

Oshkosh Parks Department Shoreland Restoration Project Receives Community Award.

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The Oshkosh Parks Department has been honored with an award from the Oshkosh Collaboration Work Group for the Menominee Park Shoreland Restoration Project. The award, presented by Dorry Wilner of the Oshkosh Police Department, was given in recognition of the long-range value of the restoration project and the expansive partnerships created in the process of making this project possible.

“The shoreland restoration is the result of an impressive coalition of dedicated community members and stakeholders,” said Wilner, who nominated the project for this special recognition. “The project provides numerous positive elements including enhanced park landscape, native landscaping supporting native bird habitat, educational opportunities for the community and community-building activities.

The “You Make a Difference Award” has been given since 2001 in recognition of community collaborative initiatives that provide significant contributions to improve the community. The recipient of this award must demonstrate a shared community vision address a significant community need, and have measurable impact.

The Menominee Park Shoreland Restoration Project brought together neighbors of the park from Hazel Street and Menominee Drive, as well as representatives from the Winnebago Audubon, the Fox Valley Wild Ones, Winnebago County Master Gardeners, the Oshkosh Sustainability Advisory Board, the Winnebago County Land and Water Conservation Department, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, UW

Oshkosh Student Environmental Action Coalition, students and staff from Oshkosh North High School, the Winnebago Lakes Council, and UW Extension.

The shoreland restoration project features 15,000 square feet of lake frontage near Ames Point in Menominee Park, and addresses a community need highlighted in the 2010 City of Oshkosh Miller's Bay Aquatic Management Plan, which stated, "Miller's Bay shoreline is incredibly poor and provides no aesthetic, habitat, or buffering value to the bay. Turf maintenance along the bay's shoreline leads to increased runoff of nutrients, sediments, and other pollutants to Lake Winnebago, while providing appealing loafing grounds to nuisance levels of Canada geese."

The Winnebago Collaboration Working Group consists of over 40 community groups, including: The City of Oshkosh; Winnebago County; UW Extension; Oshkosh Police Department; Cerebral Palsy of Mideast Wisconsin; Oshkosh Housing Authority; The Oshkosh Area United Way; Advocap; reTH!NK Winnebago; Oshkosh Civility Project; Red Cross; the Oshkosh Area Community Food Pantry; and many other groups working to make a difference in the Oshkosh community. The coalition works to meet the needs of people in Winnebago County in a timely and effective manner, where individuals are respected and resources are shared in order to assure positive outcomes for families and the community.

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