



SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN WATERSHEDS TRUST, INC.

Sweet Water Announces 11 Grants to Improve Water Quality of Greater Milwaukee Watersheds

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Milwaukee, Wisconsin –Eleven area projects to advance the protection or restoration of the watersheds in Southeastern Wisconsin have been awarded a total of \$15,000 in grants, the environmental organization Sweet Water announced Thursday.

The awards, ranging from \$600 to \$2,000, were made through Sweet Water's 2010 Mini-Grants Program to neighborhood and civic associations, municipal departments, and non-profit organizations as part of a competitive process that drew 33 applications. The 2010 Mini-grant Program was made possible through the generous support of the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District, the Wisconsin Energy Foundation, and the Joyce Foundation.

Included in the winning projects are a Whitefish Bay rain barrel street art project, a City of Milwaukee teen environmental action effort and an initiative in Menomonee Falls to keep dog droppings out of the Menomonee River.

Projects were ranked on their potential to positively impact water quality in the Greater Milwaukee Watersheds; to raise awareness and promote behavior change regarding water quality issues; to leverage partnerships through the project, to be replicated in other areas of the watershed; and on the capacity of the group seeking support to implement and sustain the project.

The 2010 Mini-Grant recipients and their project titles are:

- Friends of Hank Aaron State Trail – *Trail Pollution & Runoff Control Project*
- Holler Park Neighborhood Association – *Holler Park Pond Vegetation Improvement*
- Maryland Avenue Montessori – Milwaukee – *Ginormous Rain Barrel Project*
- Menomonee Valley Partners, Inc. – *Ember Lane River Access & Restoration Project*
- Village of Menomonee Falls –*Pet Waste Campaign*
- Milwaukee Department of City Development – *Teen Environmental Action of Milwaukee Project*
- Milwaukee Riverkeeper – *Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Equipment*
- Root-Pike Watershed Initiative Network – *Rain Garden Program Expansion*
- Urban Anthropology, Inc. – *The Family Tree Program*
- Victory Garden Initiative – *Concordia Gardens Rainwater Collection System*
- Whitefish Bay Civic Initiative –*Rain Barrel Street Art Project*

"Our Mini-Grant Program winners have proven that dedicated organizations with creative ideas don't always need huge grants to make a huge difference," said Jeff Martinka, the group's executive director.

Milestones of the mini-grant projects will be publicized through the Sweet Water website and the quarterly newsletter, *The RiversReport*.

Sweet Water, the Southeastern Wisconsin Watersheds Trust, is a nonprofit organization created in 2008 as a partnership of local governments, nonprofit organizations, businesses, academia, and individuals working collectively to improve the water resources in the 1,100 square miles of Greater Milwaukee Watersheds. The Mini-Grants were announced at Sweet Water's 7th Annual Clean Rivers, Clean Lake Conference held Wednesday.

For more information on Sweet Water, visit www.swwtwater.org or contact Jeff Martinka, Executive Director, at 414-382-1766 or via martinka@swwtwater.org.

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