



# VILLAGE OF BARRINGTON

February 20, 2007

Mr. Joseph Annunzio  
NWMC – Environmental  
1616 East Golf Road  
Des Plaines, IL 60016

RE: NWMC Community Environmental Stewardship Award

Dear Mr. Annunzio:

The Village of Barrington is pleased to submit its application for the NWMC Community Environmental Stewardship Award.

Barrington is an environmental conscious community that works together through strong local leadership to improve the quality and value of life, not only for its citizens, but future generations.

We thank you in advance for considering our application, and should you have any questions or require any clarification regarding this correspondence, please contact me at 847-381-7903, Monday through Friday between 7:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.

Sincerely,

Mark Werksman  
Assistant Director of Public Works

Encl: 2007 Award Nomination Form

Copy: Denise M. Pieroni, Village Manager  
John M. Heinz, Director of Public Works  
Dennis Burmeister, Assistant Director of Public Works

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# NWMC Community Environmental Stewardship Award

2007 Award Nomination Form

Awards will be presented at NWMC Annual Banquet on June 20, 2007.

Name MARK WERKSMAN Title Assistant Director PW.

Municipality Village of Barrington

Address 300 N. Raymond Ave. Barrington IL 60010

E-mail mwerksman Phone 847-304-3365 Fax 847-382-3030  
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Use additional sheets for answers if necessary

LIST SIGNIFICANT "GREEN ACTIVITIES" YOUR MUNICIPALITY/TOWNSHIP HAS ACCOMPLISHED OVER THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS (i.e., community recycling, Tree City USA, etc.).

*See attached.*

LIST "GREEN ACTIVITIES" YOUR MUNICIPALITY/TOWNSHIP HAS ACCOMPLISHED IN 2006 (i.e., switching to recycling carts, joined Clean Air Counts, conducted an electronics recycling event, etc.)

*See attached.*

EXPLAIN WHY YOUR MUNICIPALITY/TOWNSHIP SHOULD BE AWARDED NWMC COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP RECOGNITION.

*See attached.*

## **1. LIST SIGNIFICANT “GREEN ACTIVITIES” OVER THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS**

- In 2004, Barrington entered a new Recycling, Refuse, and Yardwaste Agreement with Groot (Palatine, IL) which included a new larger “wheeled” recycling container “90 Gallon Cart” to replace the former 14-gallon each “three (3) bin system”. Since this improvement, Barrington’s recycling efforts have increased 17% in 2004, and up to 20% in 2005. The data for 2006 is not yet available but we anticipate another 2% - 3% increase in 2006.
- Several years ago, the Village’s recycling coordinator worked with a group of students and teachers from the Barrington High School to develop a paper-recycling program that was a great success. It should also be noted that in the mid-80’s, Barrington was one of the first communities in the county to start a multi-material recycling program.
- From 2002 through 2005, Barrington completed three (3) phases of a comprehensive streetscape improvement project. With the completion of our third phase, we planted over 50 new trees, installed five (5) new decorative planter boxes with ornamental landscaping, and installed 100 new decorative hanging flower baskets. This was a significant effort to utilize plant material in the Central Business District (CBD) or “Concrete Jungle”.
- Barrington has been a “Tree City USA” recipient for 21 years, and we have an excellent In-house Tree Maintenance Program. Our on-staff Village Forester and Arborists work hard on maintaining a well-balanced forestry program while always promoting education and tree preservation.
- An Arbor Day Proclamation is done on an annual basis through the Village Board of Trustees recognizing the importance of trees and forests into our municipality.

The following are important facts about our Forestry Program:

**A.** “Tree City USA” requires certain Standards to be adhered and they are as follows:

Standard 1: A Tree Department, Forestry Division with four (4) certified arborists on staff

Standard 2: A Community Tree Preservation Ordinance

Standard 3: A Community Forestry Program with an Annual Budget of at least \$2 per capita

Standard 4: An Arbor Day Observance and Proclamation

**B.** As part of Arbor Day activities in April, the Village travels to each of the elementary schools and speaks to the Kindergarten class regarding trees and the benefits derived from trees in general. We also provide a seedling for each of the students and other Arbor Day handouts such as the story of “Johnny Appleseed”, pencils, brochures, etc. that we ask the students to take home to their parents. This outreach program has been very successful over the years; however, we have run out of room to plant trees on the various school properties.

**C.** The Forestry Division is responsible for the care and maintenance of approximately 7,200 trees located within the Village’s right-of-ways. The division also coordinates the planting of replacement trees and the maintenance of all streetscape plantings including

trees, hanging flower baskets, and planting beds located within our community. We also maintain over 60 Acres of Public rights-of-way (primarily turf maintenance) which includes mowing, fertilizing, weeding and spring and fall cleanup. The Forestry Division is also responsible for reviewing development projects submitted to or initiated by the Village for their impact on the surrounding public and private vegetation. Staff also meets with residents to discuss and advise them on plant health for public and private property trees.

- D. Barrington is divided into four (4) trimming/maintenance districts. Each district is trimmed on an annual rotating basis. Dead/dying or diseased trees are also removed annually.
- E. We offer a 50-50 Cost Share Tree Program for residents who want a tree planted on the public right-of-way.
- F. We provide cabling and bracing of significant trees; watering and mulching of newly planted trees; responding to emergency storm damage, including removal, trimming, and brush chipping.
- G. Perform routine inspections to ensure proper tree and vegetation protection methods are employed and to monitor condition vegetation.
- H. Several years ago, the Village adopted a comprehensive Tree Ordinance that has been a model for other communities.

Barrington has been at the forefront of bio-engineering and streambank stabilization demonstration/restoration projects since 1990. The following are a listing of the various projects we have worked on in the past:

- In 1990, approximately  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile of creek was restored using an Illinois EPA 319 Grant. Various techniques such as “lunker” structures, a-jacks, live plug planting, and coir fiber rolls were utilized and invasive woody vegetation was removed. The project received an APWA Project of the Year Award.
- In 1994, the Village constructed the “Kilgoblin” Wetland. This unique urban wetland has received National acclaim and is also called a “Day-Lighting” project. The storm sewers from the south central portion of the Village discharge into the wetland that was constructed prior to it discharge into the creek to absorb nutrients to act as a sedimentation basin. This project has won APWA Chicago Metro Chapter Award – Environmental Project of the Year, and was recognized by the local conservation group, Citizens for Conservation (CFC) for efforts in environmental stewardship.
- In 1996/1997, the Village constructed streambank stabilization on private property within the Fox Point Subdivision. This project restored approximately  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile of creek on private property and prevented significant erosion from continuing to occur.
- In 1998, the Village retrofitted an online detention pond re-creating the creek meander through the detention area in creating a wetland and prairie area, approximately 20 Acres in size. This project was recognized by CFC as well as APWA as Project of the Year. This was done in conjunction with the Barrington Park District.

- Since 1990, the Village has required virtually all developments to install water quality elements to their Stormwater Management Plan. This includes, but not limited to, utilizing native vegetation in detention areas rather than “mowed (turf) bottom ponds” which are difficult to maintain. The Village began requiring these requirements before the Stormwater Management Commission (SMC) of Lake County. As it relates to development, the Shops of Flint Creek as well as Creekside Point are both required to restore the creek area adjacent to their developments. This will further our efforts in restoring and improving all areas of the creek throughout the Village.
- In 2004, the Village did another streambank stabilization project that was completed in 2005 in North Fox Point. The affected area included an Oak Savannah in very steep banks and was successfully completed in private property. The project is in its 3rd year of maintenance.
- The Village worked with CFC, Cook County Forest Preserve District and the Illinois Nature Preserve to recreate a “Heron Rookery” on Bakers Lake which is in the Village of Barrington. Bakers Lake is part of an Illinois Nature Preserve that is the home (during the spring, summer, and fall months) for hundreds of Great Blue Herons, Egrets, and Black Crowned Night Heron. There are no less than 50 nests in this area at one time. Due to the diminishing vegetation on the island, a man-made “rookery” was constructed to provide nesting areas for the birds. This project was recognized by Chicago Metro Chapter as well as a National APWA for an Environmental Project of the Year Award. The Village works with CFC to maintain the nature preserve that is a 25 Acre Oak Savannah that has been restored to its original pre-development form.
- In 2005, Barrington was awarded “Least Polluted City” in the United States by CNN/Money Magazine. The Village’s Vision Statement encourages to preservation of the community’s safe environment.

## **2. LIST “GREEN ACTIVITIES ACCOMPLISHED IN 2006**

- In October, 2006, Barrington held a Document Destruction Event with the assistance from the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County. We had over 135 cars participate and collected over 7500 pounds of paper for recycling. Barrington will be hosting this event again in late 2007.
- In 2006, Barrington adopted a Comprehensive Water Conservation/Restriction Ordinance that provides a four-tiered approach to conserve, limit, restrict, and prohibit the outside use of water. It also serves as a reminder of the fact that our Water Supply is a natural resource of finite capacity and as such, conservation of this resource should be promoted regardless of weather conditions.
- In 2006, Barrington completed a 4<sup>th</sup> phase of our comprehensive Streetscape Project. This project included seven new decorative planter islands with ornamental landscaping, planted six new trees, and installed sixty new hanging flower baskets.
- In late 2005 into 2006, Barrington worked with an environmental consulting firm, the IEPA, and the State Fire Marshall in an effort to clean up several lots (public

property). Tons of special waste/soil was removed and replaced with clean fill, remediation of these sites was a success.

- In 2006, Barrington was a founding member of the Flint Creek Watershed Partnership, which is a group of surrounding communities, contractors, and organizations that show a vested interest in improving water quality within the watershed. Part of this partnership includes a 319 EPA Grant to update the Flint Creek Watershed Plan.
- In late 2006, Barrington passed a Clean Air Ordinance that regulates smoking in establishments. As we know, numerous studies have found that tobacco smoke is a major contributor to indoor air pollution.

### **3. CONCLUSION**

Barrington, as other communities across the country, deal with environmental issues on a regular basis. From past environmental projects to present environmental projects, Barrington is a proactive community when it comes to dealing with these issues. Barrington takes pride and satisfaction in its efforts to preserve and maintain a healthy and safe environment for its citizens. There will always be future environmental challenges and it is up to the Federal, State, and Local Governments to confront these issues/challenges so they can be mitigated in a timely and professional manner.

One of the visions of the Village of Barrington is to “provide a moral and safe environment, maintain a high quality of life through the efficient use of community resources”. This is a vision our Board is committed to along with our citizens.