



LOCAL NEWS

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City's riverfront project receives two state awards

► One award was presented this fall, and the other one will be presented next week.

By Jane Lightbourn

Star Gazette staff writer

The Minnesota Public Works Association and the City Engineers Association of Minnesota liked what they heard about the Lock and Dam Road improvement project.

In fact, they liked the project so much each group gave the project its top award for the year.

The Minnesota Public Works Association presented the Environmental Project of the Year honors at its fall conference in November. The City Engineers Association of Minnesota will honor the project at its project of the Year next week.

Bolton and Menk Inc., the consulting firm the city contracted for the design and construction management of the project, prepared the applications for the two awards.

The application to both groups describes the partnership between the City of Hast-

ings and Koch Industries (now Flint Hills Resources). During the 1990s, the tank farm owned by Koch was removed and plans initiated to decrease contaminated soils in the area as part of the redevelopment plan for the site.

The city secured a Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources grant to assist in the funding of future trail and road improvements. The master plan for the site includes an interpretive center and a bandshell, as well as the restoration of the site's native vegetation.

The reconstruction of the mile-long road to Lock and Dam 2 began in fall 2000 with completion scheduled to resume last spring. The project was delayed by spring floods, but was completed in early fall.

The overall goal of the city's redevelopment project has been guided by requirements of the National Park Service, as this site is designated within the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area corridor. Compliance with these federal policies to protect and enhance the river corridor required the protection of wetlands, minimization and improvement of storm water runoff, restoration of native vegetation, and the compatible development of man-made facilities with the natural environment.



Randy Roberts / Star Gazette

The Lock and Dam Road project, which included rerouting the street and a bike trail connection between Jaycee Park and Lock and Dam No. 2, was completed in October 2001.