

May 10, 2012

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: Jennifer McLoughlin  
Sustainability Specialist  
(651) 714-3522

## **Woodbury presents annual environmental awards May 10**

A manufacturing company, a non-profit organization, a Woodbury family, and two students from New Life Academy were honored May 10 as recipients of the City of Woodbury's fifth annual Environmental Excellence Awards. Mayor Mary Giuliani Stephens presented the awards at the annual Business Town Meeting, held at the Central Park amphitheater. Recipients were recognized for their efforts in the areas of innovative storm water management, sustainable business practices, and waste reduction and recycling.

In 2006, the City Council adopted a sustainability resolution for the city, and has since supported several initiatives that are helping to make Woodbury a more sustainable community. The awards were developed in 2008 to promote sustainability in the community. The city's goal is to highlight local businesses, organizations, and individuals that are making Woodbury a more sustainable community through innovative programs and practices that demonstrate environmental leadership.

Listed below are the 2012 Environmental Excellence Award winners, along with a description of their achievements.

### **Great River Greening & the South Washington Watershed District – Innovative Storm Water Management Practices**

Great River Greening and the South Washington Watershed District partnered to coordinate more than 300 volunteers to preserve and restore prairie within the Woodbury Conservation Corridor. The portion of the corridor within Woodbury consists of 70 acres, and is part of a larger natural greenway totaling 265 acres that will connect with Lake Elmo, Cottage Grove, and the Mississippi River.

Volunteers and staff from both organizations worked on invasive species control, seed harvesting, prairie seeding, and prescribed burns within the area. The greenway will serve as a connection of natural habitat, providing a natural drainage way, a bike trail and wildlife-viewing opportunities within an urban environment. The greenway is also a progressive tool to manage storm water runoff from developed areas.

## **Harvey Vogel Manufacturing Co. – Sustainable Business Practices**

Harvey Vogel Manufacturing is a family-owned metal stamping company, employing 180 people. It is located on Weir Drive in Woodbury. In 2010, the company was certified for Environmental Management by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO 14001). As a result, it developed environmental objectives to reduce electricity use, decrease the number of chemicals used in the manufacturing process, increase recycling, and minimize the amount of hazardous oil used and regulatory waste produced from manufacturing.

Harvey Vogel now has a comprehensive environmental policy, allowing them to track progress and set aggressive targets to help them meet their goals. This year the company will be celebrating 70 years in business.

## **Rachel Breiholz & Sierra Ross – New Life “Go Green Week” – Waste Reduction and Recycling**

Rachel and Sierra are in seventh grade at New Life Academy. They recognized an opportunity to improve the school’s recycling program by educating both staff and students about the environmental and economic benefits of developing a successful recycling program at the school.

The girls started by researching different recycling systems and benefits of recycling, touring a recycling center, and speaking with different trash and recycling haulers about creating a successful program at the school. They presented their findings and recommendations to the operations manager at the school, and identified ways that the school would actually save money by implementing their recommendations.

Their efforts culminated in a “Go Green” Week at the school. The week included showing educational videos they created every morning, a poster contest for the elementary school, an educational game booth in the school lobby, and a “Go Green” dress day for the entire school. As a result of their work, the girls also earned their Girl Scout Silver Award. Each girl spent more than 60 hours on their project.

## **Bob and Catherine Glunz – Innovative Storm Water Management Practices**

The Glunzes have undertaken a multi-year project to reduce storm water runoff from their yard. Storm water management features include:

- Installing a rain barrel that is used to replenish water lost to evaporation from a backyard pond.
- Connecting the rain barrel to an underground drain tile/infiltration system that waters a garden.
- Creating a “dry creek” through their back yard that infiltrates storm water that overflows from the pond.
- Connecting a sump pump discharge to the dry creek to encourage even more infiltration.

- Installing a rain garden in the front yard that infiltrates roof runoff from the front of the house.

The Glunzes estimate storm water runoff from their yard has been reduced by 50 percent.