mimic the stone-skipping effect, culminating at the center near a custom sculpture. The design aims to foster inclusivity and celebrate the shared experiences of Marshalltown's diverse community. Strategic engagement ensured the space reflects local sentiment, offering both playful and meditative elements. Bolton & Menk also assisted the city in securing \$2 million in funding through the Iowa Economic Development Authority's Destination Iowa Grant. The Apgar Family Water Plaza is currently under construction and is anticipated to open in 2025, set to become a vibrant gathering place for residents and visitors alike.

Client / City of Marshalltown

Location / Marshalltown, Iowa

Project Cost / \$1,894,711

Year Completed / 2025

Services Provided / Landscape Architecture, Civil Engineering, Water Resources, Surveying





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Pioneer Park Master Plan and Final Design

After completing a park system plan, the City of Little Canada identified a need for more inclusive and accessible spaces at Pioneer Park. The previous design limited community use, prompting a comprehensive engagement process involving youth, focus groups, interviews, and a citywide survey to gather input for improvements. With these insights, the city partnered with Bolton & Menk to develop the Pioneer Park Master Plan, secure grant funding, and finalize designs. The park's transformation focused on accessibility and community, introducing an all-ages play node, fully inclusive playground equipment, poured-in-place rubber surfacing for safety, an accessible water feature, an open-air picnic shelter, and stormwater management improvements. These enhancements revitalized a 1.2-acre area, creating a hub for recreation, relaxation, and gatherings, ensuring all residents could enjoy the park regardless of age or ability. The collaborative process positioned Pioneer Park as a model for inclusive public spaces.

Client / City of Little Canada

Location / Little Canada, MN

Project Cost / \$97,500

Year Completed / 2023

Services Provided / Landscape Architecture, Civil Engineering, Water Resources, Surveying







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Downtown Riverfront Improvements

Fergus Falls set out to revitalize its downtown and riverfront with a comprehensive master plan focused on economic and recreational growth along the Ottertail River. Partnering with Bolton & Menk, the city developed plans through extensive community engagement, including public meetings and surveys. By 2021, design documents detailed improvements like a river market structure, enhanced bike and pedestrian infrastructure, and new public spaces. Construction began in 2022, with phase 1 delivering the market pavilion, upgraded parking, a bike trail extension, a river overlook, and gathering areas. Phase 2, completed in 2024, added a splash pad, interactive river features, public art, shaded spaces, and a restroom facility. These enhancements transformed the riverfront into an attractive destination that draws visitors from across the region. Innovative planning, engineering, and landscape architecture have created a vibrant, accessible community asset in downtown Fergus Falls, supporting ongoing economic and social activity.

Client / City of Fergus Falls

Location / Fergus Falls, MN

Project Cost / \$4,000,000

Year Completed / 2023

Services Provided / Landscape Architecture, Civil Engineering



