

Conservation Design and Native Landscaping Award 2007 – Presented by U.S. Environmental Agency and the Chicago Wilderness

Cowhey Gudmundson Leder, Ltd. is proud to be a lead member of the design team for two Kimball Hill Homes projects that recently won awards for conservation design. The projects, Settler's Ridge in Aurora and Ingham Park in Sugar Grove, were recognized for Conservation Design and Native Landscaping Awards for 2007 by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the 220 member Chicago Wilderness Consortium. The awards were presented at a reception at the Chicago Botanic Garden.

Settler's Ridge is a planned 1300 acre lifestyle community in Sugar Grove. This community was designed with national award-winning conservation land planner Randall Arendt with both conservation development and traditional neighborhood design themes. The first phase of 500+ acres is now under development.

Settler's Ridge incorporates numerous conservation design elements, including preservation of more than 40 percent of the site as open space, design of stormwater facilities as naturalized lakes and wetlands with naturalized buffers, incorporation of vegetated swales throughout the stormwater management system, and planting native prairie vegetation in much of the open space. The large connected greenways function as an eco-spine of the development which doubles as an effective water management system. The use of native vegetation is an integral component used throughout the common open space of the project site, as well as in the various constructed public parks and playgrounds.

Ingham Park is a 371 acre conservation development in Aurora, Illinois. This project has been cited as a model for conservation design and exemplary of the conservation goals of the "Countryside Vision Plan" by the City of Aurora. This project was planned and designed by a multi-disciplinary team of land planners, engineers, ecologists, landscape architects, and landscaping professionals specializing in native vegetation. Construction of Ingham Park began in 2007.

Ingham Park incorporates a holistic conservation design approach, including preservation of more than 49 percent of the site as open space, infiltration and filtering of nearly all runoff through a series of side-yard and rear-yard drainage swales, design of stormwater facilities as created wetlands, and planting native prairie vegetation in much of the open space. A focus was placed on disconnecting impervious areas to increase the potential of infiltration and runoff filtration.

