



Department of Public Works receives 2022 Project of the Year Awards

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KENOSHA – The City of Kenosha’s Public Works Department recently was the recipient of two Project of the Year awards from the American Public Works Association for the Kenosha Fire Station No. 1 and for storm water improvement projects. Project of the Year Awards are given by the American Public Works Association to recognize the partnerships among the managing agency, the consultant/ architect/ engineer, and the contractor who complete public works projects.

In selecting the awards, the APWA commended the Kenosha Fire Station No. 1 as an innovative project that combines architectural best practices with preserving a sense of community and history. The station is on the former site of the Bain School. Since the school had historic significance to the community, many of the features of the exterior mimic the historic school building, including salvaged items from the school building and site.

Some of the challenges related to this project included:

- Access to the site was limited and the staging area was small due to the reconstruction of the adjacent 22nd Avenue that was taking place at the same time.
- Funding was through HUD; therefore the contractor had to maintain complete records and comply with all HUD requirements.
- Gabion walls filled with demolished materials from the original Bain school were designed and installed to protect the people, property and staff vehicles near the high

incident intersection of 22nd Ave and 52nd Street.

The City's stormwater improvements were recognized with the second award. In 2017, back to back rainfall events resulted in catastrophic local and regional flooding. The floods raised immediate health concerns and caused significant damage to homes, businesses and infrastructure. Both short term and long term storm water management efforts were put into place, which had been in development phases since 2012. Ultimately, this led to implementing several storm water improvement projects. The Kenosha Engine Plant project included a 90 acre-foot flood control basin; the Georgetown project included a 50 acre-foot detention and flood control basin and the McKinley basin project included a new storm sewer to alleviate flooding. The plan is to continue to implement a flood control project every year until 2027.

Some of the unique features of this project include:

- Creation of a digital GIS-based Story Map to help community members learn about the City's storm water management efforts.
- The Georgetown facility was designed to seamlessly integrate with the ecological, aesthetic and storm water benefits of the existing landscape.
- At the Kenosha Engine Plant site project, a designated brownfield, the City designed a process to treat contaminated ground water before discharging it into the sanitary sewer system.

“The City of Kenosha is proud of the Department of Public Works staff for their exemplary performance in projects of this magnitude,” said Kenosha Mayor John Antaramian. “With only six awards being given in the State of Wisconsin, for Kenosha to receive two is remarkable.”