

April 19, 2012

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## Illinois American Water Awards over \$25,000 for Watershed Projects through Environmental Grant Program

**Belleville, Ill. (April 19, 2012)** – Illinois American Water announced today that six watershed initiatives across the state will receive funding through the company's 2012 Environmental Grant Program. The recipients will receive a share of grant funds totaling \$25,776 for community projects that improve, restore or protect watersheds.

A panel of judges selected the grant recipients from 20 grant applications, which were evaluated on criteria such as environmental need, innovation, community engagement and sustainability. "The Environmental Grant Program helps local organizations carry out initiatives that benefit our watersheds, increase awareness and promote community participation," said Karla Olson Teasley, president of Illinois American Water.

Illinois American Water awarded the 2012 Environmental Grants as follows:

- Living Lands and Waters will receive its requested \$1,500 grant in full for the Great Mississippi River Clean Up. Mississippi River clean up efforts will take place on September 15, 2012 from the Grafton boat launch. The goal of the project is to engage volunteers to help with the removal of approximately four tons of debris from the river.
- The Morton Arboretum located in the Chicago Metro District will receive a \$6,075 grant for the Wetland Restoration Stewardship Program which will engage and educate audiences through volunteer workdays. Workday activities include native plantings, removal of invasive plants, trash removal and educational programs.
- The National Great Rivers Research and Education Center will receive a \$3,071 grant for Mississippi River Workshops which will provide educators with activities, curriculum guide and tools for participating in The Mississippi River XChange (MRX) program. MRX is a platform for high school students along the Mississippi River to share information about their watershed and source water protection.
- The City of Waterloo will receive its requested \$4,120 grant in full for the restoration of a historic freshwater spring located at the site of the Monroe County History Museum. This site is also home to the first Illinois settlement. The project includes debris removal, erosion prevention and the installation of a walking bridge.
- The City of Peoria will receive a \$6,000 grant for the Peoria Rain Garden and Native Landscaping Program which will incorporate a pilot rain garden, native seeds and print materials to educate residents about the importance of rain gardens for storm water management.
- Bradley University in Peoria will receive a \$5,000 grant for Phase 2 of the River Action League which engages community volunteers to collect Illinois River samples for research and watershed improvement. The project incorporates additional testing protocols, data publication and a partnership with the Peoria Riverfront Museum.

To learn more about the Environmental Grant Program visit [www.illinoisamwater.com](http://www.illinoisamwater.com).

### About Illinois American Water

Illinois American Water, a wholly owned subsidiary of American Water (NYSE: AWK), is the largest investor-owned water utility in the state, providing high-quality and reliable water and/or wastewater services to more than 1.2 million people. American Water also operates a customer service center in Alton and a quality control and research laboratory in Belleville. Founded in 1886, American Water is the largest publicly traded U.S. water and wastewater utility company. With headquarters in Voorhees, N.J., the company employs more than 7,000 dedicated professionals who provide drinking water, wastewater and other related services to approximately 15 million people in more than 30 states, as well as parts of Canada. More information can be found by visiting [www.amwater.com](http://www.amwater.com).