

award recognizes center plaza redesign

From placing a flower pot in front of a shop, to building a park on an empty lot, at Downtown Partnership we strive to make Downtown as attractive, friendly, and vibrant as possible. When one of our projects is recognized for excellence, it inspires us to continue working hard and pushing the limits.

On December 10, the American Society of Landscape Architects Maryland/Potomac Chapter honored the landscape architectural and urban design firm Mahan Rykiel Associates with a 2009 Merit Award for its redesign work on Center Plaza.

Spearheaded and overseen by Downtown Partnership, the Center Plaza renovation completely transformed a previously bare, concrete expanse at Charles Street and Fayette Street into a warm and welcoming urban park modeled after Bryant Park in New York City.

“We’re eagerly anticipating the arrival of spring and the awakening of the park from the doldrums of winter,” Downtown Partnership Vice President of Capital Projects Robert Dengler said.

“In just a few short weeks, you’ll see more and more people enjoying the fountains, the lush lawn, and flowerbeds that make Center Plaza Downtown’s premier greenspace.”

The park serves as a link between City Center and the Westside. Within a one-block radius, 8,100 people work, 1,200 people live, and about 2,000 visitors stay in nearby hotels. It’s a natural gathering place and creates a strong sense of community.

“It’s been great to see that transformation from what the plaza was to what it is now,” said Joe Burkhardt, Associate Principal at Mahan Rykiel.

“Our firm feels very fortunate to have helped make such a positive impact on Downtown and the workers and residents who live here.”



The Center Plaza Foundation, run by Downtown Partnership, ensures that funding and staffing remain in place to keep the new plaza fresh and good looking for years to come.

None of this would be possible without the major property owners around the plaza – BGE, The Law Offices of Peter G. Angelos, and Southern Management Corporation – who sustain the foundation and contributed nearly one million dollars each for what is now an award-winning reconstruction project.

