



STORMWATER MANAGEMENT COMMISSION

2014 STORMWATER AWARD RECIPIENTS

Stormwater Manager of the Year – Bill Kruckenberg, Ela Township Highway Commissioner

Bill is being commended for his long history of effectively implementing drainage projects to permanently address flooding and improve drainage is commended. In 2014 alone Bill oversaw the completion of four significant drainage projects to permanently address flooding and improve drainage. Projects included the Pepper Road storm sewer project; Plum Grove Road and Shirley Road, Midlothian Road, and Echo Lake area drain tile replacements and drainage improvements. These projects required Bill's expertise and coordination with local, state and federal agencies, and much-needed cost-share funding which included SMC's SIRF fund. In addition, Bill regularly assists several neighboring municipalities in responding to all variety of drainage complaints and assisting with stormwater infrastructure maintenance in addition to his regular duties as Highway Commissioner.

Community of the Year – Village of Green Oaks

The Village is being commended for a long track record of systematically planning and implementing stormwater management improvements using substantial financial resources and the leveraging of local funds and partnerships. Projects like the Atkinson Road flood control basin, Middlefork streambank improvements and the Doe Lake wetland enhancement and bioswale project have significantly reduced flooding and improved water quality improvement to the benefit of Village residents and the North Branch of the Chicago River watershed. In addition, the Village is recognized for its partnership with Oak Grove School to educate students on non-point source pollution and the benefits of a variety of best management practices.

Stewardship of the Year – Carillon North Homeowners Association, Grayslake

The Carillon North HOA is being commended for ongoing efforts to restore and improve the site's natural and man-made resources to improve water quality and habitat. Since 2010, Carillon community volunteers, HOA Board members and the property management team have focused on restoring the high quality 14-acre Drury Wetland and 2.75 acre prairie buffer around it, and improving stormwater management basins. Some of the recent outstanding work completed by a core of owner volunteers includes invasive species removal of 300 large buckthorn and 20 willow trees with most of the work completed by handsaws. Carillon HOA has reached out to local partners like SMC to leverage funding and technical assistance and expertise for their ongoing efforts, and has raised \$20,000 for new plantings, controlled burns, plugs and the control of invasive species like cattails, Reed Canary Grass and Phragmites. Carillon volunteers were also active participants in the Mill Creek watershed planning process, and are always happy share their efforts and lessons learned with other HOAs. Carillon North

HOA's efforts stretch far beyond the borders of your community and helping to improve the Des Plaines River watershed as well.

BMP Project of the Year – Moraine Township's Mooney Cemetery Drainage Project

The Township is being commended for seeking sustainable solutions to historical drainage issues at the Mooney Cemetery. The project replaced 8,200 sq. ft. of aging asphalt driveway with permeable pavement, and added two small, naturalized parking areas and two rain gardens to infiltrate rainfall and alleviate ponding and drainage problems. The project facilitates a natural reduction in stormwater, and nonpoint source pollution to improve water quality on site but also benefiting the North Branch of the Chicago River watershed. Equally impressive is the 70+ volunteers who planted 750 rain garden plants, and the public project tour incorporating a how-to on rain garden installation and garden benefits. The sustainable stormwater improvements, educational benefits, and community spirit are what make this project special.

Education, Outreach, Media Award – Conserve Lake County, Conservation @ Home Program, Sarah Surroz

Conserve's Conservation @ Home program is being commended for addressing water quality issues in Lake County by improving how hundreds and thousands of private landowners use and treat their land. The program, implemented in 2011, is led by Sarah Surroz, and her staff of professional biologists and volunteers who walk and assess properties and provide feedback and guidance on ways to improve them to better manage rainfall runoff and provide healthy habitat. Landowners learn about any ecological treasures they might have and how to protect them; ways to incorporate native trees, flowers or other plants; how to identify and control any invasive species on-site; eco-friendly lawn care and practices; and, water protection and conservation. Conserve's efforts have yielded visits to 600 properties in the County since 2011 and approximately 400 private properties have been certified and are collectively reducing stormwater runoff and improving water quality and habitat in Lake County. Conserve Lake County has established a rich history of grassroots watershed awareness.

Development of the Year – Forest Park Rehabilitation Project, Lake Forest

The Forest Park Project is being commended for addressing infrastructure needs, solving drainage issues, promoting sustainability, maintaining natural site amenities, and encouraging ravine education as part of the Forest Park Master Plan. The project provides a system of bioswales and rain gardens, impervious surface reduction, permeable paving, and native landscaping that provide on-site stormwater storage, filtration and infiltration, sustainable landscaping, and water quality benefits for Lake Michigan. In addition, the project restored flatwoods wetlands for habitat and education purposes along with ravine educational signage at Seminary Ravine. Equally impressive is the Forest Park Board, a private-public partnership established to finance and construct the project, and to maintain the historical 30-acre park, one of the last green open spaces along Lake Michigan.