

Dunes project wins again

Indiana Dunes State Park has won a third award for its project that returned Dunes Creek to a natural stream and wetlands area.

The award, bestowed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Chicago Wilderness, was one of 15 annual Conservation and Native Landscaping Awards recently presented at a ceremony at the Chicago Botanic Garden.

The awards recognize park districts, local governments and corporations for exemplary natural landscaping and conservation development.

The Indiana Dunes State Park Stream Restoration project involved removal of 95,000 square feet of concrete pavement (a former parking lot) and restoration of a section of Dunes Creek that had been enclosed in a pipe. The stream was returned to its natural condition. Native plants were planted to stabilize the stream channel and floodway. The result was an enhanced habitat for aquatic and terrestrial species, and a reduction in loadings of the bacteria *E. coli* to Lake Michigan, helping to protect swimmers at the beaches within and near the state park.



After Renovation

Previous awards won by the Dunes project include an Award of Excellence from the Association of Conservation Engineers (ACE) in 2006 and a 2007 Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence

Chicago Wilderness is an alliance of 225 public and private organizations working together to protect, restore, study and manage the natural ecosystems of the Chicago region, contribute to the conservation of global biodiversity, and enrich local residents' quality of life. The Chicago Wilderness region is the crescent around the southern part of Lake Michigan, extending from Southeastern Wisconsin through Northeastern Illinois and Northwest Indiana, into the southwestern tip of Michigan.



Before Renovation

The Indiana Department of Natural Resources contracted with The Troyer Group to remove the parking lot and reestablish the old creek. The project was designed with the help of J.F. New and Associates of Walkerton, Indiana to reflect the original slope and establish the original natural habitat.

About The Troyer Group

The Troyer Group, celebrating 35 years in business, is a 70-person firm headquartered in Mishawaka, Ind. The Troyer Group provides professional planning, design and construction management services to clients in a variety of service industries.