Parks face political problems

I wish to comment on the article in January's publication of “Park Maintenance Begins With Design.”

“YOU GET WHAT YOU PAY FOR” is an old saying that I feel needs to be added to Professor Haskell's article in January's WEEDS, TREES & TURF.

During a portion of my professional career, while employed by consulting firms and self-employed, I have worked for and consulted with public agencies. Some agencies I dealt with employed under-qualified and unknowledgeable personnel who were responsible for giving important design criteria information to consultants. The agencies probably saved money in salaries, but ended up with a poorly designed project which was considerably over budget.

It seems some agencies hired consultants for political reasons, or hired consultants who would do the work for the least amount of compensation; again, this would promote poor design.

If public agencies are sincere about their project being competently designed, as Professor Haskell points out in his article, the agencies might start by hiring qualified personnel who in turn know good design from poor design, who are not placed in the position of retaining consultants for political reasons, and who have the background of experience to insure that the consultants do what is best for the agency — not what is best for the consultant.

“YOU PAY FOR WHAT YOU GET” both in professional “In-House” employees and consultants. You pay one way or the other.

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