

The Blue Star Award

For Excellence in Stormwater Management



THE
BLUE STAR
AWARD

Recognizing Excellence in
Community Stormwater
Management

PROGRAM INTRODUCTION

For communities that wish to achieve excellence in stormwater management, Minnesota's regulatory and permitting programs offer little incentive.

The Blue Star Award is a voluntary program designed to offer communities that excel in stormwater management the positive public recognition they deserve.

The Blue Star Assessment

The Blue Star Assessment is a voluntary self-assessment for communities that rates key indicators such as development codes, site-design guidelines and post-construction stormwater runoff standards.

Communities that achieve a minimum score on the Blue Star Assessment earn the Blue Star Award and are recognized as leaders in stormwater management in Minnesota. The Blue Star Assessment is designed to be flexible, transparent and fair.

Communities that excel in stormwater management can earn the award regardless of population, MS4 permit status, development status, and natural resource condition.

Time Commitment

The Blue Star Assessment takes as little as one hour to complete. The www.bluestarmn.org website lets users log-on to conduct the private assessment. Assessment features include the ability to flag questions for future reconsideration as well as the ability to stop and save the assessment at any time, allowing users to complete the assessment at their convenience.

Assessment Components

The Blue Star Assessment allows communities to conduct a self-assessment in three core areas:

Section One: Planning and Preservation

This section includes questions on the following sub-topics:

- Part A: Water Friendly Development Patterns
- Part B: Natural Resource Preservation & Management
- Part C: Stormwater Management Funding & Incentives

Section Two: Stormwater Management Standards and Practices

This section includes questions on the following sub-topics:

- Part D: Impervious Cover Management
- Part E: Stormwater Management Policies
- Part F: Green Streets For Cleaner Water

Section Three: Stormwater Pollution Prevention

This section includes questions on the following sub-topics:

- Part G: Education & Community Programs
- Part H: Inspection & Enforcement
- Part I: Source Control

Recognition Duration

Blue Star Award status lasts for five years from the date of recognition. After five years, a community will be asked to update their assessment to maintain the award.

Blue Star Award Winners

The Blue Star Award was launched in July 2010. Information like the amount of communities that have conducted their online self-assessment as well as the number who have won the assessment is available on the [Blue Star Participating Communities webpage](#). To find out which communities are scoring highest, visit the [Blue Star Award Leaderboard](#).

Program Partnerships: Connection with the MPCA's GreenStep Cities Program

The MPCA's GreenStep Cities program offers cities an opportunity to conduct self-assessments on a broad range of environmental sustainability indicators. Cities that achieve a high score will be officially recognized by the State as a "GreenStep City" through the MPCA's sustainable communities program.

The GreenStep Cities program incorporates the Blue Star Award as the program's flagship municipal stormwater management assessment methodology.

Blue Star Award Partners & Sponsors

The Blue Star Program was launched in 2010 by Friends of the Mississippi River in partnership with Emmons & Olivier Resource Inc. with technical assistance provided by The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, The Minnesota Green Step Cities Program, Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District, Minnehaha Creek Watershed District, Mississippi Watershed Management Organization, Project NEMO, The City of Blaine, The City of Woodbury, The City of Lino Lakes, and The City of Inver Grove Heights.

Program support generously provided by:

- The Irwin Andrew Porter Foundation
- The Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District
- The Minnehaha Creek Watershed District
- The Mississippi Watershed Management Organization

Don't Miss Your Chance to Earn the Blue Star Award!

Minnesota communities can log-in to www.bluestarmn.org and begin their voluntary online self-assessment today.

For More Information

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