



*Masterpiece on the Mississippi*



TO: Michael C. Van Milligen, City Manager

FROM: Gus Psihoyos, City Engineer

DATE: April 30, 2018

RE: 2018 River Action Eddy Award for the Bee Branch Creek Restoration Project

## **INTRODUCTION**

The purpose of this memo is to provide information related to the 2018 Eddy award the City received from River Action for the Bee Branch Creek Restoration Project.

## **DISCUSSION**

River Action is a non-profit based in Davenport, Iowa. For more than 30 years, River Action members have worked to foster the environmental, economic, and cultural vitality of the Mississippi River and its riverfront in the Quad City region.

River Action launched the Eddy Awards Program in 2000 to recognize high quality work of varied kinds to encourage all those who strive for well-designed undertakings, environmental programs with far reaching effects on the health of the river, and cultural programs that celebrate either the industry, history, or art of the Mississippi River. The award was named "Eddy" in order to recognize especially courageous efforts that "went against the current" to get things done.

The annual Eddy Awards are presented to those who have made the Mississippi River a cleaner, safer, more vibrant, and integral part of the Quad Cities community. Awards are presented in the categories of art, design, revitalization, river activity, education, and stewardship. The call for nominations goes out to the entire Quad Cities area with more than 50 entries of merit in 2018. The Bee Branch Creek Restoration Project was nominated by members of River Action who toured the project in the fall of 2017.

The Bee Branch Creek Restoration phase of the flood mitigation project involved converting 4,500 feet of buried storm sewer back into an expanded open channel. The restored creek and floodplain has increased the area's capacity for stormwater while also improving the quality of runoff and providing aquatic habitat. Permeable pavement, bioswales, and native plants were strategically used along the creek to promote the infiltration and filtration of stormwater. The space also serves as a linear park with several amenities including a multi-use trail system, a play area with slides, an urban orchard, and an outdoor amphitheater.

On behalf of the City of Dubuque, Civil Engineer Deron Muehring accepted the 2018 Eddy award for Design at River Action's annual Fish & Fire Fundraiser on Friday, April 20, at the Figge Art Museum in Davenport.

**REQUESTED ACTION**

I respectfully request that Civil Engineer Deron Muehring be allowed to present the 2018 Eddy award to the City Council.

Prepared by Deron Muehring, Civil Engineer

Cc: Steve Sampson-Brown, Project Manager

Deron Muehring, Civil Engineer

Randy Gehl, Public Information Officer

Kristin Hill, Bee Branch Communications Specialist