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8th Annual Chicago River Blue Awards: Call for Entries

CHICAGO—Friends of the Chicago River is now accepting applications for the annual Chicago River Blue Awards, honoring the best in river-sensitive design. The organization invites developers, architects, municipalities, and others to submit projects within the Chicago River watershed that exemplify creative, sustainable, and river-smart approaches to design.

Now in its eighth year, the Chicago River Blue Awards program recognizes notable achievements in sustainable design that incorporate people, water, and wildlife. Friends will present the honors on June 13, 2017, at their annual Big Fish Ball gala on the riverfront at the Westin Chicago River North.

“The Chicago River’s renaissance provides a new landscape for urban planning and expansion, which also make it a prime target for urban revitalization. As interest in developing the river’s edge grows, we have an opportunity and a responsibility to shape public understanding of how we can protect and advance the river’s health while providing public access,” explains Friends’ executive director, Margaret Frisbie. “We’re excited to discover and highlight the developers, government partners, and other community leaders committed to implementing sustainable design strategies that benefit the river as well as the people, plants, and animals that depend upon it.”

In 2016, Friends of the Chicago River awarded Chicago River Blue’s top honor, the Blue Ribbon Award, to the United States Army Corps of Engineers for their Horner Park Ecological Restoration project, a half-mile endeavor that creates habitat and enhances public open space. Additional 2016 winners included the Village of Glenview for the Downtown Glenview Streambank Stabilization, Riverside Investment and
Development for 150 N. Riverside, Ross Barney Architects for Phase II of the Chicago Riverwalk, Structured Development for New City, the Forest Preserves of Cook County, for the Cal-Sag Trail (Western Portion), Structured Development for hydrology improvements at Big Marsh, the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago for Disinfection at O’Brien and Calumet WRP and the opening of Thornton Reservoir, and Chicago Botanic Garden for the North Lake Shoreline Restoration Project.

Entries will be accepted until April 7, 2017. To apply, visit http://www.chicagoriver.org/programs/public-policy-and-planning/chicago-river-blue

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.

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