

Friends of the Chicago River



411 South Wells Street, Suite 800 • Chicago, Illinois 60607
tel 312.939.0490 • fax 312.939.0931 • www.chicagoriver.org

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Contact: Margaret Frisbie
(312) 939-0490, ext. 22
mfrisbie@chicagoriver.org

Friends Wins Regional Stormwater Management Award

CHICAGO (January 6, 2017) – On January 5, 2017, the Lake County Stormwater Management Commission (LCSMC) presented Friends of the Chicago River with its 2016 Education, Outreach, and Media Award, honoring public outreach activities in the Chicago River watershed. This award recognizes an individual, publication, website, or group for addressing topics related to stormwater and floodplain management. Significantly, it highlights the ways Friends’ and LCSMC’s missions intersect to improve water quality, reduce flood damages, and restore and enhance the river system.

“Friends is thrilled to receive this honor from the Lake County Stormwater Management Commission, which affirms our commitment to responsible stormwater management and public engagement,” said Margaret Frisbie, Friends’ executive director. “Our initiatives like Chicago River Day and the McCormick Bridgehouse & Chicago River Museum aim to connect everyone with the river’s tremendous historical, cultural, and recreational value and its health. This year’s focus includes Overflow Action Days, which emphasizes everyday actions we can all take to conserve water and prevent combined sewer overflows (CSOs). Our role as river advocates and educators is to get the public excited about the river and help them understand how we are all connected to the river system. This award emphasizes the many facets of our educational and outreach efforts.”



Joanne So Young Dill & Margaret Frisbie (Friends of the Chicago River), Patty Werner (LCSMC)

Other 2016 awardees include the Park District of Highland Park's Skokie River Woods Wetland Restoration Project (Best Management Practice Project of the Year), Jeff Weiss of the Buffalo Creek Clean Water Partnership (Steward of the Year), Scott Drabicki from the Village of Gurnee (Stormwater Manager of the Year), and the Grand Dominion by the Del Webb Community Association (Community of the Year).

Overflow Action Days complement Friends' river-edge ecosystem restoration activities throughout Illinois. These hands-on volunteer workdays, which run throughout the year, improve stormwater retention and habitat while reducing runoff pollution. Learn more at www.chicagoriver.org/get-involved/volunteer/centennial-volunteers.

All winter long, Friends of the Chicago River will continue to encourage #OverflowAction, because freezing rain, melting snow, and wastewater can still put the river at risk for CSOs. The organization encourages everyone to make a river resolution this New Year, by taking simple steps to conserve water. For more information, visit <http://bit.ly/OverflowAction>.

Founded in 1979, Friends of the Chicago River is an award winning nonprofit organization whose mission is to improve and protect the Chicago River for people, plants, and animals. With over 6,000 members, volunteers, and online advocates, Friends works to make the river greener and more accessible, while building awareness of the benefits that a clean, healthy river can bring to communities across the watershed. Friends of the Chicago River is working to make the Chicago River one of the world's greatest metropolitan rivers. For more information on Friends of the Chicago River, please visit our website: www.chicagoriver.org.