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Arlington-Pascal Stormwater Projects Receive ACEC- MN Grand Award



Emmons & Olivier Resources, Inc. (EOR) worked with the Capitol Region Watershed District (CRWD) to address community flooding problems in the Como neighborhood while also reducing the amount of phosphorus entering Como Lake. Algae blooms (which deplete dissolved oxygen and results in fish kills, destroyed wildlife habitat, and water unfit for recreation) occur when there are high concentrations of phosphorus, and by reducing phosphorus, one can reduce the occurrence of algal blooms in the lake. Reducing algal blooms helps to keep Como Lake a nice place to enjoy Minnesota's natural habitat and to experience the benefits of water recreation.

This large community-wide project, which was implemented over a period of 6 years, incorporated many innovative sustainable stormwater management techniques including the largest infiltration/underground storage tank in Minnesota (651,657 gallons), the first installation of infiltration trenches directly under a roadway (as opposed to the side of the road), a regional treatment pond retrofit that doubles as an expanded water feature at Como Golf Course, and a number of raingardens throughout the neighborhood. These innovative technologies and creative installations were implemented in coordination with an already-planned street reconstruction projects, allowing a cost savings to be realized while addressing the needs and concerns of multiple governmental agencies. Along with reducing the phosphorus levels in the lake, this project also helped eliminate the residential flooding problems that often occurred in this neighborhood due to inadequate or outdated drainage infrastructure.

Neighborhood beautification was another important benefit of this project. Through the design and incorporation of 8 community raingardens, EOR was able to provide colorful and visible gardens, full of native Minnesota plants that would help reduce flooding while at the same time provide a more sustainable solution for stormwater management. The communal raingardens also serve as environmental education tools in the demonstration of sustainable stormwater management.

In addition to the innovative design and engineering, this project also incorporated a unique cost-share plan that was developed specifically to address these concerns across municipal borders. The success of the project was aided by the creative thinking of EOR and the CRWD who, along with the cities of St. Paul, Falcon Heights, and Roseville; and Ramsey County worked cooperatively to evaluate, design, construct, and fund these stormwater facilities.

Further support from a Local Water Planning Challenge Grant through the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources and a Minnesota Clean water Legacy Grant, all helped to address the inter-community flooding and water quality problems in the Como Lake neighborhood. As Mayor Coleman stated upon completion of the infiltration pond at the reopening of the Como Golf Course, "This project is an example of efficient public sector collaboration."

EOR is an Equal Opportunity Affirmative Action Employer

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