97 Previous Winners of the Chicago River Blue Awards

2025

Blue Ribbon

- Robbins Heritage Park and Midlothian Creek Restoration Project
  The Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD)

Silver Ribbon

- Lockport Prairie and Prairie Bluff Ecosystem Restoration Project
  Forest Preserve District of Will County, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and Resource Environmental Solutions, LLC.

Green Ribbon

- Talbot Avenue Drainage Improvement Project
  Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO), Lake County, Lake County Stormwater Management Commission, and Lake County Health Department
- "Natural shorelines support greater diversity and abundances of fishes in Chicago's waterways"
  John G. Shedd Aquarium & Illinois Department of Natural Resources
- University of Chicago Campus South Walk
  The University of Chicago, Site Design Group, TERRA Engineering, Turner Construction Company
- Supporting Chicago River education and access at River Park
  Chicago Park District

2024

Blue Ribbon

- Vote Yes for Clean Air, Clean Water, and Wildlife Habitat
  The Vote Yes Steering Committee: Friends of the Forest Preserves, Trust for Public Land, Brookfield Zoo, Chicago Botanic Garden, Illinois Environmental Council, The Nature Conservancy, Openlands, Henrietta Saunders

Silver Ribbon

- Chicago Waterways Restoration Framework Plan
  United States Army Corps of Engineers, City of Chicago Department of Planning and Development, Chicago Park District, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago, Forest Preserves of Cook County

Green Ribbon

- Skokie River Streambank Stabilization Project
  Skokie Consolidated Drainage District, V3 Companies, Lake County Stormwater Management Commission, Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity
- Pine Street Streambank Stabilization & Open Space Project
  Village of Glenview, ENCAP, Inc., Baxter & Woodman, Lake County Stormwater Management Commission, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
- 1229 W Concord
  Sterling Bay, site design group, J.P. Morgan, Harrison Street, Bank OZK, Gensler, Power Construction, V3 Companies
- Winchester Avenue Green Infrastructure & Flood Reduction Project,

Calumet Park

Antero Group, Village of Calumet Park, Robinson Engineering, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago, Cook County, Greenprint Partners, Center for Neighborhood Technology, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency

- Rio de Bienvenida/River of Welcome

Artists: Delilah Salgado, Cynthia Weiss, Citlalli Trujillo & Dr. Rachel Havrelock from the UIC Freshwater Lab, Chicago Public Art Group, E(art)H Chicago, Builders Initiative, Illinois Arts Council, and University of Illinois System Presidential Initiative for the Arts & Humanities

- The Prairie Boat Gathering Space

Prairie Boat Community Curatorial Committee, Artist: Christine Perri, Imani Village, Chicago Park District, Forest Preserves of Cook County, Field Museum, Openlands, Illinois Department of Natural Resources: Coastal Management Program, National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration, Walder Foundation

2023

Blue Ribbon

- The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative: Increasing Green Infrastructure in the Little Calumet River Watershed

The Village of Alsip and the Morton Arboretum

Silver Ribbon

- Palos and Sag Valley Forest Preserves Restoration

Forest Preserves of Cook County

- Omni Ecosystems HQ Rooftop

Omni Ecosystems

Green Ribbon

- Pekny Park Green Infrastructure

Riverdale Park District

- Cougle Foods Headquarters

Cougle Foods Company

- The Meadow at the Old Post Office

601W Companies LLC

- The Preserve of Highland Park

Park District of Highland Park

2022

Blue Ribbon

- Ford Calumet Environmental Center

Chicago Park District

Silver Ribbon

- The Wild Mile Floating Park, Learning Platform

Urban Rivers

- African American Heritage Water Trail

Openlands

Green Ribbon

- Wolf Point East

Bit Wolf Point East Investors LLC

- Wetlands Restoration and Preservation Plan
  Lake County Stormwater Management Commission
- Lincoln Village Pedestrian Bridge
  Chicago Department of Transportation
- Riverview Bridge and Trail Connection
  Chicago Department of Transportation
- Natalie Creek Flood Control Project
  Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

2021

Blue Ribbon
- The Forge: Lemont Quarries

2020

Blue Ribbon
- RainReady Program
  Center for Neighborhood Technology

Silver Ribbon
- Chicago Riverwalk East Reconstruction
  City of Chicago Department of Assets, Information and Services
- Greenest Region Compact
  Metropolitan Mayors Caucus
- Southbank Riverwalk
  Lendlease

Green Ribbon
- Odyssey Chicago River
  Hornblower Cruises and Events
- Southeast Cook County Land Acquisition Plan
  Forest Preserves of Cook County
- North Street Permeable Paving
  Village of Tinley Park
- Bubbly Creek Riverfront Restoration Project
  Amberleaf Cabinetry

2019

Blue Ribbon
- Former Mayor Rahm Emanuel

Silver Ribbon
- The Wild Mile Plan
  City of Chicago, SOM, Urban Rivers, and partners
- South Side Soap Box
  Method Soap, Heitman Architects, and William McDonough + Partners
- North Branch Dam Removal
  US Army Corps of Engineers, Chicago Park District, and the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

- REI Lincoln Park
  REI Co-op and R2 Companies
- Lathrop Homes Redevelopment
  Related Midwest, Bickerdike Redevelopment Corporation, and Heartland Housing

Green Ribbon

- McDonald's Chicago Flagship
  Ross Barney Architects
- CH Robinson Building
  Sterling Bay Companies

2018

Blue Ribbon

-Eleanor Street Boathouse
Chicago Park District and Studio Gang

Silver Ribbon

- Argyle Shared Streets
  Chicago Department of Transportation and Site Design Group
- Canal Shores Ecological Restoration Master Plan
  Canal Shores Golf Club

Green Ribbon

- River Point
  Hines and Epstein
- Eugene Field and Gompers Park Riffle Complex
  US Army Corps of Engineers and Chicago Park District
- Metropolitan Brewing Tap Room at Rockwell on the River
  Prairie Management & Development, Inc. and Metropolitan Brewing

2017

Blue Ribbon

-Chicago Riverwalk
City of Chicago and Ross Barney Architects

Silver Ribbon

- Wolf Point West
  BIT Wolf Point West Investors LLC

Green Ribbon

- Riverline
  Perkins + Will
- Wescott Park Stormwater Storage Facility
  Village of Northbrook
- Calumet & Southeast Chicago Lakefront Region Wayfinding Concept
  The Lakota Group
- Calumet Corridor RainReady Plan
  The Center for Neighborhood Technology

2016

Blue Ribbon

-Horner Park Ecological Restoration

United States Army Corps of Engineers

Silver Ribbon

-Downtown Glenview Streambank Stabilization
Village of Glenview
-150 N. Riverside
Riverside Investment and Development
- Chicago Riverwalk (Phase II)
Ross Barney Architects

Green Ribbon

-New City
Structured Development
-The Cal-Sag Trail (Western Portion)
Forest Preserves of Cook County
-Hydrology Improvements at Big Marsh
Structured Development
-Disinfection at O'Brien and Calumet WRP,
Opening of Thornton Reservoir
Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago
-Chicago Botanic Garden North Lake Shoreline Restoration Project
Chicago Botanic Garden

2015

Blue Ribbon

-The Joy Garden at Northside College Preparatory High School
Urban Habitat Chicago

Silver Ribbon

-Eugene Field Park Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration
ENCAP, Inc.

Green Ribbon

-Albany Park Branch Library
Public Building Commission of Chicago
-Maggie Daley Park
Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates, Inc and the Chicago Park District

2014

Blue Ribbon

-Ping Tom Memorial Park Boathouse
Johnson & Lee, site design, ltd., and Chicago Park District

Silver Ribbon

-Space to Grow: Greening Chicago Schoolyards
Chicago Public Schools, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago, and City of Chicago Department of Water Management
-Ping Tom Memorial Park Fieldhouse
Public Building Commission of Chicago

Green Ribbon

-WMS Boathouse at Clark Park

Studio Gang Architects

2013

Blue Ribbon

-The Slotnick Residence
Kipnis Architecture + Planning

Silver Ribbon

-Riverbank Restoration
WRD Environmental
-Engine Company 16
Public Building Commission of Chicago

Green Ribbon

-Pilson's Sustainable Streetscape,
Alderman Daniel S. Solis, 25th Ward, and the Chicago Department of Transportation Streetscape and Sustainable Design Program
-McGrath Acura Redevelopment
Terra Consulting Group, LTD.
-Sarah E. Goode STEM Academy
Public Building Commission of Chicago

2012

Blue Ribbon

-Center on Halsted
Gensler

Silver Ribbon

- The Ogden International School of Chicago
Public Building Commission of Chicago

Green Ribbon

-Roscoe Village Retreat
Prassas Landscape Studio LLC
-West Ridge Elementary School
Muller+Muller, Ltd.
-Chicago Public Library New Branch Prototypes
Lohan Anderson, LLC

2011

Blue Ribbon

-Lake Riverdale Sustainable Master Plan
South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association

Silver Ribbon

-Riverbank Restoration
Riverbank Neighbors

Green Ribbon

-Loyola Academy Munz Campus: Landfill to Living Laboratory
Loyola Academy
- Harms Woods Wetland and Stream Restoration Project

Friends of the Forest Preserves

-Ping Tom Park: North River Edge Development

Chicago Park District

2010

Blue Ribbon

-Richard M. Daley, Mayor, City of Chicago

Silver Ribbon

- West Fork Corridor Habitat Project

Village of Glenview

- Whole Foods Market Lincoln Park

Wolff Landscape Architecture

Green Ribbon

- Fay's Point

Fay's Point LLC and OKW Architects

- Chicago Main Branch Riverwalk

Ross Barney Architects

- Chicago Riverwalk Main Branch Framework Plan

Skidmore, Owings & Merrill