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Village of  
**Lincolnshire**

February 22, 2007

Ms. Chalen Hunter  
Northwest Municipal Conference  
1616 East Golf Road  
Des Plaines, IL 60016

Re: The Village of Lincolnshire Nomination for  
Northwest Municipal Conference Community Environmental Stewardship Award  
Category: Home Rule

Dear Ms. Hunter:

The Village of Lincolnshire respectfully requests your consideration of the attached nomination packet for the Northwest Municipal Conference Community Environmental Stewardship Award, Home Rule category. We believe the Village has an outstanding record in its efforts to protect and preserve the environment and are grateful for this opportunity to share some of our accomplishments with you and the review committee.

If you have any questions or require further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

THE VILLAGE OF LINCOLNSHIRE

Lydia Scott  
Assistant to Director of Public Works

Enclosure

**NWMC Community Environmental Stewardship Award**  
**Category: Home Rule**

***2007 Award Nomination Form***

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

Name: Lydia Scott

Title: Asst. to Director of Public Works

Municipality: Village of Lincolnshire

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

The Village of Lincolnshire and its 6,400 residents recognize that as individuals, as well as the collective municipality with all the support, services and facilities that make our modern lifestyles possible, we create a significant impact on the environment. The municipal government and individual residents acknowledge and accept their responsibility to be proactive in protecting the environment in everyday individual living and in long-term issues that confront the community as a whole.

Lincolnshire is continually looking for ways to improve its environmental stewardship and has plans to implement a vast number of other environmental initiatives over the next few years. Following is a brief list of some of Lincolnshire's recent accomplishments.

1. 20% Bio Diesel Fuel - all diesel vehicles or motors owned by the Village operate on 20% bio diesel fuel. This is a significantly higher percentage than required. In addition, several Village vehicles have catalytic mufflers or have been retrofitted with catalytic mufflers. Generators for four of the eight pumping stations use natural gas and the older generators (4) use 20% bio diesel. As the generators are replaced they will be upgraded to more environmentally friendly options.

All Village vehicles meet or exceed clean air standards. Newest vehicles are equipped with diesel emissions reduction factory equipment.

2. Waste and Recycling - The Village contracts for individual residential collection with one waste hauler. This reduces the number of waste hauling trucks on Village streets and allows for coordination of services. Residents are required to use recycling toter carts which has resulted in a 33% increase in recyclables collected. The Village publishes annually a waste hauler information packet and periodic articles in the Village Newsletter which promotes the three "R's" – reuse, reduce and recycle.

3. Development Requirements - The Village requires developers to naturalize any detention facilities and encourages use of open naturalized drainage swales, extended buffers, protection of trees and natural areas and use of native plants. In addition, the Village utilizes a special zoning designation – R2A – for residential developments that contain environmentally sensitive sites. This zoning allows the developer to construct smaller lots to shift development away from wetlands, floodplains, woodlands and other areas worthy of preservation. Following are examples of only a few of the many recent developments:

- Meadows of Birch Lake Subdivision – all common areas are native and maintained by the Homeowner’s Association (The Homeowner’s Association was a recipient of a USEPA Conservation and Native Landscaping Award in 2006.) A fifty foot buffer along the eastern side of the property is dedicated to protect the Florsheim Illinois Nature Preserve. Drainage from the subdivision is filtered through a stormwater treatment train and much of the stormwater is filtered through open naturalized drainage swales.
- Old Mill Woods Development - This is a 62 acre site with 28 homes and 32 acres of protected open space (dedicated as Illinois Nature Preserve). Drainage swales are open and naturalized. The detention basin is planted with native shrubs, plants and trees. The developer is restoring 32 acres of open space before turning it over to the Village. The developer was encouraged to plant 17,000 native plants, 55 native trees and 875 native shrubs. In addition, approximately 16.5 acres of open space, devoid of native vegetation after invasive plant removal, was planted with native seed.

4. River and Stream Protection - the Village has a strong interest in protecting the waterways of the region. As such it is a leader in various watershed protection groups including the Upper Des Plaines River Ecosystem Partnership, the Watershed Management Board, the North Branch of the Chicago River Watershed Ecosystem Partnership, the Indian Creek Stakeholders and the Community Rating System Program (Class 5 Rating).

The Village has undertaken restoration and repair work along its streambanks, lake shore and river channels over the past few years.

- Spring Lake was enlarged and the shore line was resloped and planted with native plants.
- the North Branch of the West Fork of the Chicago River channel was cut back to allow overflow into the wetlands, banks resloped, invasives removed and planted with native plants;
- the Des Plaines River channel was bioengineered with wattles and root wads, resloped, invasives removed, wetland installed, and planted with native plants;

- Lincolnshire Creek was resloped, toe reinforced, invasives removed and native plants installed.

(Note: Restoration work on Indian Creek is already engineered and planned to begin the summer of 2007.)

Approximately 11,200 linear feet of restoration and stabilization has taken place along Spring Lake, the Des Plaines River, the North Branch of the Chicago River, and Lincolnshire Creek in the past six years.

5. Protection of Open Space - The Village has acquired approximately 100 acres of open space along the North Branch of the Chicago River in the past few years. This property has been protected, enhanced and restored to its native function. The property has been dedicated as Illinois Nature Preserves and is managed to encourage biological diversity.

Not only does this property function for native habitat but it is the headwaters to the North Branch of the Chicago River. Water quality has been a significant focus and surrounding development has been controlled to protect the water quality. The property's location along the Illinois Tollway, and its management to preserve, protect and enhance the woodland forest provides for improved air quality.

The North Park recreation facility, Meadows of Birch Lake Subdivision and the Old Mill Development, adjoining the Nature Preserve were designed with open drainage swales, naturalized detention, naturalized buffers and stormwater treatment trains to protect the natural features of the Nature Preserve and the water quality of the river.

In addition, the Village owns an additional twenty to twenty-five acres of open space along the Des Plaines River which it has restored and manages for native biological diversity.

6. Environmental Education - the Village regularly publishes articles in the Village Newsletter and special mailings educating its residents on environmental issues. This would include the importance of native plants; use of rain gardens; reduce, reuse and recycle; the watershed, etc.

A brochure has been produced and interpretive signs installed along the Village waterways explaining the significance of the residential and commercial impacts to the watershed, drainage, water quality, erosion, etc.

The Village also partners with the local school district in providing an environmental education program for the 1600 children in the district. Children are bussed to Village maintained open space and the Rivershire Park Nature Center where school staff provide curriculum for hands on opportunities to study water quality, native plants, ecosystems, erosion, root systems of native plants, etc. As an example the fifth grade students act as "consultants" for the Village. They take water samples and evaluate the physical traits of

the North Branch of the Chicago River and study the characteristics of a healthy aquatic habitat. They then present their results and recommendations in a formal presentation to the Village. In addition, the school children paint stormsewer grates stating "Water Goes To River".

7. Trees - The Village of Lincolnshire has one of the most restrictive tree removal policies in the region. All removals over six inches in diameter have to be permitted by the Village Forester. No removal permit will be issued for healthy trees unless there is an approved building permit. As a deterrent, land owners who wish to remove trees over six inches in diameter, which are part of a building permit, are required to pay \$150 per diameter inch unless the tree is a high quality tree (as listed in the Village Code) and then they must pay \$200 per diameter inch for removal. Money paid goes to the tree bank where it is used to plant trees throughout the Village.

In addition, approximately \$30,000 per year is set aside for tree planting and more than 700 trees are pruned annually. The Village has been a recipient of the Tree City Award for eighteen years and the Growth Award for fifteen years.

8. Path Systems - The village has been actively installing pedestrian and bicycle paths throughout the Village. These paths tie into regional path systems as well as connecting residential neighborhoods. Approximately \$1 million dollars has been spent within the past few years and an additional \$1.2 million is proposed within the next two budget cycles.
9. Lighting -The Village is pursuing other means for lighting its streets and intersections but currently has replaced incandescent bulbs with florescent bulbs in Village structures. At the North Park Sports Facility (25 acres) - lighting is carefully controlled to light only the portion(s) of the park that is being used and all lights at this facility are computerized to go on and off for a specifically scheduled event or activity.
10. Community Rating System - The CRS program is voluntary and is centered on flood reduction and water quality protection. The Village has a class rating of 5 and as part of its rating criteria, has provided education to residents on the significance of the floodplain, reducing stormwater and erosion, protecting water quality and improving habitat in its watersheds. There are only a thirty seven communities nationwide which have achieved a class 5 or better.
11. Maintenance of Village streets is a priority. The Village has a street sweeping policy which requires that the Village streets be swept at least monthly beginning in March through the end of September. In October the streets are swept weekly until the first week of December as part of the Villages municipal maintenance program. In addition to streets stormwater structures and catch basins are inspected seasonally, and any foreign materials removed or vactored.
12. Road Salts - the Village has been experimenting with alternative options to road salt and

has been successful in reducing the amount of salt on Village streets with the incorporation of agricultural byproducts. It is anticipated that road salt will be reduced by 25% in 2007/08. Road salt is limited or excluded from areas in the Village which are adjacent to natural areas such as Florsheim Nature Preserve and Rivershire Park.

13. The Village contracts for water quality testing to track chemicals and pollutants which may be entering the Chicago and Des Plaines Rivers at North Park, the West Fork of the North Branch of the Chicago River, Spring Lake and the Spring Lake stormwater outfall.
14. The Village is an active participant in the Solid Waste Agency of Lake County. As such the Village provides staff for the Household Chemical Waste collection events, has held an electronics collection event and supports the agency as an active participant.
15. The Village voluntarily imposes watering restrictions during the summer months to conserve water by limiting outside irrigation throughout the Village.
16. The Village has developed an Open Space Management Plan and encourages participation of staff in maintenance and care of environmental issues. To support the protection of our natural resources, the Village has adopted the Chicago Wilderness Biodiversity Recovery Plan, the North Branch of the Chicago River Watershed Plan, and the Indian Creek Watershed Plan.
17. Geographic Information System - The Village has developed a Geographic Information System which staff utilizes to identify woodlands, wetlands, floodplains and other environmentally sensitive lands. This information is used as a development and management tool.
18. Memberships and Partnerships - the Village recognized the importance of collaboration and partnership to the success of environmental protection and is an active participant in the following organizations:
  - The Upper Des Plaines River Ecosystem Partnership (staff has been past president and is currently a vice president on the UDPREP Board)
  - The North Branch of the Chicago River Ecosystem Partnership
  - The Community Rating System (staff is currently serving on the National Advisory Board)
  - The Indian Creek Watershed Stakeholders
  - Watershed Management Board
  - Chicago Wilderness (staff is currently serving on the Executive Board and Steering Committee)

- The Solid Waste Agency of Lake County (staff is currently serving on the Legislative Committee)
- Lake County Stormwater Management Commission's Municipal Advisory Committee (staff is currently serving as Chair)
- Geographic Information System Consortium of 11 Communities (staff is currently serving as President)

**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.)**

1. The Village is beginning development of a downtown area that borders Indian Creek, a tributary to the Des Plaines River. This project has been engineered and will soon begin construction. Included in the engineering is the restoration and protection of Indian Creek. This project includes removal of invasive species, resloping banks along the river, planting of deep rooted native plants to protect against erosion and filter out pollutants from the intense surrounding use. The detention and much of its drainage system have been designed to be naturalized. In addition an informational brochure has been published to explain the issues of the watershed.
2. The Village has bioengineered the restoration of an outfall structure and river inlet which opens to the Des Plaines River. Included in this design are native plants, a riffle, structural components to hold soils and water quality testing. Currently, the Village has contracted with the Lake County Health Department to test the existing water quality. As the site becomes established water quality testing will continue to verify site conditions and improvements.
3. The Old Mill development is nearing completion. The Village has continued to work with the developer on restoration needs for the natural area, monitoring of the site development, including establishment of native plants, prescribed burning, etc.
4. The Village is continuing a multi year program to televise and inspect the sanitary sewer system. Problem areas are being corrected and there is a reduction of inflow and infiltration of stormwater into the system. This has resulted in reduced energy usage at the pumping stations and greater capacity for the sanitary sewer mains.
5. In recognition of the continuing problems with Dutch Elm Disease, Gypsy Moth and Emerald Ash Borer, the Village has set aside additional funds to plant smaller trees throughout the Village in anticipation of attrition.
6. In 2006 the Village of Lincolnshire was awarded the Conservation and Native Landscaping Award from the USEPA and Chicago Wilderness for its restoration and

protection efforts along the North Branch of the Chicago River. In addition, the Village was recognized as the first ever, Community of the Year, by the Lake County Stormwater Management Commission for its contribution to protecting its watersheds.

7. The Village currently serves on the following boards in the following capacities:
- Upper Des Plaines River Ecosystem Partnership, Vice President and Grant Review Committee
  - Chicago Wilderness, Executive Board Member, Steering Committee Member, Grant Review Committee for the Sustainability Team.
  - Municipal Advisory Committee Lake County Stormwater Management Commission, Chairman
  - Solid Waste Agency of Lake County, Legislative Committee
  - Geographic Information System Consortium of 11 Communities

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

A steward is one who acts as a supervisor, manager or administrator for another or others. A great steward is one who is not only a supervisor, manager or administrator but one who anticipates needs and strives to find ways to improve. The Village of Lincolnshire is a great steward. It recognizes and is actively working to address current environmental issues while anticipating future needs and looking for methods to address them.

The Village is committed to continue to provide “great” environmental stewardship as it moves forward with the following objectives:

- to improve air quality by the gradual replacement of its vehicles with engines and fuels that are more environmentally friendly.
- reduce, reuse and recycle and to help its residents to do the same.
- to encourage developers to meet standards above and beyond any permitting agency with a focus on how those developments impact the watershed.
- to maintain and restore the river and stream channels throughout its borders and as such serve as an example for others.
- to maintain and protect open space and biological diversity because once it is gone



it is gone.

- to continue to educate its residents and those who come into the Village, on environmental issues through the newsletter, interpretive signs, public meetings and example. This includes an entire generation of school children who use and visit the Village's unique natural areas for environmental education.
- to protect its significant asset – its forested neighborhoods and natural areas.
- to continue to add paths and bike ways that will provide for alternatives to automobile transportation both internally and regionally.
- to continue to maintain and improve public space and the watershed by reducing salt on the roadways, protecting and maintaining drainage systems and providing filtration.
- to continue to look for ways to partner and learn from others on best management practices and environmental successes.

The Village believes knowledge, the ability to adapt and commitment are the keys to achieving success in stewarding our environment. Past performance has shown that the Village has all three keys and will continue in its quest to be a great steward.