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**Sierra Club Names Menomonee Valley Stormwater Park among  
America's Best New Development Projects for 2006.  
Innovative Design Protects Clean Water.**

The Sierra Club, America's oldest and largest environmental organization, named the Menomonee Valley Storm Water Park one of America's Best New Development projects, according to a report the group released. Better known for its efforts to combat sprawling construction, the group is making the point that there is a better way to build and produce healthy and livable communities.

"It is an honor to have the largest Brownfield redevelopment effort in Wisconsin's history be recognized by the Sierra Club as one of the top projects in the country," said Laura Bray, Executive Director of the Menomonee Valley Partners, Inc. "Innovation and collaboration are the keys to this project's success. Every partner - the City of Milwaukee, the State of Wisconsin, Valley businesses, non-profit partners and neighborhood residents - has worked to reach and exceed goals of job creation and environmental restoration. Together, we have created a legacy for generations to come."

Profiles of the Menomonee Valley Industrial Site and Stormwater Park and other winning projects can be viewed at: [www.sierraclub.org/buildingbetter](http://www.sierraclub.org/buildingbetter)

"As we grow it is often our water that suffers most," said the Sierra Club's Executive Director Carl Pope. "Few people realize that the largest source of water pollution today comes from stormwater and sewer overflows- both of which can be exacerbated by new development. Our hope is that American's will look at the Menomonee Valley Stormwater Park and demand better clean water practices as their own communities grow and develop."

In an effort to better stormwater management practices, a stormwater park has been created on 70 acres of the Menomonee Valley site, which runs along the Menomonee River. The park, which will feature natural areas, open space, playing fields, and the Hank Aaron State Trail, is expected to capture every drop of rain that falls on the business park. The native plants, woodlands and new topography will serve to detain flood water and will clean water contaminants from the new commercial and industrial area that would otherwise drain into the river. Two large smokestacks from the original rail yard on the site have been left standing, and serve as a visual contrast to link Milwaukee's future to its industrial past. The site plan for the park has been recognized for excellence by the American Society of Landscape Architects.

“Milwaukee is leading by example with the Menomonee Valley Stormwater Park,” said Mayor Tom Barrett. “This is attractive green space for our community that provides access to the Menomonee River and also serves to manage stormwater from companies that choose to locate in the Menomonee Valley Industrial Center. "It's a concept that sells in both the public and private sectors and improves both the environment and the region's economy."

In addition to the Menomonee Valley Stormwater Park, the Sierra Club applauded a diverse set of projects taken on by developers, communities, local utilities and even nuns. They involve solutions both big and small, from rain gardens and natural plantings in Seattle to a giant underground cistern at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. By incorporating creative methods for managing polluted stormwater runoff these projects help keep sewage, toxics and litter out of our water.

Polluted runoff and sewage overflows are growing threats to the health of our water, so in choosing projects to be recognized with this year’s top development honors the Sierra Club looked for simple, but highly effective solutions that help keep untreated and poorly treated sewage and urban runoff out of our drinking water sources. All of the projects highlighted in this report can be easily replicated across the country and have been proven to reduce the volume and impact of stormwater runoff.

“The most important factor in all of these projects is that the designers looked at stormwater as a resource, not a waste product,” explained Rosemary Wehnes, Sierra Club Associate Midwest Representative. “By changing that perspective not only can these projects reap a host of benefits- both economic and environmental, but so can surrounding communities.”

For a copy of the report, please contact Rosemary Wehnes at 414-453-3127 or at [rosemary.wehnes@sierraclub.org](mailto:rosemary.wehnes@sierraclub.org).

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