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Media Release

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MAYOR BARRETT PEDERSEN WINS SUSTAINABILITY AWARD

The Metropolitan Water Reclamation District Recognizes Franklin Park's Sustainable Landscaping Practices and LEED Gold Police Station

Franklin Park, IL – Mayor Barrett Pedersen was presented with the 2014 Sustainable Landscaping Award by the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) recently at their annual Sustainability Summit. The award was given to Franklin Park in recognition of the Village's commitment to natural landscaping and for the inclusion of sustainable practices in the building of the new police station.

“Through the construction of our new police station, we embraced the opportunity to improve storm-water quality, reduce pollution and promote green infrastructure,” stated Mayor Barrett Pedersen. “We are proud to have achieved LEED Gold status for this facility because it allowed us to demonstrate our environmental stewardship to the region.”

Under Mayor Pedersen leadership, the Village of Franklin Park has demonstrated a strong commitment to the environment and has implemented initiatives to support sustaining our environment and our economy with renewable, sustainable practices.

A \$985,000 Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) grant, allowed the Village to incorporate innovative storm-water management practices which utilize green infrastructure to

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capture, filter, infiltrate and detain storm-water runoff at the new facility. A cistern collects rainwater from the roof and is used for irrigation and in public restroom fixtures to reduce water use. Permeable pavers and porous pavement were utilized in the driveway and parking lot to limit runoff and reduce sewer overflows.

In 2011, Franklin Park approved a resolution supporting a sustainable pest control and pesticide reduction policy for all Village-owned property. The policy is part of an overall effort by the Village to curtail the use of pesticides and to utilize alternatives that do not involve poisons for controlling most pests. The Village has encouraged residents to make the switch to natural lawn care on their own properties by promoting the effort at community events and on the Village website and in the newsletter.

“Traditional pesticides are linked to adverse health outcomes in people and pose a dangerous economic impact on our water, air, soil and fisheries,” said Pedersen. “Preventing exposure to these potentially toxic pesticides is not only good policy, but is also good economic sense.”

The Mayor concluded his remarks by asking everyone at the conference to continue to work together to share their ideas and sustainability best practices.

“Collaboration and cooperation are critical as we face the harsh realities of climate change and the negative impact on our earth,” concluded Pedersen. “We have the opportunity and the obligation, at the state and local level to make our communities more resistant to these dramatic changes and to curb and end the practices that are devastating our planet.”