

# **Irwin A. Bock Award for Excellence in Public Administration - Community Environmental Stewardship Award**

## *2008 Award Nomination Form*

*Awards will be presented at NWMC Annual Banquet on June 6, 2008.*

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Municipality Village of Streamwood

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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.)**

The Village of Streamwood has been active for nearly 20 years on numerous green initiatives aimed at improving our environment, preserving natural resources, and maintaining our stewardship.

Please see attached list of activities.

**LIST "GREEN ACTIVITIES" YOUR MUNICIPALITY/TOWNSHIP ACCOMPLISHED IN 2007 & 2008 (i.e., switching to recycling carts, joined Clean Air Counts, conducted an electronics recycling events, etc.)**

Over the past 18 months, the Village of Streamwood has taken a number of steps toward augmenting our environmental programs.

Please see attached list of accomplishments.

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

Please see attached statement.

## SIGNIFICANT GREEN ACTIVITIES THE VILLAGE OF STREAMWOOD HAS ACCOMPLISHED OVER THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS

The Village of Streamwood has been an active leader in encouraging environmental best practices throughout the community and the region for nearly 20 years. These practices cover a wide range of activities that have long-term benefits and exemplify our commitment to positive environmental stewardship.

In 1989, the Village of Streamwood passed one of the most comprehensive Subdivision Regulations to promote and protect the environment. The Village established far-reaching tree preservation and conservation requirements, along with wetland protection and enhancement regulations, which set a standard for use by other communities. The Village requires the maintenance of seventy percent (70%) of significant trees within any new development. Tree surveys are required to assess the condition and species and loss of trees over this minimum requires replacement on site. Additionally, the Village encourages the use of created wetlands for storm water management facilities. This ensures that protection of our primary watershed Poplar Creek. Over the years, the Village has augmented these regulations establishing strict penalties for violations, improved monitoring and providing credits for locally created wetlands.

To realize these improvements, the Village's 1999 Comprehensive Plan called for the dedication of all property along the watershed to be left in an open condition during development. This included encouraging developers to create or preserve natural wetlands along the creek, along with the preservation of the flood plain throughout the area. The Village also encouraged that this property be dedicated to the Village to ensure it retains this function in perpetuity. Today, within our corporate limits, the south branch of Poplar Creek is owned and maintained by the Village. The Village constructed pedestrian and bike paths along Poplar Creek. The Village took this amenity and has used it to help educate the public on the need to properly care for the watershed. In 2003, signs were designated along the 67 acres of the watershed. These signs provide information along the trail indicating its use, and our conservation measures. Wetland restoration areas also exist along the corridor further augmenting the Village's efforts.

In 1990, the Village established an Environmental Awareness Committee. The Committee was charged with exploring the best options in educating and encouraging residents to be better environmental stewards. The Committee was instrumental in applying for Tree City USA designation. Streamwood has been a Tree City USA community since 1992. We have also won the growth award numerous times. The Village operates its own Tree Nursery, in conjunction with the Streamwood Park District, to provide trees for planting throughout the community. The Village works within our community schools to provide education on recycling and the environment. We have sponsored annual Arbor Day tree plantings in conjunction with the schools for over 15 years with members of the Village's Forestry Division explaining principals of good environmental stewardship to students. The Forestry Division also hosts an annual landscaping expo for the community. And, the Village encourages residents to plant trees with an annual shared-cost program for planting trees in the rights-of-way.

The Committee also initiated street beautification programs with the business community and a community-wide recycling program in 1992. The Village worked diligently with our waste haulers to ensure the widest possible array of collections possible. Streamwood encourages the recycling of all paper products, yard waste, rigid metals and plastics #1-5 and #7. Household hazardous waste programs are also encouraged, and the Village works with the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) on region-wide collections. Curbside recycling was enhanced in 2005 with the introduction of recycling carts, which have been effective in increasing our participation rate for homeowners and businesses. Our waste hauler reports a 75% participation rate in our community recycling program.

Community-wide recycling literally started at Village Hall. All Village buildings have aggressive recycling programs for paper, plastics, computers, computer accessories, and metals. The Village provides recycling containers at all Village events to encourage our community and to show our commitment to the environment. Other recycling programs, which are specifically targeted to Village buildings and uses, include recycling for all of our corrected sodium vapor streetlight lamps and for our parking lots' sodium vapor lamps, oil, tires and vehicle and equipment recycling. The Village also coordinates recycling of old batteries, by allowing a drop-off for residents.

Additional green initiatives the Village of Streamwood has enacted over the past few years are aimed at our local use of energy and resources. Nearly all new Village vehicles are E85 compliant. This year, we are instituting the use of bio-diesel fuel. All Village buildings have energy efficient light fixtures, setback thermostats and sensor faucets installed to reduce consumption of natural resources. All Village buildings are currently being reviewed for the installation of sensory activated lights to further reduce electrical consumption for infrequently used areas of Village buildings. Finally, the Village has an established policy to replace any appliances, including copiers and printers, with Energy Star rated fixtures.

## GREEN ACTIVITIES THE VILLAGE OF STREAMWOOD HAS ACCOMPLISHED IN 2007 & 2008

In November 2007, the Village of Streamwood unveiled its new Police Department facility, which includes a complete energy management system. The entire building is managed by a sophisticated computer system. The building is separated into zones, which allow 24-hour areas (i.e. reception and records) to be separated from office areas (i.e. Administration) and allow differentiated heating and lighting. All rooms are controlled by sensory activated lighting. The gun range has a highly sophisticated air handling system to ensure quality recycling of air. The range used recycled tires as part of its trapping system.

The new Police Department also led to renovations to the existing Village Hall. The Village was conscious of its renovation project's impact on the environment, particularly as we constructed and renovated in place. Low finish fumes were used in all applications to ensure that paints, varnishes, glues and carpets emitted low or no toxic volatile organic compounds into the air. All buildings also utilized carpet tiles, rather than traditional carpet rolls. These renewable carpets allow modification and changes with minimal impact on area landfills, as smaller pieces can be changed, rather than entire rooms or areas.

The Police Department and Village Hall share a common campus. Exterior renovations to the grounds included the installation of heated pavers, reducing the need for salt which contaminates the ground water. Drought resistant and native plantings have been used throughout the municipal campus; salt resistant plantings have been used along the drive aisles. Additionally, the ground modifications have included the installation of a walking path to connect the municipal campus to the Poplar Creek Library facility. A pathway has also been enhanced that connected the municipal campus to a regional park on the east side of the campus grounds. This provides easy walking and biking opportunities, reducing the need for short vehicle trips.

Moreover, the focus on energy conservation in the new building, carried over to renovations to the Village's existing facilities. Throughout 2007, the Village changed all its building lights (Village Hall, three Fire Station, Public Works and Golf Course) to more energy efficient fixtures, and installed setback thermostat controls in all buildings.

The Poplar Creek Library Main Library was approved for construction in 2007; this is the facility connected to the municipal campus. This building will be a 'green building,' designed with LEED technology and will include a green roof and rain garden. The Village of Streamwood worked closely with the architects and Library District staff to develop the plans to make this project a reality. The building will include many of the lighting, energy and water conservation elements included in the Police Department Building. But, it will also require all parking to be off-site in anticipation of encouraging fewer vehicle trips. As a result of these community building projects, amendments to the Village's Zoning and Subdivision Regulations have been proposed creating standards for these developments, and encouraging the use of these technologies in future developments.

The Village of Streamwood's commitment to proper stewardship of our watershed has led to many innovations instituted in the last couple of years. The Village is an active member of the Poplar Creek Watershed Coalition. We participated in the creation of the Poplar Creek action plan to improve the water quality with the goal of getting the stream off the impaired list. We have adopted a number of policy and practices in compliance with the goal of improving attainment of clean water for the watershed. In 2007, the Village began an aggressive educational campaign in our newsletter, website and through the general media to educate the public on the need to keep our storm water clean. This included raising awareness of the effect of uncollected pet waste on the water supply, along with clearly marking all storm water grates and inlets prohibiting the dumping of waste materials. We also use street signs and street light banners to promote the importance of environmental stewardship throughout the community.

## WHY STREAMWOOD SHOULD BE AWARDED NWMC COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP RECOGNITION

The Village of Streamwood has been a leader in encouraging environmental best practices throughout the community and the region. We strive to manage our natural resources through fair and consistent regulations. We have tried to lead by example, undertaking and promoting recycling and tree reforestation programs within the Village's physical plant as well as the community at large. We work cooperatively to promote positive stewardship programs with other governmental agencies, especially the School and Park Districts where the younger generation can be encouraged and inspired to take care of their environment. And, we work cooperatively throughout the region to ensure a high quality of life for our community, our region and our future.

For nearly 20 years, the Village has been active in promoting recycling throughout its workplace, and the community at large. We encourage and support community-wide clean-up programs. We allow residents to drop-off batteries to ensure their proper disposal, and participate in area-wide hazardous waste collection programs.

The Village has required environment stewardship in its development regulations, through tree preservation and plantings and the retention of natural wetlands. We have offset development trends by encouraging the use of created wetlands in new developments rather than traditional retention or detention facilities. Recreated wetlands provide greater bio-diversity and work to enhance the environment, while still permitting orderly development.

The Village has been recognized numerous times for its management of the environment through receipt of Tree City USA Growth Awards. These have recognized our innovative tree nursery program, tree inventory analysis and our educational efforts throughout the community and within our local schools.

The Village has also promoted environmental stewardship through its newsletters, website, street signs and banners programming. Our participation in the creation of the Poplar Creek action plan provides a roadmap on how to augment these efforts. This in turn works toward educating our residents as to their impact on the environment, and encouraging their participation in making Streamwood and our region cleaner, healthier and more sustainable.