

THE TIMES HERALD

Marysville project is recognized by engineers

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Don and Debbie Barth of Clyde Township hold hands as they walk along the St. Clair River in Marysville.



Large rocks are piled in front of the sea wall along the St. Clair River in Marysville.

Written by Nicole Hayden

MARYSVILLE — Marysville has received the American Society of Civil Engineers Michigan Quality of Life award for the city’s shoreline restoration project that was completed in December 2012.

Ludington and Dowagiac also were in contention for the award.

“There was a fair amount more of engineering involved than the other two projects,” said Steve Waalkes, ASCE Michigan section board member and award committee judge. “The other two were fairly simple projects.”

“The project improved the quality of life for the general public,” Waalkes said. “The boardwalk wasn’t usable and was closed off — now it can be.”

Waalkes said several aspects of the project, including its attention to the environment and its overall scope, contributed to the city securing the award.

“It is a great honor to be able to accept to award,” said Marysville Mayor Dan Damman. “The project not only added to the city’s aesthetics, but now allows the use of the waterfront for the first time.”

Crew began work in August 2012 to replace roughly 1,800 feet of crumbling sea wall south of Chrysler Beach.

In addition to the sea wall replacement, underwater plants were placed in the area to foster fish spawning and create a wetland. New grass was also planted along the sidewalk and boardwalk.

The project was funded by a \$1.5 million grant from the Environment Protection Agency’s Great Lakes Restoration Initiative in 2010. The city matched the grant by 20 percent, said Randy Fernandez, Marysville city manager.

“We were very thankful to the EDA,” Fernandez said. “The seawall was bowing out. People enjoy walking along the riverfront, but it was an eyesore. The city didn’t have the funds to fix it, so we were thankful for the grant.”

Fernandez said the grant for the shoreline project acted as a catalyst for the city to apply to other waterfront grants, such as the Chrysler Beach Stormwater Improvements EPA Grant.

“The grant, and now this award, is putting Marysville on the map for waterfront development,” Fernandez said.

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