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NEWS RELEASE

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Dubuque Receives Livability Award for Bee Branch Project

DUBUQUE, Iowa — Dubuque has again been named one of the “most livable” cities in the nation. Mayor Roy D. Buol was awarded an Outstanding Achievement Award for the Bee Branch Watershed Flood Mitigation Project at the 2017 City Livability Awards Program on Saturday, June 24, during the U.S. Conference of Mayors’ 85th Annual Meeting in Miami Beach.

The award recognizes mayoral leadership in developing and implementing programs that improve the quality of life in America’s cities, focusing on the leadership, creativity, and innovation demonstrated by the mayors. This year’s winning cities were selected by former mayors from a pool of over 150 applicants.

“I am honored to accept this award on behalf of all Dubuque residents and everyone involved with the Bee Branch project -- past, present, and future,” said Buol. “This award acknowledges a unique approach to stormwater management and a citizen-driven project that simultaneously improves public safety and quality of life.”

The Bee Branch Watershed Flood Mitigation project is a multi-phased, green infrastructure investment to mitigate flooding, improve water quality, stimulate development, and enhance quality of life. The project catalyzes community, economic, social, and environmental capital to create resilient neighborhoods, foster economic opportunities, and balance resources. It involves replacing almost one mile of buried storm sewer with an open waterway from the Mississippi River levee system to Comiskey Park, connecting Dubuque’s historic riverfront to its urban core. The restored creek includes a hike/bike trail, rain gardens/bioswales, walking paths, lighting, benches, pervious pavement, an amphitheater, and over 1,000 trees and other plantings. The overall project also includes reconstructing 240 alleys in the watershed to permeable “green alleys” to reduce stormwater runoff within the watershed by up to 80 percent.

Dubuque was one of six finalists for the first--place award in the category for cities with populations under 100,000. Dubuque received the first--place award for the America's River Project in 2008.

"Our City Livability Awards Program gives us the chance to express our pride in cities' mayoral leadership in making urban areas cleaner, safer, and more livable," said Tom Cochran, CEO and executive director of the Conference of Mayors. "We are grateful to Waste Management for its many years of support for the City Livability Awards Program, and for the opportunity to showcase the innovation and commitment of mayors and city governments across the country."

This is the 38th year in which cities have competed for the award, which is sponsored by the Conference of Mayors and Waste Management, Inc., the nation's largest environmental solutions provider.

Alex Gonzalez, Waste Management's Florida Area Public Affairs Director, presented the City Livability awards during the annual luncheon in Miami Beach. "Through the City Livability Awards, Waste Management is immensely proud to honor U.S. mayors who are committed to strengthening our communities and enhancing the lives of their residents across the nation," said Susan Moulton, Waste Management's Senior Corporate Director of Public Sector Solutions. "For more than 28 years, Waste Management has sponsored the awards, because the work these Mayors do to keep our communities safe, healthy, and vibrant aligns directly with our commitment to community vitality by providing innovative, safe and sustainable recycling and waste services."

This year's first-place winners were Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti for a local program focused on keeping city street and alleys clean, and Hattiesburg, Miss., Mayor Johnny DuPree for a local literacy initiative where young people can access free books through library lounges in local restaurants.

In addition to the two top awards in each category (cities of 100,000 or more and cities of under 100,000), Outstanding Achievement Awards were given to five cities in each category. For a complete list and project descriptions, visit www.usmayors.org/city-livability/.

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The U.S. Conference of Mayors is the official nonpartisan organization of cities with populations of 30,000 or more. There are nearly 1,400 such cities in the country today, and each city is represented in the conference by its chief elected official, the mayor. www.usmayors.org