



# News...

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **EVANSTON RECEIVES CIVIL ENGINEERING AWARD**

### **City's Combined Sewer Relief Program Applauded by American Society of Civil Engineers**

**EVANSTON, IL** – The Illinois Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) presented Evanston Mayor Elizabeth Tisdahl and City Council members with its 2009 Outstanding Civil Engineering Achievement of the Year Award on October 26, 2009. The award recognizes the City of Evanston for its Combined Sewer Relief Program, which resolved extensive basement backups caused by the undersized combined sewer system.

The City of Evanston Combined Sewer Relief Program concept was developed by MWH Americas, an engineering consulting firm, in 1987 to address the flooding problems of a 100-year-old combined sewer system serving 75,000 people. Working closely with the City of Evanston, MWH designed and managed construction of a total of 30 individual projects required to improve system performance and solve recurring problems in the sewer system. The program effectively eliminated frequent and widespread basement flooding, improving the overall public health of the community.

“In August 1989, Evanston experienced a record rain storm that caused severe basement flooding and damage. Basements had four to five feet of water in them, and after the rain, streets were lined with damaged property that was being discarded,” recalled Dave Stoneback, Superintendent of the Water & Sewer Division. “Evanston experienced a similarly-severe rain storm in September 2008. By contrast, very few basements had sewage water in them and there was no significant property damage.”

The 18-year sewer project was completed in May 2009 at a total cost of \$210 million, approximately 40% cheaper than other proposed solutions. The program included the installation of eight miles of 60” to 120” diameter tunnels, twenty miles of 10” to 72” diameter relief sewers installed by open cut construction methods, and the installation of 2,500 flow restrictors.

The Outstanding Civil Engineering Achievement Award is awarded to projects that exhibit the greatest engineering skills and represent the greatest contribution to civil engineering progress and mankind. ASCE, founded in 1852, represents more than 144,000 civil engineers nationwide and is the country's oldest civil engineering society.

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**Mayor Elizabeth Tisdahl and Evanston's Superintendent of Water Receive the 2009 Outstanding Civil Engineering Achievement of the Year Award from Bob Gorski, PE, M-ASCE, Immediate Past President of the Illinois Section ASCE.**

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