

**PRESS RELEASE**  
**CITY OF WARRENVILLE**  
28W701 Stafford Place, Warrenville, IL 60555



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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **WARRENVILLE LEADS THE WAY IN ENVIRONMENTAL ROADWAY CONSTRUCTION**

WARRENVILLE, IL – The City of Warrenville is looking to be a leader in improving water quality by improving how they reconstruct their streets. In 2007, the City became the first community in the Midwest to use permeable brick pavers on a public road. While permeable pavers have been used in Chicagoland for parking lots, this is the first roadway.

The reconstruction of Warrenville Road has been one of the City's largest looming infrastructure projects for the last five years. As Council evaluated what would be done with the road and how much money would be spent, a lone resident suggested brick pavers. Council directed staff to perform an exhaustive analysis on the possibility and decided to move forward with the idea in late 2006.

The construction season of 2007 began with approval of a low bid to install brick pavers for the first phase of Warrenville Road in the amount of \$1,348,362.45. This initial cost was about 15% higher than traditional asphalt, but will result in long-term cost savings due to the longer life span of paver bricks. Work on Phase one began the first week of June 2007 and completed in November. Phase one extended from Batavia Road, west to Curtis Avenue, and was divided into three sections to reduce inconvenience to residents and disruption of traffic flow during construction. Phases two and three will follow roughly the same process and timeframe, with the mile-long stretch of road being completed in fall 2009.

Permeable brick pavers drain water into a gravel base, then into soil where it is absorbed, recharges the City's aquifer, or is pushed to nearby streams or tributaries - in Warrenville's case, the west branch of the DuPage River. The 20-inch gravel base beneath the roadway slows the infiltration of water and cleans it of street contaminants at the same time. So any water that does get into the streams is cleaner than that coming directly from storm sewers funneling water from asphalt or concrete roadways.

However, the City isn't relying solely on this to ease ponding issues that have troubled residents along Warrenville Road. As a backup system, a main line storm sewer was installed as well along with curb inlets. In addition, the water service and entire road had to be lowered to properly drain runoff. Years of resurfacing had raised the Road by over a foot in some places. Finally, the roadway was improved aesthetically by adding curb, sidewalk, decorative streetlights, and landscaping.

Warrenville Road reopened to traffic on November 2, 2007 to the excitement of residents and local visitors alike. Many commented on not only the environmental benefits of the system, but on its charming appearance, and traffic calming effects. It has already been exposed to its first snowfall and clearing by snowplows without incident. City staff will continue to monitor the roadway.

Through its strategic plan and other actions, the Warrenville City Council has made a public commitment to the environment. Their strategic plan states that they intend to, "preserve and protect the River, natural features, open space, and wooded areas that contribute significantly to the City's overall character, setting, and uniqueness..." Reconstruction of Warrenville Road with permeable brick pavers is the City's first major step toward meeting that goal.

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