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MEDIA ADVISORY

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City of Rochester Hills Receives Two Awards for Auburn Road and Innovation Hills Park

The City of Rochester Hills was recently presented with two Awards of Excellence by the Michigan Concrete Association for the reconstruction of Auburn Road from Culbertson Avenue to Hessel Avenue, and the construction at Innovation Hills Park on Hamlin Road. The designers, contractors, and suppliers involved with the projects also received recognition. On the Auburn Road project, participants recognized included concrete contractor Angelo Iafrate Construction Co.; concrete supplier Paragon Ready Mix; engineer OHM Advisors, and testing company Testing Engineers & Consultants. For Innovation Hills Park, the association recognized prime contractor T.R. Pieprzak; concrete subcontractor GM & Sons; concrete supplier Van Horn Concrete; and engineer Hubbell, Roth & Clark.

Auburn Road was redesigned and rebuilt through the Brooklands area, providing a total redesign and concept for the roadway corridor. This complicated and detailed streetscape project incorporated rain gardens along with exposed aggregate concrete for portions of the sidewalk, trench drains and tree grates, several types of concrete curbs, two roundabouts with decorative concrete islands, and wide sidewalks.

“Numerous slab thicknesses and design details required close attention to detail to achieve the desired long-term performance and aesthetic look for the Auburn Road corridor,” noted Dan DeGraaf, MCA Executive Director.

The 100-acre Innovation Hills Park is the newest in Rochester Hills in 25 years, and is ideal for walking, hiking, and fishing. The recent construction features extensive use of glow stones installed in the concrete that emit a soft light after dark. These “glow in the dark” aggregates were embedded in exposed aggregate concrete pathways, in six artistic shapes, and also in 19 two- to three-foot-diameter domes that align the border along the HMA and gravel portions of the pathway.

Each year, MCA recognizes the best concrete projects and presents awards to contractors, engineers, and agencies for their work. More than 45 road, highway, airport, industrial, commercial, and residential



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construction projects were submitted to the 2020 MCA concrete awards program, and 25 of those projects received recognition. Nominated projects were judged based on quality, safety, construction process, complexity, innovation, and aesthetics.

The Auburn Road Reconstruction project won the award in the “Municipal Flatwork – Streetscape” category, and Innovation Hills Park won the “Special Innovative – Decorative” award. The panel of judges that rated all the nominated projects noted that both of these projects demonstrated high-quality workmanship, outstanding decorative concrete finishes and attention to detail, and superior aesthetic design demonstrated in the finished product.

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Editors: For photos of the projects or additional information, please contact Steve Waalkes.

The Michigan Concrete Association (MCA) was originally established in 1952 as a forum for the state’s ready-mixed concrete industry and as an educational resource for consumers. Today, the Association includes over 200 members involved in the production, specification, and construction of concrete and concrete-related products. MCA’s mission is to increase the use of concrete in Michigan, through customer promotion and support, and to further the interests of Michigan’s ready mix and concrete paving industries. The Association’s driving values are to encourage the best product in the appropriate application, a healthy concrete industry, a strong customer focus, member success, good public policy based on fact, to be credible at all times in all things, and to recognize and apply the best in technical expertise.