

IMCC Announces Winners of 2008 National Reclamation Awards

The Interstate Mining Compact Commission (IMCC) recently announced the recipients of its annual national reclamation awards. The Kenes C. Bowling National Mine Reclamation Awards are presented each year to mining operations in the coal and non-coal categories that have demonstrated excellence in reclamation based on achievement in five categories: compliance; contemporaneous reclamation; drainage control; bond release (or reclamation success); and innovativeness.

The 2008 winner in the non-coal category, The Arundel Corporation, Greenspring Quarry, is located in Baltimore, Maryland. The Greenspring Quarry was nominated by the Maryland Department of the Environment for its successful reclamation of the site which led to the development of the property for residential and commercial purposes, including a final quarry pit lake. The reclamation resulted in an aesthetic and upscale planned development site which fits well within the local framework.



First operated circa 1877, and finally closed in 1999, the quarry while in operation was capable of producing more than 1 million tons of marble per year at a rate of about 500 tons per hour. When it closed in 1999, the 100-acre permitted site included a 40-acre quarry that was some 500 feet deep. It was estimated that it would take from 5 to 10 years for the quarry to fill with water depending on rainfall and permitted stream diversions. It appears the quarry will be filled to the final lake level at the 10-year mark.

As part of the reclamation, historic streams that had been relocated by the quarry operation decades ago had to be reestablished. The south tributary of Moores Branch was restored to provide scouring and sediment load downstream and now features a meandering stream channel, trees, rocks, and vegetation. A temporary bypass of much of the flow of the main stem of Moores Branch provides base flow, with excess storm water directed to the quarry to help provide storm water management. Prior to this action, storm water management was absent from this deteriorated urban watershed. A cold water dis-

charge was installed in the east end of the quarry to provide cool water for native trout populations downstream. A portion of Moores Branch was also enhanced by off-site reclamation work including removing fish blockages, installing boulders to control the current, regrading severely degraded stream segments, and re-establishing native vegetation. An area of former wash ponds along the stream was reclaimed as a wetland in the flood plain of the stream, providing further water quality improvements.



The centerpiece of the Greenspring Quarry reclamation is the 40-acre lake. Residential and commercial development has been incorporated into this unique setting and marketed as Quarry Lake at Greenspring. Development features include several types of residential housing, including luxury single family homes, townhouses, and condominiums with many units overlooking the quarry lake. A mixed-use portion of the site blends office and retail space for use by the immediate community and outside guests and is known as the Shops at Quarry Lake. It includes restaurants, boutiques, banking, drug store tenants, and a state-of-the-art health center. There is also a clubhouse with exercise and recreational areas. A liberal use of attractive stone is found throughout construction on the premises, further evoking the feeling that it is a former quarry site. Black railings, quarry fencing, and accents throughout the development help tie the identity of the site together.

The Arundel Corporation's parent company, Florida Rock Industries, was recently acquired by Vulcan Materials Company located in Birmingham, Alabama.



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