



SOUTHWESTERN ILLINOIS RESOURCE CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT

LAURA LYON SPECIAL PROJECTS



EDUCATION

Master of Architecture;
Emphasis in Architecture & Urban Design,
Washington University; St. Louis, MO

Bachelor of Design;
Emphasis in Classics,
Graphic Design, Art History,
University of Florida; Gainesville, FL

AFFILIATIONS

National Recreation and Park Association

Missouri Recreation and Park Association

National Association for Interpretation

Congress of New Urbanism

St. Charles Park & Recreation Board

Urban Community Business Association -
Chair

The Central Institute for the Deaf -
Fundraising Graphic Design Chair

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Ms. Lyon joined Southwestern Illinois Resource Conservation & Development (SWIRCD) to participate in diverse projects concerning regional environmental planning. Ms. Lyon partners with organizations throughout the region to facilitate, interpret, and develop innovative plans and strategies for the unique success of each project. She has a diverse background in art, architecture, graphic and urban design. She brings unique problem solving and exploratory interpretive initiatives to all projects of all scales: regional and community master plans to interpretive plans, grants and fundraising events. Believing that public engagement enriches every initiative, Lyon creates unique public outreach initiatives that address each project's needs and objectives, including accessibility to all citizen groups. She ensures that each project is extensively researched in terms of its history, identity and positioning within the national and regional context. Visual and written communication tools are created in order to provide highly particularized project identities, concepts and design solutions. Many of her projects, including those in collaboration with SWIRCD have been awarded by the APA, AIA, ASLA, and CNU, at the local, state*, and national levels**. The Confluence: a Conservation, Heritage and Recreation Corridor, was chosen by the USDA as 1 of 3 projects to be presented at Johannesburg, SA World Sustainability Conference. She also serves as Vice President to H3 Studio and is Managing Partner in Studio Archaeos.

PROJECTS

- **The Confluence: Master Plan *,** & The Confluence Strategic Plan: 2020**
* - Team members worked with Confluence to develop their Master Plan and its update in 2010. In addition to the comprehensive master plan SWIRCD prioritized a list of projects that could be implemented in the next ten years to comply with future growth and development in the region.

Tasks completed included the creation of the signature graphic image known as The Confluence Map. This map has become the iconic image for Confluence and is also featured in the Mel Price Lock and Dam Visitor's Center and is the first image you see entering the center. SWIRCD prepared the vision, goals and objectives, provided the detail for the entire plan along with progress benchmarks, and provided Confluence all text and graphics in both hard copy and digital.



PROJECTS

- **Chouteau Island Master Plan**—SWIRCD secured the funding to develop the Master Plan for Chouteau Island. Funding partners for the \$240,00 Master Plan included the Army Corps of Engineers, IDNR, SWIRCD and in-kind labor from cooperating organizations in Confluence. Worked as a lead with the consulting firm Parsons. Assisted with every step of the process including public meetings the included hostile individuals. Produced a final plan that has lead to increased public land protected on the island and has established a framework for future investments.
- **Edwardsville Comprehensive Open Space, Parks & Trail Plan*** - Southwestern Illinois Resource Conservation & Development served as the project lead, along with H3 Studios and Trailnet, to complete the Comprehensive Open Space, Parks & Trail Plan for the City of Edwardsville, IL. Additionally, all mapping support for the project was provided, conducted reconnaissance, wrote text, presented to City Council and the general public, prepared powerpoint presentations throughout the project that included updates to the plan and status of the timeline, and prepared the final document and delivered the hard copies and digital files.
- **City of Ferguson Bike/Walk Master Plan & City of Rock Hill Bike Walk Master Plan**— Participated as Senior Urban Designer with H3 Studio and Trailnet through a public planning process to develop this plan with major funding and administrative assistance from the Missouri Department of Transportation and East-West Gateway Council of Governments. As a follow up to the Live Well Ferguson initiative, the planning process for the City of Ferguson’s Bikeable-Walkable Community Plan was initiated by a consultant team working in close coordination with the city’s Planning and Parks and Recreation Departments. Numerous interviews and public meetings were held during the study period to discuss issues and needs. Briefings were also provided to the City Council and the Planning Commission. The plan will become a guide for an expanded system of interconnected trails and on---street bicycle and pedestrian facilities. For recreation, transportation and tourism. It will be implemented over a period of time as funding opportunities emerge.
- **Bicycle & Pedestrian Plans for the City of Rock Hill, Missouri**— Participated a Senior Urban Designer with H3 Studio and Trailnet through a public planning process to develop this plan with major funding and administrative assistance from the Missouri Department of Transportation and East-West Gateway Council of Governments. The planning process for the City of Rock Hill’s Bikeable-Walkable Community Plan was initiated and adjusted in close coordination with the city’s Planning and Parks and Recreation Departments in order to meet the expectations of the small population. Stakeholders attended public meetings to discuss issues and needs. Work sessions were conducted with City Council and the Planning Commission. The plan will become a implementation guide for a system of interconnected trails/paths and on---street pedestrian and bicycle facilities to be used as recreation, transportation and neighborhood links.
- **The Confluence National Heritage Area Feasibility Study *** - As a follow-up the The Confluence Master Plan, this Feasibility Study was prepared to determine the feasibility of the Confluence as a National Heritage Area. The study raises to national prominence the historic, cultural and natural resources within this region and to tell the stories of the importance of the rivers and its crossroads, generation after generation, in the name of expanding this country and sustaining the region. Lyon participated as Senior Urban Designer, Interpretive Planner, and Lead Technical Writer. Responsible for Design, Layout, content, and production of all drafts and final reports delivered to National Park Service, Congressional representatives and cooperating and partnering organizations