



Blue Ribbon Awards

Understanding the River Ideal Tips for Success

Before submitting the award application, review the objectives described in the *People, Water and Wildlife Blue Principles for River Design* which describe how water-sensitive development contributes to the regional economy and the value of protecting and improving public access, water quality and stormwater management, and habitat http://www.chicagoriver.org/crb/guiding_principles/

General Requirements & Eligibility

1. **Membership** To enter the *Blue Ribbon Awards* the official entrant must be a member of Friends of the Chicago River. Entrants may join as a member upon submission of award entry. One (1) Friends' membership is sufficient for project partners and/or multiple submissions.
2. **Award Submission Fee** A fee is \$100 per submission.
3. **Project Location** To be eligible for an award, a portion of the project's property must be within the Chicago River watershed, which includes both the Chicago and Calumet systems, including their branches and tributaries.
4. **Project Completion Date** To be eligible for an award, all projects must have completed construction within the past five (5) years. Phased projects are eligible if the construction of the first phase of the project has been completed by the submission due date. Planning documents are also eligible for an award.
5. **Criteria** Submissions will be judged on their success in meeting the criteria set out in the *People, Water and Wildlife Blue Principles for River Design* found on Friends' website.
6. **Disqualification** Friends retains the right to disqualify any entry that does not meet the program requirements or that presents a conflict of interest, in such cases refunds will not be issued.
7. **Anonymous Labeling** All submitted materials must be labeled with the Project Name, as written on the application. Do **not** include the entrant's name or any of the team members' names on any of the submission materials except for the *Submission Form*. Mask identities on drawings and other documents submitted. Submissions that are not anonymous may result in disqualification.
8. **Property and Rights** All submitted materials become the property of the Friends of the Chicago River and will not be returned to the entrant. Photographs and drawings may be used by Friends of the Chicago River in the marketing of the *Blue Ribbon Awards* program. By submitting to this award, entrant agrees that they have rights to these images for this use and are providing Friends of the Chicago River permission to use the photographs and drawings in their marketing activities. Friends will provide proper photography and other project credits when using photos, but will not assume responsibility for any copyrights or photography fees.
9. **Resubmission** Project that were submitted in previous years may be resubmitted provided that they have not won a Blue Ribbon Award.

Materials Requirements & Narrative Questions

1. **Digital Submission** The entire submittal, with the exception of the submission form, shall be submitted as digital files on two (2) compact discs (CDs) or jump drives. Restricting files size to that which can be emailed is appreciated though not required. The format for the submission may be either a Portable Document File (PDF) or Microsoft PowerPoint presentation and should be one (1) file for the entire submission.
2. **Submission Form** Completed and type-written. Since this document will have the entrant's name, the completed form shall not be included on the CDs/jump drives but instead be printed and attached to the storage devices.
3. **Narrative** A narrative answering the narrative questions shall be typed on a maximum of two (2) pages, single-spaced with a minimum 10 point font. The narrative should include a plant list and other documents to support the responses to the narrative questions.

The goal of the *Blue Ribbon Awards* is to provide a forum through which a project team can share their specific water and river sensitive designs and recognize them for their good work. The most important part of the award submission is the narrative which should describe the project team's approach to the design in relation to water conservation and the river. There are three main categories of river protection that are described in *People, Water and Wildlife Blue Principles for River Design*, the narrative should address the questions as described in the sections below

- a. **General** In narrative form, describe the project in general including description of the program, project scope, budget, unique challenges, LEED or other sustainability goals, permitting requirements and challenges and other information important for the understanding of the project.

Each section contains questions that are applicable to both river-edge and more distal sites, though some are more specific to those contiguous with the banks of the river or their tributaries. Please answer as many questions as are pertinent to your project.

- b. **Section 1 People** In narrative form, please describe how you feel your site has improved the quality of human life of the Chicago River by answering the following questions
 1. Does your site provide public access to the water? Does the project provide access across the entire length of the river frontage?
 2. Do any publicly accessible portions of this site dead end?
 3. Does this site provide boat access? If so, for what type of boats?
 4. Was any environmental or historical interpretive information included on this site?
 5. Does this site hold any known historical importance? If so, were they preserved? How so?
 6. Was the orientation of the development and their facades oriented to the river?
- c. **Section 2 Water** In narrative form, please describe how you feel your site has improved the hydrologic roles of the Chicago River by answering the following questions
 1. Does your site provide on-site rainwater detention?
 2. Did your project team include a civil engineer and landscape architect? If so, please describe their roles in the design process.
 3. Does your site use entirely native plants or a mix of both? If a mix what percentage is native? Please provide a plant list.
 4. Describe how stormwater management techniques from *People, Water and Wildlife Blue Principles for River Design* were selected for this site.
 5. Was a long term management plan written for this project and are any professional contract agreements in place for maintenance of all installed stormwater management techniques?

- d. **Section 3 Wildlife** In narrative form, please describe how you feel your site has improved the habitat roles of the Chicago River by answering the following questions
 1. Did you project conduct a preliminary survey of existing species and habitat health for your project site? If so, please submit the survey.
 2. What was the calculated change in total land available for habitat at the development site?
 3. Did you project install in-stream habitat provisions? If so, please illustrate.
 4. Did your development team include a pre-qualified streambank contractor?
 5. Describe how habitat techniques from People, Water and Wildlife Blue Principles for River Design were selected for this site.
 6. Was a long term management plan written for this project and are any professional contract agreements in place for maintenance of all installed habitat techniques?
 - e. **Section 4 Other** In addition to the documents, management plans and list specifically requested in Sections 1-3, entrants may include up to five (5) additional attachments with this narrative.
4. **Drawings** A Site Plan and/or Landscape Plan is highly recommended but not required. The plan shall be displayed at a maximum size of 11" x 17." Up to two (2) additional supporting drawings (11"x17") may be submitted including plans, elevations and/or sections. Drawings shall be included in the overall PDF or PowerPoint but shall also be included as separate JPG or PDF files and be close to 8"x10" and 300 dpi. Drawings that are low resolution or have an excessively large file size will not be accepted. The drawings shall be anonymous so any reference to any company or individual's shall be masked.
 5. **Photographs** A minimum of three (3) and maximum of ten (10) digital photographs of the completed project shall be included. Photographs shall be included in the overall PDF or PowerPoint but shall also be included as separate JPG files and be close to 8"x10" and 300 dpi. Photographs that are low resolution or have an excessively large file size will not be accepted.
 6. **Planning Documents** For planning projects, a PDF or PowerPoint of the planning document shall be submitted in lieu of the drawings and photographs described above.
 7. **Credit List** Please provide a list of all drawings and photography being submitted and provide the appropriate credit to the architect/designer/artist/photographer for each image provided. The list shall be type-written and include the Project Name. Since this document shall have the entrant's name, the completed form shall not be included on the CDs but instead be printed and attached to the CDs.
 8. **Fee Payment** Please provide a check made payable to **Friends of the Chicago River** in the amount described in the fee section.
 9. **Membership Application** If the entrant is not a member of the Friends of the Chicago River, the check should include their membership fee and they should include their membership application with the award submission. To check membership call Kasi at (312) 939-0490, ext. 10.

Submission Deadline

Award Submissions must be received by **4 p.m., Friday, April 20, 2012.**

Submission Address

Please send the Award Submission via mail or email to Kim Rice at krice@chicagoriver.org or at the address below.

Friends of the Chicago River
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