



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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WINTER PARK RECEIVES FLORIDA EXCELLENCE AWARD FOR STORMWATER PROGRAM

WINTER PARK, Fla., an internationally recognized ICMA Excellence Award winner (July 13, 2009) – The Florida Stormwater Association (FSA) has awarded the City of Winter Park the “2009 Program Excellence Award” in recognition of outstanding commitment to stormwater management practices that provide benefits to the environment and local citizenry. The award was accepted by city representatives at the annual FSA conference in Fort Myers on June 19, and will be presented to the Winter Park City Commission on July 13.

The 2009 Program Excellence Award is in recognition of the city’s diligent efforts toward creating, funding and implementing retrofit Stormwater Best Management Practices (BMPs) to remove pollutants from stormwater prior to discharge into its lakes. Winter Park is unique in that most development has occurred prior to the implementation of state stormwater treatment rules, resulting in degradation of city lakes.

Over the past 19 years, a staff of 24 city employees has worked to achieve the improvement of almost half of the city’s stormwater runoff for pollutant removal resulting in better water quality and clarity for its lakes, restoration of natural shoreline habitat, and better reduction in stormwater pollutants through inter-local agreements with surrounding counties and cities. The program has been funded through the city’s stormwater utility, general funds and grants from the state and St. Johns River Water Management District. Because the city’s stormwater cleanup projects are “shovel ready,” the grants are quickly implemented to the benefit of the citizenry.

Winter Park’s stormwater program continues to explore new and better opportunities to provide treatment of stormwater and enhance drainage throughout the city. Each project implemented must enhance water quality and contain a citizen education component. The city’s informative newsletter *Waterways* which is published twice a year keeps residents informed with water quality updates, status of stormwater projects and how-to’s for homeowners to protect the city’s lakes.

FSA is a statewide organization of professionals interested in stormwater management and finance. It has 291 member organizations including cities, counties, water management districts, academia and numerous consulting and engineering firms. FSA provides three basic services for its members: training and education; technical assistance and information sharing; and advocacy and legislative relations.

For more information about FSA, please visit www.florida-stormwater.org or call 1-888-221-3124.

For more information regarding the City of Winter Park’s stormwater projects, please visit the city’s official Web site at www.cityofwinterpark.org.

CITY OF WINTER PARK

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