

2005 R.I.V.E.R. Award Press Release

CITY OF SAUK CENTRE RECEIVES THE SAUK RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT'S R.I.V.E.R AWARD



Hickman Drive –Before



Hickman Drive –After

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The City of Sauk Centre was honored with the Sauk River Watershed District's R.I.V.E.R. Award which recognizes citizens or groups that implement programs or projects that benefit water quality. The R.I.V.E.R. Award was presented by Allan Kuseske, Sauk River Watershed District Board Member, on February 25, 2006 at the Annual Stearns County Pheasants Forever Spring Banquet held at Gerards in Sauk Centre. Harold (Butch) Wessel, Public Works Director, receiving the award for the city stated *"it was nice getting assistance from the Watershed District to complete these projects to help improve water quality, which is important to the City of Sauk Centre"*

The Sauk River Watershed District Board of Managers selected the City of Sauk Centre for their stormwater restoration project. The project consisted of stormwater retention basin installed along Hickman Drive and a mechanical stormwater treatment device installed under 4th Street South to trap sediments and nutrients prior to discharging to Sauk Lake. The project is estimated to remove 25-30% of the sediment and debris and approximately 45 pounds of phosphorus per year according to consulting engineer Keith Yapp of Bonestroo. The City of Sauk Centre also was recognized for restoring 800 feet of lakeshore along the Sinclair Lewis Park shoreline in 2002 and for purchasing a vacuum street sweeper to reduce sediment from entering all storm sewers.

The Sauk River Watershed District's (SRWD) recognition program is titled "The R.I.V.E.R. Award". The acronym stands for Residents Improving Valuable Environmental Resources. The SRWD established this program to publicly acknowledge water quality enhancement projects undertaken by local residents or community partners that are funded by the SRWD's Incentive Program.

The Watershed District's Incentive Program offers 50% grant funding and low interest loans for Best Management Practice (BMPs) projects implemented within the Sauk River Watershed District. The Watershed District's Incentive Programs funded 15 water quality enhancement projects in 2005 that were eligible for the R.I.V.E.R. Award. The SRWD Board of Managers reviewed the list of eligible projects and ranked them according to water quality significance.

The SRWD would like to thank the City of Sauk Centre for their efforts in reducing sediment and nutrients to Sauk Lake. Congratulations to the City of Sauk Centre!



Receiving the Sauk River Watershed District R.I.V.E.R. Award for the City of Sauk Centre Public Works Director Burch Wessel and presented by Sauk River Watershed District Board Member, Allan Kuseske